

Creature Chronicles

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INDEPENDENT INFORMATION
AND NEWS SERVICE ON
WILDLIFE PHENOMENA

FROM THE EDITOR:

An Ohio Enigma: BIGFOOT OR BLACK BEARS?

John and Jerry Nutter were out walking in the vicinity of Liberty Church Road, near Minerva, Ohio. At about 9:10 PM, the two brothers saw what appeared to be a black bear. The animal growled at them, as John photographed it. The picture was forwarded to the Stark County Sheriff's Department. It was August 26, 1978; a time when many reports of Bigfoot were circulating around Paris Township, specifically around an abandon strip mine near the home of Mr. Herbert Clayton.

John later changed his story by saying he actually witnessed a large, hairy ape-like creature. Unfortunately, he could not prove what he saw, because the picture was later developed and nothing appeared but bushes and trees.

During the autumn of 1980, stories of a Bigfoot lair sparked off a vigilante hunt in Vinton County. Our investigative team conversed with Walter Coleman, who owned much of the surrounding property. He told us that he saw a bear and a cub wondering about in the berry fields.

There is no attempt here to explain these two purported sightings as being bears. These two incidents are but a few that implicated those mammals sometime during our investigations. We received a lot of flack from some researchers for even mentioning the idea of these animals in Ohio. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources were even reluctant to admit that possibility.

Today, ODNR says that many black bears have taken up residency in Ohio. They have been sighted in 14 counties in eastern Ohio. Steve Wilcox and Clyd Simmerer, both wildlife experts see a constant increase in populations. There is the possibility of a small breeding population, because a mother and two cubs were recently sighted in this region. Incidentally, this portion of the state has produced many Bigfoot reports.

The average black bear (*Ursus Americanus*) is about 6 feet from head to body; shoulder height is approximately 2-3 feet; weight is about 225-500 pounds. They are solitary and eat just about anything, but are mainly vegetarians. They are not normally aggressive, unless provoked. Never attempt to feed, or touch them. Bears are



Source: Columbus
Dispatch 8/30/89

quadrupeds, but will walk upright under certain situations.

Any Bigfooter who is active in the brush, or is attempting the art of tracking should become familiar with the habitat of the bear, especially in the eastern United States. The tracks could be easily be mistaken for that of a hominid under any circumstances, such as soil composition and weathering. Often times, the round heel pad of the front foot sometimes does not leave a mark. However, the larger toe is the outer one instead of the inner and in some instances, a female may place the hind foot squarely in the front print. Bears like to rub, bite and pull off bark from trees. They will leave physical evidence such as teeth marks and hair.

A witness may claim to have seen a hairy monster, when, in fact he/she saw a bear. Remember certain factors when interviewing, such as poor visual perception, emotional descriptions and fright. One would be surprised on just how many people mistakenly over react to something they cannot quickly identify."

With the advent of this animal in Ohio, it is possible that they can be misconstrued as Bigfoot. Consider what occurred in Lewiston, New York. In September of 1978, three hunters discovered the remains of a dead black bear. In 1980, the Weekly World News printed a front line story about the head and carcass being that of a Sasquatch. A Seattle based researcher came to New York and declared the story authentic. Fortunately, the entire fiasco was debunked by Dr. Richard Thorington, curator of mammals of the Smithsonian Institute.

Remember to be cautious in the field. Know what you are tracking before making any ludicrous claims. Your safety is of major importance. If you do come across a bear report in the Ohio region and surrounding states, I would appreciate hearing from you, so that a cross check can be made with any alleged Bigfoot activity in the area. Have a good hunt!



Refer to page page
6 for recent sighting
in Ohio..Editor

Track Illustration: A FIELD GUIDE TO ANIMAL TRACKS
Olas J. Murie

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BOAR GALORE

WILD HOGS IN THE BUCKEYE STATE

I have been reporting on wildlife that is not supposed to exist in Ohio. First were panthers, then coyotes and just recently, black bears. Now reports begin to trickle in regarding Russian and feral boars. Actually, the boars and possibly the panthers are escapees from private preserves and past owners. At any rate, the boars are becoming a serious problem. Its not that they are dangerous, but they destroy the habitat of other wildlife. However, like any wild animal they can get nasty if cornered.

The deer gun season, usually the last week of November, is always anticipated for the thousands of hunters in Ohio. During the 1989 season 75,789 deer were taken. Some hunters go all six days without bagging one whitetail. Such was the case with Jim Hoover, of Orient. Hoover and friends were on a deer drive on Saturday morning at 10:00 on December 2 near the Vinton-Hocking County line when they were stormed by four wild hogs weighing at about 400 pounds with two inch tusks.

"They were right at my feet. I fired off five shots and was reloading and pushing them away with my gun barrel.", said Hoover.

Hoover shot two of the animals from a distance of three feet, while Herb Pugh and Stormy Robson killed the other two. Hoover believes he may have seen six, or seven more during the encounter.

The Ohio DNR has no idea on how many of these pigs are in Ohio, but admit that the number is growing. The feral hogs were at one time domestic, but within three generations, they become wild critters. There is so much concern of an over population that the Division of Wildlife is allowing an open season. Columbus Dispatch 12/4&6, 1989

Readers may question this report as news for phenomenal study. I would argue yes, for the simple reason that keeping track of these events broaden our minds towards true crypto-zoological events. Ed.

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A Direct Dialogue:

FROM A COLLEAGUE

In reading the opinions voiced in Creature Chronicles and other Fortean publications, it appears that most Bigfoot investigators fall into one of two categories; those that believe the creature to be a physical entity and those that believe it to be paranormal in nature. These individuals seem to take it for granted that Bigfoot exists, despite the fact that not one shred of concrete physical evidence is available to prove either theory correct. It is logical then, that if Bigfoot technically does not exist, we are actually studying reports of Bigfoot and not the creature itself.

With this realization, the entire field of research becomes multi-disciplinary in nature. Certainly, if this hominid is captured, the natural scientists and physical anthropologists will put their skills to use in classification. However, if Bigfoot does not exist, we must study the socio-psycho dynamics of the eyewitnesses involved and consider Bigfoot's role in regional and national popular culture.

To date, Ron Schaffner and Charles Wilhelm are the only investigators who have actively employed forensic techniques in their work; applying these exercises not just to alleged Bigfoot sightings, but also to the witnesses and the physical/environmental factors involved. The results of their work show many reported Bigfoot sightings have plausible, rational explanations unpopular with the manic true-believers that litter this field. We should all follow their examples in order to highlight any credibility these reports may have.

I am not questioning Bigfoot's existence. He could be out there in the flesh. Conceivably, he could be paranormal. The point is, there is simply no proof of this and the scientists deny the creature's place in the world. However, no one can deny Bigfoot's role as a cultural entity and the popularity and importance in American folklore. Remember, it is the reports of Bigfoot we are studying, not Bigfoot itself.

Mark Opsasnick
114 Rosewood Drive
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Editor's Reply: Thank you Mark for the compliment. Unfortunately, we haven't the opportunity to use any forensic techniques in quite some time in respect to Bigfoot reports, because there hasn't been any recent activity in the area. Probably, the best example of this method was somewhat applied in the the footprint finds in Walla Walla, Washington. (The Paul Freedman case) In that instant case, experts from the Border Patrol and the Forest Service determined that the alleged evidence was fabricated based on the following criteria:

1. When in soft mud, failed to push down to solid matter, even in the pressure areas of the foot.
2. The heel and the ball of the foot were straight "in line" and did not show a natural swing along an irregular trail.
3. The prints had an exact stride both uphill and downhill on an irregular trail.
4. They showed exactly the same weight and body angle pressure on heel and ball of foot uphill and downhill.
5. Hard surfaced areas and debris covered areas of the trail were ground into, or squirmed into the surface in order to be readily visible.
6. The "toeprint" markings were very clean on the portions of the foot that

- should be worn smooth and calloused.
 7. It appeared that the fine forest litter had been pushed aside prior to the making of the track.
 8. There was no sign of heel or toe "slippage" on the steep gradient areas.
 9. It appeared that the foot may have been "rocked" from side to side to make the track.

Of course, there are more in-depth reports on the tracks. I have just highlighted a few of the strong arguments. (Source: Report by Joel Manden; 7/28/82 and document from Rodney Johnson 6/18/82; U.S. Border Patrol and Forest Service)

The usage for simple forensic formulas, such as latent impressions (fingerprints) could have explained the far-fetched Rome, Ohio stories, specifically on August 21 & 22, 1981. In the publication, "Night Siege", it was inferred that a Bigfoot-type creature smashed a fuse box. It appeared that finger-like impressions remained. The investigators simply took it for granted that a creature was responsible. If they would have lifted the prints and had them analyzed, that would probably would have set the record straight one way or the other. (Source: Night Siege: The Northern Ohio UFO-Creature Invasion 1982 D. Pilichis pgs. 24-25.)

Mark makes the important distinction between studying Bigfoot and studying the reports. Frankly, I never really thought of it like that. Nobody can actually study Bigfoot until we have a specimen. Of course, I have been saying that all along.

Kentucky's Hairless Animal

Nobody believed Bobby Hale's tales about an unknown animal roaming about last year. Hale, who resides near a sawdust dump in Ashland, claims she saw "cute", timid animals, who bark like dogs and eat just about anything. They looked like a cross between a raccoon and an opossum, although these animals do not cross breed. They have whiskers and tufts of hair on their feet.

Hale trapped one of the critters and delivered it to Barbara Rosenman, of Kentucky Wildlife-Line, Inc., an agency that deals with injured wildlife.

"I thought it was a prank. I thought someone had taken a straight razor and shaved her", said Ms. Rosenman.

Tom Edwards, a fur bearer specialist with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife believes the animals to be raccoons because of their shape and behavior patterns, but he cannot explain the loss of fur. He said the skin appeared smooth, which eliminates the theory of a mange or parasite. Other biologists say photographs of the animal look like bandicoots; a small marsupial indigenous to Australia and New Guinea.

There are other problems with the raccoon theory. First of all, the question isn't settled on why only some raccoons would lose their fur and, secondly, if it was chemical contaminants, why haven't other wildlife in the region be effective.

"Every theory we come up with, you can blow holes right through it", said Ms. Rosenman.

Piranhas "up-North" More Bear Reports

Within the past few years, there has been an increase in piranha finds in various lakes, ponds and rivers. Perhaps a new fad is developing whereas tropical fish owners are attempting to infect the fresh waters of North America. My guess is that some people will try any experiment to confuse the masses. At any rate, here is a small sampling of such events.

Fishing for bluegill is fun and they are very tasty, but if you are angling in Harland County Lake, Nebraska, you should check your catch. Just ask Bruce Beins, who owns the Shore Marina.

An unidentified fisherman brought a fish in that resembled a bluegill, but with teeth. Beins said that it was not the kind of piranha you think about. *(Probably a pacu-type. ed.)*
New Haven Register 9/10/87

Speaking of pacu-type, two were caught from the Roanoke River by two anglers. These fish do not eat any meat, but have a lower jaw containing very large teeth.

The fish were caught by Dennis Jay Reese and Joe Adamski. They weighed in at 2½ and 3 pounds. They grow very large and live a long time. Biologists believe that someone tossed them into the river because they out-grew their aquarium.

A month prior, a real piranha was discovered in a small lake near Virginia Beach. That fisherman thought he had landed a bluegill. *Newport News Daily Press* 4/4/87

Finally, we have a piranha terrorizing a small pond in Santa Barbara, California. The foot-long beastie is responsible for "three-legged" turtles and a giant hole in a 2 foot-long catfish.

Officials are attempting to find out who put this type of fish into a quiet pond. Park supervisor, Jim Anderson said it was just like "Jaws".
Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel 7/2/89

The recent shooting of a black bear has prompted the ODNR to hold special training classes in conjunction with West Virginia DNR. It is hoped that such a course may avoid what happened on May 30 of this year.

ODNR is investigating an incident that occurred in East Liverpool, Ohio. Capt. E.D. Dillon ordered a black bear to be shot after it wandered into a residential area. This was after Wildlife Division's Vince LaConte told East Liverpool P.D. that the 125 pound animal would leave the area on its own.

A similar incident occurred last year with the death of a young bear in Hubbard, Ohio, in Summit County.

The West Virginia DNR biologists are better able to handle a bear problem because they deal with them more often. In fact, they frequently handle sightings in downtown Charleston, not far from the Capitol Building. *Circleville Herald* 6/2/90

Misplaced Bass

A true striped bass weighing in at about 34 pounds was caught in an unnamed lake in the Hocking hills area of southeastern Ohio. This catch is somewhat of a mystery because no lake in this region stocks this species of bass.

Scott Schnell, a wildlife biologist out of Athens speculates that it either was caught in the Ohio River and transported to the area, or it may somehow have come from the Senecaville fish hatchery.

Brad Warner landed the fish using a yellow Rooster Tail while fishing for trout. He was using 12 pound test line, which caused quite a tug-of-war.

Unfortunately, it is not a state record, as the Outdoor Writer of Ohio show one at 35 pounds. *Circleville Herald* 6/2/90

Panther; or just a "FAT CAT"

OTTAWA'S PHANTOM FELINE

Reports of a wailing panther in Ohio's Ottawa County triggered speculation and has attracted herds of hunters into the northeastern part of the state. This episode began in the autumn of 1989 and continued into January of 1990, when evidence was introduced that it may have been nothing more than a "fat" house cat.

The series of events began on October 4, when Howard Appling, a Carroll Township farmer saw a black animal lying alongside a four foot high brush pile. He said that the animal stood up and jumped completely over the pile in one leap and then it was gone.

Later, Appling looked at an animal reference book and he became convinced that it was a black panther. He was so concerned about being ridiculed, that he waited about a week before filing his report with authorities. It was only after he contacted the Carroll Township police that he learned that there had been other sightings.

Pam Merkle was driving home late on October 18 on North Toussaint South Road when her headlights shined into the eyes of an animal moving across her path. Merkle told police that the creature moved its head up and down as if it was trying to adjust its eyes to the bright light. Then it jumped out of the way and headed across a ditch. Her daughter, Valerie Spence sighted a similar animal near her home. The cat was estimated at about 24 inches high and 4 feet long. It had a curled tail. About 10 days prior, Merkle's neighbor, Barbara Bahnsen heard a high pitched wail coming from outside her home. When she went out the back door with a flashlight, she caught two yellow eyes staring back at her.

On Thursday, the 19th, Harvey Cover, who is Merkle's brother took plaster cast of what appeared to be paw prints behind her house. Police Chief Jack Cupp remained skeptical, but insists that there was something roaming about. His calls to the nearby African Lion Safari and Toledo Zoo were inconclusive.

Nearby Fulton County, which is west of Toledo have had about 70 to 80 sightings of a large black cat over a three year period. Dog Warden, Earl Hopkins saw it when it crossed in front of his truck. He said it was about 90 pounds and was 7 feet across from head to tail. He believes it was a leopard.

"It jumped across the drainage ditch and only hit twice in cross the road", he said.

There have been unconfirmed reports of of livestock damage, but Hopkins has not investigated any farm animal kills. In fact,



BLADE PHOTOS BY JACK ACKERMAN

Black panther or house cat? →
More on next page

From the Toledo Blade 1/19/90

"Fat Cat" from pg.7

there were no official incidents of animal and livestock killings. This, coupled with the estimated weight of a 65 pound creature led authorities to believe that they were probably dealing with a large domestic cat.

It wasn't long before Oak Harbor residents began complaining about hunters and vigilantes stalking the cat. Some people parked along the streets with their trucks loaded with cages.

On Tuesday, January 9, Ottawa County Sheriff's Department photographed a black feline near a wooded area in Oak Harbor. The picture was circulated around the zoo and to cat breeders. There was much speculation on what type of feline it was, but all agreed it was some sort of cat. Tom Griesinger, operator of Wildlife Unlimited even went as far as to say it may be a coatimundi—a member of the raccoon family.

The final piece of the puzzle occurred on Thursday, January 19, when a Toledo Blade photographer released a second set of pictures showing a black feline. Jack Ackerman photographed the animal at 10:15 AM near Oak Harbor. (see photo copies on page 7.) Zoo officials confirmed that the mysterious "panther" was nothing more than an oversized house cat. They compared the photos to a 10 year-old black leopard names "Susie".

Some of the original witnesses finally saw the photographs and agreed that this was the animal they witnessed. Mr. Apling said it appeared to be the same cat, although he couldn't swear by it.

However, there are some that say the photos doesn't mean there still isn't one in the area. Toledo Blade 10/21/89, 1/10/90, 1/11/90, 1/12/90, 1/19/90 The Crescent News (Defiance) 1/10/90 Urbana Daily Citizen 1/10/90 Columbus Dispatch 1/21/90

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Researcher, Jon Fry is interested in receiving correspondence on such topics, as Ufology and Cryptozoology. He can be reached at 158 W. Union St. Circleville, Ohio 43113.

Michigan's Panther Returns: THIS ELUSIVE CREATURE HAS EVADED WILDLIFE AUTHORITIES IN SOUTHERN MICHIGAN SINCE 1984.

reports continue to trickle in about the panther flap in Michigan. (The complete listing of sightings appeared in Creature Chronicles 12.) The latest episode has occurred in Hillsdale County.

On February 6 & 7 of this year, the Kenneth Vincent family captured the beastie on video tape. The animal was seen in a hay field near their house. The creature was about 4 feet long and was taped from a distance of 200 yards.

"Yes, it is a panther," said Robert Like, who is a Natural Resources Officer. "There is no other explanation."

"It wasn't a dog or fox, but a large black cat. We are convinced it is a black panther", said Kevin Vincent.

The family had held off reporting the feline, so that it would have time to leave the area. They did not want any hunters invading their property.

There has been all kinds of speculation over the years about what this animal is. Most authorities believe it is an escaped pet, either a leopard or a jaguar. Saginaw News 2/17/90

The escaped pet theory is highly possible. Consider the following story from 1989:

Harvey Leighton, of Lake County, Ohio was charged with a first-degree misdemeanor for violating a law prohibiting the keeping of an exotic pet. Police had received a tip that he was keeping a black panther in his barn. In 1983, Leighton was sighted for having eight big cats, including tigers, a lion and a puma. Columbus Dispatch 11/7/89

In Retrospective

A Recap of the 1980 Bigfoot Flap in Eastern Kentucky - *The following story was partially taken from our "out-of-print" publication, "The Ohio Valley Hominids". The comments following will be in regards to the news clipping in right hand side bar. If you have a copy of C.C. 3, you can refer to it....ed.*

Subject: Large white, "Ape-like" Creature

Date: October 7, 1980 @ 9:30 PM

Witness: Charles Fulton

Location: Mayslick, Kentucky (Mason County)

Investigators: Ron Schaffner and Earl Jones

Case Data:

Charles Fulton and his family were watching television when they heard a loud noise on the front porch. Fulton said he heard his son's pet rooster disturbed. When he peered out the front door, he saw a white, hairy creature with pink eyes that must of weighed about 400 pounds and was about 7 feet tall.

The creature was holding the rooster by the neck and then threw it against the side of the house. It then proceeded around the back to a vacant lot. Fulton grabbed his .22 pistol and followed the intruder. He fired on the creature twice, as it ran out of sight.

Fulton told authorities that he had never seen any like this. He was sure it wasn't a bear.

Our investigation began shortly after hearing of the incident through a small piece in the Cincinnati Enquirer. We contacted a Maysville newspaper who in turn told us of a local radio newsmen doing his own work into the matter. Doug McGill of WFTM was kind enough to give us Fulton's phone number. We called him and arranged an interview for Sunday, October 12.

Fulton believes that the lights coming from his porch and living room may have frightened the creature and this is why it seemed to go on a rampage. He said that it's white hair was real long-much like a horse's mane. He also stated that the creature was "man-like", except that those eyes were like that of an animal. (more on page 10)

BIG, HAIRY HOAX(?) STALKS MASON COUNTY

Charles Fulton of Slipup, well known as the man who chased Bigfoot (sic) away from his front door, is not the only person to have seen something out of the ordinary in the county.

Friday morning, an employee of a local tobacco processing company was at the Central Center laundromat when something large chased her around the parking lot. After she got into her car, she said creature chased her in a "slow motion sort of lope." She added that although she didn't see its face clearly, she had the impression that it had no nose.

Another women in the lot at the time said the thing came across the Maple Leaf Road and made a peculiar sound, like a sneeze which she spelled as "blwjb."

Some residents have speculated that a T-shirt company, mindful of the success of "I survived the Maysville earthquake" T-shirts, is behind a hoax, but county residents are locking doors and windows and keeping weapons nearby.

A student at the Mayslick Elementary School told a Mirror reporter that his mother knows who is perpetrating the hoax. "But she won't tell nobody," he said.

Stories describe cows with their throats ripped found on farms where they don't belong, raccoons being thrown on rooftops and a multitude of stolen chickens.

Mr. Fulton first reported seeing the beast on Saturday. When asked why he didn't turn his porch light on when he saw "Big-Foot" standing there, he replied, "I did not have no porch light then. But I do now!"

Maysville Mirror 11/11/80
D. Kaczmarek via INFO Journal 6/90

Kentucky Flap con't.

Fulton described other interesting facts. He described the creature's gait as having large strides, but it appeared as moving at a slow speed, as if he could catch up with it. The faster Fulton ran after it, the further the distance between them. Charles said it was like a dream-the kind of dream that when a wild animal is chasing you and you cannot seem to run away. There was a heavy clothes line that stretching from a tree to the back porch. He did not know how the creature evaded the line, but he remembers that he almost hung himself because it was so dark.

Conclusions:

Close scrutiny of the family pet rooster produced no signs of physical harm or injuries. It would be difficult to believe that this animal could withstand the force of being projected against the house by a creature of the reported size, but our investigation was a week later. Fulton also told us that another pet-a raccoon was found on the roof later that night and no one knew how it got there. It had been in a cage earlier in the day. The clothes line may have been a depth perception, or night blindness on Fulton's part. He probably just forgot about it being there.

We spent several hours backpacking the surrounding area and could not find any trace evidence, such as footprints, droppings, or hair. There wasn't any recent rain, so the ground was quite hard. The last time the creature was seen, it was headed up the gravel road that lies to the west of the house. Other members of the family told us about a car load of teenagers that may have seen it. They told us that when their father chased the unknown around the house, that this car stopped for a second and spun away at a high rate of speed, leaving tire marks a good distance up the road. These marks were still visible on our visit. Attempts to track down this car were fruitless.

Subject: Unidentified Intruder

Date: October 11, 1980 @ 8:30 PM

Witness: J.L. Tumey

Location: Fairview, Kentucky (Fleming County)

Investigators: John Dailey and Doug McGill

Case Date:

Mr. Tumey was sitting home watching the baseball game when he heard a strange noise originating from the back porch. Thinking that a prowler was present, he retrieved his pistol and went around back to investigate. He saw what looked like a large dark man-like entity running towards the woods. He fired shots at it, then ran back to his trailer for more bullets. He then saw it again by an old stable. He fired at it again, but missed.

Tumey discovered that the freezer on the back porch had been broken into and some frozen chicken was removed and scattered outside. He also found some unusual white hair and impressions on the ground.

Tumey told the Flemingsburg TIMES DEMOCRAT, "It was very dark, so I really could not tell exactly what it was. It stood up like a man, but it was so dark, about all I could see was a huge shadow. It made a thumping noise as it ran away."

Mrs. Tumey arrived home and when her husband told her what happened she immediately called Sheriff G.W. White. Deputies arrived along with a group of locals
(More follows)

who had heard the complaint on police scanners. The entire group searched the area until 3:00 AM, when the deputies found the scattered meat.

The next day, more tracks were discovered by a gully. Evidence indicated that something has slid down the embankment. Other prints were found in wet sand and were estimated to be between 12&14 inches in length and six inches wide. Unfortunately, the prints were not clear enough to establish whether it was a man's print. More soft evidence was discovered, as Tumey found more long white hairs on the door knob of the freezer.

Conclusions:

Evidence indicates that something entered the back porch and robbed the freezer of chicken, hotdogs and bread. Tumey's reputation is without question, just like Fulton. Let us for a moment believe it was a prowler. Police reports show that they were receiving calls about a strange blonde haired man seen roaming about over the past few weeks. The white hairs found at the sight were forwarded to the Kentucky State Police for analysis by the crime lab. A week later, the results were back and it was determined that the hair was of human origin. The state police concluded that the hair was light brown, blonde and white- and from a caucasian.

Mr. McGill learned from the local police that they possibly had a subject in mind. There was a white male, who was a former mental patient who had been seen by others in the area. This man was described as having long blonde hair and a bear. However, this is circumstantial and to the best of our knowledge, nobody was charged.

In a later interview, McGill told us he was not convinced that the subject seen at Tumey's was a human. Sheriff White told him that they had discovered the remains of package meat and bread that had been ripped open and consumed in a frozen state. The sheriff said that if the meat had thawed, there would have been signs of blood. No blood was found.

Hair analysis can be inconclusive. The prints could have been weathered. Eating frozen meat is not a human tendency, so this case is still somewhat unexplained, however, the evidence does weigh towards the prowler theory.

Subject: Tall, white haired "ape-like" creature

Date: November 5, 1980 @ 4:00 or 5:00 AM

Witness: Noble Clay

Location: Mason County, Kentucky- west of Maysville on U.S. 68

Investigators: Doug McGill (Radio WFTM) and Dave Jones (Maysville Detective)

Case Data:

This incident is on file with the Maysville police. We consider it to be valid. We cannot comment any conclusions, because no researcher interviewed the witness.

Mr. Noble Clay, an Alabama truck driver was hauling steel west on route 68, when he saw a figure on the opposite side of the highway. He slowed down and turned on his high beams thinking that it was a hitch hiker. When he approached the figure, he was shocked to see a 6-7 foot tall ape-like creature with white hair.

After his encounter, he contacted some locals on the C.B. radio-channel 22 to see (more follows)

if there was a zoo, or circus in the area. He thought that possibly an ape had escaped. When police were called in to investigate, they took Clay's statement and filed a report. He stated to the police that he had never been to this area before and knew nothing about alleged Bigfoot reports. (Clay had learned this from other C.B'ers.) The police believe that Clay was serious on what he reported.

Further comments on newsclipping on page 6;

Doug McGill interviewed other people who have claimed to have been confronted by this creature. Unfortunately, there was no soft evidence in conjunction with these alleged sightings. Doug talked with the people involved with the laundromat case and he found these stories the least believable. He also interviewed another women, who claimed to have seen this creature a couple of times over the past two years. Her description of size, weight and gait do not correspond with the three primary cases. There were no confirmed reports of other livestock killings, although the raccoon on the rooftop was confirmed. Doug pointed out to us that this "Bigfoot" craze has become quite a joke with the locals of Maysville, but he generally believed that there is something to the phenomena. The main problem with the women's testimony with respect to the primary reported incidents is that they described the creature as moving real fast. They also said it acts as if it is trying to talk. One of the ladies said it watches you-trying to figure you out. In regards to the primary cases, both Fulton and Tumey said the thing moved slow and didn't make any sounds. Fulton further stated that it didn't pay any attention to him while he was shooting at it. All witnesses agree on the height estimate. Fulton said his door was about 7 foot tall and he compared the creature to it. He also stated that this "figure" became real violent when he turned the back porch light out, but still made no sound. Finally, it should be noted that there is a discrepancy in regards to Fulton's porch light. In a taped interview with us, he stated that the front porch light may have startled the creature. In the newsclipping, he said he did not have one at the time. If there were no actual "Big Hairy Monster(s)" in eastern Kentucky, then we are left with the premise of weird sociological enigmas or a reign of pathological liars.

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"South Bay Bessie"

A MONSTER IN LAKE ERIE?

A listing of the alleged sightings

Lake Erie's western basin has become a host of yet another aquatic serpent in the world. Not surprising, as the student of cryptozoology is aware that the majority of these inhabited inland waterways within the northern hemisphere lay claim to some sort of monster.

There have been many explanations to the sightings; most notable is the prehistorical sturgeon, which can easily grow up to 300 pounds and have been known to reach 20 feet, 200 pounds and 100 years old. However, it must be noted that they are bottom fish and rarely seen on the surface. But, how often would one see a serpent?

"South Bay Bessie", as dubbed from a local contest, has stirred quite a wonder in northern Ohio since the mid 1980's. The battle lines have been carved from the believers and skeptics alike. "Monster-mania" has taken hold in all the local communities. (A more than familiar common thread with all Fortean events of this type.)

more follows

John Schaffner, editor of the Ottawa County Beacon (no relation to this editor.) has been the focal point of data collection with his toll-free hot line. I wish to thank him for the material he has sent along to us. His hot-line has produced reports dating back 30 years.

The majority of reports depict the same basic description: A 30-50 long snake-like about as round as a bowling ball. The reported creature seems to appear when the water is calm.

So, without further oration, let us begin the listings of "Bessie". We will have no further comments on origin or explanations.

1960 - Ken Golic was fishing off a pier in Sandusky when he heard two rats. He decided to throw a couple of rocks at them when he saw the creature. He stated that it was cigar-shaped and came out of the water about 1-1½ feet. It was about 11:00 PM on a clear, calm night.

1969 - Jim Schindler stated that a serpent came within 6 feet of him near South Bass Island. Although he did not see the length, the width was about 2 feet. The animal appeared to be about 1 foot under the water.

9/1981 - Theresa Kovach of Akron saw a snake-like reptile that "was so large that could easily capsize a boat. It seemed to be playing." She watched it from a house on the Cedar Point Causeway.

1983 (app.) - Mary M. Landoll told John Schaffner about her encounter with Bessie off Rye Beach in Huron. Mary went out to the front porch just before dawn when the lake was quite placid. From the left end, she heard a rowing sound and saw what looked like a capsized boat. It was a greenish-brown color about 40-50 feet in length. Landoll realized that it wasn't a boat, but an animal of some sort. It had a long neck and an eye was visible on the side of the head with a grin going up one side. The creature appeared to be

playing in the water, but still put a scare into the witness.

Summer, 1985 - Tony Schill of Avon, Ohio was boating with friends north of Ver- ' milion when they reported the serpent. It was dark brown and had a flat tail. Tony stated that "5 humps came out of the water. No way it was a sturgeon."

August, 1985 - Dale Munro, of Lorain was also boating when he came face-to-face with it. He stated that it had 3 humps and was black. He also reported that it was twice the size of his 16 foot boat. The location was in calm waters just off the Lorain Coast Guard Station and his sighting lasted 3-4 minutes.

May or June, 1989 - Gail Kasner obtains a graph from a boat owned by Ken Smith, of Streetsboro. The fishfinder appears to show a sonar reading of a cigar-shape apparition about 35 feet in length at a depth of about 30 feet.

July 8, 1990 - Susan Beeson, of Salem witnessed the creature 2 miles from Cedar Point. Her description basically matched other reports.

September 3, 1990 - Bob Soracco was jet skiing off Port Clinton when he thought he spotted a porpoise. (Porpoise in fresh water? Oh well, Bob had just moved from Florida.) He told reporters that he saw humps with grey spots. "It was very long as I moved closer and it was going down. Soracco said that he jetted over it.

September 4, 1990 - Harold Bricker and his family were fishing north of Cedar Point Amusement Park when a serpent type creature swam by their boat about 1000 feet away. Their description: 35 feet long with a snake-like head. It moved as fast as their boat. Later, the Bricker's reported their sighting to the ODNR rangers at East Harbor State Park.

September 11, 1990 - Fire inspectors, Jim Johnson and Steve Dircks, of Huron saw the creature from a third story window facing Lake Erie. They described it as dark blue or black at about 30-45 feet

long. He further stated that he saw three parts of the creature above water. "It laid there motionless for three to six minutes and was flat on top."

Week of September 16, 1991 - Dennis Szececiniski, of Toledo saw Bessie near Toledo's water intake structure three miles offshore in Maumee Bay. He was fishing in the bay when something long and black slithered in front of him.

The Beacon, Ottawa County, 9/90 Dayton Daily News, 10/7/90 Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, 9/23/90 Columbus Dispatch 9/26/90

CLIPPING CREDITS THIS ISSUE: Jon Fry Clara Gysbers Jerry Hamm Bill Kingsley
Ray Nelke (COUD-I) Mel Saunders John Schaffner
John Singer Dave Wimple - *Our files are still in*
disarray, so if I forgot to mention anyone who sent mentioned stories, I will
apologize in the next issue. editor.

CREATURE CHRONICLES #15

Estimated publication date is March, 1992

This issue will primarily deal with using Cryptozoology as a belief system within the intelligence communities. For a quick example of what I will discuss, the reader should refer to STRANGE magazine number 5; "Yetis, the CIA and Tibet", an intriguing article by Loner Coleman. Loner produces a strong argument that the Slick expeditions to search for the Himalayan admirable snowman was in reality a covert mission to spy on the military of communist China.

We know of other operations, such as using the mythical vampire - asuang - as a psywar against the Philippine communists; the Huks.

These ideas of using a culture's belief system was first initiated by Air Force Colonel Edward Landsdale. He was thought to be the prototype for CIA covert activities during the 1950's. More on this and more in up-coming issues.*

** The CIA and the Cult of Intelligence 1974, 80 V. Manchetti & J. Marks*

Cat walk

Cincinnati Enquirer 7/30/90

Lion escapes, wanders into family's yard

BY JIM CALHOUN
The Cincinnati Enquirer

Imagine the conversation at the Simpson house in Clermont County about noon Thursday.

"Mommy, Mommy, there's a lion out by the pool!" 8-year-old Dustin yelled.

"Oh, sure," mom Kim Simpson thought to herself. Just to satisfy her curiosity, she looked out the back door.

The boy wasn't lying.
"It was looking right at me. I couldn't believe it," said Simpson, who lives on Hunt Road in Wayne Township.

It seems "Sam," the 300-pound, 23-month-old guard at Baker's Junkyard down the road, had gotten loose. Owner Lawrence Baker thinks vandals used bolt cutters to let the lion out of his cage overnight.

It chased Simpson's dogs and horse for a bit until she got her husband's

gun and started firing rounds into the air.

"And it sat down," Simpson said. "It would sit as long as I shot. And when I'd stop, he'd get up. So I kept on shooting until the sheriff got here."

Deputies arrived. Baker did, too.

He coaxed the cat into a station wagon. Sam broke a window and got out.

Baker then tied him to a tree until Cincinnati veterinarian Don Gillespie could give Sam a tranquilizer. Several residents then put Sam in a pickup truck and took him home. Gillespie gave Sam another shot to wake him up.

"He's just a pet. He likes dogs, he likes cats and he likes people," said Baker, who lives in Blanchester in neighboring Clinton County. "He's gentle. He's just like a big kid."

Baker also keeps a 300-pound Bengal tiger and 10 dogs at his business.