

Horsemen Encounter Creature; Believed To Be 'Glowackus'

By Fred Knapp

Seven experienced horsemen and their mounts, captained by Dr. Roy D. Kelley of Essex, had a startling adventure precisely at 11:01 a.m. last Sunday, on the very first occasion of the newly organized Essex Autumn Ride.

The trail captain, a veteran of many New England equestrian events, was leading his troop at a spanking trot where Old Ingham path borders the Great Pequot Swamp. Suddenly he found the way ahead blocked by a formidable creature big as a bear, which at first was presumed an animal.

Horse Rears Wildly
There was no need for the good doctor to rein in his big red gelding, Casey. That spirited horse also spotted the apparition and, rearing wildly as his rider grabbed desperately for leather, showed every disposition to "get out of there P.D.Q."

Meanwhile, two horsemen immediately behind Captain Kelley, P. Bedell and H. Keith, also saw the creature, which took a peculiar position in the center of the path, with taloned paws held together almost as in prayer. Concurrently, it whined a sound over and over again which seemed like "ack-us" or "whackus" or something very similar.

Dr. Kelley, deciding the treacherous appearing beast sought to lure him forward; unable meanwhile to retreat because of the press of horses and riders behind him, did a valiant thing: Mastering panicky Casey with a firm rein, strong thighs and stern commands, he set his heels - slapping against the steed's powerful loins until it charged the foe full tilt.

His companions clearly heard the lusty shout of Cian Kelley, "Begorra!", plus several very harsh "scramas!". The wisest of the creature-fleehing before Casey's ironed hooves, suddenly stood straight up, looked desperately about, and ran off into dense woodland bordering the path. **Face Full Of Trouble**

Terrified horses required a full 10 minutes soothing by their masters before they would cross the spot where "the thing" was first seen. All riders agreed the face which the creature turned on them as it ran off was oddly troubled, and the expression pitiful, questioning or sad.

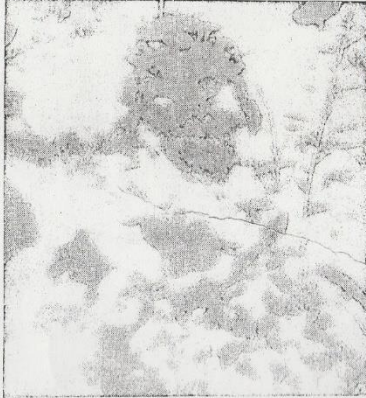
Of course the men who saw the strange being most clearly had diverse opinions of what it was. However all agreed completely on the basic appearance. For example, when the creature stood straight up, they said it was tall as an average man and covered with short dense mink - brown fur. A small piglike, almost human face, with two sets of ears, protruded on almost no neck from a mane or ruff at the shoulders.

All four feet were equipped with horned talons. No one saw a tail, and agreement existed also that the word or sound which the men heard incessantly was "ackus" or "wackus."

Captured On Film

Yet, if there had been disagreement about the creature's appearance, it would have been removed by a truly remarkable photograph taken before the morning's adventures were over. This is what happened:

Edmund O'Brien of Washington, Conn. volunteered to remain behind on Ingham trail, while Dr. Kelley and the bal-



WHAT IS IT? The head of the "strange creature" reported seen in Essex and Old Saybrook recently is recorded on film as it poked out of some underbrush during the Essex Trail Ride last weekend.

ance of the troop went on. His purpose was to alert following groups of trail riders and captains to what had transpired.

No sooner did his friends ride away than a suddenly lonely O'Brien heard sharp sounds of twigs snapping in nearby woodland. Instantly the strange creature reappeared, looking from a leafy bower of underbrush at the isolated man while squealing "ackus, ackus, ackus" at a great rate. With commendable presence of mind, the dismounted trail rider released the bridle of his

again frantic plunging horse, focused a Polaroid camera he carried on the piglike face in the underbrush and snapped a pictorial. The "animal thing" didn't like this procedure at all. O'Brien says animals turned to terrifying "wuffings" and fierce threatening roars. He felt his end had surely come.

At that crucial moment, up rode trail captain George Whelan of Deep River leading his veteran troop. Instantly the threatening creature left the scene. Whelan says he definitely glimpsed it, but felt unable to venture a belief on what it might be. He did say, if he had a choice, he would prefer not to have seen it at all, which certainly is understandable.

Is It Glowackus?
All trail riders, on their return to Vilma Knapp's Rainbow Ring, voiced interesting opinions on the encounter, but perhaps that of the first selectman of Essex, Escott MacWhinney, combined fact and fancy best.

He contends a legendary creature, Glastonbury's famed Glowackus has, after decades of residence there, evidently moved down Essex way and perhaps lives in the desolate Pequot Swamp area along Ingham path.

According to old reports from not so distant Glastonbury, in the 1930's, MacWhinney states, the Glowackus, a strange half-human half-animal, was sometimes seen there. Viewed at night it appeared to glow strangely. MacWhinney points out logically enough that, if you combine the word "glow" with the word "ackus", which all say the creature constantly utters, the result is Glowackus, and what can be more obvious than that?

Further, says MacWhinney,

strange glowing effect at night. Second syllable 'ack' is from Wangunk tongue. Interpreted precisely means 'go'. The final syllable 'us' is English again meaning you and I. Thus Glowackus literally signifies 'glow-go-us'.

"Quite evidently creature wants person it approaches to go somewhere and glow with him. Unfortunately, no one stressed, Glowackus is carnivorous.

"Special Attributes: Glowackus highly intelligent and strongly attracted to all females of the human race which he has never been known to actually harm." (Here a modest woman would be humorist penciled in the encyclopedia "likes women, girls, maidens, chicks, strays and even quails. Poor Glowackus, simply Go-Go dancer appearing half century too soon").

Report To Trooper
A full report of this matter, including an accurate copy of referenced data from "Moosheim's Memorabilia" was forwarded to Trooper Long at Essex. He is in a state of adequate preparedness should the Glowackus, if that is what it truly is, appear again. (Go-Go dancers take note and stay close to home!)

Meanwhile, doubting Thomases have suggested to Dr. Kelley that, if he comes upon the monster again, instead of charging it, he go along quietly and report to the citizenry what this 'glow-go-us' business is really all about. Organizers of the First Essex Autumn Trail Ride hope profoundly that this disturbing creature will be apprehended long before next autumn's expedition through Connecticut's beautiful woodland.

More Beautiful Ladies
Essex, in the first selectman's belief, has far more beautiful ladies than Glastonbury. What, therefore, he asks, is more natural than that the

Glowackus, a lady - living creature, would move down to Essex? If you were a Glowackus, he chides, where would you go?

His concluding thought is that the new residents, constantly disturbed nowadays by blasting and road building activities on nearby Route 9, is moving about more frequently in his new area. The first selectman seriously references at least half dozen sightings in the last year or so of strange creatures seen all about the general Essex section and reported to him.

Perhaps the best support of MacWhinney's theory was found by your reporter on page 1101, Section 2, of eminent Professor Moosheim's classic encyclopedia entitled "Moosheim's Memorabilia of Monsters." Here is how the professor catalogued the Glowackus in the Year of our Lord 1900:

"Glow-ack-us. Current habitat: Glastonbury, Connecticut. Previously appears in Indian legends of Wangunk nation as 'Skidadee-Nik-tank'. Reported by them to live in caverns near a place named Macha Moodus, residence of evil ones.

"Appearance: The size of a normal male person. Travels on all fours but can walk erect. Piglike and humanlike face. Feet or paws taloned. Tallness. Has dense brown-tan fur and four ears. The larger pair enable Glowackus to listen exclusively to himself while he says a word "ackus" incessantly. The smaller pair listens to others.

"Habits Described"
"Habits: Carnivorous. Living on rabbits and other small game. Interesting name structure important to understand. First syllable 'glow' is English word. Peculiar gaseous effusion escapes from brown fur of Glowackus, creating a