

# WHAT IS IT? YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS ANY



**TODAY AT PROVINCETOWN, MASS.** This twenty-foot "sea serpent" defies identification by scientists and offers old-time Provincetown is noted as a source of many a tale of monsters and serpents in the sea.—A. P. wirephoto.

## Are There Sea Serpents?

THE subject of sea serpents in the sea, whether they really exist or are just cooked up for the amazement of credulous landlubbers has taken a turn for the worse or the better, according to how one sees it.

The subject, strange as it may seem, has now been approved for discussion by leading scientists of the world. In fact, one group of scientists, we are informed, believe right now in the existence of sea serpents.

Furthermore, our good friend Curator Tripp of the Dartmouth Whaling Museum in New Bedford actually has on record the story of the capture, trying (boiling or heating to extract oil and grease), and cutting of a sea serpent one hundred and three feet long in the year 1852. Of course, a story isn't proof. But now that the scientists have become interested in the matter, we shall soon see what they see about sea serpents.

## CAPE COD 'SERPENT' STIRS LOCAL WIT January 1939 20-Foot Skeleton Baffles Scientists, But Old Salt Says It's His 'Rover'

Provincetown, Mass., Jan. 19—(AP)—Cape Cod wits lost no time taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them today by discovery of a 20-foot "sea serpent" skeleton on a beach here.

Serious-minded zoologists hedged when asked to identify it—but not the Cape's old salts.

Captain Manuel Enos, usually described as "a well known waterfront character," was positive the skeleton was that of his long lost pet "Rover." His story was typical.

"Thirty years ago when I was dory fishing on the Grand Banks," he said, "I looked up to see a giant serpent approaching the dory.

"I had to do some pretty fast thinking, so I picked up a cod fish and flung it to the critter. This stopped him for the time being so I upped and let another one go, then another, until I had emptied the dory.

"By this time the serpent was pretty friendly. He came purring up to the dory and I scratched his ears. From that time on he followed our ship around and generally made himself useful.

"When it blew hard he'd stretch out to windward and make the sea calm. When it was cold he'd blow on our hands to warm them. And when it was foggy he'd purr and warn approaching ships out of our course.

"I haven't seen Rover since I came ashore but I figure that might be part of his skeleton over on the point. Probably he was bound for Provincetown to see me when he ran aground."

Bos'n Addison Ormsby, commander of Wood End Coast Guard station nearby, said the end of the tail was broken off and four protuberances apparently were joints indicating the beast had legs or flippers. The head, described as "something like a crocodile's," lacked teeth, he said.

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## Cape Cod "Sea Serpent Mystery" Will Move to Harvard Tomorrow

Special Dispatch to the Globe

PROVINCETOWN, Jan. 21—Provincetown's great "sea serpent mystery" will move on to Boston Monday after playing a one-week stand here. Next week noted experts of the Harvard Museum of Natural History, not to mention Robert L. Ripley's special investigators, will endeavor to solve the most baffling marine enigma of modern times on Cape Cod.

The 20-foot vertebrae of the unidentified denizen of the ocean that washed ashore at lonely Wood End Coast Guard station will be moved by truck to the Harvard Museum.

The relic is being turned over to William C. Schroeder, curator, to enable him to decide definitely

whether the so-called serpent skeleton is in reality the bones of a mammoth sand shark, as he contends, or an "overgrown conger eel" or the tail of a swintail shark.

Boatswain Addison L. Ormsby of the Coast Guard station announced that a representative of Robert L. Ripley phoned him from New York today with an offer to purchase the skeleton. He was referred to Curator Schroeder.

John T. Benson of Nashua, N. H., owner of "the strangest farm on earth," wrote to Chief of Police Anthony P. Tarvers that the vertebrae might be that of a 28-foot python that was consigned to him from East India. Two crates of pythons were washed overboard from the deck of an Indian steamer in a storm off the Grand Banks two years ago, he advised.