

Early Expedition to Find Sasquatch

Back in 2005 the late Scott McClean added another great find to the growing list of old newspaper articles about sasquatch. The one presented here from the *The Fresno Bee*, Fresno, California, in 1934 covers what is claimed to be “America’s first sasquatch expedition.” There had certainly been many previous hunts for “wild men” and strange creatures that appeared to have been sasquatch; nevertheless, these were not what one would term “expeditions.” I would expect, however, that there had been other expeditions, but they failed to get any press. The newspaper reporter, as you will see, provides his report, “tongue in cheek”—we still have the same problem with some coverage today.

Californians Out to Bag Legendary ‘Sasquatch’

VANCOUVER (B.C.), April 9, 1934—America’s first sasquatch catching expedition headed into the mountains of British Columbia today on a hunt for the horrible hairy, naked bogey-man of Indian Legend.

J.F. Blakeney and C.K. Blakeney, brothers, of Sacramento, medical students at the University of California, read reports of frightened tribesmen that the giant baby-snatcher of old had been seen recently in the mountains north of Harrison Lake and determined to attempt to photograph or lasso a “sasquatch.”

The fabled sasquatch, as described in Indian lore for hundreds of years, is about as villainous a phantasm as ever frightened a little papoose anywhere, but adult Indians are fearful of the monsters.

They are supposed to lurk in caves and glades of British Columbia, coming out in the twilight to peer moodily into Indian tepees, to glower and snatch at children, to steal food, play diabolical tricks and even kill warriors.

“Our professor of anthropology will be much interested,” said the Blakeney’s, as they left for the haunts of the sasquatch.

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THE FRESNO BEE

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Well, this was written 82 years ago as of April 2016, and since that time a lot of water has gone under the bridge. Three of the main sasquatch researchers, John Green, René Dahinden and Dr. Grover Krantz came and went during this time; only Peter Byrne remains as of this writing.

Obviously the Blakeney expedition did not result in anything highly significant and aside from the Patterson/Gimlin expedition in 1967, nor has any other “expedition.”

I certainly pondered this issue with Green and Dahinden while they were with us, and also with Thomas Steenburg who is currently the main researcher in British Columbia. There is certainly no shortage of sightings, and we have footprints, hand prints and unusual sounds, but that is essentially where evidence stops.

I do not have an answer...