

Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 22

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I would say that about 16 year ago I was out visiting David Hancock and he handed me this 1969 issue of *Reader's Digest*. I said, “Thanks, I have read the article on sasquatch; Dahinden gave me a photocopy of it.” David said, “Well, hang on to that; you might need it some day.”

It was a nice clean copy of the magazine; only tarnished a little by age. I flipped through it; recalling how impressed Dahinden was of the article; although Green would have been instrumental in the material provided (Dahinden is not mentioned). Thereafter, the magazine went into my “library” until I saw it the other day and read the article again.

Keeping in mind that this article was published 49 years ago; may I suggest that you give it a read as provided on pages 2-6 then come back here.



The first story we hit is Albert Ostman’s adventure (1924). It was obtained by John Green in 1957. Over the years, we have come up with things that don’t add up. Thomas Steenburg tried to retrace Albert’s steps, but could not substantiate anything. The only aspect in Albert’s favor is that his story appears too good to be a fabrication, but that is really not saying much. I suppose the best we can do here is say that his story is 50/50.

We next see that John Green had a total of 250 sasquatch-related reports on record. John stopped counting about 10 years ago at around 4,000 credible reports. He got quite fed-up with life after his wife died. I once asked him if he ever had a heart attack, he replied “No, but I’m hoping.” He died in 2016. I think at the present time there would be at least 6,000 very reasonable reports on record. I believe this would be about 20% of the POTENTIAL total, so there have been about 30,000 credible sightings or incidents.

We then come to the Jacko story (1884). It’s intriguing, but cannot be substantiated. I would rate its credibility at about 20%.

The story of Fred Beck and the apemen of Mount St. Helens (1924) comes next. It is said that there were many large footprints at the scene, but I have never seen a photo of one. Photos were definitely taken of the men, so why not a footprint? I would give this story about 30%.

The Ruby Creek story follows; it was this incident that got John Green interested in the sasquatch. I can’t find anything wrong, so rate it 100%.

William Roe’s story (1955) comes next, and it’s really a great story. None of us, however, ever met William. John Green did everything with him by phone and ordinary mail. Now long gone, we finally traced down William’s son and grandson some years ago. We did manage to get a photo of William, but that’s about it. The family was somewhat “reserved,” but it could be they simply did not know anything more than what we had. Nevertheless, I would give this story 100%.

The Patterson/Gimlin film is now presented. Not a lot was known about the film in 1969; for sure no one had done a detailed analysis of the film. European scientist and Russian hominologists in 1971 were the first to give the film credibility. The first fully scientific analysis was undertaken by a forensic scientist and completed in 1998. The report is highly positive that the sasquatch filmed was a natural being. Anthropologists in general, however, either don’t agree, don’t understand the report, or don’t want to bother. The report did make the rounds, as it were, but never brought about any significant action. Not even the RHI features it.

We then have a little blurb about Dr. John Napier. If he had been really interested in bigfoot, he would have obtained an actual copy of the P/G film and intently studied it frame-by-frame. It is likely he had limited funding, so we simply got what he could afford.

Don Abbott (not a PhD) then gets honorable mention. He essentially took what we had and left us high and dry as he did not want to risk his reputation.

We then come to the statement that Roger Patterson had \$75,000 financing for further research from the Northwest Research Association. That was Roger’s “association,” and I doubt very much it was worth that amount.

Tom Slick’s expedition (1959 to 1962) although mentioned, as far as we know was essentially a total failure. I am sure if anything significant was found, John Green would have known about it as he was an expedition member. Nevertheless, whatever was found was secreted away by Slick and to this day has never been revealed.

Whatever the case, if just one sasquatch sighting or incident can be verified with indisputable physical evidence, then it does not matter as to all the others, but their credibility would get a tremendous boost (even the marginal ones).

For me, reports have become very tiresome; they are all generally the same, but that’s actually a good thing.

*Fantasy or fraud, legend or evolutionary link,
the Sasquatch is one of the world's most intriguing mysteries*

Does an “Abominable Snowman” Lurk in the Rockies?

Condensed from WEST

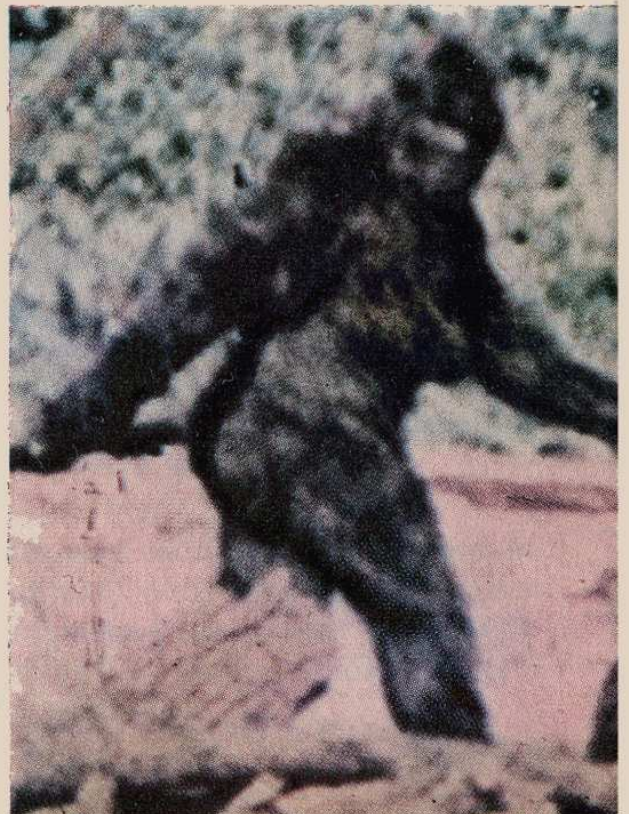
JAMES B. SHUMAN

FOR MORE than a century, a strange legend has stalked the remote and rumped mountains of Northwest America. It tells of huge, hairy creatures which walk erect and look more like men than apes. Is it truth, or is it fiction?

“It was in the middle of the night and I was groggy with sleep,” 75-year-old Albert Ostman recalls. “Something grabbed my sleeping bag and lifted me off the ground. I reached for my sheath knife and couldn’t get at it. The beast, or whatever it was, threw me over its shoulder like a sack of flour. I could feel it striding on two legs.”

Ostman, a husky logger looking for gold in British Columbia in

1924, estimates that he was carried across wild and rugged terrain for three hours. “I was too scared to struggle,” he says. Finally his cap-



*Is it Bigfoot? An enlarged
segment of one of the 16-mm. frames in
the controversial Patterson film
(see page 48)*

tor stopped and dropped him to the ground.

In the dim light of dawn, Ostman gazed up at a group of creatures circling him and chattering unintelligibly. "I had never believed in the Indian legends of 'Sasquatch,' but I knew that's what they were," Ostman explains. "They looked like a cross between a man and an ape. Their bodies were covered with hair, and they had bulging muscles. They were bigger and taller than human beings; one of them must have been nearly eight feet tall.

"For six days I was held captive. Only in the confusion when one became violently ill from swallowing an entire tin of snuff that I had was I able to escape."

Ostman's bizarre story is but a single chapter in one of the world's most intriguing mysteries: Does there exist, in the Pacific Northwest, a subhuman creature, perhaps a North American cousin of the Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas? Like that fabled Snowman, such a hominid *could* be a link between man and ape — a vital piece in the puzzle of man's evolution.

Scores of eyewitnesses have told of seeing giant, apelike creatures and their unique, oversized footprints — some measuring 16 inches and more in length — in the mountain areas of the Pacific Northwest. In Canada, they are generally

called Sasquatch. In the United States, many call them Bigfoot.

The Case for Bigfoot. Although the stories of sightings are remarkably consistent and similar, there would appear to be little chance of people working together to perpetrate a hoax, since the reports have been so separated in time and location. No one knows how many people believe they have seen a Sasquatch, because many are reluctant to talk about it. As one witness put it, "It's better to keep your mouth shut than have everybody say you're crazy."

Even so, John Green, editor-publisher of the *Advance*, the newspaper serving the Agassiz-Harrison Lake area of British Columbia, has collected more than 250 reports of sightings, photographs of footprints and other evidence, covering an area from Alaska to Mexico, from the Pacific Coast to northern Michigan. Like many others, Green started as a scoffer, changed to a believer as evidence mounted.

Here is a sample of that evidence:

- The *Daily British Colonist*, published in Victoria, B.C., reported that on June 30, 1884, the crew of a train running from Lytton to Yale — about 80 miles east of Vancouver — had captured "a creature who may truly be called half man and half beast. His entire body, excepting his hands (or paws) and feet, is covered with glossy hair.

Encounter with a strolling Sasquatch
Sequence of selected frame
from the Patterson film

His forearm is much longer than a man's, and he possesses extraordinary strength." The creature, whom the railway crew named "Jacko," was exhibited in Yale, but no one has been able to find out what happened to him.

- In July 1924, near Mt. St. Helens, in what is now Gifford Pinchot National Forest of Washington, five prospectors reported that their cabin had been attacked by a band of man-apes that hurled boulders onto the roof, tried to force the cabin door by ramming it with their bodies, and screamed in loud wails at the men inside, who had earlier shot at two of their band. A posse of lawmen and reporters found the cabin badly damaged and hundreds of giant footprints all around it. The area came to be called Ape Canyon, and scores of people have since reported seeing the man-apes in the vicinity. Several men have disappeared there mysteriously, leaving no trace.

- One midafternoon in September 1941, at Ruby Creek, about 30 miles up the Fraser River from Agassiz, Mrs. George Chapman saw a large, manlike animal emerge from the woods. She and her three children fled from their home in terror. Her husband and friends from the village later found evidence that the creature had entered a shed and scattered about some salt fish from a barrel.

- In October 1955, William



Roe was hunting on Mica Mountain near the village of Tête Jaune Cache in British Columbia. He said he saw an upright figure only 75 yards away, weighing perhaps 300 pounds and covered from head to foot with dark-brown, silver-tipped hair. "The thought struck me that

if I shot it I would have a specimen of great interest to scientists the world over. I leveled my rifle. But when the creature looked in my direction, I felt that it was a human being, and I knew I would never forgive myself if I killed it."

- Other less subjective evidence has been collected over the years in the form of hair and droppings. Scientists who have analyzed hair samples say they "come from no known animal." The droppings, humanlike in form but large enough to come from a big horse, have contained vegetable matter and the hair of small rodents. No Bigfoot bodies have been found—but nature disposes quickly of dead animal matter.

- Perhaps the most intriguing evidence is a 16-mm. color movie made in 1967 by Roger Patterson, a 34-year-old Yakima, Wash., rancher. Long interested in Sasquatch-Bigfoot, Patterson had become convinced that the only way to prove its existence was to get clear photographs. In October 1967, he heard of fresh tracks along Bluff Creek in northern California. Patterson and Bob Gimlin, an experienced animal tracker, set out to investigate.

They scouted the area on horseback for a week and a half. Early in the afternoon of October 20, they came to a bend in the creek where a gigantic stump, overturned by a flood, obscured the view ahead. Patterson's horse stopped and

snorted, then reared and fell on its side. Moments later, Patterson saw what had startled his mount. "This creature was on my left, about 125 feet across the creek," he recalls. "Its head was very human, though considerably more slanted, and with a large forehead and wide nostrils. Its arms hung almost to its knees when it walked. Its hair was two to four inches long, brown underneath, lighter at the top, and covering the entire body except for the face. And it was a female; it had big, pendulous breasts."

Patterson reached into his saddlebag and grabbed his movie camera. The creature, meanwhile, was walking across a sandbar toward the hillside. Patterson began trotting after it, shooting pictures. At one point, the creature turned and stared curiously at the camera. Then it went into the woods and out of sight. Gimlin began to give chase, but Patterson, who had used up all his film, told him to stop. "I didn't want to be there alone, without a weapon," he says.

Nine days later, Robert Titmus, a former taxidermist who lives in Kitimat, B.C., examined and made plaster casts of ten of the creature's huge footprints. Titmus has studied Bigfoot intensively since 1958, and considers himself an expert at spotting the occasional hoax. Said he: "I can conceive of no method by which these tracks might have been faked. Tests indicated that the creature that made them would

have to weigh at least 600 to 700 pounds."

Screen Test. Patterson has since shown his film to scientists. The somewhat blurred, 29-foot segment shows the creature walking away with a manlike stride, swinging enormous arms. Although some scientists immediately branded the creature a hoax, questioning the manlike fluidity of its movements, others kept an open mind.

"The presence of unknown humanoid creatures in the Pacific Northwest," says John R. Napier, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Primate Biology Department, "is a possibility that should not be discounted." After all, scientific annals are littered with the tarnished reputations of men who dismissed initial reports of the existence of the giant squid, the gorilla, the okapi and the giant panda.

Donald Abbott, anthropologist on the staff of the Provincial Museum in Victoria, B.C., told me he had entered the investigation as a skeptic. He now says, "If the evidence of which I am aware has been the work of hoaxers, it would be one of the most elaborate hoaxes ever perpetrated. I find this possibility almost as incredible as that of the existence of such a creature."

An unclassified animal *could* be prowling the Pacific Northwest. For so rugged is the 150,000-square-mile area in which sightings of Bigfoot have been reported that major sections have never really

been penetrated. In Washington, Oregon and California there are 70,000 square miles of national forest, and for some sections the only maps available are those based on aerial surveys. British Columbia is even less developed. Nearly 250,000 square miles, of its total of 366,255, are forest and mountain wilderness. It is the kind of wild terrain in which animals with only normal cunning easily remain out of sight of man.

The Search Goes On. Perhaps by the time you read this, Sasquatch's existence will have been proved. Roger Patterson, financed by \$75,000 from the Northwest Research Association, of Yakima, Wash., a maker of documentary films, is continuing his search. This time he is using lures, dogs and tranquilizer guns hoping to capture a living specimen.

Others have tried before to capture a Bigfoot, without success. The most notable was Tom Slick, the Texas oilman who mounted an expedition shortly before his death in 1962 after becoming convinced that there was as much evidence for the Abominable Snowman in North America as he had found in two expeditions to the Himalayas.

"If such an animal exists, and is caught," W. C. Osman Hill, of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, has said, "it could well be one of the most important finds in history."