

Expedition Seeks Answer To Puzzle Of 'Snowman' Legend

By WATSON SIMS
NEW DELHI (AP) — Some say it eats people. Others insist it's a vegetarian.
There are those who think it's a bear or an ape, or a human-like creature 10 feet tall.
But one thing is sure: Something has been leaving

ings. To Westerners, its only trademark is footprints in the snow.
The first authenticated sighting of its tracks was made in 1921 by Sir Howard Bury, a British mountaineer then reconnoitering Everest. Bury's Sherpas were terrified by the huge footprints.

The most popular is that the tracks are made by a species of red bear which sometimes walks erect. Other scientists believe they are caused by a species of ape which normally lives below the snowline but may stray to higher altitudes.

Such orthodox explanations have done nothing to still the legend among Sherpas of the yeti as a creature which howls piteously far outside the warm circle of expedition tents and may sometimes long for human companionship. Sherpa songs and tales tell of women snatched away as mates for the lonely half-human of the snows.

Hillary's expedition is the biggest and best organized campaign ever made in yeti research. It will make its headquarters in the Menlung Glacier area where Shipton's photographs were obtained nine years ago, using equipment of which Shipton never dreamed.

One device is a .202 hypodermic gun which can put the yeti to sleep at long distance by firing needle-tipped hypodermic syringes.

If the expedition is unable to examine the yeti, it may still get his photograph. A dozen cameras will be staked out, which can be set off by trip wires stretched over game trails.

The expedition will set up its cameras in a valley where tracks have been sighted in the past; then retire to observation posts overlooking the valley from a much higher altitude, keeping watch with telescopes.

NAMED TO AEC POSTS

AUGUSTA, Ga. (UPI)—President Eisenhower appointed John H. Williams and Dr. Norman F. Ramsey Jr. to the Atomic Energy Commission's general advisory committee Thursday. Williams, a former AEC member, is a professor of physics at the University of Minnesota. Ramsey is a professor of physics at Harvard.



huge tracks in the frozen snow of the Indian and Nepalese Himalayas for years.

The tracks of the "abominable snowman" are the starting point for a major new expedition by Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Mt. Everest.

"I don't think we can question the fact that something is making these tracks," Hillary said before setting off for the mountains.

"It may be the half human-half animal 'yeti' of the Sherpas; or a red bear or a langur monkey straying far above its habitat; or even deformed or frostbitten human feet. Whatever it is, we are anxious to try and answer once and for all."

A 20-man British-American-New Zealand team led by Hillary will spend nine months in the Everest region, the first ever to stay the entire winter in the Himalayas. The expedition will carry out research at high altitude which may aid future space travel. It will attempt to climb 27,790-foot Mt. Makalu.

And, perhaps most challenging of all, it will seek to establish the true nature of a creature which has never been positively identified.

The yeti, or abominable snowman, has been a legend of the Himalayas for a half century or more. Sherpas, the Nepalese porters who guide expeditions, believe it is a half-human creature which lives in caves and shuns contacts with human beings.

TOURS RED COUNTRIES

MOSCOW (UPI)—Cuban National bank President Ernesto (Che) Guevara and his delegation left Wednesday night for Communist China, the official Soviet Tass news agency reported. The agency said the party also would visit North Korea, North Viet Nam, and Outer Mongolia, all Communist countries, before returning to Moscow to resume trade and economic talks.

said the tracks were made by a man of the snow.

An adjective used by the Sherpas could be translated either as fierce or filthy—which led to the term abominable snowman.

Bury's report caused a sensation in Western newspapers, but 16 years passed before new tracks were discovered by another British mountaineer, Frank Smythe, at 16,000 feet in the Garwal area of the Indian Himalayas. Numerous other sightings followed, and so much interest stirred that five full scale expeditions in search of the yeti have been made since World War II.

The closest approach to finding him was made in 1951 by explorer Eric Shipton, in the isolated Menlung Glacier area south of Everest. Shipton found a long trail of tracks each a foot long and half as wide. Each print showed three large "toes" in front, a thick "thumb" to one side. The tracks were clear — Shipton obtained photographs which were published throughout the world—and appeared fresh. But Shipton found no other sign of their author. The tracks simply disappeared into frozen crevasses of the mountains.

More tracks were found in the same area in 1953 by a British Royal Air Force expedition. It reported the tracks sank four inches deep into the frozen snow, while heavy alpine boots of expedition members made impressions only one inch deep, and concluded that the yeti—or whatever it was—was much heavier than a man.

Two major theories have been offered by Western investigators.

ON THE CARPET

NEW YORK (UPI)—Motorcycle Patrolman Charles W. Stolz spent 4½ hours waiting and answering questions by the City Investigations Department (CID) on why he issued a summons to a CID car, it was disclosed Thursday.

Oregon Seed League Meeting Announced; World Markets Eyed

New markets for Oregon's seed crops. That will be the main topic at the 20th annual Oregon Seed Growers League meeting in Portland Nov. 28-30, reports Rex Warren, Oregon State College extension farm crops specialist.

Nearly 300 seed growers from over the state are expected at the meeting, which will open Nov. 28 at 10 a.m. in the Multnomah Hotel, Warren said. Roy Stevenson, Madras, is president of the league.

A report on present and possible future uses of American seeds over the world will be given by Horace Bolster, seed marketing specialist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Foreign Agriculture Service. Bolster toured much of Europe last year looking over market prospects for American seeds.

In another presentation on possible foreign markets, Wayne R. Giesy, seed dealer from Monroe, will report on his trip through England and Germany last year.

Seed growers will concentrate on turf crops much of their meeting, with an address on promoting use of turf seeds by Robert W. Schery, director of Better Lawns and Turf Institute, Marysville, Ohio; and a talk on trends in turf varieties by Norman Goetz, OSC farm crops specialist who recently completed a trip through 20 states looking over turf and other seed crops.

The largest English-speaking city south of Miami is Kingston, Jamaica. It has a population of 300,000.

James F. Short, director of the State Department of Agriculture, will discuss commodity commissions and how they affect grower marketing problems. Frank Crofts, graduate student from Australia studying in the OSC farm crops department under a Rockefeller fellowship, will tell about uses of seed and pasture crops in his country.

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