

While—as we shall see presently—our manimals have certain aquatic habits, there is no precise modern parallel to this fascinating old folk tale. The nearest thing we have to it is an August 21, 1955, incident from near Dogtown, Indiana.

Late on the afternoon of the day in question, Mrs. Darwin Johnson and Mrs. Chris Lamble, both of Evansville, were swimming in the Ohio River, about fifteen feet from shore. Suddenly something came up behind Mrs. Johnson and grabbed her left leg. She could see nothing—the attacker was under water—but she could feel large claws and a furry palm gripping her knee. The thing, whatever it was, yanked her under. She kicked and fought and managed to come up once more. Again she went under.

Though she wasn't being attacked, Mrs. Lamble, who was safely in an innertube four feet away, proceeded to kick and scream on the theory that this might scare "it" away. In the meantime, Mrs. Johnson lunged for the innertube and hit it with "a loud, hollow thump." It was then, she said, that "whatever was around my legs loosened its grip."

The two women quickly headed for shore, where they treated Mrs. Johnson's leg, which had begun to sting, with alcohol. But for several days afterwards a green stain with the outline of a palm remained just below the knee. The woman became hysterical from the experience and her husband, who was called from work, had to summon a doctor to give her sedatives.

No one ever saw the creature, but Mrs. Johnson said, "Whatever this thing was, it had a strong grip and it was very furry . . . All I know is that I will never go swimming in the river again."

After the story was published in the *Evansville Press* the next day, several persons came forward to say they had observed a "shiny oval" a few hundred feet above the river at about the time the alleged incident had taken place.

A short time later an Air Force colonel is supposed to have called upon the Johnsons and interviewed them at some length. He urged them not to discuss the matter publicly any further.

Perhaps Mrs. Johnson had encountered the same critter a