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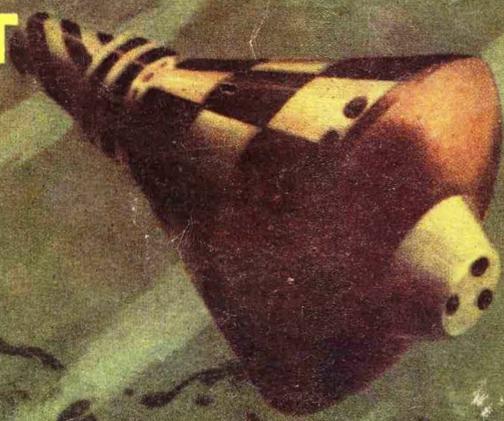
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DAVID
WIT

THERE IS AN ABOMINABLE SNOW MAN

by IVAN T.
SANDERSON

SOME MONTHS ago we reported on a forthcoming case entitled "The People versus Yeti" and we editorialized at that time on its very serious national, international, and possible historical implications. When the case came to court last month we gave it complete coverage and published a considerable amount of the proceedings verbatim. It will be recalled that the case was adjourned for a month at the request of the prosecution after he had called his last witness. With this request the Court concurred after consultation with counsel for the defense, and the court then gave certain instructions to the jury in closed session. An air of mystery prevailed until an extra-ordinary statement was issued to the press yesterday by the Court. The full text of this is published elsewhere for those who wish to study its legal phraseology and who may be able to comprehend its real meaning.

Frankly, we were quite unable to do this without the assistance of our entire legal department and even then there are technicalities which they tell us are beyond their comprehension. This is a sad state of affairs indeed. However, we have asked our se-

nior science writer to prepare the accompanying review of the matter as an introduction to our reports on the renewed court proceedings which began yesterday and which we will be publishing later.

The defendant in the case is *Yeti* but not only is he absent he is even stated (and by the prosecution to boot) to be non-existent. At the same time, the prosecution alleges there is an international conspiracy afoot; and of long-standing, to defraud the people by alleging that there is such a person. But again these conspirators have not been produced and cannot be named. Finally, the prosecution, though calling a very long list of witnesses whom it stated would give evidence of the existence and activities of this gang, did not, the Court felt, produce sufficient concrete evidence to make its case. It was the intention of the court to dismiss the case but then counsel for the defense (of Yeti) —not his supposed promoters, the alleged international plotters, be it noted—inserted a most unusual if not unique plea, to wit, that he be allowed to produce witnesses for the existence of Yeti but against the existence of the said conspirators. This

is when the court recessed *sine die*.

The court has now reconvened under Professor W. C. Osman Hill who is known to have been deeply interested in the case even when he was not presiding. He has issued the first clear statement on the whole subject, in our opinion, and he did this during his opening remarks and when issuing instructions. This is to the effect that, in his opinion, the existence of Yeti has now been fully established but that he reserves judgement on the matter of his alleged backer. He will accept the statements of defense witnesses in evidence of either contention. At last, therefore, we seem to know where we are in this most muddling case and we feel confident that if a conspiracy against the people does exist it will be brought to light and those responsible for it duly punished.

This has become an international court for the trial of cases, stemming from four continents, and which now concerns affairs occurring in more than seventeen countries. However, the court has ordered that five of these be stricken from the record, for the time being at least, although reference to them is to be permitted as evidence in the remainder. Those held over are the North American cases of the *Sasquatch* in Canada, and of *Big-foot* in California, U.S.A.; of the *Dwendi* in Central America; and the very dubious case of *Loy's "Ape"* of South America. The first two will be tried at another time in an American court and it is not certain if the public prosecutor will further pursue at all the case of the *Dwendi*. Then, a very curious thing has occurred with regard to *Loy's Ape*. In this case a scientist has filed a complaint against one Francois Loys and/or his heirs and assignees and one Dr. Bernard Heuvelmanns of Paris, France. Two other cases that have been dropped are those of *Agogwe*, of East Africa, and the unnamed midget of Ghana in

West Africa, both accused of disturbing the peace by the governments of their respective countries—Tanganyika and Ghana. There is also, as of the time of writing, a movement afoot to exclude also the cases of the *People versus Tok*, versus the unnamed procurers and Brown-slave traffickers of Malaya, and versus little *Orang Pendek* of Sumatra with whom there is so much public sympathy and against which not one shred of evidence has been produced showing any criminal intent or even misdemeanour. Of this last case it is being said that there might well be a grave miscarriage of justice on the part of authority in that the little fellow is probably in point of fact a ward of Government, subject to Native Administration and to special protection, and that he is being harassed unlawfully by both foreign scientists and by petty local officials. This case, if it comes to court at all, will doubtless go to the Hague.

This leaves present proceedings to be concerned with eight cases, all Asiatic and all stemming from the area contained within lines drawn from Bokhara in the Soviet Turkoman Republic, northeast to the Republic of Tannu-Tuva, thence southeast to Peking in China, southwest to the northern border of Assam, and finally west again round the curve of the Himalayas to the Pamirs and Bokhara. This encloses the Russian Pamirs; Chinese Sinkiang; Tibet; Inner Mongolia; and the provinces of Chinghai, Sikang, Shansi, Kansu, parts of Sze-Chwan, and Yunnan of China; Indian Kashmir; and the States of Bhutan, Nepal, and Sikkim; also a fringe area in northern Assam. It is a vast area, and, despite the fact that it forms the original "nest" of humanity and has been traversed by trade routes for millenia and is now thoroughly administered by the Russians and Chinese, it remains one of the great blanks on our maps and more so in our encyclopedias. It is still for the most part, to the Western World, at least,

substantially unknown. Enormous parts of it are covered by arid deserts or impenetrable mountains and uplands which are completely uninhabited, and most of the rest is very thinly populated. In fact, what population there is is almost exclusively gathered around the few cities and towns or strung out along the trade routes in tiny villages and individual farmsteads. Otherwise there are only roving bands of nomads who stay on the grasslands.

The least known tracts are naturally the uplands and mountains where very few outsiders have ever been. Tibet was not penetrated at all by westerners until the end of the last century and today the greater part of it is still unmapped, unvisited, and as yet unseen by human eye even from the air or by natives of the country. It is also said that if this enormous territory were flattened out its surface area would cover over twenty times what it does geographically on maps due to its outrageous topography. The famous explorer Ronald Kaulbach once roughly surveyed an area the size of Ireland that had never been visited before and yet his extraordinary accomplishment can hardly be spotted let alone depicted on a map of Asia. The entire United States and Alaska can be set within this area without any cutting, rearrangement, or compressing. It is as if the United States were almost entirely mountainous or clothed in deserts, was devoid of all railroads, paved roads, or airlines and was still bordered by Canada and Mexico with their own vast open spaces and limited communications. These facts are needed as background by anybody listening to the proceedings in this case or reading them later. There are also other things that the spectators and readers should know. One of these has never been brought out until now.

If anybody has read anything about this great central Asian region or about the mountainous provinces of

the Himalayas, Tibet, Sikang, and the adjacent areas, and if he has read anything about the case of Yeti, he will almost certainly believe that the whole country is covered with snow or bare rock and lies somewhere up in the clouds. The truth is quite otherwise for, although there are endless towering mountain ranges strung all across the land, and although there are uplands near the snowline twice the size of Texas, a great part of this territory is not only *below* the snowline but it is not bare rock or even mountain pasture. It is clothed in a continuous and incredibly dense forest of coniferous trees and mist-en-shrouded giant rhododendrons that form a tangle almost as impenetrable as mangroves. The valleys at lower altitudes are choked with bamboo-forest or real jungles of every green tropical, subtropical or temperate hardwoods. Again applying the analogy of the United States it is as if the whole country was clothed in a combination of the tropical forests of Central America and the dripping coniferous jungles or the rain-forests of the Pacific Northwest, except for not one but two dozen Rocky Mountain Ranges, leaving open only some vast plantless deserts and a wind-seared upland plateau twice the size of our prairie belt.

There is one other point that should be mentioned though this has not yet been brought out in court. The fact, that it has not, has implications of a very grave nature. This, in this writer's opinion, should have been stated before the case ever came to court and we fail to see why everybody now avoids it so scrupulously—even counsel for defense. Only one witness from the west has even mentioned it, though the Russian material is almost wholly based on it. The point at issue is the nature of not only Yeti but all these other characters here being discussed. Apart from Mr. Thomas B. Slick of Texas, the Russians, and one or two independent scientists, every-

body seems determined to keep this whole question off the record. Yet, it is at the very core of the matter.

The whole case at the moment is being made to revolve around the technical question as to whether Yeti—and/or any of his confreres—exists or not, and if he does not, whether some group of scurrilous human beings have deliberately invented stories of his existence, created his tracks mechanically or otherwise, made phoney scalps of him out of the scrota of yaks or buffalo, obtained the hairs of rare mammals which they claim are from such a creature, and bribed some Himalayan natives to eat whole raw Pikas (a small rodent animal related to hares and rabbits) complete with fur and bones so that their excrement containing the remains of such animals may be collected and pickled.

We would point out that, on the one hand, the question of the existence or non-existence of this creature or creatures must be considerably influenced by consideration of what it might be, or is alleged to be, *in fact*; while, on the other hand, if it *should* prove to exist the authorities, if not the court, should prepare to take appropriate action. If Yeti and his confreres are proved *not* to exist but some dastardly conspirators *are* identified, the procedure is obvious. If, on the other hand, Yeti and his ilk *are* found to exist but no conspirators can be named, a state of hopeless confusion and considerable distress is going to be initiated. To put it bluntly, the whole case is being tried on a misleading and inadequate basis. The real question at issue today is not whether Yeti, *et alia*, exist *per se* or are figments of the minds of some international conspirators, but what the Yeti, Abominable Snowmen, and all the others *are*.

The prosecution has completely failed, in the opinion of the public, to make its case though no verdict can of course be given until the defense has had its say. The whole case devolves

around identification of the alleged defendant, *in absentia*. The prosecution has failed to produce either yeti or the alleged conspirators. The whole argument has been concentrated on whether either one or the other exists. But by ignoring one alternative—namely, that both might not exist—it has manifestly been implied that *something* does exist. That is one thing that has been accomplished. It is now necessary to proceed to the other alternatives: (1) Do both exist, and if so (2) is Yeti a man-made fake or (3) is he a natural entity or living thing, being exploited by Conspirators. It is obvious from this that, provided the yeti is assumed to exist, it is his nature that really matters and nothing can be assessed unless this question is discussed. As we have said above, this most vital question has so far been almost wholly ignored.

If we assume that yeti and his confreres exist what could they be? Apart from such suggestions as mechanical devices made by man, hallucinations, ghosts, or men wearing masks and costumes, or simply derelict human beings or outcasts living as hermits, there are three alternatives:—

(1) Some race or races of primitive human beings as yet uncontacted by all other human beings.

(2) Some species of Primate mammals probably of the Anthropoid (or Ape as opposed to Monkey), division of that order.

(3) Some species of primate mammals intermediate between the two former; namely, submen, ape-men, man-ape, or manlike ape.

There is something to be said for all these possibilities but the matter is not nearly as simple as the average non-specialist thinks or would like. We are dealing here not merely with one type of alleged creature—the Yeti—but with at least eighteen different types of very considerable variation in shape, size, color and distribution. All cannot be the same. In

fact, in accordance with the normal rules of animal distribution it is extremely unlikely that two species of the same kind would ever be found in the same area unless they occupied very different ecological niches either in different types of vegetation or at different altitudes. Two kinds of the same animal seldom if ever live in the same area—naturally, because if they did so they would immediately hybridize. Moreover, as almost all of these eighteen different alleged creatures are recorded from quite different areas, we have to presume, if not assume, that they are all different.

Then, there is another equally complex matter (at least to the non-specialist) that must be taken into consideration. This is the range of possibilities.

Frankly, it is almost useless to even discuss this whole business, and absolutely worthless to presume to express an opinion upon it, without a clear knowledge and understanding of the overall, current findings of physical anthropology. The writer has been both amazed and appalled to meet highly intelligent people deeply interested in this subject and more than willing to accept the evidence for the existence of such creatures, who nonetheless have never even heard of, let alone considered, the possibility of any of them being other than either human or animal. Further, even basic knowledge of what *is known* to physical anthropology is quite unknown to them. How then, and in the name of all that is true, can such people even start to assess what is recorded? If they do not know what sort of "things" or creatures are possible between what we call man and what we call animal (e.g. apes, in this case) how can they presume to give opinions on the nature of yeti and his confreres? And it is absolutely useless making such statements as that there are no such intermediary types for a whole host of them have now been dug up by palaeontological anthropol-

ogists and are perfectly and absolutely accepted by such specialists as having once existed. These creatures must therefore be listed and annotated.

First, however, a word about that troublesome word *evolution*. Everybody who has heard of this concept has an opinion upon it, and these fall into the usual three categories—believe in it, don't believe in it, or don't give a damn. For our present purposes we may class the first and the last together for neither have anything *against* it. The second class, namely the disbelievers, may be divided into two groups and mostly on a basis of religious prejudices. One lot denies that evolution could exist, as being against their understanding of the methods of the Almighty. The others deny the fact of evolution and especially of our evolution from a lower form of organization such as an ape ancestor, but feel that God may have created a lot of intermediary creatures along with apes and men. The former of these two disbelieving types will positively state that a yeti if found *must* be either a man or an animal: the latter admit the possibility of its being something in between. Finally, there are of course those who believe in the fact of evolution among living things but feel that it is God's method of creation.

It is therefore useless to address that group which positively denies the possibility of any living creature intermediate between man and beast having ever existed. Nonetheless, we now have very considerable positive evidence in the form of fossil skeletons that such creatures *did* exist and in large numbers over more than half the earth for at least a million years. I am afraid, therefore, that the position and attitude of those persons is not tenable and has forthwith to be ignored. Addressing therefore all others, let us see what the position really is.

Anthropological field-workers have

now turned up several dozen skeletons (perhaps thousands, if the work of the Russians be taken into account) of creatures that are neither wholly human by any standards nor wholly non-human in that they display certain pronounced human traits. We humans; these creatures until now thought to be extinct; the apes; the monkeys; the South American monkey-like creatures; the marmosets; the lorisooids; the lemurs; the tiny Tarsiers; and the squirrel-like animals called Tupaias or Tree-Shrews, all belong to one great order of mammals known as that of the Primates. The popular statement that "We are descended from the Apes" is strictly untrue. First, we are not *descended* either in structure or time; we have *ascended*. Second, no ape such as we know those animals today, ever appeared in our family tree. To the contrary, both ourselves and the apes seem to have had a common ancestor that was neither Humanoid, Anthropoid, or even Simioid (i.e. monkeyish). Along the divergent lines to us and to the present-day apes from this ancient common ancestor all sorts of intermediate creatures developed and most of these went off at a tangent as it were, some ending in quite fantastic types, like the giant *Gigantopithecus* of which more in a moment.

Despite all this complexity and the number of different kinds of such intermediaries, or missing links if you like, that have now been found, and the very different status each has on the general family tree, we may legitimately group them in strata of non-humanity, as it were. The simplest method is to allot seven stages to this breakdown, namely:

- (1) *Proto-Ape*, i.e. common ancestor of both anthropoids and humanoids. Possible example *Dryopithecus* of India.
- (2) *Apelike Ape*, i.e. descendants of proto-apes on the branch leading

to the modern apes such as gorillas, chimps, gibbons.

- (3) *Manlike Ape*, i.e. descendants of proto-apes on the humanoid stem or branch. Example, *Proconsul* of East Africa.
- (4) *Man-Ape*, i.e. creatures farther advanced in one way or another up the humanoid stem. Example, the Australopithecines of South Africa.
- (5) *Ape-Man*, i.e. humanoids that still retain non-human or ape-like features. Example, the Pithecanthropines of Java and China.
- (6) *Submen*, i.e. humanoids that are clearly distinguishable from Modern Man, though they may have been able to inter-breed with them. Example, the Neanderthalers.
- (7) *Ancient Man*, i.e., obviously wholly humanoid and of the same genus as modern man but with certain anatomical features that are not found in even the most primitive of true Modern Men. Example, fossil skulls from Europe.

All these creatures once existed. We have their bones, and we have the bones of more than one of all of them, so that they are not freaks or individual oddities. They were pure races, breeding true, and mostly over immense periods of time. They were not "crosses"—that escape-clause so beloved of the uninitiated—and the modern methods of dating bones has shown that they are not modern. Intermediate between all these general types there must have been at one time or another an enormous number of additional gradational types of which we have not yet got fossil skeletons. Although evolution sometimes proceeds by jumps due to lucky mutations, on the whole it is a gradual change from one general type to another by the accumulation of lots of little changes.

These fossil humanoids have now been unearthed from all over Eurasia

and Africa. (Note: Ancient Man has now been found in both Australia and North America. Skulls of a Subman type are alleged to have been found in our Southwest but are still under study.) The proto-apes and manlike apes are from deposits of pre-Pleistocene age in Africa and India for the most part. An age of one million years—namely, the beginning of the Pleistocene—is now claimed for the Australopithecines of South Africa. The Pithecanthropines seem to have spread in time from middle Pleistocene to the end of that geological period. The Neanderthals and other Submen and Ancient Man now appear to have been contemporaries in Europe, Asia, and Africa and to have lasted until the end of the last southward advance of the Ice. Further, it now appears that the earliest Neanderthals were more “humanoid” than the last representatives of their type. In fact, they progressed backwards, developing ever more ape-like characters. Ancient Man on the other hand did the opposite and it is most interesting to note that the current prevailing opinion of physical anthropologists is that in his earliest known form his nonhuman characteristics are closer to those of the Pithecanthropine Ape-Men than to any other yet found. Finally, there are two very wonderful, very important, but very mysterious creatures to be considered. These are the giant known as *Gigantopithecus* from the cave strata of southern China, and lots of bones of a little creature called *Oreopithecus* found throughout the last sixty years in coalmines in Italy, the strata of which are of Miocene Age. This latter is very, very disturbing.

Gigantopithecus was an enormous creature, estimated by Dr. Pei who recently unearthed the first bones (as opposed to teeth) of this thing in caves in Sikang Province of his country to have been up to twelve feet tall. It had many humanoid features and those of its teeth that are known

are almost completely human in form. Yet it is becoming considered more and more to be just on the Anthropoid side of the line rather than on the Humanoid. Definition of this sort is difficult because “human” features do not develop all together. For instance we now know of creatures in which the teeth were human but the face apelike; or again where the feet and hands were human but the brain and teeth completely apelike. In fact, various aspects of these intermediaries seem from time to time to have “run away” towards the human, leaving their other features behind. Reconstructions of this creature, however, coincide very closely with the best descriptions of one of the Abominable Snowmen, as we shall see, and its bones come from an immediately adjacent area.

Oreopithecus presents us with a really formidable problem. This creature was first discovered in 1886 and was given its name of “Mountain-Ape” more in fear than in hope for its discoverer had the sense to know that if he had called it *Oreanthropus* or the *Mountain-Man*, he would have been derided out of his job and his finds probably “lost” or otherwise destroyed. The reason is that the damned thing is a primate with several very if not absolutely human features but it comes from strata that are some 30-million years too early for even the most open-minded skeptic to stomach. Within the last five years a stalwart Swiss scientist has revived these bones and gone to look for more—successfully—but the whole matter is being most carefully suppressed and not one single word has appeared on the subject in scientific literature. The reason for this is more than probably that the new finds have confirmed the original ones and the human characteristics of the creature can no longer be denied. If such facts were published in proper scientific quarters all the anthropological textbooks would have to be completely re-

written and just about every physical anthropologist in the world would have to recant almost every thing he has ever said. That of course is unthinkable. It is much easier and better to suppress the truth and hope that the coalmine will cave in. Then the bones already extracted may be safely destroyed and the "honour" of everybody will be saved.

The sum total of all of this is that there have definitely been considerable numbers of creatures on this earth for tens of thousands and perhaps millions of years that were intermediate between the living apes and living modern man. The next question is, are they all extinct?

The situation here is as muddled as is that of their existence in the past. All kinds of monumental rubbish has been published on this subject, and is thus firmly believed by almost everybody. The popular ideas on what we know of the surface of our earth and what we do not are so completely misconceived and outright inaccurate that it is little short of a miracle that we can even find our way about it. The rubbish that has been written about this subject is also of a near-criminal rather than a merely idiotic nature, so that it seems more than just possible that much of it is deliberate. The basic trouble is the average persons' misconception of size or numbers; the unethical aspects arise from a deliberate failure to multiply accurately. I have dozens of examples in my files, clipped from assumedly reputable publications giving the areas of countries or parts of countries—and especially unexplored parts—that are just plain falsehoods. It is even so bad that in some cases in official publications the length and breadth of an area are given and then the total area is printed but one or more zeros are deliberately left off the latter. The general idea seems to play down at all costs the area of our earth that we do not know and, I now believe, the enor-

mity of space that is left for exploitation and human occupancy.

The actual truth is that we know comparatively little of the land surface of our earth, and even less of the sea-surface or more so of its bottom. Over two-thirds of the earth is covered by oceans; between one seventh and one fifth of the total land-surface is permanently frozen; almost one third is desert of one kind or another either hot or cold; a quarter is covered by closed-canopy forest most of it totally untouched and the largest block of it in Russia and Siberia. Only one state in the Union of North America is adequately mapped (this is Massachusetts); there are areas up to 100,000 square miles in that Union that are not mapped at all; there are enormous areas in Australia, Asia, Africa, South and North America that have never been penetrated; whole islands that have been inhabited for thousands of years (vide: Sardinia) prove to be tens of miles off their true position on the best maps; and there are even places within fifty miles of our largest cities that have not been used since pre-columbian times. There are Amerindians living in Central America, not two hours flight from Miami, who have never yet been seen by or contacted by anybody, and whole parties of civilized men have vanished into places near ports in New Guinea and on other more modest islands. There are two million square miles of spruce and aspen forest in the northwest part of Canada that has an estimated human population of only 25,000; there is a hundred square mile strip in New Jersey that has no human population at all. The truth is, we simply do not know anything much about the land surface of our earth.

But benighted idiots who have never been outside their home towns or small areas of their own counties have the audacity to state—in print, and as "experts," forsooth—that this, that, or the other thing *cannot* exist some-

where. This sort of statement is not only absurd and ridiculous, it is manifestly pure mendacity or even worse. It is a deliberate effort to defraud the public, and the methods employed by such persons would in any other circumstance be deemed criminal, for they are exercising unwarrantedly their positions as experts. They are *not* experts; they are damned fools; and, frankly, nothing that any of them say should any longer be given credence, and should be held in direct suspicion until *they* can bring evidence to support their claims. The onus is wholly upon them.

The truth of the matter is that our world is not by any means explored as yet and what of it is mapped is in large measure inadequately known. Just because even a large-scale map is covered with names does not mean that any of it has been visited. A large percentage of mountains have only been seen from the air; the same applies to rivers whose courses are later sketched in. We once worked out the actual size of a dot on an "i" in the word Pacific in an atlas and found that it would be 400 miles wide if put down on that ocean in proportionate size. There is ample room even in our own country for there to be all manner of even large as yet undiscovered living things in considerable quantities.

Then again, over a million species of animals are now known and named but the list is added to annually by some thousands. Most of these are admittedly small or very small but most of the work of looking for them is being done in the more populated countries and parts of countries. The vast majority of the earth is not being searched at all. Fairly large and even very large animals are still turning up on land. The second largest living land mammal—a race of the Ceratothere or "White Rhinoceros"—was not found till this century; the same went for the horse-sized Okapi. One of the largest species of ox of a quite

fabulous form with tasselled horns and called the Couprey did not come to light until 1938, and in heavily and anciently populated Indo-China at that! The vast *taiga* or spruce forests of Siberia were never glaciated and what they contain is simply not known. Even the Australian Government has stated officially that a marsupial tiger probably exists in the Cape York peninsula. What may not exist in the endless valleys and gorges of the Himalayas that are choked with a tangled mat some thirty feet deep of evergreens cannot of course be said by anybody not even the local inhabitants though, be it noted, they say almost to a man that some unknown creatures *do* live there—to wit at least three ABSMs, known as the Yeti, or Yeh-Teh, the medium *Mih-Teh*, and the giant fellow, or Dzu-Teh.

There is no reason at all why all submen or apemen, or even men-apes and manlike apes should be extinct. Almost if not all other large animals are more primitive and have been around much longer; more than a dozen species of apes are still alive and the largest of these, the gorilla, was not found till the middle of the last century or believed in even then by the scientific world for almost another half century. Large animals like the Red Deer, Moose, Brown Bears, and so forth crossed to North America from both Asia and Europe after the retreat of the last ice sheet so why not a subman to settle down and still exist in the almost endless vastnesses of British Columbia (the Sasquatch) or the 50,000 empty square miles of the Klamath Mountains in northern California (Bigfoot)?

And this brings us back to the very pertinent questions that are now being raised by the defense. Ordinary, normal, sane, intelligent citizens—such as you, the jury, cannot be expected to assess this case if you have not before you first a clear statement of the possibilities of what you are discussing, and secondly the true na-

ture of the terrain where they are alleged to have been found. If all information on the former is denied you, and the only statements on the latter are made by deliberate liars, how can you be expected to come to any logical conclusions? How can you even judge the statements of those who have been to these places and who really *do* know their nature and extent?

Therefore, it is necessary to state flatly that the allegations of the prosecution—being without any supporting evidence—may be totally ignored. So also should be those of all “experts” unless the person making the statement can prove that he or she has actually been in the area concerned, has properly investigated the business, and has adjudged the matter from a logical point of view and without prejudice. Third, the reports made by those who have been there who are not or do not claim to be experts should be most carefully listened to, though the extent of their background knowledge should at the same time be most thoroughly investigated. For instance, in this case, if a reputable explorer says he has encountered a yeti and endeavours to express an opinion as to what it is but has no previous knowledge of the intermediate creatures between apes and men that are known to anthropologists, you should treat his conclusions with the utmost caution. What is more, in such a case, a sound grounding in and knowledge of say ethnology and/or zoology of the area may be as dangerous as none at all of either, for a pre-conceived notion may well be firmly established in the narrator’s mind. As an example, I know of more than one properly trained scientist who has actually been on an expedition to seek evidence of the abominable snowman who completely missed several items of the utmost importance (that were later turned up by others) simply because his whole interest and all his specialized knowledge was in another

field. When they saw facts staring them in the face these good men endeavoured to interpret them in some way that coincided with their own special beliefs.

That some of these creatures—and I would like to use our private term to include all of them from now on, i.e. ABSMs—could be run-away human criminals of known tribes, or members of as yet un-contacted human races is of course possible; but not all of them could be such. It seems more than just possible that the *Almas* of central Asia may be very primitive illiterates. That some ABSMs could be Anthropoids is equally possible and, in the case of the very big Abominable Snowman, or Dzu-teh seems both probable and even likely. It could be *Gigantopithecus*. However, now that it is definitely known that the exceedingly primitive and apelike Man-Apes called the Australopithecines of South Africa used a very wide variety of rather complicated bone tools (see recent publications of Dr. Broom, of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa) the line between the Anthropoid and the humanoid has become even more blurred. ABSMs could be and probably are of all these types.

Is there any evidence that any of the ABSMs are specifically of any of the types of intermediate hominid-anthropoids? Yes, there is indeed, and apart from the possible consanguinity of the big Abominable Snowman and *Gigantopithecus*; the Agogwe of East Africa and *Australopithecus*; and the Orang Pendek of Sumatra and some Pitecanthropine. Moreover, this has been for some extraordinary reason—if not deliberately—overlooked although it has been published in great detail with photographs for a number of years in reputable scientific journals and magazines. The likeness here is between the middle sized abominable snowman or *Mih Teh* and the European Neanderthaler

of the middle period of the last ice-advance. The evidence is perfectly factual and straightforward and is as follows:

In the fall of 1953 the two caretakers of a cave located north of Florence, in Italy, which is a tourist attraction—(all caves in Italy are public property and their caretakers are appointed by the state)—applied to the government for permission to do some blasting and digging during the winter at the back of their cave. They had noticed that one of the passages was obviously blocked by a solid wall of flowstone, the material of which stalactites and stalagmites are composed, rather than by the ordinary surrounding country-rock in which the cave was formed. Also, these were small holes down near the bottom of this flowstone barrier into which air blew at another time, and bats had been seen darting into and out of one of these holes. Permission was obtained and the men blasted through no less than eleven feet of this barrier and broke into an extensive series of passages.

These tunnels had been sealed up completely for a very long period of time estimated at the time of their discovery to be some 70,000 years though today the time-scale of the last southward ice-advance in Europe has been considerably contracted. The caves were smooth-walled and were floored with what is called "cave-earth" actually in this case a very fine, rather sticky, clayey mud. On this floor, as perfectly preserved as the day they were made were endless lines of foot-tracks of three creatures—an enormous bear, some modern-type men, and Neanderthalers. There were also many bones, stone artifacts left by both the modern-type or postglacial man and by the Nean-

derthalers, charcoal circles on the walls into which mud balls had been cast in some form of game, and other things. Numbers of most accurate casts of the Neanderthaler footprints were taken. They are very odd and quite unlike those of either the bear or the modern-type humans being short, very broad, with large broad toes put on squarely, a very big "big-toe" and a very big "little-toe." They were only eight to ten inches long.

Casts of the middle-sized Abominable Snowman—or Mih Teh—taken in the Himalayas are not only identical, they can be turned over and fitted exactly into negative size casts of the Neanderthalers taken in this cave in Italy. No known creature living or extinct makes a track anything like these two.

What more can one ask? And why is there any more discussion about all this? Simply, I would suggest because nobody, and even those seemingly most keen to capture an ABSM, really wants the problem solved. As a lady wrote to me at the end of a very long and intensely interesting correspondence about the monsters of Loch Ness on which she had written the best book yet published "...and anyhow, I'd much rather have a mystery unsolved than one that is fully explained." All this is a sad commentary on the true nature of human nature. Yet it has got to be taken into account when trying to assess the evidence for the existence of ABSMs and all the extraordinary things that have been and are being said in an endeavour to discredit that evidence, disprove it, explain it, or explain it away. These broad facts are actually more important than all the details of the reports of these creatures existing, as we shall abundantly see when we come to review those reports.