



BIGFOOT BULLETIN

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George F. Haas, 5309 College Avenue, Oakland, California 94618

Phone (unlisted) : 415-652-9791

MORE ON THE "BUSHMAN" EXPEDITION TO THE YUKON

The Alaska expedition of Bob Betts, Jim McClarin, Jim Pearce and John Culbertson to the vicinity of the Indian village of Ruby on the Yukon River ended on September 25th without their finding any trace of the "Bushman". They were told by the local Indians that they were a month too late ; that the Bushman usually has made his appearance there in August. A final 17-page report of their findings dated October 4, 1970 and titled Ruby Expedition Report, September 10-25, 1970 was prepared and a copy can be obtained for \$2.00 from Bob Betts, 4416 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. The report contains, among other things, 15 reports of sightings in that area, much anthropological data, a full-page diagram or plan of the arm trap and a map of the location. With Bob Betts' permission, we are quoting the "Conclusion" from that report :

"While no direct physical evidence was found by our group to substantiate the presence of a Sasquatch type animal in the Ruby area, I still feel there is a strong case for the presence of such an animal on the basis of the stories told to us by the villagers. The similarity between the Bushman of the Athabaskan Indians and the Sasquatch and O-Mah of the Indians to the south is more than coincidence. The distribution, both in time and space, of the same 'legend' is very hard to explain unless there is (or was) a basis for that legend.

"For future expeditions by groups interested in capturing or photographing a Sasquatch, I would suggest a similar plan oriented towards attracting a Sasquatch rather than 'hunting' a Sasquatch and also towards operating at night with minimum disturbance to the natural ecology of the area. Three hour shifts at night worked out quite well. I would not recommend longer shifts at night because it is difficult to remain quiet and still for much longer than three hours at a time. A portable tape recorder to record possible Sasquatch sounds should be handy and ready to be turned on immediately. The person on watch should have a camera with flash attachment at all times, pre-set and ready to go. A powerful flashlight and a high powered weapon should both always be within reach at night.

"The problem, of course, is that if such an animal exists in Alaska, how can it survive the long Alaska winter. I don't have a satisfactory answer to this but then I don't have a satisfactory answer to explain how an Athabaskan Indian deep in interior Alaska can describe the behavior and habits of an unclassified primate in almost the same terms as the Yurok of Northern California describe the O-Mah or the Salish Indians of British Columbia describe the Sasquatch. Superstitions vary somewhat regarding these creatures but the basic characteristics are astoundingly similar." -Bob Betts, October 4, 1970.

A CAMERA TRAP FOR BIGFOOT

If we are ever going to get a close-up photograph of Bigfoot, it will probably have to be done by using a camera trap - a trip line setup that will allow Bigfoot to take his own picture. The chances of meeting a Bigfoot in the woods in the daytime and of getting close enough to take a good photograph - even with a telephoto lens - are very small. Since most of their activity seems to be nocturnal, it would seem that a camera trap setup with flash equipment would be indicated. As will be shown below, such camera traps need not be expensive and it is recommended that as many such traps as possible be set up in a given area. They can be placed in strategic or well-considered locations where the creatures are likely to pass. Natural passes in the mountains which all animals use in going from one watershed to another would be ideal locations. Bigfoot uses them too. Other locations might be near dumps that Bigfoot has been known to frequent, along well-traveled deer trails or along roads and trails where tracks have been found repeatedly.

Besides the simple trip line setup described below, it is suggested that baited traps be set up also. Such traps can be set up almost anywhere off a trail and the scent of the bait will induce the creature to come to the trap. Slightly spoiled salmon or other fish would seem to be ideal bait as suggested by the experiences of Archie Buckley and Ben Foster. (C.A. Eagan suggests that liberal applications of cod liver oil on trees might draw the creatures to a given area). The bait can be suspended from an overhanging branch or from a wire or rope stretched between two trees but it must be 8 or 9 feet high, out of reach of other animals. Place the bait at a horizontal distance of about 6 to 8 feet from the camera. The trip line setup will depend on the ingenuity of the photographer, but arrange it so that when Bigfoot pulls down on the bait he sets off the shutter and flash.

We are greatly indebted to our photographic expert and consultant CLAUDE V. NEUFFER of Portland, Oregon, for the following suggestions :

"A simple trip-camera can be set up for three or four dollars, or you can spend as much as you want, for an elaborate set-up. Let's see what we can do for under five dollars.

"All you need is : 1.-A camera with a flash attachment. 2.-Some nylon fish-line (4# to 10#). 3.- A one-foot board. 4.- Some masking tape. 5.-One or two screw eyes. 6.-Piece of plastic. 7.- Three or four nails.

"To keep the price down, go to a second-hand store or a Goodwill store and try to find a simple box camera with a flash attachment. There are two things that will limit your choice, however, The camera will have to have a shutter release LEVER, not a push button release. Also, the flash must be able to take a #5 flash bulb. Do not try to use a flash that uses M2 bulbs ; they just don't have enough power.

"Any camera that operates with a thumb-push should be avoided. When pressure has to be applied directly to the body of a camera, I know of no way that you can trip it without using so much force that you will jar the camera, which will result in a blurred picture. I know : that lets out all the inexpensive cameras ! The only one I have found that will take a wire is the ANSCO PIONEER.

"Setting it up in the woods is quite simple. Don't forget to load your camera first ! Many of the cheap box-type cameras have no tripod

socket, so you will have to tape your camera to the end of the board. Near the end of the board, just below the shutter release lever, put a screw-eye, so that you can run one end of the fish-line through it, up to the shutter release lever. Tie the line firmly to the lever.

"Nail the other end of the board to a near-by tree trunk, making certain the camera points in the direction you want it to. Then run your fish line across the trail to another tree, where you can fasten it with another nail, or just tie it around the trunk.

"If you want to get pictures of Sasquatches only, be sure to run your trip-line at a height of about six feet, so the smaller animals won't trip it. The nylon fish-line is excellent, as it is almost invisible, even in the daytime. It is quite strong enough to trip the shutter before breaking. A wire that won't break may damage your camera, or even pull it right off the tree.

"After everything is all set (did you put a flash bulb in ?), use the plastic to cover the camera and flash, making sure it won't fall in front of the lens or flash. Tape it down securely. Before you leave, put a few small branches over and around the camera, to camouflage it. Tape the branches down, too, so they won't blow over the lens. Recently I have replaced the plastic with a cover of linoleum that is nailed to the supporting board. The plastic blew off in a storm while I was on vacation.

"With these box cameras, it would be better to add another flash, if possible as these lenses are pretty slow. Cheap flash-guns can usually be picked up at the same second-hand stores where you find the cameras. Wiring them together is usually simple." - CLAUDE V. NEUFFER.

#### CONCERNING THE LONGVIEW, TEXAS, REPORTS

NICK E. CAMPBELL, in training at Fort Ord, California, writes (October 2, 1970) : "I suppose that even in the Army you can find Sasquatch reports. This one comes from Private David Lawson and Private (and Reverend) Royal Jacobs, both from Longview, Texas. They both stay in my barracks here at Fort Ord and offered me this short report.

"In or about the year 1965, there was a rash of reports of a giant hairy creature roaming the thickets and back country between Jefferson and Longview, Texas, but nearest to Longview. A man and his little daughter reported it as being large, black and not a bear. Several head of cattle and a couple of people were supposedly killed by it. Private Jacobs was a member of a posse that hunted the creature when he was a teenager. He told me that he saw the body of one of the murdered persons and that the victim had been torn apart. At the time, he threw his gun back in the car and went home. (I can't blame him - he was only 14 or 15 years old).

"These two men are training here for the Texas National Guard. Private Jacobs is a licensed minister and Private Lawson (in my platoon) has been associated with Jacobs for years. I will vouch for them both; they are always being put 'on the spot' by other guys because of their devotion to religion (and honesty).

"Before I sign off, I would like to mention another place they told me about. They called it the 'Big Thicket' and said it was north of Houston near a town called Lufkin. It's an area where people disappear and others tell Sasquatch-type stories."

HUNTING LICENSE REQUIRED TO KILL BIGFOOT IN IDAHO

The following paragraph is quoted from a letter dated August 14, 1970, written by Mr. E. Kleiss Brown, Chief, Information & Education Division, Idaho Fish and Game Department, Boise, Idaho, to Mr. Russell Gebhart, Lewiston, Idaho :

"Section 36-301A of the Idaho Code authorizes the Fish and Game Commission to classify all wild animals in the state. Since a 'Bigfoot' has not been classified, or any animal similar to it, it would be permissible to capture or kill it at any time. The only requirement would be that the person so doing would have to have a hunting license."

Mr. E. Kleiss Brown writes, October 28, 1970, in a letter to George F. Haas :

"This you may also quote : I think it is wonderful that we live in a land where people can devote so much energy to the pursuit of such an elusive subject. It would be my hope that these people could also devote a good share of their energies to the pursuit of the ogre who is destroying our precious environment. Thanks for the copy of the BIGFOOT BULLETIN. It is very interesting." ( These paragraphs are reprinted here with permission from Mr. Brown).

THE YETI STAMPS OF BHUTAN

FATE Magazine printed a letter in their November 1970 issue, in their "Report From The Readers" department from Ernest A Kehr of the Philatelic Press Club, New York, N.Y., on page 141. We have Mr. Kehr's kind permission to reprint that letter here :

"I should like to challenge the caption on page 65 of your April 1970 issue in the article 'Yetis of Bhutan'. You have said that these Bhutanese stickers are 'highly-prized by collectors'.

"These labels are not highly prized at all. On the contrary, they have been blacklisted by philatelic organizations both here and abroad as having been produced to deceive uninformed hobbyists for the purpose of financial gain. They are sold by an agency in Nassau in the Bahamas - not in Bhutan itself."

THE CASE OF THE PREGNANT SASQUATCH

DICK GROVER, Everett, Washington, writes (August 10, 1970) : "On August 8th this account was given to us by Ronald Zimmerman, Seattle, Wash. : 'On Saturday, August 2nd. I was sitting next to a stream in a meadow above treeline at about 3:00 or 4:00 P.M., in Boston Basin, near Cascade Pass, when I saw a large person, animal or beast. It was whitish or cream colored, with a very large stomach. It passed along a ridge about 200 yards from my position. The animal, or whatever it was, must have been 6' or more in height or a little more, and weighed about 250 pounds. I observed it for 15 or 20 seconds before it passed from sight and subsequently failed to sight it again.'

"This report was obtained with a little difficulty because most of his friends didn't even act interested. The reason he gave it to us was because he couldn't believe that a hiker would carry a pack on his stomach. This may be one of the few pregnant ones ever seen. The area in future is going to come under closer scrutiny."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

SAGA magazine, November 1970, "America's Mysterious Cave-Man Monsters", by Al Masters. (Credit : Lou Farish, Gary Galbreath, John H. Hall)

NATIONAL WILDLIFE Magazine, October-November, 1970, "On The Trail Of Bigfoot" by George B. Harrison. Concerns the results of the Morgan expedition. We mentioned this article last month but didn't have full details. (Credit : Bob Betts, Gilbert W. Colby, Peter J. Metropulos).

MIDNIGHT, October 19, 1970 (Printed in Canada), "7-Foot Monsters Are Roaming Across United States" by Dom Merle. (Credit : Warren Thompson, John Fuhrmann, Lou Farish).

FATE Magazine, November 1970 contains a short item "Monster Report : The Snowman" on pages 30-31, a letter to the editor concerning the Yeti stamps on page 141, and a letter on page 144 from a reader who thinks Bigfoot may be an escaped gorilla.

"AN EVENING FOR SASQUATCH"

A meeting or ceremony with the above title was held on the steps of the State Capitol in Olympia, Washington, on Wednesday evening, August 26th sponsored by A PACIFIC NORTHWEST LEAGUE FOR THE PROTECTION OF SASQUATCH. Master of Ceremonies was JAMES DOLLIVER, Second Assistant to the Governor of Washington. Speakers were ROY CRAFT, Stevenson, Washington; LEE TRIPPETT, Eugene, Oregon ; BOB GIMLIN and JOHN BOLLARD, representing Northwest Research ; DAVID BREWSTER, Associate Editor, SEATTLE MAGAZINE ; JIM HALPIN, representing PROBE INC. ; EMPEROR SMITH, KJR Radio Station. Music and poetry readings completed the program. (Credit : LEE TRIPPETT who adds : "Several hundred people showed up and were very attentive. Many views were presented, serious and humorous".) (Credit also for telling us about this : DICK GROVER)

A LATE ARRIVAL

(Credit : John H. Hall & W. Sherman)

THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE/STAR

WEEKLY, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 24, 1970, "Now It's War Among The Sasquatch Hunters !" by Kayce White. Concerns the current disagreement between John Green, Rene Dahinden and others over the recent computer survey.

REMEMBER , Bigfoot was the first to take "a giant step" !

WANTED. Views, suggestions, plans, or other information on camera traps from other readers of the BULLETIN.

