



Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 88

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Edited by Gene Baade



I completed a set of book ends for my Sasquatch exhibit. They have a combined weight of 7 pounds, so will hold a lot of books. The heads are both male and are different. I did not try to duplicate them—just created them independently. They will still be wet on the inside for months, and they need to age a bit and sort of tone down.

The head on the right came out looking rather sad. I did not fully notice this until I took the photographs. I can change it, but as I pondered the image I thought a little and mused that we likely have a lot of very sad sasquatch as a result of possible global warming and definite rampant pollution. In British Columbia, forest fires are a major concern, and I can only assume sasquatch go into caves or underground if needed to escape flames.

As to pollution, even arctic snow shows traces of plastic particles, so for sure plastic would be found in sasquatch diet, as it is in ours.

I have no idea where all this is going, but if you are under the age of 50 you will likely see and experience some far more devastating consequences.

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I am always a little surprised that there does not appear to be much scientific interest in police reports on sasquatch related incidents, especially when physical

evidence is seen or found. Perhaps there is more than I know about, but I doubt it.

In some cases, police see the hominoid when they are simply on patrol or traveling for some reason. I really don't think we get many actual reports in this case—a “best to say nothing” sort of thing. Keep in mind that these authorities are out there 24 hours a day and they are trained to be very observant. I can recall only one report that came to light in this circumstance.

Of course, when police respond to a call from a citizen, they must make a report, and I would estimate that very few of them are made public; likely less than 20%. If the witness, however, says something to the media, then the police may be requested to provide their report and details are used in articles.

Researchers (non-professionals) will get police reports when they hear of an

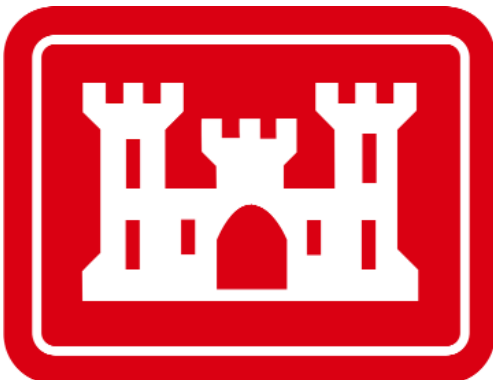
incident and interview the witness or witnesses. In that case, the actual report will likely be made public.

I doubt that many of the calls to police are hoaxed. One can make a mistake in reporting what he or she sees, but to hoax an incident is a crime and carries a stiff penalty.

The other side of this issue is the apparent indifference by police to sasquatch-related incidents. They generally suggest a bear or something else was seen, but large footprints are hard to explain—they do sometimes make plaster casts.

Police, of course, are mainly interested in crime, so if a sasquatch is just minding its own business, exactly what it might be is not a major concern.

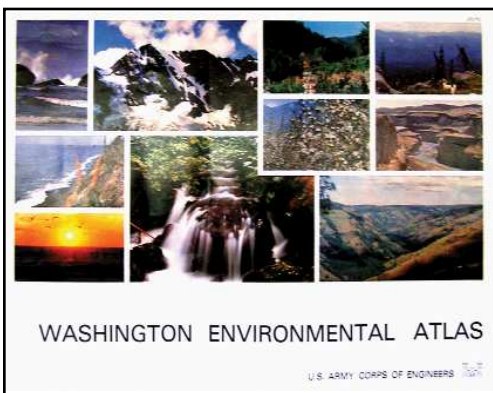
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This is the insignia of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. What the Corps does is summarized as follows by Wikipedia:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is a U.S. federal agency under the Department of Defense (DoD) and a major Army command made up of some 37,000 civilian and military personnel, making it one of the world's largest public engineering, design, and construction management agencies. Although generally associated with dams, canals and flood protection in the United States, USACE is involved in a wide range of public works throughout the world. The Corps of Engineers provides outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and provides 24% of U.S. hydropower capacity.

All that said, one of its missions is “Environmental regulation and ecosystem restoration.” It naturally publishes material for the benefit of US citizens. It likes to keep up-to-date on things, so way back in 1975, the State of Washington division included information on the sasquatch in its *Washington Environmental Atlas* (WEA) for that year. The following image shows the front cover of the atlas:



The rationale was that people in Washington State were interested in this hominoid, so why not provide what is known?

The group of employees who obtained and prepared the information were really just doing their job. It appears that upper management, which is the final authority for what the atlas contained, were (I will be kind) “too busy” to have a close look at the 1975 draft and simply signed off on the massive document.

About \$200,000 was spent in producing the atlas and by then it was absolutely too late to do anything about its contents. When management found out about the entry on sasquatch they were totally beside themselves.

Naturally, the media ran with it, proclaiming that the entry indicated US government recognition of the sasquatch as a living and recognized being of some sort. **This conclusion is totally untrue.**

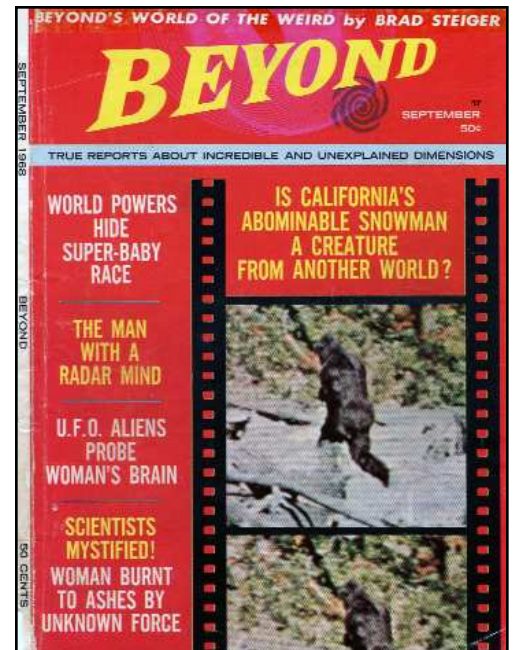
As is often (too often) the case media people simply run with what’s on their desk—the word research is not in their vocabulary. Unfortunately, what they write is often taken as “gospel” by authors and television documentary producers, so many books and productions proclaim this faulty and ridiculous information. Some authors, although aware, I believe, of what I have said here, prefer to ignore it—what the hell sort of thing.

About ten years ago I managed to contact one of the employees directly involved in the production of the atlas and the sasquatch-related entry. He told me in his own words exactly what happened and I published his article in *Know the Sasquatch* (2010) on pages 202 and 203. What I have provided in this article is a summary of what he said.

The year 1975 was nearly 45 years ago, so it’s a little interesting to see what the WEA people came up with as to sasquatch incidents statistics:

	TRACKS	SIGHTINGS	BOTH	TOTAL
British Columbia	38	89	11	138
Washington	32	51	12	95
Oregon	15	25	6	46
California	82	59	10	151
Other	7	42	18	67
TOTAL	174	266	57	497

My last analysis in 2003 shows a grand total number of 2,557 reported incidents over about 100 years. The total number now (2019) is likely around 6,000 for the same time frame. I maintain that only 20% of incidents are reported, so the math says the actual number is around 30,000. —00—



This magazine cover was found in John Green’s files by Todd Prescott. It’s from a magazine issued in September 1968, just eleven months after the Patterson and Gimlin film was taken. There is nothing unusual about that, but here we see the words, “Is California’s Abominable Snowman a Creature from Another World?” right above the film frames (which have been reversed to face left).

This is the first time I have seen the P/G film tied in with the paranormal. I suppose there were references of this nature in other written material at the time, but using a P/G film frame takes things to a new level.

Todd sent me a scan of the article, which he obtained from a different source. It starts off by simply relating sasquatch information known to that time. It then includes an account of monks in the Himalayas seeing a “giant plate” in the sky sometime prior to about 1921, which is thereupon associated with subsequent yeti sightings. The writer obviously did not know that yeti sightings go back to 1832.

We are then treated to an incident in Turkey in May 1964 whereupon a man and his wife saw a spinning disc the size of a house, from which a big hairy thing emerged just as the disc crashed to the ground and burst into flames. The creature then attacked and killed the man. Police were notified and they found the man’s body. As usual, no further information.

Certainly, all just silly stuff, but there you have it. —00—

A claim that the original Patterson and Gimlin film was found has been making the rounds on a radio program. I listened to the 90-plus minute show featuring the claimant (an elderly man) and others and did not come away either convinced or impressed.



The claimant tells us that he bought the film in an estate auction. He then states very sternly that he will not divulge any details about his purchase.

We are then told that the film is in a seriously degraded condition and cannot be screened; it is very fragile and falls apart. The frames were viewed with a magnifier and it was confirmed that the images are identical to the film copies we have. The images, however, are badly degraded. Oddly, information on the packaging found stated the film was several feet longer than the copies we have.

A film specialist was brought in to examine the film and he stated that it appears to have been processed by somebody other than employees at a Kodak facility. He mentions that people were doing their own film processing at the time.

I waited patiently to hear if any information could be seen (film processor or date) on the film leader. Also, if any additional images could be seen on the film trailer/additional footage. In both cases the film frames had fused together and could not be separated.

Several times during the presentation, the claimant states that he believes the film is a hoax, but offers nothing to support his opinion.

He then states that he absolutely will not make public any of the images he is able to see. His plan is to put the film away and not let anyone see it, "Perhaps some future archaeologist will find it."

I personally don't think that the film is the original. Nevertheless, it could shed some light if it were professionally examined.

It appears to me that the claimant wants to play the silly old man's game of "I have something and you can't have it." Perhaps some of you will remember how you teased your siblings.



Third from the left in this 1952 government photo is William Kenneth Kiernan. It is important to know a little about this man. The following is from Wikipedia:

William Kenneth Kiernan (July 25, 1916 – August 26, 1997) was a businessman and political figure in British Columbia. He represented Chilliwack in the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia from 1952 to 1972 as a Social Credit member.

He was born in Peace River, Alberta, the son of Herbert Wallace Kiernan and Violet Grace Griffith, and was educated there and in Victoria, British Columbia. Kiernan was married to Mary Juanita Evans in 1938. He served in the provincial cabinet as Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Minister of Recreation and Conservation and Minister of Commercial Transport. He died in Delta, British Columbia, on August 26, 1997.

About 15 years after this photo was taken (1967), Kiernan was BC's Minister of Recreation and Conservation. Both John Green and René Dahinden appealed to Kiernan for government assistance in resolving the sasquatch issue. Although somewhat skeptical, Kiernan gave the two researchers the benefit of the doubt. On September 19, 1967, he issued a public invitation for tangible evidence on existence of sasquatch. One month later,

(October 20, 1967) Patterson and Gimlin got their famous movie footage of a sasquatch at Bluff Creek, California. Through John Green's insistence the movie was shown to scientists at the University of British Columbia on October 26, 1967—both the film roll showing the hominoid and the second film roll showing footprints and activities were provided. Also, plaster casts of footprints were displayed. Both Patterson and Gimlin were in attendance.

Oddly, and unfortunately, Kiernan was not there (according to an attendance list), so naturally he depended on information provided by the university, primarily Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan, the head scientist at the gathering. As Kiernan was a government minister, McTaggart-Cowan would have told him exactly what he and the other scientists thought.

Green wrote to Kiernan on November 5, 1967, expressing belief in the P/G film and asking for a meeting to discuss further action. Kiernan replied, expressing budget problems, and the sasquatch issue simply drifted away from any government assistance.

In my opinion, the P/G film ironically scuttled Kiernan's interest in the subject. We know McTaggart-Cowan was not impressed with the film, so Kiernan would have been ridiculed if he proceeded with research.

Bigfoot specialist inspires off-road safaris in the wilds of Vancouver Island

Tracking a tall tale

BY BRAM EISENTHAL
SHAWNIGAN LAKE, B.C.

They're as old as time, perhaps inhabitants of this planet longer than us. Some native North American tribes refer to them as *naxnox*, or supernatural beings, and have encountered them for centuries. Fishermen, loggers, hikers and day trippers claim to have seen them on occasion.

We're talking about Sasquatch, Bigfoot or Wildman — it doesn't matter what you call them, it appears they're here, living among us. Unless, that is, you think every one of the thousands who claim to have seen them are charlatans. April fools? Hardly.

For five years now, Sasquatch enthusiasts, or those simply looking for an unusual adventure experience, can head out into Vancouver Island's deep woods on expeditions inspired by a man who has spent more than three decades obsessed by the mysterious creature. For 35 years, during a career as a wildlife biologist, John Bindernagel has collected Sasquatch lore and "evidence." He has written numerous papers on the subject and a recent book, *North America's Great Ape: The Sasquatch*.

He's so serious about his passion that he doesn't even like the term Bigfoot. "I use Sasquatch instead of Bigfoot, because the latter has such a jestful connotation. Bigfooters see the creature behind every tree," Bindernagel told me late at night, in a bed and breakfast owned by Michael and Elly Ruge in Cowichan Valley, on the shores of Shawnigan Lake about 45 kilometres north of Victoria.

Michael has set up a unique tour business under Bindernagel's guidance. The latter's mother was Ruge's nanny once and, though

he's now in his mid-forties, he has maintained close ties to the bright, affable and deadly serious Bindernagel.

"Knowing him as I do, I really believe in John's work, so I wanted to create a business around his research," Ruge says. "Bigfoot Safari was the answer."

For five years now, guests can head out into the deep woods and isolated mountain country of the Island. Individuals or groups drive 4x4s such as Land Cruisers to areas where there have been claims of Sasquatch sightings.

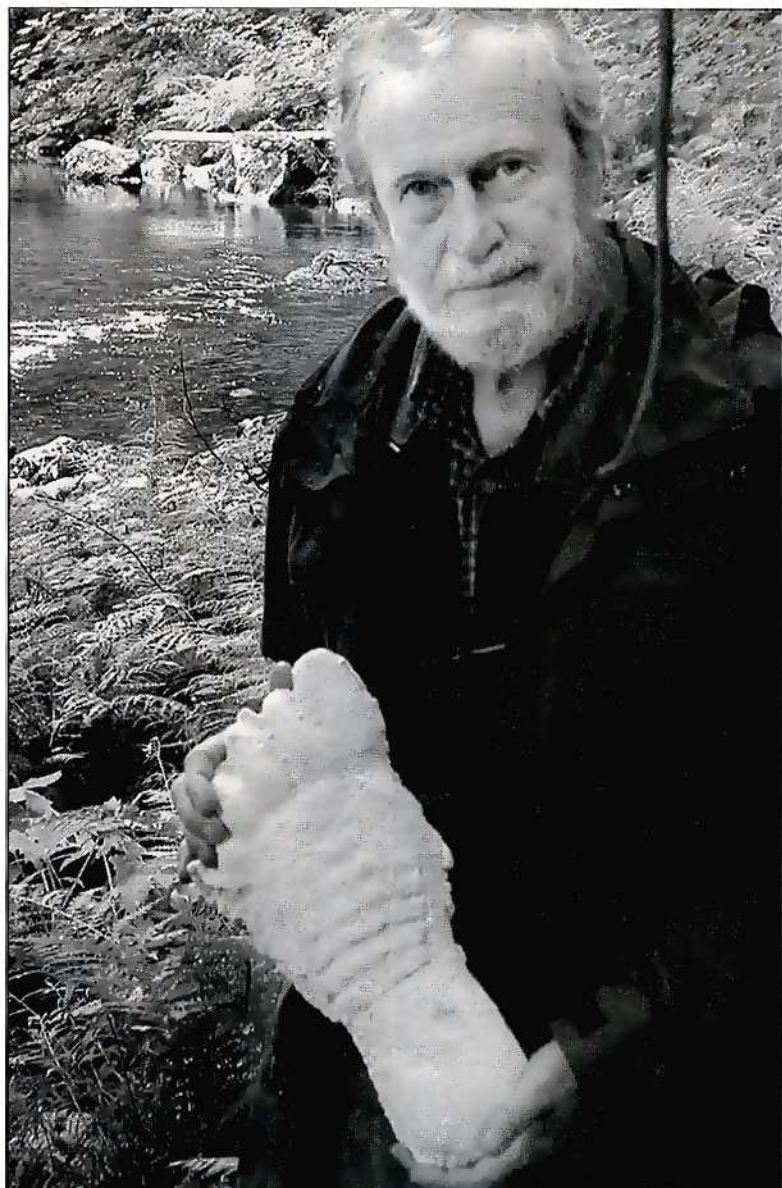
"The odds of finding something are slight, especially on the shorter trips," Ruge said. "But you never know."

I took a Land Cruiser out for an afternoon, with Ruge as my guide and Bindernagel as our passenger. I struggled with the wheel of the powerful vehicle as I learned how to manoeuvre it over fallen tree trunks and along old logging roads. We didn't happen across anything unusual, but the exhilaration of off-road driving and the lush scenery was thrilling enough.

Ruge also books week-long excursions, with participants living and sleeping in the wild. As he says, you just never know. It's a matter of faith, I suppose, whether you believe a humanoid throwback like Sasquatch truly exists.

For Bindernagel, the author of numerous papers and a recent book on the Sasquatch, there is no doubt. Ontario-raised and educated at the University of Guelph, where he graduated as a wildlife ecologist, he came to B.C. primarily to search for Sasquatch. He was also fed up with the prevailing attitudes on the subject.

Every year, until winter snows make it difficult, Bindernagel is out on field trips for days on end, looking for signs such as Sasquatch



BRAM EISENTHAL

For 35 years, John Bindernagel has collected Bigfoot lore and 'evidence.'

nests, hair, spoor or footprints, such as the ones he made castings of in October, 1988. He discovered the tracks while hiking on the shore of Lake Helen Mackenzie, in Strathcona Provincial Park.

Back at Ruge's B & B, Bindernagel pulls out a box, reaches inside and lays an assortment of castings on a table. They're very human-like in appearance, but huge: 15 to 16 inches long and five to six inches wide. The implications are rather unsettling, as is the image of encountering a creature reputed to be seven to 10 feet tall.

The biologist's biggest challenge is to find an actual specimen or some other irrefutable proof to garner respect from his peers.

According to Ruge, the purpose of Bigfoot Safaris is to support Bindernagel and his research

whenever possible. "We also help expose people to the research that has been done, through the excursions we take into the wilderness of Vancouver Island," he said.

That night, I slept in fits and starts. Though very comfortable in a modern, fully equipped upper loft-like hideaway the Ruges call Taj Lodge, I kept picturing an eight-foot tall Sasquatch coming out of the forest behind me and peering into the window above my head as I slept. About 3 a.m., I was wakened by what sounded like a rock striking the log wall of the building, making a hollow, ringing sound. I'll never know who or what flung that projectile, but it certainly fired up my already swollen imagination and had my heart break-dancing until I nodded off again.