



BIGFOOT BULLETIN

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WHY BIGFOOT IS NOT AN 'ESCAPED CIRCUS GORILLA'

ROBERT BARBOUR JOHNSON, San Francisco, California, writer, former circus man and animal trainer, writes (January 17, 1970) : " I note that a number of your Bulletin correspondents have suggested the possibility of an 'escaped circus gorilla' being mistaken for one. As a lifelong student of the 'Big Top' field, I can make a contribution by laying this theory to rest. Only one American circus has ever exhibited gorillas, in the entire history of the business ! The so-called 'gorilla sideshows' of circus and carnival lots contain only old chimpanzees, grown too large and vicious for performing, and retired as 'gorillas' to a public that has never learned the difference between them. They are much smaller than the real ones, far less hairy, and seldom taller than four feet. None of them could possibly be mistaken for a 'Bigfoot', and, having delicate lungs, they could not possibly survive an American winter outdoors ! Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey exhibited the first real circus gorilla, 'Gargantua', in the year 1938. It has since shown two others, one only about three years ago. They were displayed in specially built, glass-sided, air-conditioned cages ; and if one of them had ever gotten out, it could not have lived more than a few hours ! Zoos, being stationary, are able to show gorillas in the open air, but even they have indoor cages, to which the beasts are instantly returned at the first sign of bad weather. Even so, they are the shortest-lived of all animals -- and by far the most expensive, costing as high as \$20,000 each. None of them has ever escaped ; and, at that price, none ever will ! Incidentally, the first adult gorillas ever to survive in a zoo were brought over by the Martin Johnsons, in the year 1928. With 'Bigfoot' records going back well over a hundred years, it's a rather feeble hypothesis ! Nor has any known gorilla ever reached a height of more than 6 feet. Adults cannot stand upright ; and walk on all fours like dogs, which they much more closely resemble, than 'Bigfoot'. Probably the misunderstandings are due to circus movies, which for decades have depicted them as walking like men, and growing to a height of 'King Kong'. These roles, however, were always played by human beings, wearing ape costumes. Several actors have made a lifelong specialty of playing them. No live gorilla has ever appeared in a Hollywood film, being too dangerous to control on a movie set. So the 'gorilla theory' of 'Bigfoot' is completely impossible, and need not distract us, in the search for the fascinating original."

The BIGFOOT BULLETIN is now one year old ! The editor thanks each and everyone of you who made it possible through your interest and through your generous contributions. There simply wasn't room to print more than a small portion of the reports and material received. However, they are all filed away and made available to all BULLETIN "subscribers" who want to come here and go through them.

REPORTS FROM LEE TRIPPETT

LEE TRIPPETT, Eugene, Oregon, reports : "Here are two items that may be of interest to your readers. John W. Smith of 1940 S.E. 12th, Apt. 6, Portland, Oregon 97214, now has three pictures of Bigfoot. The first picture was taken in the summer of 1969. The camera was improperly adjusted and underexposed but the picture was taken about 1:00 P.M. in broad daylight from a distance of approximately 20 feet and shows a rather definite outline of hair. The other two pictures were taken in September with an inexpensive automatic camera using color film. These two pictures were also taken in good daylight but due to the distance of 50 to 100 feet and the shadows they are of poor quality with respect to Bigfoot. The foreground features in the prints are very good, however, and we are waiting for a blowup of the negatives which are now in the hands of a police agency back East. One of the prints shows my white pickup very clearly and Bigfoot coming up a bank behind the pickup. He is in the shadow of the trees and small details are not discernable. However, the major features are very discernable and represents a fair comparison to the Patterson film. All pictures were taken in the Coast Range of southern Oregon near the California border. Mr. Smith reports he has seen Bigfoot on many occasions since 1967 and has actually exchanged food with them. He also reports watching them hunting and fishing and actually being inside their caverns. He has written a rather detailed report of his experiences which might be available through myself if enough people are interested. His approach to Bigfoot parallels my own long standing theories but does not include any direct E.S.P. phenomena."

"I now have an I.R.S. (Internal Revenue Service) approved non-profit corporation, for the research of Bigfoot. The purposes of the corporation, called Flora-Fanna Research, are set forth with protecting all degrees of interests and without limiting the activity. We have in mind that any individual or group may pursue their own particular avenue of approach and at the same time attract federal tax deductible funds. Particular details of administration and accounting are negotiable and further details may be requested from Lee Trippett, 2439 Marjorie Ave., Eugene, Oregon 97401. Phone 503-342-2356." (Letter from Lee Trippett, January 9, 1970)

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

FATE Magazine, February 1970, p. 67, "Bigfoot's Ancestor ?" by Mike Kohle. Concerns the Carson City, Nevada, fossil footprints.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN , January 1970, "Gigantopithecus" by Elwyn L. Simons and Peter C. Ettel. (Credit : Clint Williams, John Fuhrmann, William Elliott, Loren Coleman)

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION Magazine, January 1970, "Longtooth" by Edgar Pangborn. A fiction tale about the Sasquatch. (Credit : Miriam Allen deFord)

BIBLE-SCIENCE NEWSLETTER , Caldwell, Idaho, July 15, 1969, "Search For Bigfoot". Concerns the research and expeditions of Dr. Bernard Northrup and his group. There are also articles on "Minnesota Iceman" and "The Peking Man Fraud". (Credit : Gladys N. Smith)

REPORT FROM KITIMAT, B.C.

BOB TITMUS, Kitimat, B.C., Canada, reports (December 31, 1969) :

"There has been little Sasquatch activity, that has come to my attention, in this area lately. All of the track reports that I have received during the past year or so have, upon investigation, proved to be nothing more than large Grizzly Bear tracks. In the past year I have had two 'phoned in reports of Sasquatch sightings by Indians of the town of Masset on Graham Island of the Queen Charlotte Group. I was unable at the time to investigate these reports. Also, early in the year three of the residents of Kitamatt Indian Village told me of their shooting a Buquas (B.C. Coastal Indian name for Sasquatch/Bigfoot) with a shotgun in Khutze Inlet some 75 miles S.W. of here. They stated that it ran off in the woods screaming. Since they waited 4 or 5 weeks before telling me of this and the fact that I was still recuperating from surgery, I didn't investigate this one either.

"This fall, while combining Sasquatch hunting and working on a stump ranch I'm developing, over near Porphyry Creek about 14 miles east of Hazelton, B.C., on two different nights I heard the very peculiar whistling scream of what I took to be a Sasquatch. (This was the same call, or scream, that I have heard on a few other occasions over the years while hunting Sasquatch). Though on one occasion it was very close to camp, the following day I was unable to find any tracks. However, the ground was not conducive to holding tracks. During the past twelve years there have been at least three Sasquatch sightings on the highway near Porphyry that I know of.

"Glad to hear that you are getting into the Yolla Bolly country. I lived in Trinity County (California) for many years and know that area well. It could prove to be very productive for you as the Bigfoot creatures make a southerly migration through that area in late Nov. and Dec. and then return north through there in May and June."

A LOG ROLLING SASQUATCH ?

JOHN FUHRMANN, Portland, Oregon, writes (December 25, 1969) :

"I happened to be talking to the owner of our local grocery store last week on this subject when a delivery man standing nearby mentioned that he and a friend had had a rather frightening experience in August of 1967 while varmint hunting in a wilderness area south of Burns, Ore. They had put their tent by a huge log 20' long and 3' in diameter and then pulled their pack of supplies up to a height of 18' above the ground by throwing a rope over a tree limb and fastening the other end to the trunk. When they returned that night with two coyotes they had killed, they found that the log had been rolled about 6' so that it was directly under their hanging pack of food ! The rope over the limb had rubbed some of the bark off (Ponderosa pine) indicating that something had managed to just reach the tip of the pack by standing on the log (or jumping from it) and move it slightly. There were no tracks because of the thick layer of pine needles on the forest floor. The two men couldn't even budge the log and were so shaken by the incident that they left the area immediately. I can't believe a bear would have the intelligence to roll the log and a human would have simply untied the rope. Sounds like a Bigfoot to me !



ANOTHER CREATURE AND TRACK SIGHTING occurred November 23, 1969, on the Calkins Ranch on Neimi Road near Woodland, Washington, when a visitor, Charles Kent, went outside and thought he saw a bear standing upright in the moonlight 30 to 40 yards away. He went inside to find a gun but when he and several other youths came out again the creature was gone. At the site they found 18 tracks, not those of a bear, that were 11 3/4" long and 4" wide. Imprints by the boys measured from 1/4" to 1/2" in depth while those of the mysterious visitor measured 1 1/2". Most of the tracks were obliterated by cows by morning but several photos were taken. (Information from THE LEWIS RIVER NEWS, Woodland, Wn., November 27, 1969. "Mysterious Footprints Add To Lore Of Mt. St. Helens Ape," by R.C.P.) (Credit : John Fuhrmann, Portland, Oregon).

OTHER NEWS ITEMS AND REPORTS

ROGER ST. HILAIRE, now in Bossburg, Washington, with Rene Dahinden, Roy Fardel and Dennis Jensen, reports there have been no new track or creature sightings in that area since December 13 th. They are standing by, have a plane available, and are patrolling the river banks by boat.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS, San Jose, California, January 4, 1970, "Is There A Real Bigfoot ? Five L.G. Youths Think So." Concerns five Los Gatos youths who reported finding Bigfoot tracks in the Los Padres National Forest while hunting wild boar. (Credit : Mark Morgan).

Germans Read Of Sasquatch

Word of the Sasquatch has got through to Hamburg, Germany, although the name seems to have been lost in transit.

Over a picture of Roger Patterson holding two footprint casts, the magazine Praline carries a story headed "Is This Lady from Prehistoric Times".

"Canada. The Canadians are proud of their "Prehistoric Man." Researchers, reporters, policemen, fanatics and spiritualists are on his tracks.

"Amateur photographer Roger Patterson extracted valuable observations and issued the following warrant: 230 centimeters tall, 350 pound, shoe size 58 and female breast.

Sheriff Gallagher has seen last the mysterious monster. He nearly managed to put up the "Stone Age Lady" as a radiator mascot, only in the last moment he could stop his car.

Despite all doubts of the female giant's existence the journalist John Green wants to set out an expedition to catch the creature, which even haunted the U.S.A. A competition between Canadians and Americans has already started."

We are indebted for the magazine and the translation to Mrs. H. Andres.

From John Green's THE ADVANCE, Agassiz, B.C., Canada, January 22, 1970.