

Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 12

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Plaster casts above were taken from huge tracks of creature dubbed Mr. Bigfoot in Bluff Creek, Calif.

This image and caption provided in *The Standard* article (B&P#11) does not show casts. What it shows is a rubber mold made by Green of the left and right foot, Titmus casts, 1958, Bluff Creek. I saw it at Green's place and tried to use it (or a different one), but the plaster stuck to the mold and the cast could not be removed. I worked on it for some time; the cast (just one) ended up in pieces. I think molds must be lined in talcum powder or something to stop sticking.

With all casts there can be problems with removal. On Green's advice I later put in something to reinforce the plaster when it was first poured (pieces of thick string or wire coat hanger). You just push such into the plaster so it does not show.

Whatever, I would not expect the journalist who wrote the article to recognize the difference between a mold and a cast.

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John Green would not allow me to take a close-up photo-portrait of him. One day, Barry Blount and I went up to see him. I had recently bought a Canon Rebel SLR camera. John sat sort of across from me and I had the camera on my lap pointed at him. I explained to him the features of the camera and demonstrated the rapid/multiple shot feature—pushed the button for about 10 shots.

When Barry and I went back to his car to leave, I took a look at the shots on the camera screen. I showed them to Barry who said something like “Wow.” I

then said wait here a minute. I put this shot on the screen and went back to the house and knocked. John answered. I said, “I managed to get a good shot of you, can we use it?”



He took the camera and went in to show June, his wife. He came back and said, “Yes, that's fine.”

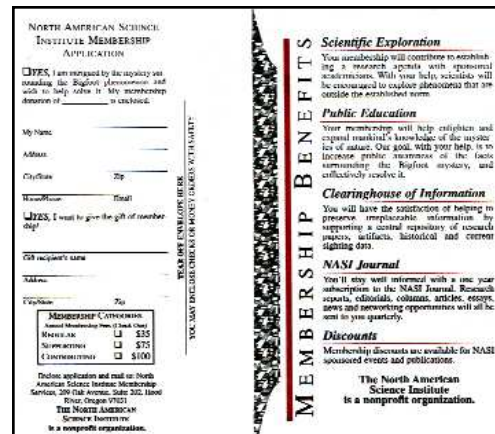
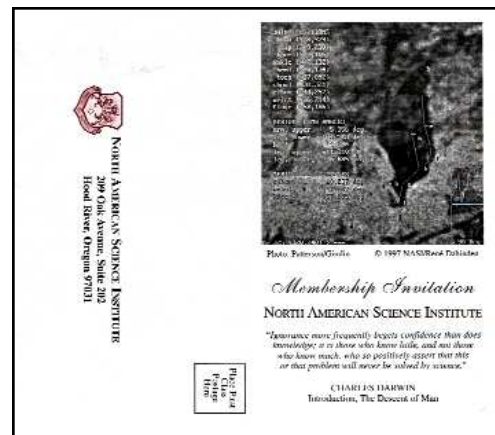
Did I plan all of this? Not really. I knew that when I pushed the camera button I would get something. You can see that John is looking at me, not the camera. I think he was amused at my exuberance for the camera, thus the little smile.

Anyway, I used the photo in publications and it has gone everywhere. When you see it, well, that's the story of the “Hip shot photo.”

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The demise of the North American Science Institute (NASI) was the single biggest tragedy in the entire history of the sasquatch/bigfoot issue. It had great facilities, was funded, had a professional director and competent staff. It was forced to close down in 1999 because of a “political disagreement” in our own ranks (nothing to do with NASI administration or opinions on the sasquatch). Next year marks the 20th anniversary of its death and hardly a day goes by when I don't think about where we would have been had it continued.

The following show the little package that was sent for memberships, and everything was moving along fine until some old wounds festered.



NASI was the successor of The Bigfoot Research Project, which had been in place for many years and was an excellent central clearing house for sasquatch/bigfoot information. NASI went the next step and turned the organization into a proper society.

I worked with all the NASI people and have great regard for them. As it now stands, everyone went their own way, so we have no “organization.” Lack of funding does not allow us to do special testing or to provide requirements for checking on sightings. We just bumble along day-to-day hoping for a breakthrough of some sort.

On the bright side, I put together a museum exhibit, authored several books and worked with others to publish their books. I finally started working with Sasquatch Canada to provide what I know, and that is where we are.

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This somewhat “funky” sculpture was undertaken to indicate to myself two things: 1) What was involved with gluing hair to something and 2) Would hair conceal a pointed head (sagittal crest).

At that time (and even now) some people (including at least one professional) believe that the subject of the P/G film could be a person in tight-fitting clothing (long underwear) with glued-on hair. As we can see in the P/G film sasquatch, certain anatomical features are apparent that would not be visible if an ordinary costume of some sort (gorilla suit) were used.

There was also the controversy over whether or not sasquatch in general have a sagittal crest (pointed head). In some cases, the head appears quite pointed and in others much less. Indeed, in the P/G film, it appears the head hair in some frames actually forms most of the “point.”

Unlike many (most?) people (including scientists) I like to experiment first, if applicable, before I give an opinion. Keep in mind that this sort of thing requires a little money, know-how, and a lot of time.

I made a small sasquatch head in clay and took a photo of it. It includes a “pointed head” (first image).

I then went out and bought two wigs (synthetic hair). I then cut tufts of hair and glued them to the sculpture; it was a nightmare and took me a very long time to complete. Keep in mind that I used current glue that dries quickly and is clear. I don’t think that such was available in 1967. Even with my glue, however, the hair was “all over the place,” so I had to sort of comb it and then apply a spray glue to keep it in place.

I don’t think it is even possible to do this on a fabric like long underwear, or even a very tight wet suit. Spandex was not available in 1967; anyway I would rule it out as well.

Whatever the case, it can be seen that the hair effectively concealed the pointed head. I therefore satisfied myself on both issues. For sure, hair could also account for a point. Personally, I don’t think the point is a sagittal crest; it’s just a slightly pointed head.

Now, I don’t think you or I could glue hair directly on a human body back in 1967. Hollywood make-up people might have been able to, but to do the entire body would be very tricky job. I really don’t think Roger Patterson was in this league.

What about “today?” How easy would it be in the 1990s and beyond? I am sure you have seen those ads on TV about “growing” hair on your head. People who had bald spots swear that it’s their own hair; they can comb it, swim with it, even pull it a little (no problem with your lady-friend running her fingers through it).

There are certainly some cases where hair can be transplanted and you naturally end up with real hair; but that’s the exception rather than the rule.

As I was going quite bald about 10 or so years ago, I went to the “hair people” and inquired. They did not even look at my scalp; just put me in a room with a video. What they do is GLUE the hair on your head with special glue that is somehow compatible with your skin (although I don’t know if it works with everybody). There is, however, one big problem. Your scalp perspires and eventually loosens the glue. The MAXIMUM time you have is 6 weeks. You must then go in for a couple of hours and get repairs done. The maintenance cost of all this is beyond reason and it’s “forever.”

Could the process be used all over one’s body? I suppose so, but what a job especially for someone over 7 feet tall with sasquatch proportions.

Now, would I have had hair put on my head if I thought the cost was justified? Absolutely; and I would have no problem saying it was “my” hair. After all, I bought it.

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I carved this wooden foot and experimented with it to see what was involved in making footprints, also to determine how a crack would register in a print. As I have pointed out in a previous B&P paper, making footprints in hard ground is impossible; you have to loosen the soil first. The foot will work in soft soil, sand or snow. Nevertheless, the quality of the prints is marginal and it is obvious they were made by a wooden foot. A crack will register in the first print, but then fills up with soil (whatever) and no longer registers until it is cleaned.

To even consider that a wooden foot was used to make the prints presented and subsequent casts shown in my books is ridiculous.

In doing this sort of thing, John Green said that it was unwise to experiment with wooden feet. His inference was that if you are asked by a journalist as to making fake feet and prints, and you state “yes,” you will be

immediately suspect of faking things. It would not matter how you clarified the purpose, that information will be simply ignored; the fact is you faked prints.

Few scientists or journalists would go to this trouble. In general, they simply say all footprints are faked and leave it at that.

One certainly has a right to put a cast on the table and ask a scientist why it is a fake. The rule, however, is that it is up to you to prove it is real; not the other way around. The scientist knows, by the way, that he/she must use the cast itself to show that it's faked. He can't go on circumstantial evidence (person who made it was a known faker, that sort of thing). The same applies to the P/G film. Any negative comment that does not specifically reference something in the film is not scientifically acceptable. Books that reference testimony only are worthless. If testimony was scientifically worth an ounce of credibility, we would have a ton of evidence.

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Some years ago, John Green showed me a large 16mm film roll containing many spliced film segments. Years before this he told me that Roger Patterson gave him a box containing certain material and there were a number of film rolls in the box. He concluded that they were inadvertently provided in the box. I asked to see them, but he never got around to it. He kept meaning to return the films to Patterson, but they were put aside and forgotten. He eventually had a look at the rolls and apparently spliced them all into one large film roll. When he showed me the roll, I asked if he would screen it so I could have a look. There was nothing of importance; just shots Patterson took as he traveled around (scenery, places he stayed, a deer in the back lot of a motel, and some images of Fred Beck).

In that I was going to Yakima to a camp-out (2009), he gave me the roll and asked if I would return it to Mrs. Patterson, who had said she would appear at the camp-out. Unfortunately she did not show up. Bill Munns was to see her some time later, so I gave him the roll to return to her.

I asked Bill to go through the roll and pull off (scan) anything of interest. The image provided here is marginally interesting. It shows Patterson's van with a sign on top; that states "BIGFOOT 67 EXPEDITION." I think the sign was place before his filming at Bluff Creek in October of that year. He had to return the camera right after the filming (late October 1967).

All we can surmise from the sign is that he drove around advertising his planned expedition. I am sure he wanted people to question him and perhaps get involved one way or the other. Also, if people had a story, he wanted to hear it. Why else would one have a sign? Thomas Steenburg has a sign on his vehicle and it paid off regarding his finding after a sighting along the Chilliwack River.

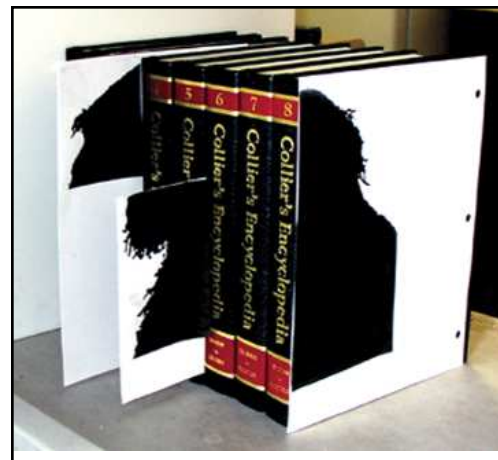
If Patterson had planned an elaborate hoax, advertising it would be very unwise.

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Pareidolia can be so convincing it staggers the mind. On top of that, more than one person can see the same thing, so multiple witnesses are irrelevant. Trees, branches, light, shadows sort of cobble together and create what appears to be a sasquatch or any manner of things. You brain simply interprets what your eyes see as one coherent image. As you are on a specific level (height of your eyes) you cannot differentiate distances, nor can a camera. The fact that wind and sunlight are involved results in quick changes; the image can disappear in an instant.

If one is out looking for sasquatch or even aware of the sasquatch issue, then he or she has images in mind and are actually looking for something with which to match them. In other words they are preconditioned.

The following illustrations show how a sasquatch head is formed from three different and distant images. A photograph taken from the direct (straight) view shows a complete head.



Something akin to pareidolia is simple misconception. In my experience, a lady friend and I saw what appeared to be a sasquatch run across the highway about 200 or so feet ahead. My lady friend yelled BIGFOOT! It was definitely very tall (well over 6 feet) and extremely big. I could see light coming from between its legs, which convinced me this was something very strange. I accelerated my car to get there as quickly as I could (very little time).

When I got to the spot, on the road side (my left) there was an exceedingly tall man and a fairly tall very heavy woman. There was a car nearby. I quickly concluded that they had run across the highway side-by-side and in step. Obviously they had parked and then crossed the highway to look at something. They then ran back across the highway back to their car.

This happened near Pemberton, BC, so well into the mountains. Had the man and woman somehow not been there, I would be saying I probably saw a sasquatch; and I had another witness.

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Generally speaking, anthropologists and related professionals (scientists) have done far more harm than good regarding the sasquatch issue. The primary reasons are lack of time and financial resources to properly study and present material. On top of that, the stigma associated with the subject makes study very unwise.

Dr. Grover Krantz stated that any professionals he met who truly studied the sasquatch issue were impressed. Obviously, books written by professionals (save Dr. Grover Krantz, Dr. Jeff Meldrum, Dr. John Bindernagel and a few others) were not the result of “true study.”

Nevertheless, even Dr. Krantz could not evidently afford to obtain proper P/G film images for his books.

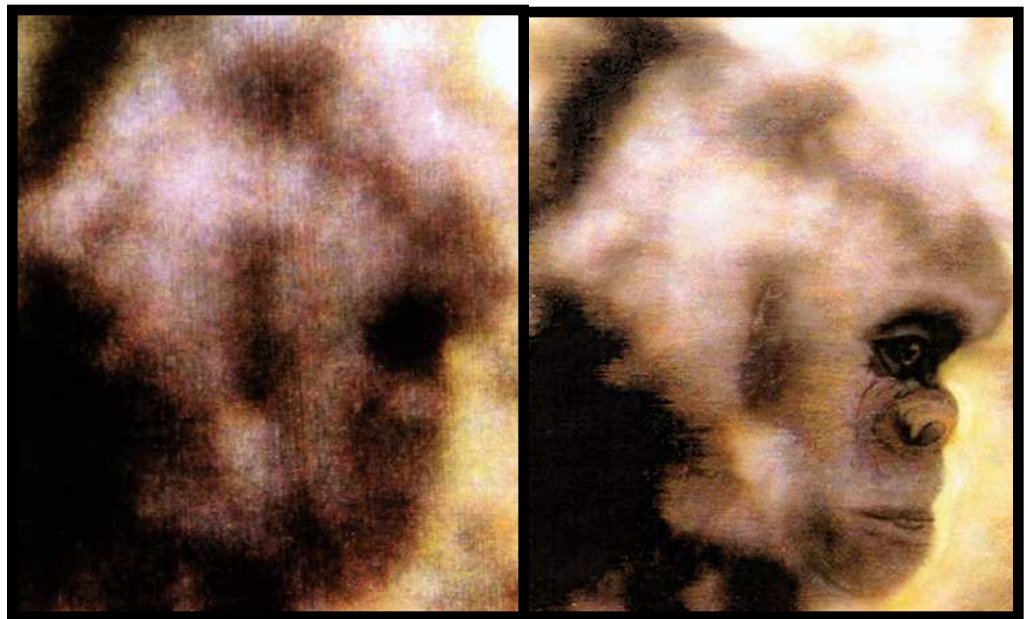
We also seem to have a bit of a Catch 22 situation. Anthropologists don’t appear to put much stock in forensic science. Anything not written by a fellow anthropologist and published by a university press to them is akin to fiction.

What has been provided in numerous books and websites by non-professionals should be enough for scientific attention. The problem is that very few professionals read such books or visit the websites.

Although it’s a bit difficult to comprehend, movies, videos, and photographs, are not hard evidence. They are simply pictorial testimony; a few notches up from witness testimony. As such they don’t account for much in the world of science.

This situation has not changed over the past 50 years, and I don’t see it changing any time soon.

Charles Darwin is shown on the British 10-pound banknote. He also had a rough time with scientists and others. He is now considered one of the greatest scientists of all times.



For my book *Meet the Sasquatch* (2004) Yvon Leclerc, a researcher in Quebec, worked with me and made major contributions to both the book and my museum exhibit. He is a superior illustrator and one of the most meticulous people I have ever known. I sent him the left image above of the sasquatch profile (Frame 339) in the P/G film and asked that he enhance it. His enhancement is seen on the right. He sent me a large glossy print, which is now in my exhibit.

I was highly impressed with his work and considered this a bit of an open and shut case—here is what the film subject looked like. I am still of that opinion, but others have different opinions. Obviously, some of us see things differently.

Anyway, given it is accurate, we can see that the head comes to a gentle point, which would not be as noticeable from a full-face position. We see something that appears to be an ear. It’s definitely in the right place. Ears have not been noticed in sighting reports (ones I have read). They are often covered in long head hair, so are not seen. I believe they are tight against the head—they don’t stick out as with many humans, but may differ with different sasquatch.

The eye socket is deep and large, so Yvon provided an eye that would be appropriate. The nose is short, but obviously wide; you have to imagine the other side. Also, the nostrils are likely quite visible. The distance from the nose to the mouth is much greater than in average humans, resulting in a “muzzle.” The lips are very thin. The chin slopes off—it is not a masculine-type chin; obviously because the subject was female.

On this last point, all features would probably reflect femininity—somewhat finer than males. Keep in mind that the sasquatch you see made this nice neat footprint. We have a lot of footprint photos, and few of them are this neat. Generally speaking, in humans, female feet are attractive; absolutely not so with male feet.

In my opinion, the second photo seen here also shows a female’s footprint. It was found on Blue Creek Mountain, California, in August 1967. It is 13 inches long and extremely neat. Other prints associated with this print were 15 inches long, and not as neat

None of this has anything to do with anthropology. I am just an amateur playing around with images. Scientists would not state observations of this nature because nothing can be proven; they might think about them, but would never go out on a limb and say something.

