

SASQUATCH

North America's Most Amazing Phenomenon

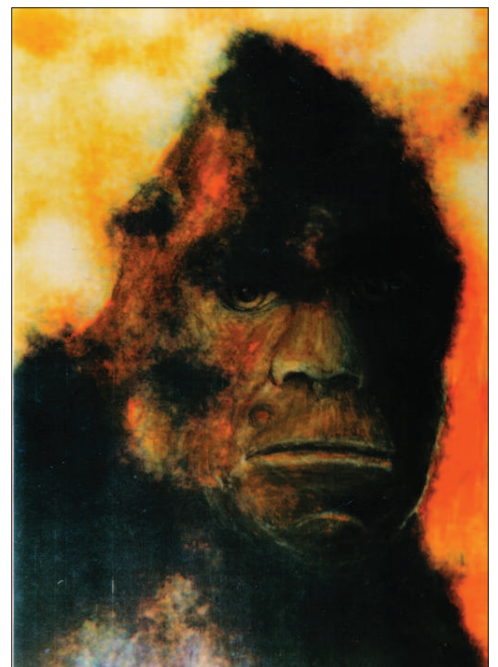


Frame 352 of the Patterson/Gimlin film.

In this presentation, we explore the sasquatch phenomenon through the research of many dedicated sasquatch enthusiasts and professional scientists. While the last chapter on this intriguing phenomenon is yet to be written, presented here are the facts as we know them.

For hundreds of years, sightings of strange ape-like creatures have been reported throughout North America. Now known as “sasquatch” in Canada, or “bigfoot” in the United States, newspaper reports about what could be these creatures go back to 1721.

With an estimated 400 possible sasquatch-related incidents now occurring annually, the issue has gone far beyond the realm of fantasy, and has attracted the attention of scientists and other professionals.



Artistic study by Christopher L. Murphy, 1996.

EARLY NATIVE SASQUATCH REFERENCES



STONE HEADS

Perhaps the earliest indications of sasquatch existence are several different prehistoric carved stone heads found in the Columbia River valley, USA. Emeritus Professor of Anthropology Roderick Sprague tells us the heads share certain non-human but anthropoid features, and thus a relationship between the heads and sasquatch phenomena is suggested.

STONE FOOT

Another curious carving is a prehistoric stone foot that was found in Lillooet, British Columbia. It is believed to be a medicine man's ceremonial stone. Dr. Grover S. Krantz tells us that it, "resembles the modern footprints attributed to the sasquatch, not the prints of any known animal."



PETROGLYPHS

Petroglyphs (carvings or inscriptions on rocks) are found throughout North America. They depict people, animals and various symbols. Some, such as the one located at Painted Rock, California, shown here, are said to represent the "Hairy Man." Stories abound in Native legends about this creature, and its description matches that of what we have come to know as the sasquatch. The age of this petroglyph is at least 1,000 years, but it could be much older.

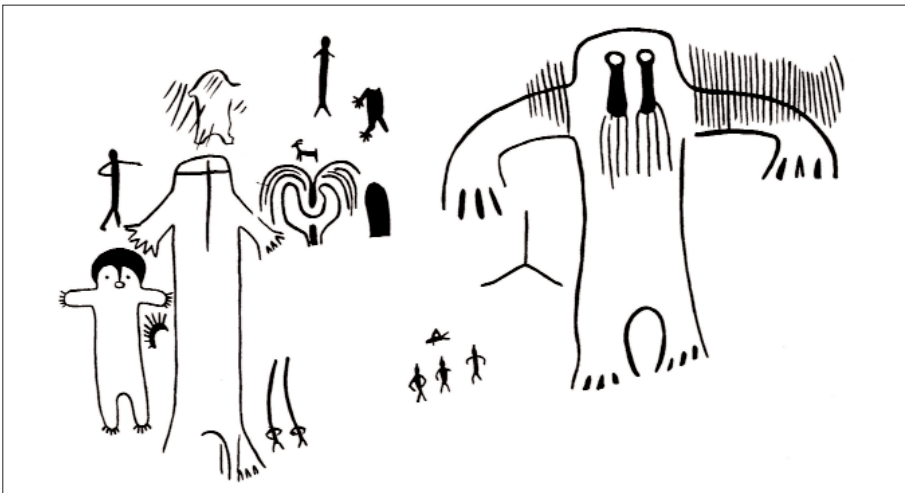


EARLY NATIVE SASQUATCH REFERENCES



PETROGLYPHS

Pictographs (prehistoric drawings or paintings on rock) depicting what Native people describe as the “hairy man” have also been found. The exceptionally well-preserved images shown here are said to be those of an 8-foot tall hairy man, wife and child. The ancient work is in a rock shelter also located at Painted Rock, California. It is probably between 500 and 1000 years old. The Native people in this region are the Yokut Indians, and their highly thought-provoking stories of the “hairy man” leave little doubt that they are referring to what we now call sasquatch.



The identification of the previous images cannot be attributed to selectivity or imagination. Here we see unambiguous, naturalistic Yokut images of a coyote, humans, and a caterpillar. This indicates that the “hairy man” was a totally different creature from known species.



NATIVE WOOD CARVINGS IMPLYING OR DEPICTING THE SASQUATCH

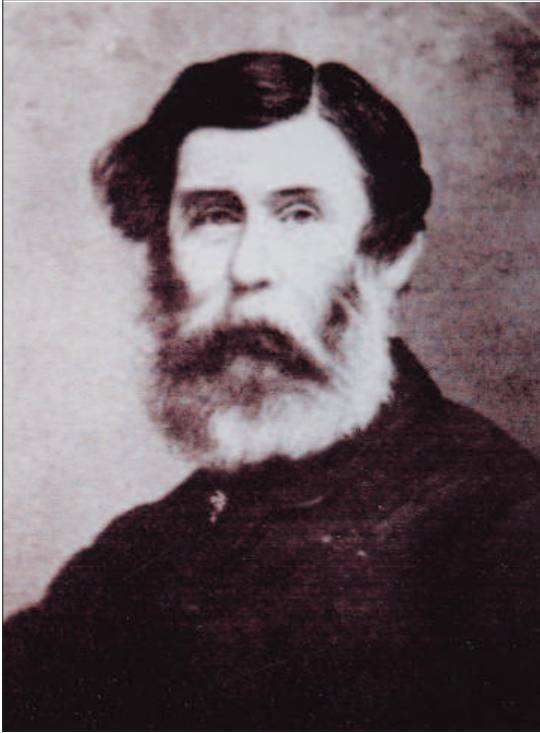


This Tsimshian mask was found in British Columbia in the early part of the last century. The creature it depicts is undeniably ape-like. As no apes of any sort are native to North America, the inspiration for the carving may have been the sasquatch. In the Tsimshian culture, as in many Native cultures, the sasquatch (known by many names) has sacred significance. This mask was created to honor the creature. The actual age of the mask is not known, but we believe it was created around 1850.

Another Native mask that expresses a sense of reality is this Chehalis mask carved by Ambrose Point in 1938. He lived on the Chehalis Reservation in British Columbia, where many sasquatch sightings have been reported. It is believed he actually saw a sasquatch which provided the inspiration for the mask. The physical size of the carving is far larger than a human head, and may indicate the great size of the creature he observed.



EARLY WRITTEN SASQUATCH REFERENCES



Paul Kane

The earliest written sasquatch references recount the experiences of early explorers and travelers. We are told that Lief Erikson encountered ugly, hairy monsters in AD 986, and that Samuel de Champlain was informed of a giant hairy forest beast in 1603. There are indeed other accounts, and there is no telling of how many have been lost to history.

In his book, *The Wanderings of an Artist Among the Indians of North America* (1925), Paul Kane provided a first-hand, direct account of early Native fear of the creature. On March 16, 1847, Kane was in the Mount St. Helens, Washington, area. He was unable to get Natives to accompany him up the mountain for fear of, “a race of beings of a different species, who are cannibals.”



Theodore Roosevelt

Remarkably, the first major published account of what appears to be a credible sasquatch encounter was written by Theodore Roosevelt, who later became President of the United States. In his book, *Wilderness Hunter* (1892), Roosevelt recounted a story told to him by a trapper that took place in the Bitterroot Mountains in the 1850s. The trapper provided convincing details on how his partner was killed by some sort of beast that walked on two legs.

Newspaper reports are by far the most numerous. Many reports of *possible* sasquatch incidents prior to 1900 have come to light, and continue to surface as a result of new electronic technologies and increased interest in the subject.

THE SASQUATCH CLASSICS



Fred Beck in the 1970s; Inset, 1924.

THE OSTMAN ABDUCTION

Also in the summer of 1924, Albert Ostman claimed he was abducted by a sasquatch near Toba Inlet, British Columbia. He was carried away in his sleeping bag and held captive for six days by a sasquatch family (male, female, young boy and girl).

The story of his captivity and escape is well documented, and he died still firm that his sworn account was true.

THE APEMEN OF MT. ST HELENS

In the summer of 1924, Fred Beck and four other prospectors claimed they were attacked by a number of sasquatch near Mt. St. Helens, Washington. The creatures threw rocks at the men's cabin and tried to break through the roof, wall, and door. The attack continued throughout the night, but the sturdy windowless cabin withstood all assaults. In the morning, Beck said he shot one of the creatures which toppled into Ape Canyon (so named as a result of this incident).



René Dahinden (L) and Albert Ostman.

THE RUBY CREEK INCIDENT

In September 1941, Mrs. Jeannie Chapman said she was terrified at the sight of an enormous sasquatch approaching her home. She gathered her three young children and fled to get her husband who worked nearby. Human-like footprints 16 inches long were found near the house. Unusual howling near the property during the next week caused the Chapmans to abandon their home.

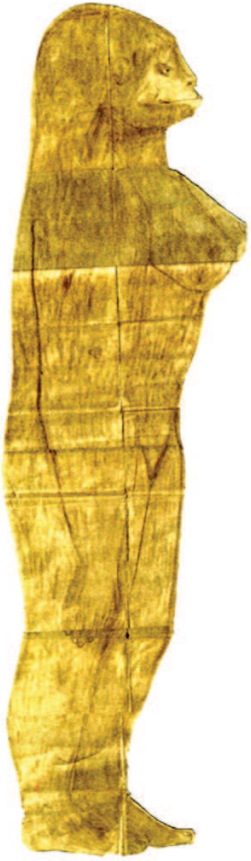


Abandoned Chapman Home, late 1950.

THE SASQUATCH CLASSICS

THE WILLIAM ROE EXPERIENCE

In the summer of 1955, William Roe, an experienced hunter, hiked up Mica Mountain, which is near the town of Tete Jaune Cache, British Columbia. He said he saw what he thought was a bear half hidden in the forest, and calmly observed the creature from behind a bush. To his surprise, it stood up on two legs and walked towards him. Now fully visible, the creature appeared ape-like, about 6-feet tall, covered in dark brown, silver-tipped hair, and by its evident breasts, a female. Unaware that it was being observed, it proceeded to the edge of the bush concealing Roe. It crouched down and started to eat leaves from the bush. Roe observed the creature for a considerable time, and noted many details. When the creature noticed Roe, it shifted backward, stood up, and walked rapidly away. Roe had a rifle and leveled it on the creature, but decided not to shoot because he felt it was human. The drawing seen here was created by Roe's daughter, Myrtle, under his direction (although some drawing aspects differ from his description).



THE BIRTH OF THE NAME "BIGFOOT"

The term "bigfoot" became the common name for the creature in the United States in October 1958. As it happened, during that month, Jerry Crew, a road construction worker, saw large humanlike footprints circling his parked bulldozer on a road being built in the Bluff Creek, California area. Such prints had been previously seen that year by Crew and other workers, and whatever was making the prints was being referred to as "bigfoot." Crew made a plaster cast of one of the prints and reported the incident to the *Humboldt Times* newspaper at Eureka, California. A subsequent *Associated Press* release used the name "bigfoot," and nationwide publication of the story firmly established the term.



Jerry Crew in a newspaper photograph.

ORGANIZED EXPEDITIONS TO FIND THE SASQUATCH



Original organizers of the Pacific Northwest Expedition. (L to R) Ed Patrick, Tom Slick, René Dahinden, Kirk Johnson, Bob Titmus and Gerri Walsh (Tom Slick's secretary). John Green, another member, took the photograph.

The only major fully organized and funded attempt to find the sasquatch was the Pacific Northwest Expedition (PNE) which commenced operations in 1959, and continued for almost three years. The organization was funded by Tom Slick, a Texas oil millionaire.

In 1961, Slick also initially financed the smaller British Columbia Expedition, headed by Bob Titmus, who worked with John Green.

Everything found by the researchers, including all photographs, was sent to Slick's Southwest Foundation in San Antonio, Texas. Evidence found was encouraging, but failed to provide firm proof of sasquatch existence.

Slick was killed in an airplane accident in the summer of 1962 whereupon support for both expeditions ceased.

THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



Frame 364 of the Patterson/Gimlin film. The height of the creature is estimated to be between 6 feet, 6 inches, and 7 feet, 3.5 inches.



Ad photo showing the Cine-Kodak K-100 camera used to film the creature.

On October 20, 1967, Roger Patterson and Robert Gimlin of Yakima County, Washington, filmed what is believed to be a female sasquatch along a remote section of Bluff Creek in northern California. The one-minute color film footage clearly shows an ape-like, hair-covered creature walking along a gravel sand bar. During its passage, the creature turned and glanced at the men who were about 102 feet away. It then continued on its course and disappeared into the woods directly ahead.

The film has been intensely analyzed and studied by many qualified professionals, including a certified forensic examiner, most of whom attested to the possible reality of the creature filmed.

Experts in Hollywood have stated that they could not duplicate the creature seen without significant financial resources, and even then there were no guarantees. Even the world-acclaimed make-up artist, John Chambers, stated in the late 1990s that he was simply “not that good.”

Every effort to duplicate the film by film producers and amateurs has failed miserably. Many individuals over the years have tried to discredit the film, but not one piece of even marginally hard evidence has surfaced to cast doubt on the film’s authenticity.

THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



The film site probably appeared very close to this scale model. Patterson's position is indicated with a red peg. The creature's position is as seen in frame 352 of the film (about one third into the total film). Just beyond this point, ground debris, bushes, and trees obscure the creature's images.

After the creature disappeared in the forest, the two men followed its trail on horseback. Unfortunately, after a short distance, the tracks went up into the mountains so they could not follow them.

The men then returned to the film site and closely examined the tracks on the sandbar. The footprints in the ground were about 14.5 inches long and 1 inch or so deep. They immediately made plaster casts of two footprints (right and left foot). Patterson is seen here holding the casts shortly after they had set.

The men then drove to a shipping facility and sent the film roll to Yakima, Washington, for immediate processing. They wanted to hear back that they had captured the creature on film before they left the area. However, a few hours after returning to their camp, heavy rain forced them to abandon further research. With great difficulty due to flooding and landslides, they got out of the area early the next day.



THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



Patterson (seen her on the right) and Gimlin (left) were excited about the film's prospects, and within one week provided it for analysis by scientists and other professionals at the University of British Columbia. Although some interest was indicated, the film was not sufficient to get support for a government-sponsored expedition to seek hard evidence of the creature's existence.

The two men thereupon took the film "on the road," where it was greeted with interest by the general public.

In 1971, René Dahinden took the film to Europe

and had it reviewed by scientists in five countries. Two scientists went beyond simply viewing the film and provided encouraging written reports. In North America, three additional scientists and a forensic examiner have gone on record as to the probable authenticity of the creature filmed. Other professionals have expressed opinions that support either the film, or the sasquatch in general. Usually, when scientists take the time to properly analyze the Patterson/Gimlin film, they are impressed and motivated to perform further research.



LIVING TESTIMONY

Robert Gimlin is seen here at the Willow Creek Bigfoot Symposium in 2003. He has recounted the story of the filming to audiences many times since the epic event in 1967, and continues to reaffirm that what he saw at Bluff Creek was a natural creature.

THE PHYSICAL SASQUATCH EVIDENCE



(L) A print (one of 15) found near the Skeena River, B.C. (R) Bob Titmus with casts of two prints.

FOOTPRINTS

Footprints and resulting plaster casts provide the strongest current physical evidence of sasquatch existence. The number, quality, configuration and distribution of prints all rule in favor of a natural foot making the prints.

Anthropologists who have studied casts agree that the prints were made by an unknown primate.

HAND PRINTS

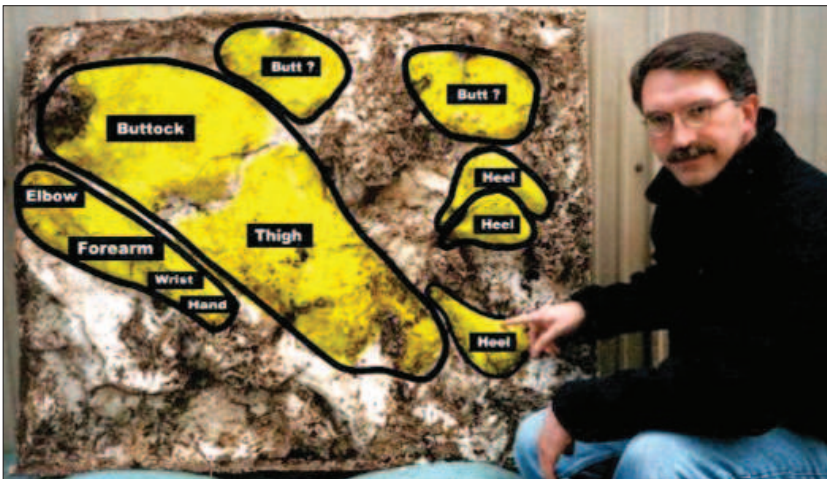
Although hand prints are rare, several have been found and cast. The prints are not only much larger than a human hand, but also show other distinct differences. Scientists who have studied hand casts contend that the prints were not made by a human hand.



(L) Print found on Onion Mountain, California, cast by Bob Titmus. (R) Print found in the Blue Mountains, Washington, cast by Paul Freeman.

BODY PRINTS

Body part impressions were found in Skookum Meadows, Washington, that indicate a sasquatch reclined in soft earth. A cast (known as the Skookum Cast) was made of those impressions. It has been studied by anthropologists, who contend that the impressions were made by an unknown primate.



The Skookum Cast and Dr. Jeff Meldrum.

THE PHYSICAL SASQUATCH EVIDENCE

SASQUATCH HAIR

Hair samples associated with sasquatch sightings have been collected and analyzed by Dr. Henner Fahrenbach. The following is his report on his findings.

* * * *

Generally, sasquatch hair has the same diameter range as human hair and averages 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8 cm) in length, with the longest collected being 15 inches (38.1 cm). The end is rounded or split, often with embedded dirt. A cut end would indicate human origin. Hair that is exposed for a long time to the elements tends to be degraded by fungi and bacteria, a process readily apparent under the microscope. Such hairs are routinely rejected, and none of the photographed hairs shown here suffer from such defects.

Sasquatch hair is distinguished by an absence of a medulla, the central cellular canal. At best, a few short regions of a fragmentary medulla of amorphous composition are found near the base of the hair. Some human hairs also lack a medulla, but the current collection of 20 independent samples with congruent morphology effectively rules out substitution of human hair.

The cross-sectional shape and color of sasquatch hair is uniform from one end to the other, in keeping with the characteristics of primate hair in general. There are no guard hairs or woolly undercoat, and the hair cannot be expected to molt with the seasons. Hence, hair collections are invariable sparse in number.

Despite a wide variety of observed hair colors in sasquatch, under the microscope they invariably have fine melanin pigmentation and a reddish cast to the cortex, presumably a function of the pigment phaeomelanin.

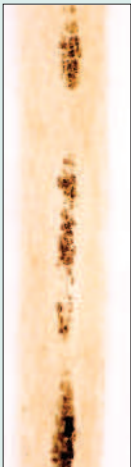
Efforts at DNA analysis are continuing, though hampered by the lack of a medulla, a condition that, where it exists in human hair, also impedes such studies. Advances in DNA technology promise eventual success.



Deer



Chimpanzee



Human



Sasq-CA



Sasq-WA#1



Sasq-WA#2

Hair micrographs (260x): The deer hair has the cross-section almost entirely occupied by the medulla, an unbroken lattice in hair terminology. It has, of course, a thin cortex and cuticle. The chimpanzee hair, pitch black, has a continuous, mostly amorphous medulla. The human hair has the typical amorphous fragmentary medulla. The three sasquatch hairs (one from California; two from Washington) are: (CA) dark brown; (WA#1) very dark (observed as black on the animal); and (WA#2) reddish brown (called buckskin by the observers of the animal). A medulla is uniformly absent in these hairs.

THE PHYSICAL SASQUATCH EVIDENCE

POSSIBLE SASQUATCH STRUCTURES



What could be a sasquatch-made structure found at Kiawock Lake, Alaska, with an ax for scale.

We can reason that sasquatch probably make some sort of structure for resting, and perhaps use caves or other enclosures for protection. Some structures have been found and attributed to the creature. There is no firm proof that such structures are sasquatch-related, however, they cannot be connected with any known animal.

POSSIBLE SASQUATCH SOUNDS

Alleged sasquatch howls and what might be called “talking” have been recorded. The “talking” in one case was professionally analyzed. There were three speakers *possibly* identified and the voice of one individual was determined to be non-human. Additional analysis has brought about claims that the talking might be a language of some sort. There is no firm proof that any alleged “sasquatch sounds” were actually made by this creature.

BROKEN/TWISTED TREE BRANCHES



Branches possibly broken by a sasquatch: (L) Walla Walla, Washington; (R) Mt. Hood, Oregon.

Twisted and broken tree branches have been associated with sasquatch for many years. Dr. John Bindernagel reports: “Occasionally observed where a sasquatch has moved through a wooded area is a series of broken sapling or branches up to four inches in diameter, snapped or twisted off six to eight feet above the ground.”

One’s immediate reaction might be that the branches were broken by strong winds, or other severe weather conditions. However, precise observations by Robert Alley in Alaska revealed that branches are broken in this way during periods when weather was not a factor. Because hands would be needed to break the branches, the sasquatch is a likely suspect.

EXCREMENT OR FECES

Large, human-like evacuations have been found and examined. Their contents are not that of a human or a bear, and their shape and size differs from any known animal.

SASQUATCH ROOTS

(A Plausible Origination Theory)



Speculated transmigration route of humans and animals from Asia into North America and beyond.



Dr. Grover Krantz with a model of a Gigantopithecus blacki constructed by William Munns.

Until very recently, none of the known great apes could lay claim to a possible fossil ancestor, but four huge fossilized lower jaws and hundreds of teeth of what could be a sasquatch ancestor have been known for many years. Designated *Gigantopithecus blacki*, these giant apes were living in southern China at least until 100,000 years ago, and an older jawbone found in India proves that they existed over a large area and for a very long time. There is no evidence that they spread to North America, but other animals did, and there is no apparent reason why they could not have done the same.

Dr. Grover Krantz reconstructed the complete skull of a *Gigantopithecus blacki* based on the creature's lower jaw. A direct comparison with a human skull and a gorilla skull confirms that the creature was very large.

Whether *Gigantopithecus* walked upright or on all fours will probably never be certain unless other bones are found. All that the jaws tell us is that an ape of sufficient size to match sasquatch descriptions did exist in relatively recent times, and not too far from North America. Living in North America would have required adapting to life in a much colder climate, but for that the creature's huge size would have been a significant advantage.

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”



Painting of a yeti by Robert Bateman.



Yeti footprint cast copy, about 12.5 inches long. The original was created from a photograph.

THE YETI

The yeti, which is said to inhabit the Himalayas, was first brought to the attention of the outside world about 100 years ago. Since that time, many expeditions have been undertaken to find the creature. There are many documented sightings, some very credible, but absolutely no photographic evidence. Footprints in snow remain the main tangible evidence of the creature's existence. Tibetan monks have three known scalps and a skeletal hand that they claim are from yeti. However, analysis of one scalp did not support their claim. It was seen to be made from the hide of a serow (goat-antelope family). As to the hand, DNA analysis was performed on two bones in 2011 and they were found to be human.* The hand, less the two bones, was stolen in the late 1980s, so is no longer available.

Yeti footprints are totally different from sasquatch footprints. It might therefore be reasoned that the yeti is not closely related to the sasquatch.

*The bones were sent to England for analysis in 1959 and generally found to be human. They were lost until 2011 when they were found and subjected to DNA analysis.

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”



*(T) A possible Russian snowman likeness.
(L) Igor Burtsev with a 14-inch cast from a print found in the Pamir-Ali Mountains. (R) A 15.5-inch footprint found in Tien Shan.*



Soldiers with slain snowman by Lydia Bourtseva.

THE RUSSIAN SNOWMAN

“Russian Snowmen” (also called almasty, kaptars or leshy) have been sighted throughout Russia per se for centuries. Although they share some features with the sasquatch, it has not been established that they are the same creature. Sightings indicate that snowmen, like humans, differ in stature from region to region.

Stories of examining, capturing, and killing snowmen are well documented, but conclusive hard evidence of the creature’s existence has never been produced. There is no known photograph of the creature.

One plausible account of a slaying took place in 1925. Soviet soldiers inadvertently killed a snowman during a confrontation with anti-Soviet guerrillas in the Pamir Mountains. Circumstances were such that they could not transport the body out of the region. However, it was thoroughly examined by an army medical doctor. A detailed account was provided to Soviet scientists by the unit commander, Major-General Mikhail Topilsky, in 1966.

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”



Yowie study by Barry Olive.



Aborigine pictograph of a “giant, hair-covered man.”

THE AUSTRALIAN YOWIE

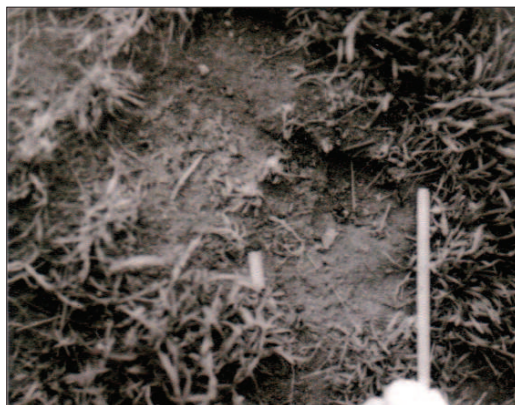
Although “yowie” is a fairly recent term for Australia’s sasquatch, the creature itself predates written history. In fact, we believe Aborigines have been encountering this mysterious creature since they arrived on the continent. A Yulanji pictograph, depicting what these people refer to as a giant hair-covered man, provides some indication of the antiquity of the phenomenon.

Native yowie encounters, however, were not taken seriously until Europeans slowly pushed into the “out back” and saw the creature first-hand. The earliest credible sighting by a European was in 1848. A shepherd maintained to the day he died that he saw a hairy man who walked upright and terrified his normally fearless dogs.

Extensive research on the yowie has uncovered about 300 credibly sightings or incidents, and analysis of these eyewitness reports reveals an astounding similarity between yowies and sasquatch. Unfortunately, tracks are rare because of Australia’s dry soil conditions, so few reports provide this kind of evidence. Nevertheless, what has been collected is impressive, and confirms that the creature is far beyond Native legend.



Andre Clayden with 16-inch cast.



Yowie footprint found after a close-range sighting.



Alwyn Richards saw a yowie step over this fence without breaking stride.