

## Sea Monster

For years the legend of the San Clemente sea serpent grew. Many claimed to have seen the sea monster, always in the same area, and everyone agreed it had a neck like a column, big eyes like plates, and a mane like a bunch of seaweed

One observer wrote: "We were at San Clemente Island. It was a little past eight o'clock in the morning. The sky was overcast – gray – with fog. All of a sudden, out of the corner of my eye, I saw something dark and big heave up from the ocean. Higher and higher it rose...a long neck and giant head, I guess that is what it was, lifting a good ten feet out of the water! It was wet and glistening. Something that appeared to be a kind of mane of coarse hair, almost like fine seaweed, hung from its neck! But the eyes – those were what held me! Huge, bulging, round – at least a foot in diameter – they looked at me and stared. Those terrible eyes fixed themselves upon me in an uncanny stare. I could feel the skin on my back begin to creep. Then, as I watched, the "Thing" sank. There was no swirl, no splashing, it just disappeared. Twice again on later fishing trips I saw the "Thing." It heaved up out of the water, glistening like wet rubber. What the "Thing" was – or is – I have not the faintest idea – other than it was something unknown, unclassified - and definitely strange!"

But Clemente Clem was no joke, especially to the people who saw him. Is he still out there? I don't know. The last newspaper report I found on him was in 1953. What was he? I'm not sure, but several possibilities are explored in the book.