

'Abominable Snowmen' Really Saints Says Missionary Returned From Tibet

Frankfurt, Germany — (UPI)—A missionary priest back from 13 years in the high Himalayas said yesterday the legendary abominable snowmen of the area actually are religious recluses dedicated to curing human ills.

The Reverend Father Franz Eichinger, who lived at a Roman Catholic mission during his stay in the mountains, said he met one of the hermits and had photographs of him.

In an interview with United Press International, the priest scoffed at reports that the "Abominable Snowmen" are half-human, hairy beasts whose only trace are huge footprints in the snow. Stories of such creatures, called "Yeti," have intrigued the world for years and an American-sponsored expedition currently is in the mountains of Nepal trying to find one. Russian scientists have said they believe in the existence of Yeti.

'Highly Religious'
But Father Eichinger said "these highly religious hermits are definitely what are popularly known as Abominable Snowmen."

"Reports that these men are responsible for acts of cannibalism are absurd." They are "just like normal human beings," he said, al-

though they are very thin, roam the mountains stark naked in below-freezing temperatures without apparent ill-effects.

Curing of People
"Their main calling is the curing of people, particularly children," the priest said.

He referred to them as "saints" in the areas they inhabit. When they visit villages they wear a loin cloth.

As for the huge footprints of snowmen, Father Eichinger said he believed the holy men make them.

"Naturally, when they walk with their bare feet on the snow, the snow melts around the print, making it larger," he said. "Then this print freezes and leads people

to believe they are made by giants." He said the recluses have no more hair than normal.

"The one I met spoke the native dialect and a little Chinese. He was the son of a blacksmith," the priest said.

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SP Rate Slash Would Restore Previous Parity

Portland — (UPI)—A sharp reduction in railroad freight rates may go into effect Dec. 21 for Oregon's lumber and plywood industries.

Southern Pacific railway rates, averaging 25 per cent into the major California markets.

The interstate commerce commission issued a suspension order last May against the cut but that expires Dec. 20.

The ICC notified the railroad it will need another three months to reach a decision. It asked the railroad to extend present higher rates in the meantime.

However, Southern Pacific has refused to grant the extension, "after the long delay despite the fact that we have urged speed in such a decision and have done everything possible to expedite proceedings."

The reductions will restore a previous long time parity between southern Oregon and northern California mills.

Willamette valley and southern Oregon mills have declared the new rate will mean substantial market increases and employment gains.

Ike Gets Ready For GOP Meeting

Washington — (UPI)—President Eisenhower completed spade work yesterday on a legislative program he will submit to a predominantly Democratic congress next month.

In preparation for a strategy meeting with Republican congressional leaders Monday, he spent two hours with White House staff members who are working on details of his program.

Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the Monday conference will be an all-day affair. The President will meet with GOP house and senate leaders at 8:30 a.m. and work straight through the day except for a lunch break.



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