VERIFICATION OF WOOD FRAGMENT DISTANCE FROM THE CAMERA – P/G FILM
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ABSTRACT: A wood fragment recovered from the Patterson/Gimlin film site in 1971 is said to be the fragment upon which the sasquatch stepped as it moved along in its passage. It definitely did step on such a fragment and the recovered item **could be** the same. It was found in what was assumed to be the path taken by the sasquatch and a distance of about 102 feet was measured to the assumed camera position (Dahinden and Krantz). Mathematically, the fragment had to be 151.37 feet from the camera. Obviously, either the fragment moved up some 49 feet in the passing of time, or the distance measured was incorrect. In my opinion it was definitely the latter.

DETAILS

In Figure 1 the wood fragment (circled) has been made perpendicular to simply illustrate a conclusion. Figures 2 and 3 show the actual fragment in a vertical position. Firstly as it appeared, and secondly reversed with a ruler.

The fragment height in the image is a percentage of the sasquatch height, which we know is 87.5 inches.

We know the wood fragment height (or length) is 26.25 inches, so the wood fragment is 30% of the sasquatch height in reality.

We know that the sasquatch height in the film frame is 1.185mm or .0474 inches. This means that the wood fragment height (or length) in the film frame is .01422 inches (i.e., 30% of .0474).

The objective is to determine how far away from the camera did the wood fragment have to be to equal an actual height (or length) of 26.25 inches.

Application of the mathematical formula for distance (provided below) shows the fragment had to be 151.37 feet away from the camera. The same formula used to determine the distance for the sasquatch came to 151.40 feet.

We know, of course, that the wood fragment had to be about the same distance as the sasquatch because it stepped on the fragment. Nevertheless this INDEPENDENTLY verifies that the fragment was at the same distance AND COULD NOT POSSIBLY been at a distance of 102 feet as originally stated by Dahinden and Krantz. At 102 feet the fragment calculates out at 17.7 inches which is about 8.55 inches too short. Figure 4 shows author with the fragment for size appreciation.

CALCULATIONS:
We have the focal length of 25mm or 0.9842 inches
In this case the mathematical formula is:

$$\frac{\text{DISTANCE TIMES IMAGE HEIGHT}}{\text{FOCAL LENGTH}} = 26.25$$

$$\frac{0.01422x}{0.9842} = 26.25$$

0.01422x = 26.25 times 0.9842

$$x = \frac{25.83}{0.01422}$$

x = 1816.46 inches
x = 151.37 feet

NOTE: The only way 102 feet can be justified is with a focal length of 16.78mm, which at this time is not considered practical.

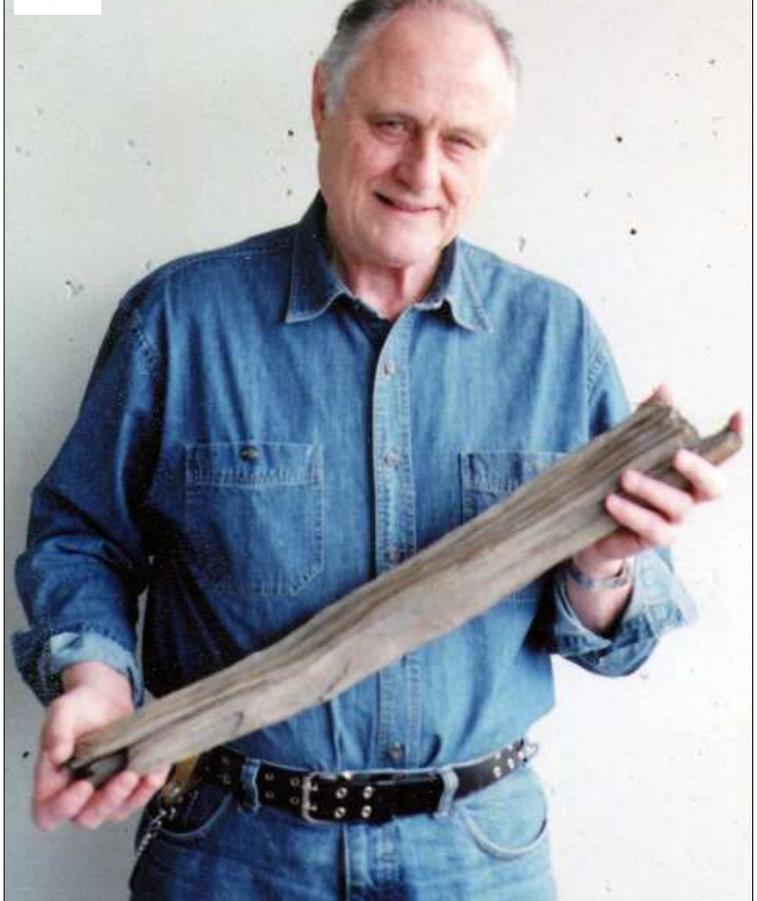Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

CONTINUED

Wood Fragment History

Naturally the length of the wood fragment confirms the sasquatch height because in this paper its length is based on the height. However, long before we had a confirmed height for the sasquatch (Glickman – *Toward a Resolution of the Bigfoot Phenomenon,* 1999) the fragment was used for this purpose.

In about 1994 when Dahinden showed me the fragment I reasoned that if it was indeed the fragment seen in the film frames, it could be used for measurement purposes. A ratio was determined and applied to the height of the sasquatch. Nevertheless, an adjustment must be made to compensate for the extremities of the fragment which cannot be seen in the image. This was determined to be 3.25 inches resulting in a wood fragment height or length being 23 inches instead of 26.25 inches when used for a direct image measurement.

It can be seen in Figure 5 that there are 3.804 wood fragments that comprise the sasquatch height – 3.804 times 23 = 87.49 inches (or 87.5 inches). Originally we simply said over 84 inches; about 87 inches (7 feet 3 inches).

When Jeff Glickman did his study, I was there when we handed him the wood fragment and suggested that it might be used as a measurement factor. He took a sample of the grains of sand in the cracks of the fragment. In that it cannot be conclusively proven that the fragment is one in the same with that seen in the film frames, he obviously chose to go a different route and use a photo registration to establish the sasquatch height. In this process he did not need any questionable factors (camera distance, foot size, fragment disposition).

The top image in Figure 6 shows Martin Dahinden in the sasquatch path with the wood fragment circled (by René). Although subjective, if that photo had been taken from an angle to the right, the distance to the fragment from Martin would line up perfectly with the film frame. What I show here in Figure 7 certainly places the fragment "in the ballpark" and this convinces me that the fragment recovered is the same as that seen in the film frames. I have reasonably confirmed this using my film site model.

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

Fig. 7