

# Mysterious monster of Lake Iliamna

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*Of The Daily News*

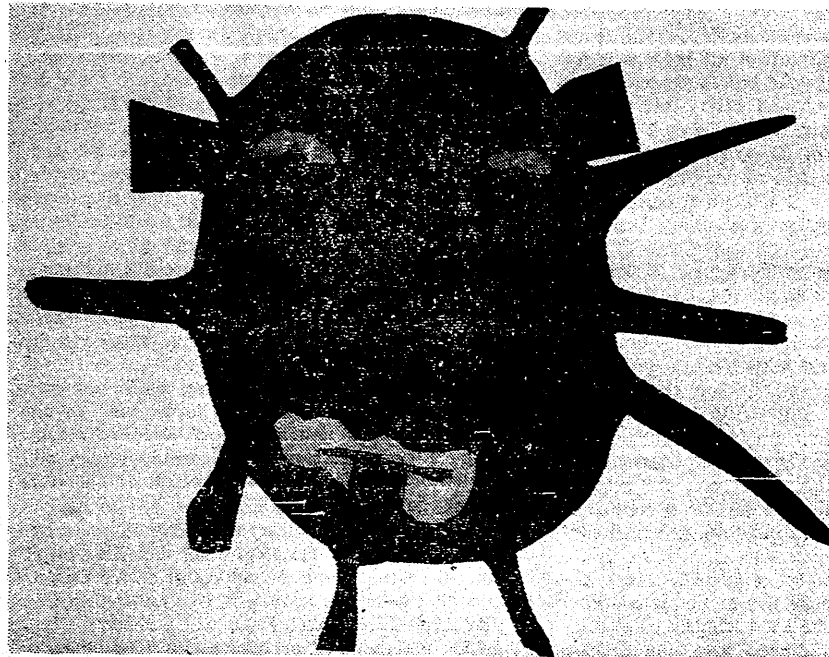
The winds can thunder across Lake Iliamna and set up a storm on the surface that could splinter a boat. The waves can roll like an angry sea, and no one will venture out on the lake.

But dangerous, wind-whipped Lake Iliamna has a legend to explain its stormy moods, and the legend still has devout believers even in this jet-and-computer era.

Believers say there is a monster in Lake Iliamna who is easily disturbed and shows his anger by slapping his tail to cause all of the wave action. The faster he swims through the water, the more turbulent it becomes. When he's really annoyed, he can make the lake pitch until it is almost impossible to put a boat on it.

It is also a common belief that the Iliamna monster has plowed huge furrows in the bottom of the lake, making it more than 1,000 feet deep. Almost all of his bad moods come out after sunset, while during the day he is noticeably quieter — the lake

Continued on Page 27)



What does the monster look like? Here are several suggestions from youngsters at Kakhonak School at a village on Lake Iliamna, 200 miles southwest of Anchorage. Above, is Gary Neilsen's drawing, and at right is one by Molly Wassillie, both 10 years old and in the fifth grade.

