



Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 123

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Edited by Gene Baade



The Bitterroot Mountains, which straddle the Montana and Idaho borders, were the scene of the first major publication of a possible sasquatch encounter. The strange name comes from a flower that grows there of the same name, and is the state flower of Montana. Its roots, which are bitter to the taste, were collected by Native people and used for medicinal purposes. Here is an official statement: “The most important health benefits of bitterroot include its ability to relieve pain, eliminate respiratory irritation, calm the nerves, purify the skin, detoxify the body, regulate blood sugar, and settle upset stomachs.” The flower, which grows straight out of the ground, is shown here:



The mountains are extremely rugged and even halted Lewis and Clark in their trek across the USA. Here is what Wikipedia states:

The Bitterroot Mountains presented an unexpected, formidable obstacle

to Lewis and Clark during their expedition westward, and ended their expectation of finding a "Northwest Passage" giving an easy connection from the Atlantic watershed to that of the Pacific.

The mountains became known in sasquatch lore by a story published in the book, *The Wilderness Hunter* (1893) by Theodore Roosevelt (later President of the USA). We learn of two trappers in the Bitterroot Mountains who had their camp rummaged by something that left unshod footprints and indicating it walked on two legs. It later disturbed the men at night, whereupon a strong wild beast odor was detected. One of the men took a shot a shadowy figure which crashed away through the bushes. The shot obviously missed.

Much later, one of the men was found by his partner murdered by what appeared to be the same creature (same footprints). This may have been the first official homicide attributed to a sasquatch. We are told that there were four great fang marks in the throat of the murdered man.

Roosevelt also recounts in other references hearing strange sounds in the wilderness that he could not recognize.

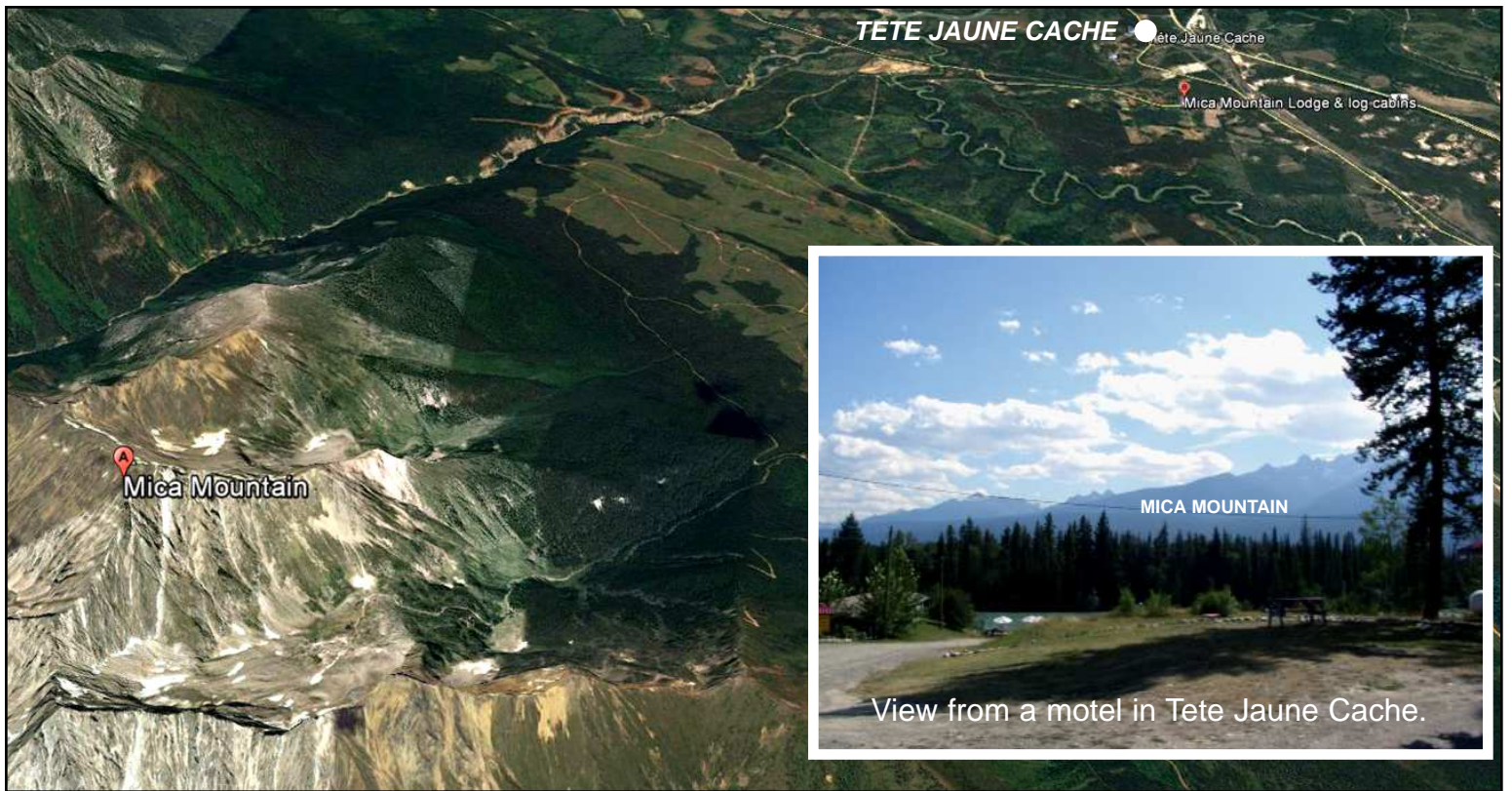
There is nothing in the story that truly identifies a sasquatch; we are not given the size of the footprints, but the men said they were not the prints of a human, so

they were obviously different in some respect. The part about fang marks in the neck doesn't tally with our knowledge of sasquatch, which don't have fangs. Possibly the detail was an embellishment.

For certain, the Bitterroot Mountains would be ideal for sasquatch. However, now that there are no more trappers, I doubt many people venture very far into its wilderness.



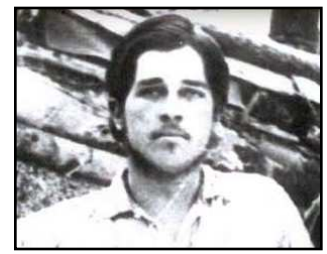
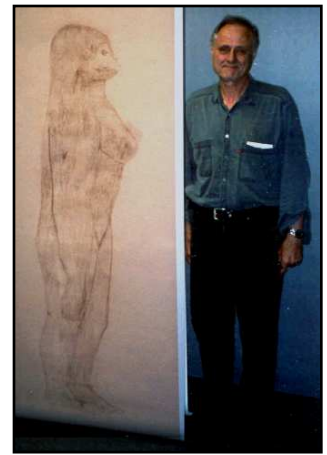
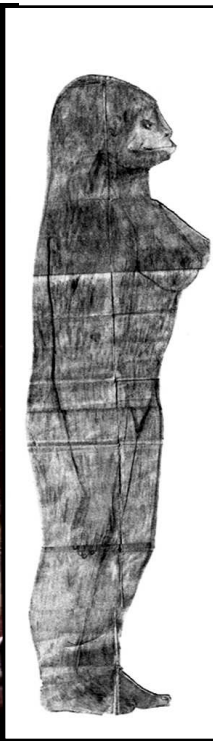
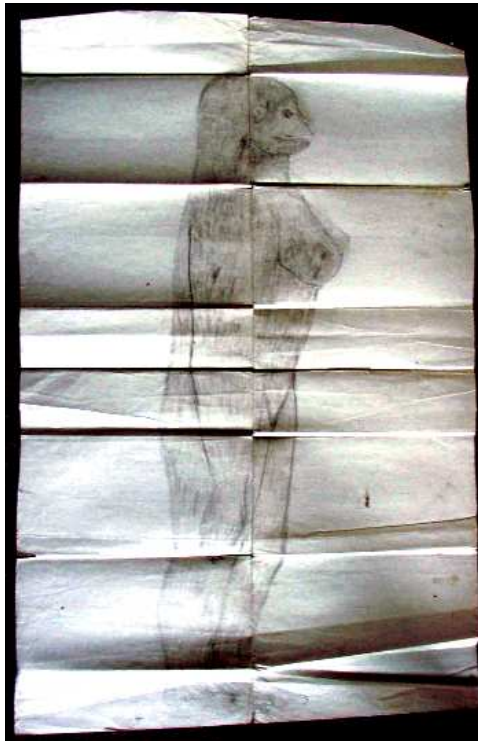
Theodore Roosevelt (1858–1919) is seen here as I believed he looked when he heard the story provided. He was an avid hunter who traveled extensively. He served as US president from 1901 to 1909.



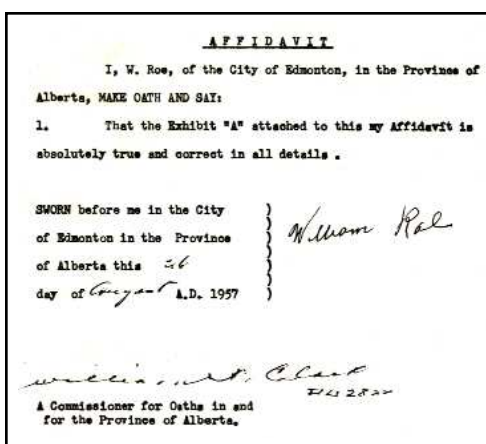
The William Roe sighting in 1955 at Mica Mountain is considered one of the most credible incidents in sasquatch studies. Roe observed the hominoid on Mica Mountain, BC, from about 20 feet for about ten minutes. He later had his daughter, Myrtle, create a drawing of what he saw. The drawing was at the request of John Green and was gifted to him. Roe also signed an affidavit stating that the story he provided was the absolute truth.

In about 2002, John Green found the original drawing for me, which was folded in an envelope, and I took a photo of it on the floor. I then took it home and scanned it. The estimated height of the subject was about 6 feet (about my height). John had me get a scan of this size, which was given to the Willow Creek museum in 2003. In an extreme right photo I am seen standing with the scan (photo adjusted for proper comparison). It does not appear the hominoid was as heavy as me (about 190 pounds)—a little lady in sasquatch world.

By the time Green contacted Roe, the latter moved from BC to Alberta. We were unable to find his family until about 2009, all through the great efforts of Daniel Perez, whereupon we were given the photo of William as identified on the extreme right.



William Roe



Myrtle Walton (nee Roe) and husband.

After I created this film site model in 2003, I took it to Harrison to show John Green. I put it on the dining room table and he came over and looked at it very intently. He then said, “Why on earth would you make such a thing?”

Those words have resounded in my mind for some 17 years. Every time I look at the model, the words come back to me. I explained the obvious to him and he agreed that the model was fine.

I believe the reason John said what he said was because he had been to the film site several times and had no difficulty envisioning the distance between the various objects as seen in the film frames.

Generally speaking, very few people had been to the film site when it looked like a film frame. All the other people could see was an actual film frame as shown in the image beneath the model. Because the camera was at about 5 feet high, everything is foreshortened. If we can't see space between objects, then we have no idea as to their proximity. If you match objects seen in the model and the film frame, you will see just how significant the distances were.

It has now occurred to me that some of you reading my material may wonder why I am featuring material that you have seen before and with which you are fully acquainted. Like John Green, you might think that this is not necessary. But here again, just how many of you are in that category compared to all the other people? I don't have a specific answer, but I don't think it would be a significant number. Also, you must keep in mind that I provide updates—things that have happened since the original material was published in any source.

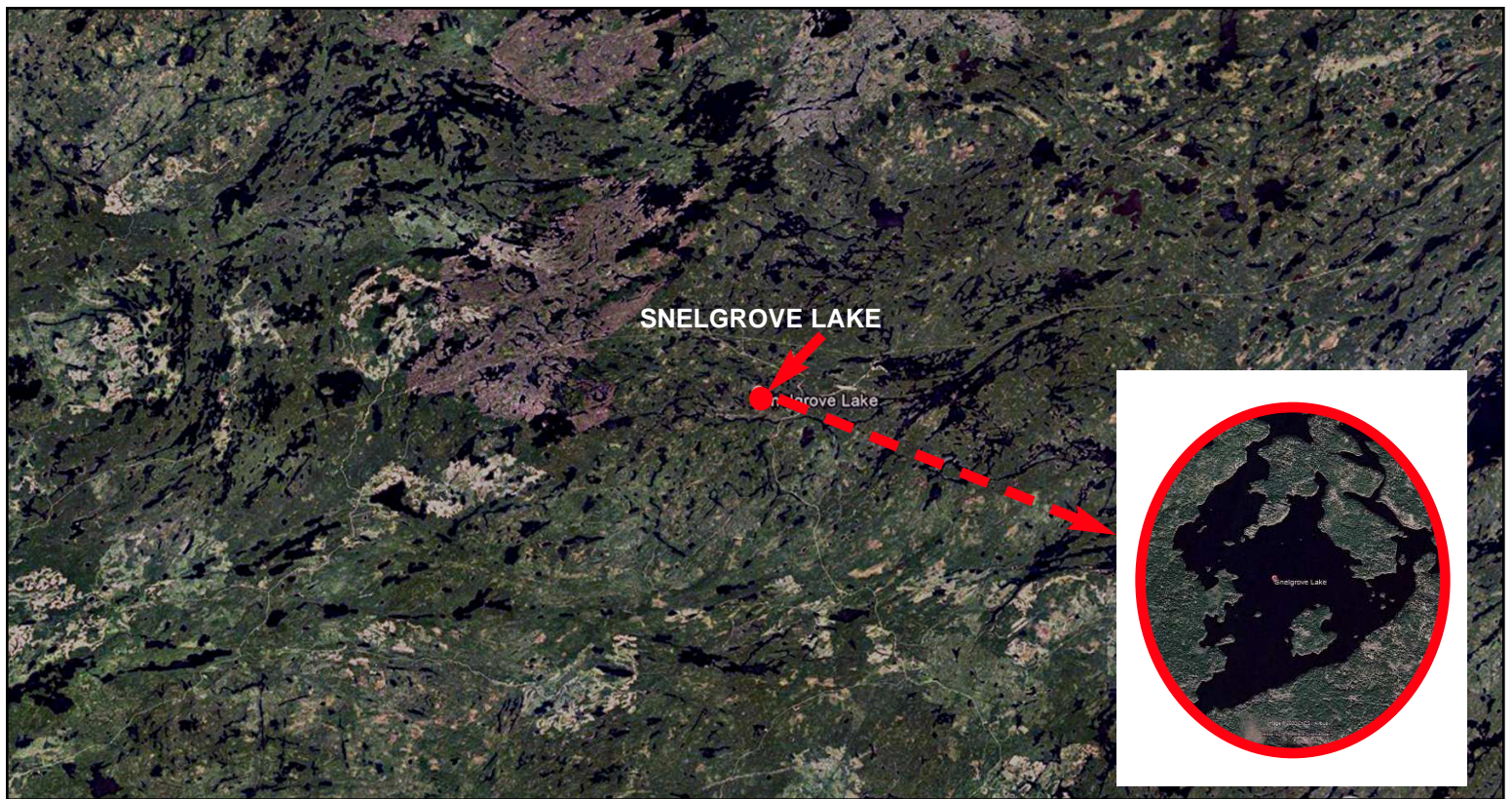
Another factor is that perhaps some people are reading this material for the first time. This does not apply to just young



people who get older, but also to adults who simply get interested in the subject for the first time.

Whatever the case, it is a little comforting to know that I can do this sort

of thing without using tons of papers and barrels of ink; although it's a bit tough on the paper publishing business.



The Canadian province of Ontario has over 250,000 lakes. Shown here is a small part of the land to illustrate the numerous lakes. One lake (which is distinguished by having a name) is shown enlarged in an inset. I believe this lake was given a name (Snelgrove Lake) because an outpost cabin was built on its shore for a commercial purpose—fishermen, hunters, other outdoors people could rent it. As to all the other lakes, there are too many to even visit in a normal lifetime.

Whatever the case, in mid 2000 the little cabin at Snelgrove Lake had a visitor that trashed the place when nobody was there. A bear was suspect, but the way the place was trashed did not suggest that a bear was involved. A description of the damage was as follows:

The trashing included bent pipes, flipped over wood stove and refrigerator, and all wood shelves ripped away from the wall. The damage was odd as there were no claw or teeth marks. Odd damage included things like tearing up many, many decks of playing cards into small confetti-like pieces, breaking radios into similar small pieces and smashing down the sink. A poster of the animals of Ontario was not torn but hanging by one staple. Whatever it was also destroyed the inside

of a locked shed including flipping over a very heavy storage tank that would take many men to move.

To prevent a re-occurrence, a bed of wood screws was put on the welcome mats at both doors. Something stepped on the screws and left blood on one of the mats. It was then decided to make two screw-boards and place one at each entrance. A screw board is simply a piece of plywood with very sharp screws that stick out an inch or so. If a bear steps on the board, the screws pierce its foot, and the pain discourages it from going any farther. The boards would have only been used when the house was vacant for a length of time.

At some point (believed to be in 2002) something stepped on one of screw boards and left a small amount of blood on some screws. The boards were subsequently removed and stored on the property. It is not clear where and how they were stored and if they were again used. It appears they were just stood up against the side of the house. Keep in mind that, at this time, the only suspects are a bear or teenage vandals.

Doug Hajicek of White Wolf Entertainment had been going to the cabin since the late 1980s “to escape and fish its virgin waters.” He provided the following:

I originally went there to do a TV story on this solar powered cabin with a working refrigerator and an electric lake water pump hooked to a hot water on demand system... It was a “luxury in the wilderness” story. The cabin had an outhouse but you could take a long hot shower ...rare thing in the middle of nowhere. The fishing was amazing, the wilderness silent, so I went back again and again with friends I wanted to share this amazing place with. I then brought one or two family members a few times. I was going a lot and never once ran into anyone during 20 years of 3–6 day visits. The owner had a frequent flyer jacket made for me as a cool joke.

In August 2005, Doug was again at the property with his daughters and friends with their daughters. Doug stated the following:

The screw boards were first seen by me in a rare trip whereby friends and I each brought our young daughters to share some dad and daughter time. I was worried one of the kids would accidentally impale themselves. It was on this trip we had clear sasquatch activity at the cabin that included: wood knocking at close range, rock throwing, and then the cabin was attacked violently.

When the pilot owner picked us

up to depart, I relayed the story of the cabin attack and asked what the Screw boards were for, and it was then he relayed the story of the cabin damage the fall before and mentioned he had videotaped all the damage. I asked if I could see it as I was connecting all the dots. I told him there was not one scratch inside the cabin anywhere. I simply asked how could a bear pull shelved down without bite or claw marks. Plus I knew bears that far north are hibernating in Oct. He agreed with me, it all made no sense.

The owner said, "I could believe it would be more likely a sasquatch did the damage than a person" as there was no way in here. Kids would have broken the windows, set fires and would have done easy fast damage. Ripping 15 decks or more of playing cards into small pieces was almost autistic and repetitive in behavior as one example. The debris seen in the cabin damage insurance video tape is pretty amazing. Seems yes something with hands did the deeds but did not match human vandal behavior either. No broken glass says a lot.

Doug was told about the screws on the welcome mats and that the screws on one of the boards had what appeared to be blood.

In reflecting on the remoteness of the cabin and possible "visitors" (i.e., vandals) Doug stated:

Yes, I supposed someone could get in by canoe, but they would no doubt need to portage a hundred times in a grueling weeks long canoe trip, However one would find no, or few, trail portages on the way to this remote lake. I do note that we had a few odd instances there but at the time I never associated what happened with a Sasquatch. Three of us heard what sounded like a loud yet crude un-organized opera singer in a beautiful voice with a strange or made up language. This went on for 20 minutes to our amazement. The voice hit all scales. A large stick was once hurdled over the tree tops that landed by the boat of some of my guests who were 50 feet from shoreline.

Teenage vandals were never seriously considered for the cabin



This is the outpost cabin at Snelgrove Lake. It is directly on the lake. The boardwalk leads to a pier.



Curt Nelson and Dr. Jeff Meldrum examining a screwboard.



Close up of the screw board showing possible dried blood.



Dried blood on the screws appears to indicate the outline of a large foot as traced in this image.



Dried blood is scraped off into a paper container.

damage as a person can only really get there by float plane. Something you realize after flying over this rugged country by air as many times as I had.

In August 2006, Doug decided that there might be an opportunity to create a TV documentary at the Snelgrove Lake location for his Monster Quest series.

In addition to a film crew, it was decided to bring in Dr. Jeff Meldrum and Curt Nelson (DNA scientist). Both of these scientists and the film crew experienced unusual, possible sasquatch-related occurrences during their stay.

The screw-boards were discussed and brought inside. It appears the boards had been outside for about three years at this point. They were likely somewhat protected from the weather originally by being stood up against the house wall. Just how long they became flat on the ground, face-up, is not known.

Dr. Meldrum examined the board that showed hardened blood on some screws. It was noticed that a large foot was indicated by the blood-covered screws. He scraped off blood into a paper envelope and thereupon DNA analysis was performed by Dr. Meldrum and Curt

Nelson. Initial results (very speculative) implied that the DNA extracted was very close to human. The incident and results to date were presented in a *Monster Quest* episode.

In about 2009 I discussed the case with Dr. Meldrum. He stated the following:

We are talking about a mere 300 base pair sequence. This is an extremely small sample—nothing near a publishable result, which would be many thousands of nucleotides.”

On July 19, 2020 I emailed Doug Hajicek to see if he had heard anything further from the scientists on the Snelgrove case. Doug provided the following:

Jeff Meldrum and Curt Nelson had all of the dry tissue/blood samples. There was a fair amount of what looked like fat and muscle tissue collected. Yes it was in bad shape. Curt had good results as you know with the smallish N-DNA sequence he got completed as it is doc-

umented in *Monster Quest*. He had to use primers to nudge the NDNA from the sample he tested. Todd Disotel had no results at all. I do not know what happened with any follow-up tests that I had hoped and assumed would be forthcoming from both Jeff and Curt. After all it was very promising results but science needs to be repeated as you know. I lost touch with Curt and have no idea if Jeff has ever submitted samples to anyone else for testing.

In later communications Doug stated:

Yes only 300 base pairs were extracted that were human like, but what is the 4 base pairs of a chimp doing in Canada? The DNA was not a bear. I still wonder why this encouraging NDNA was not repeated as we had a lot of dried tissue. I was just surprised NDNA extraction was not tried again, perhaps far more base pairs could have been extracted with modern techniques.

I am sure that had there been any further developments, then Doug would

have heard about them. As far as I know, this was one of the few incidents whereby possible sasquatch blood got into the DNA process. Obviously, there was not enough blood, or the sample or samples taken were too degraded to provide meaningful results. Nevertheless, it is these kinds of scientific “dead ends” that leads to speculation as to full transparency when material is provided for scientific evaluation.

The BFRO has 67 reports on record for the province of Ontario. By my own statistical methods, that would be only 20% of the actual number, so a total of 335 incidents in about 55 years. Venturing into the backwoods of Ontario can be very tricky, especially with blackflies and mosquitoes. Also, there are forest fires. Lakes freeze in the winter, but can be uncertain for snowmobiles. I doubt that very many humans have seen their reflection in most of Ontario’s lakes.

Like British Columbia, Ontario’s wilderness has very limited ground level access.

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The video of a sasquatch taken by Paul Freeman at Deduct Spring, Oregon, was definitely taken in 1992 as Daniel Perez states, not 1994 as generally believed. The news program *Hard Copy*, seen here, presented the video on the date indicated (1992). On the upper right is a frame from the video they showed. I have matched it with a frame from the video we know is correct as shown below the *Hard Copy* frame. It is obviously the same video. The small fir tree behind the subject confirms this.

Freeman, of course, was using a very early video camera. I would say the subject was about 80 to 100 feet away, so very little detail can be seen. All we can confirm is that something human-like is seen walking on two legs. The Freeman video is another example of a “blob-squatch” except it is seen moving.

I suppose if a current video camera with a zoom had been used, we would have much better images, but still not enough to get scientific interest. Use of a 16 mm movie camera would have produced images like those seen in the Patterson and Gimlin film, and in this



case they would have been of sufficient detail to do a proper comparison.

Generally speaking, Paul Freeman’s credibility with most researchers of his day was totally lacking. Freeman provided so many sasquatch-related casts (footprints, hand prints, and a body print) together with hair samples, and videos (one discussed here, along with another I can’t

locate) that it was reasoned nobody could be that lucky. Nevertheless, our scientists intently studied Freeman’s material and declared that it was not fabricated. One scientist visited him and was shown fresh sasquatch footprints that he did not think were fabricated. As a result, I have defaulted to their opinions—Freeman’s claims were not improbable. —00—

