

## Horse Sense and Crop Propping

In the first photograph seen here, we see René Dahinden on the left with Roger Patterson's Welsh pony, which I believe is "Peanuts," his usual ride. Roger is seen on the right unloading (or loading?) what appears to be a Welsh pony colt from his VW van.

Contrary to belief, Roger did not take "Peanuts" to Bluff Creek when he and Bob Gimlin filmed a bigfoot. On that trip, Roger took and rode an ordinary quarter horse, but a small one. Bob Gimlin rode the same kind of horse, but a larger one. Roger is seen in the second photograph here at Bluff Creek while on the filming adventure.

The first photograph shown is interesting in that we see a display for Patterson's "prop lock" invention on the top of the van. This device (which was patterned after a plastic bread bag fastener—third photo), was used on fruit tree props. The device held a branch firmly in place during heavy winds. Really, the idea was quite clever and probably saved a lot of money for fruit farmers.

Current day props, which are telescopic, are as shown on the left. It does not appear Patterson's idea caught on. Nevertheless, at the time (early 1960s) the "prop lock" was Patterson's little business. The full sign on his van, which was professionally made, reads, "Props Dropping? Use Prop Lock." I don't see any contact information, so Patterson likely had an ad in the "yellow pages" (old telephone directories). For sure, fruit trees have not changed so the device would be just as applicable today.

After Patterson took his film of a sasquatch/bigfoot in October 1967, he naturally concentrated all his efforts in exploiting the film. He used movie theaters to screen the film and charged admission. He and Bob Gimlin gave personal presentations on their experience.

I doubt this sort of thing would work in current times because credibility would be severely questioned, plus even an amateur can now make a film (video) with astounding reality.

Whatever the case, it would have been great to have seen Patterson and Gimlin in person, hear their presentations and view the film. I was married with two kids at the time, but did not know of the film—just off in another world.

