The most famous of these monster hunters was Tim Dinsdale, an aeronautical engineer from England. His curiosity about the beast began in 1959, when he read about it in a magazine article. Of particular interest was the mention of a Scottish doctor named Constance Whyte who had written a book called *More Than a Legend*. The book included photographs, sketches, and person accounts from people who had seen the creature. Dinsdale was fascinated, as he later wrote: “I was mentally disturbed; jolted out of the rut of normal thinking by this detailed and strange account of the Monster.”

**Captured on Film!**

Dinsdale started researching the reported sightings, comparing and analyzing the descriptions of the beast. Then, in April 1960, he traveled to the Scottish Highlands. He planned to spend a week there in the hope of seeing Nessie for himself.

During his visit, Dinsdale kept a close watch on the loch. By the fifth day he was starting to get discouraged—but then his patience finally paid off. He had set up his movie camera on a hilltop overlooking the loch. Just as daylight began to fade, he saw what he described as “a violent disturbance—a churning ring of rough water, centring about what appeared to be two long black shadows, or shapes, rising and falling in the water!” Convinced it was the monster, Dinsdale managed to catch the action on film. He jumped in his car and drove down to the shoreline. But by the time he got there, the water was still and there were no signs of any creature.

On the last day of his trip, Dinsdale decided to try one last time. He set up his camera inside the car and slowly drove down the hill toward the loch, filming all the way. When he was about halfway down, he spotted an object on the surface of the water. He stopped the car and grabbed his binoculars. It was the creature! He saw that it was reddish-brown and had a huge hump on its back. Dinsdale grabbed his movie camera and began filming the beast as it swam. He later wrote: “I watched successive rhythmic bursts of foam break the surface—paddle strokes: with such a regular beat I instinctively began to count—one, two, three, four—pure white blobs of froth contrasting starkly against the black water.”
From Engineer to Monster Hunter

Dinsdale returned to England and turned the film over to British officials who specialized in analyzing photography. After a careful examination, they confirmed that the film was genuine. They also confirmed that there was something alive in the water, and that whatever sort of creature it was, it was quite large. Later, the film appeared on British television and generated a great deal of excitement about Nessie. Soon people were contracting Dinsdale to tell their own stories of encounters.

In July 1960, Dinsdale went back to Loch Ness and spent nine days there. Even though he did not see the beast, that did not discourage him. He had become totally captivated by it—so much so that he gave up his engineering career. He wanted to devote the rest of his life to pursuing the creature he had captured on film.

In the years that followed, Dinsdale visited loch 56 times. Some of his trips lasted for weeks, and others lasted for months. His goal was to see the Loch Ness Monster again and get even better film.

Nicholas Witchell describes Dinsdale’s fierce devotion to hunting for the creature: “He spent many hundreds of days and nights afloat in the loch in his tiny motor cruiser Water Horse. It was a grueling, frequently dreadfully uncomfortable and downright dangerous mission, facing the loch’s many moods at all hours and in all weather in such a small craft.” Dinsdale spotted the beast two more times, once in 1970 and again in 1971. To his great disappointment, he was not able to capture any significant footage. Yet he never gave up. He remained committed to hunting Nessie until his death in 1987.