

Creature Chronicles

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INDEPENDENT INFORMATION
AND NEWS SERVICE

"We must have the pros and cons; the skeptics and believers, so it isn't all one-sided."

-R. Schaffner quoted in the BRS (IBB) news-letter, August, 1980.

EDITORIAL

Later this year, will mark the twentieth anniversary of the Roger Patterson film of Bluff Creek, California. There will be no events to remember the occasion. There will probably be nothing mentioned in the newspapers, nor the electronic media. The Sasquatch enthusiasts will silently remember the events since 1967 and how much soft evidence has been acquired in twenty years.(1)

Researchers will speak of thousands of reports, footprint finds, motion pictures and photographs. The general public will hear of multiple witness sightings from credible individuals and the various reasons on why and how the Sasquatch must exist. They will probe through their files and report on all the cases they have personally investigated and publish newsletters and reports. (Myself included.)

This should all sound familiar, as it represents the state of research as it stands today. Can all the claims be justified? We think not! Enough evaluation has been achieved to give the Patterson/Gimlin film a high rating of authenticity, however nothing of this magnitude has come forth since then to substantiate the existence of this elusive creature.

We constantly hear of the scientific community's position on the Sasquatch issue. Simply put, they say: "bring us a specimen, for this can only be hard evidence." In their own right, they are making a cautious, but correct statement. Instead of taking a scientific position, let us try taking the Sasquatch issue through the legal system. There will have to be a stipulated issue:

IS THERE ENOUGH DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE TO ACTUALLY SUBSTANTIATE
THE EXISTENCE OF AN UNKNOWN HOMINID?

First of all, the burden of proof will be with the believers, so they will have to present their case first. Their attorney will present hours of eye-witness testimony, along with many members of the scientific community who lean towards Sasquatch research. The jury will observe movie footage, footprint casts, hair samples. Statements will be made by law enforcement officials, who receive reports. They will see maps, graphs, newspaper accounts, drawings and various theories. All will be presented, while the skeptics' attorney will attempt to dispute through cross-examination.

The skeptics' case is not necessarily easier, but they have the advantage of presenting their side last. They will introduce various forensic experts who will explain the unreliability of hair analysis, the means of faking and misinterpreting footprints, the manipulation of photographic images. Psychology

experts will take the stand and explain in detail issues of witness subliminal inputs to the mind. We will also hear direct testimony from medical experts who will talk about the poor visual perception of humans; an unfortunate, but true fact. The skeptics will have an easy time disputing eyewitness accounts, especially the grey areas of descriptions, size estimations, distances, etc. Wildlife officials could even be presented to document misinterpretations of known animals.

After all is presented from both sides, how do you think the jury would answer? Let us all put our emotions off to the side and try to answer objectively. I can not come up with the answer, but I can visualize a scenario as follows. The jury will state:

BASED ON THE BLUFF CREEK FOOTAGE, THERE WAS ONE UNKNOWN HOMINID RECORDED IN 1967. HOWEVER, BASED ON THE LACK OF HARD EVIDENCE, WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THIS MAN/ANIMAL IS TODAY EXTINCT.

We expect to obtain much reader response to this issue and highly recommend it. What are your views? Some will say, "Oh no, Schaffner is doing the same old song and dance." Well, in a sense their right! Historically, CREATURE CHRONICLES always desires reader response. Often times, we have even had to step on some toes to prove their statements. We are far from being any type of experts, so if one can not prove their case to us, how will they ever stand up to scientific scurtny.

Do not misinterpret this editorial. The collection of reports, personal field investigations and theories are good tools. It is the first step in research. However, we have to come up with more advanced techniques to meet the burden of proof. Our method will be to expose the hoaxes and misinterpretations. We feel that taking the trash out of the field will further enhance the highly probable incidents. Some readers will say, "Why bother? We already know many hoaxes and greyliners". Our answer is simple. If we do not publicize the fakes, then research will run amuck in future generations.

- (1) In our opinion the Bluff Creek film represents the begining of modern day Sasquatch research. Obviously, there are many reports from the past. Further Sasquatch interest developed with the advent of various cinema productions.

R. Schaffner
C. J. Wilhelm

Note: This editorial is the work the editors and does not necessarily represent the opinions of the rest of the C.C. staff.

HOAX AND FRAUD COMMITTEE

Since 1980, the amount of bogus material circulating the general public has been over-publicized. Even some of the older fakes are resurfacing their way to publications. Ohio, Pennsylvania and Maryland seem to be the hottest areas for questionable reports. In fact, it has got to the point where some will not even answer our mail because they believe somehow we are involved. We have read so many outlandish reports and newspaper accounts from these states that it is beyond humours. For instance there was a quote in the West Virginia Advocate, December 1986 that there were 50 Bigfoot groups

in Ohio. Of course, this was not the editor's fault, as it was relayed to him by a "so-called" researcher. An innocent newspaper reader could be led to believe all he/she would have to do to see Bigfoot is to go to Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Maryland.

We feel that since there has been so much misinformation generating that it is time to reactivate the Hoax and Fraud Committee. In the future, challenge statements will be drafted up to send to certain individuals questioning their remarks to the press. Copies of these drafts will also be mailed to the particular media that released the misinformation. We are so serious on this issue, that we will go to court if anyone attempts to charge us with slander or liable. They will never be able to prove their ludicrous claims.

For those of you who would like to get involved, question our motives, or dispute anything that we present, the clearing house for the HFC will be:

Hoax and Fraud Committee
% Charles J. Wilhelm
P.O. Box 437
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

Let us get this bull out of the field and get on with the seriousness of the Sasquatch issue.

NOTE ON CAT FEVER

We do understand that several researchers have no interest in our wildcat reports, especially the people on the west coast. After all, cougars, etc. are indigenous to their area. Our attempt in covering this issue was not to sensationalize "black cat" reports, but to come up with a logical explanation as to why they occurred in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. We believe that the reports can be explained and will go into depth in our next issue.

QUESTIONABLE BIGFOOT REPORT IN WEST VIRGINIA?

SOURCE: West Virginia Advocate
December, 1986
CREDIT: Mark Opsasnick

Two Washington, D.C. hunters claimed that they were attacked by a male and female Bigfoot near Cacapon, West Virginia. The father and son told their encounter to the West Virginia Advocate and requested anonymity.

According to the Advocate, the two hunters were sitting at the base of a tree when they heard branches breaking. When they said "Hello", the noises stopped. Thinking it may be deer, they headed in the direction of the sounds. Suddenly, the son saw what looked like a black gorilla about 15 feet in front of him. They stared at each other, then the creature growled at him and lunged forward. The man then ran back to the tree. His father then saw the creature chasing him. Both started screaming at the creature and it began moving back.

"All of a sudden, my dad started screaming like he had been stabbed. I looked and there was another of the things behind him, and it had a hold

of his shoulder. He was yelling and trying to jerk loose. I grabbed hold of him and jerked loose", the son said.

The father described the creatures as male and female. The father said the thing had "tits" like a woman and was covered with black hair. Both said the male had "a big penis and testicles"

The creatures allegedly held the men at-bay for 10 minutes, until they fired their shotguns into the air. They said they ran off in different directions.

The two men showed the ADVOCATE a tear in the father's camouflaged hunting coat and strands of coarse black hair. Both men told the newspaper that they had sensitive jobs as businessmen, so they did not want their names in the press.

The men refused to allow the paper to have the hair samples. They said they would have it analyzed by a D.C. laboratory and would give the paper the report later.

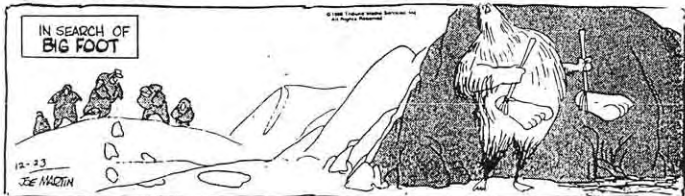
The ADVOCATE writes they are skeptical, but can neither prove, nor disprove the men's encounter. At any rate, the ADVOCATE does an intensive piece on hair samples; citing various opinions of laboratories, including the FBI crime lab. Obviously, the news piece is too long in detail for this publication. I imagine that one can obtain a back issue of the newspaper. THE WEST VIRGINIA ADVOCATE, P.O. BOX 171, CACAPON BRIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA, 26711.

Two notes by C.C. Editor:

- 1.) We find it strange that the two men would not allow the Advocate any of the hair. It would be in the hunter's best interest to allow another party to submit the samples in order to establish more credence to their claims. However, we are in agreement with this newspaper that there is no way to actually determine any hair samples as evidence, until we have an actual sample of real Sasquatch hair.
- 2.) This issue of the ADVOCATE also deals with various Bigfoot related topics and fabricated reports. This was due to the fact that questionable researchers submitted obvious fake material and unsubstantiated claims of monsters. (ie: Ray Wallace film, Rome, Ohio fiasco, etc.). We do, however, praise the objectivity of the ADVOCATE staff in their storyline. I have written a letter to the editor expressing my impressions of their article.

MISTER BOFFO

Credit: K. Johnson Chicago Sun-Times 12/23/86



THE SASQUATCH AND OTHER UNKNOWN HOMINIDS Edited by Vladimir Markotic'
©Western Publishers 1984 Ass. Editor: Grover Krantz
P.O. Box 30193 Stn. 'B' \$12.00 Softback
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2M 0J0
ISBN 0-919119-10-7

This project is a must for any serious student on the subject. It is basically similar to "Man-Like Monsters on Trial", as it is a series of papers published regarding the aspects of Sasquatch research. The writers are some what authorities on the subject and topics discussed range from historical monster legends to reports; Biological and Psychological aspects. Also the full account and analysis of the Patterson/Gimlin film. There is even a chapter on Believers vs. Skeptics.

All in all, this work is well worth the investment. Do remember that some of the text is scientific writing, which can be difficult to follow at times.....R.S.

CREATURE CHRONICLES: Information may be extracted as long as credit is given.

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Crews to 'sound out' Nessie

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland (UPI)—It's Loch Ness monster hunting season again. This time the weapons are echoes.

Operation Deep-Scan is a planned attempt Oct. 11 and 12 to search the depths of Scotland's deepest loch for the elusive Nessie.

With about \$150,000 donated by Searchglen, manufacturers of a board game called Nessie Hunt, crews aboard 10 boats will plumb Loch Ness with "the latest in echo-

sounding technology."

The Loch Ness monster is often described by supposed observers as a sort of water-going, dinosaur-like creature paddling about with fins and occasionally lumbering onto land. It is notoriously camera-shy.

Project leader Adrian Shine says a less intensive, four-month echo-equipment search in 1982 recorded 40 contacts with a large object that had "all the characteristics of an animal—like a fish, but more so."

Chicago Sun-Times 9/24/86 Credit: K. Johnson

Viper gets new home

VINCENNES, Ind. — An albino, hognose spreading viper, described by a state conservation officer as a very rare, has a new home in the Mesker Zoo in Evansville. The eight-inch long reptile was captured this week by Bill Beard near his Vincennes home.

Primatologists rediscover lemur

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A bamboo-eating lemur with rusty-red fur and golden cheeks that was thought to have become extinct has been rediscovered in the rain forests of Madagascar, scientists say.

The greater bamboo lemur is a four-legged, tree-dwelling creature the size of a large cat, with a raucous, crow-like call, said Patricia Wright, the Duke University primatologist who found it during a summer expedition to Madagascar.

"This is the most significant primatological discovery of the decade," said Russell Mittermeier, director of the primate program of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S.

Like all lemurs, it is a primate, as are monkeys, apes and humans.

Cincinnati Enquirer 8/29/86

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10/5/86