



# Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 158

Christopher L. Murphy

Edited by Gene Baade



John Green introduced his first book, *On the Track of the Sasquatch* (1968), with the 1968 witness report seen on the right.

The Patterson and Gimlin (P/G) film was taken in October 1967 and I doubt people in Stewart would have seen it, so I am a little surprised at the witnesses' observation: "... the hairy beast swung to look back at them, twisting its wide shoulders around because it had no neck to twist." I think Dr. Gover Krantz discovered this same thing in the P/G film, but much, much later.

We also have a description of the subject's facial expression, which implied: "What the Hell are you doing here." Patterson said the same sort of thing. Furthermore, it is stated, "On the body the hair looked thin ..." This is the same as the P/G subject.

The little community of Stewart had a resident population of 401 souls in 2016. Prior to World War I, the population was about 10,000, but slowly declined as gold and silver mining decreased. I don't think Stewart gets a lot of tourists, but I think it might be popular with hunters.

The information came to Green most likely via a letter from one of the witnesses. I will suppose that Green's book, or news of it, reached Stewart and thereby provided a contact for sasquatch related issues.

It appears that additional information

Early on an evening in mid August of this year (1968) two men from Stewart, British Columbia were driving down an old mine access road. They had been hunting grouse, but were also on the lookout for bear.

Still above 4,000 feet when the daylight started to wane, they rounded a corner and jumped from the truck as what they thought was a bear started to move off into the bush above the road.

Guns in hand, they stopped short as they realized that their quarry was walking up the hill on its hind legs, then gaped in astonishment when the hairy beast swung to look back at them, twisting its wide shoulders around because it had no neck to twist.

They had a brief glimpse of a dark face with a wisp of beard, a flat nose and a "What the Hell are you doing here" expression. Then it turned again and quickly vanished among the trees.

It left behind an impression of great height and weight, and an overpowering stench.

One of the men later estimated its height at well over seven feet and its weight at over 300 pounds, it did not look fat, but its build was very heavy. It stood straight, yet its arms swung several inches lower than its knees. Once it grabbed a tree with its left hand as it went uphill, but its hands never touched the ground.

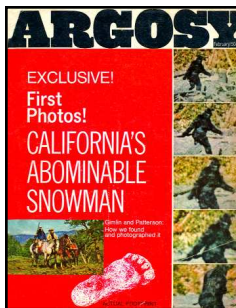
On the body the hair looked thin, but on the head it was quite long, hiding the ears.

surfaced later, stating that the subject was observed at about 25 feet when first seen. We also learned that, the next day, two other men went to the location and found faint footprints near a little stream.

Another sighting took place near Stewart in 1972. An ore truck driver saw what he said was a huge, strange creature about ten feet tall on the road from a local mine. —00—



I decided to have a real close look at the article written by Ivan Sanderson on the P/G film in *Argosy* magazine, February, 1968.



Of course we have all read it, perhaps even several times, but I think we need to refresh our memory. This was the first detailed written account with both Patterson and Gimlin on the filming incident. Underlined text has a red reference number for which comments or clarification are provided later.

At three-thirty p.m., on the twentieth of October last year, two young men, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, were "packing" it on horseback into one of the last remaining great wilderness areas, northeast of Eureka, California. Their saddlebags contained, on one side, rifles and grub, and on the other, ready-loaded movie and still cameras (1) and other equipment. They were following a creek which had been washed out two years ago in a terrible flood that devastated most of northern California.(2) This was some twenty miles beyond the end of an access road for logging and about thirty five miles in from the nearest and only

blacktop road in the vast, as yet not fully mapped area of National forest. I have been up this Bluff Creek and, as a botanist, I can tell you that it is rugged—four layers or tiers of trees, the tallest up to 200 feet, and a dense undergrowth. Also, the terrain goes up and down a gigantic sawtooth.

Roger and Bob rounded a sharp bend in the sandy arroyo (3) of the creek. Then it happened.

The horses reared suddenly in alarm and threw both of the riders. (4) Luckily Roger fell off to the right, and being an experienced horseman, disengaged himself and grabbed his camera. Why?

Because he had spotted what turned their horses into mad broncos. About 100 feet ahead on the other side of the creek bed, there was a huge, hairy creature that walked like a man! (5)

The way Roger described it to me would not, I am afraid, make much sense to you, but then, Roger had been hunting this sort of creature for many years. What he actually said was: “Gosh darn it, Ivan, right there was a Bigfoot. And, fer pity’s sakes, she was female! Just wait till you see the film.”

Roger is a Northwesterner and he does not waste words, but what he does say, I listen to. This is what he told me: “On the other side of the creek, back up against the trees, (6) there was a sort of man-creature that we estimated later, by measuring some logs (7) that appear in the film, to have been about seven feet tall. (8) Both Bob and I estimate—and this pretty well matched what others told us from examination of the depth to which her tracks sank into hard sand—that she would weigh about three hundred and fifty pounds. (9) She was covered with short, shiny, black hair. (10) even her big, droopy breasts. She seemed to have a sort of peak on the back of her head, but whether this was longer hair or not I don’t know. (11) Anyhow, hair came right down her forehead to meet her eyebrows, if she had any; and it came right up under her cheekbones. And—oh, get this—she had no neck. What I mean is, the bottom of her head just seemed to broaden out onto and into her wide, muscular shoulders. (12) She walked like a big man in no hurry. I don’t think you’ll see it in the film, but the soles of her feet were definitely light in color.” (13)

This last bit got me, as I have seen *really* black-skinned Melanesians with pale pink palms and soles. I don’t want to sound facetious, but this whole thing gets “hairier and hairier,” as you will see in a moment.

Roger did something then that I have never known any professional photographers to do, even if his camera was loaded with the right film, he had the cap off the lens, the thing set at the right F stop and so on. He started running, hand holding his Kodak sixteen-mm loaded with Kodachrome film, trying to focus on this “creature.” What he got was just about what any amateur would get in

such circumstances. But then he got a real break. As he put it:

“She was just swinging along as the first part of my film shows, but, all of a sudden, she just stopped dead and looked around at me. (14) She wasn’t scared a bit. Fact is, I don’t think she was scared of me, and the only thing I can think of is that the clicking of my camera was new to her.”

“Okay,” I said, “Tell me this Roger—the hunting season was on, wasn’t it?”

“You’re darned shooting right it was,” Bob Gimlin chimed in. “And out that way, anything moving with fur on it is liable to gets shot.”

But actually, there just aren’t any hunters way up there, twenty miles beyond the only road, known as the Bluff Creek access. Could it be that this Mrs. Bigfoot knew all about guns, but was puzzled by the whirring of a small movie camera? (15) And another thing: everybody who says they have been close to one of these creatures or have found one of their “beds” has stressed a ghastly, nauseating stink they exude and leave behind. Was this what really scared the horses or did the horses scare the “Adorable Woodsman,” (16) which is my name for the lady?

(While we referred to this in the title as the “Abominable Snowman” for purposes of quick identification, the Bigfoot or Sasquatch, zoologically, has nothing to do with the Himalayan Abominable snowman known for centuries in Asia, and first brought to the attention of the western world in 1921. Our lady is a form of primitive, full-furred human The Yeti, or Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas is some sort of giant, rock-climbing ape, in my opinion, and that of Professor Carlton S. Coon. The yeti footprints found have an opposed big toe, (17) almost like a hand. The Bigfoot has an unopposed toe, such as seen only on human-type creatures.

While Roger took the film, Bob got the horses calmed down (18) and then rode over the creek. Roger was running again after the Bigfoot, still hand holding his movie camera.

Despite the logs and trash (19) on the route she took—and it was not even a game trail—he got some parting shots that turned out to be of particular interest to the scientists. But we will come to that later.

At that point, I asked Bob—because he was then what is called “the back-up man,” which means that he was now close enough to see Roger clearly—

“Just what was Roger doing?”

“He was running like hell, jumping them logs and going up into the real thick bush.”

Did you see her too?”

“Yeah, Ivan, but way ahead and really taking off for the hills.

This brought me up sharp, because I had by this time viewed the film (and half a dozen out-takes, blown up, in full color as transparencies. which I had examined under strong magnification lenses on an illuminated shadow-box several times and projected by three different projectors.) In every case, the creature was—at standard speed for photogs (twenty-four frames per sec) (20)—as Roger said, at first just ambling along, swinging her rather long arms, not running scared, and even stopping to a brief look-see over her shoulder as it were; then ambling on again into the deep woods ...

Yet here was the back-up man saying that she had taken off for the hills.”

Roger, however, backed up his back-up man unprompted.

“When she got around the corner and into the real heavy stuff [timber and underbrush] she *did* take off—running, I mean—because, when we lost her tracks on pine needles after tracking her for about three and a half miles, we took plaster casts of her tracks. Now, down by the creek, in the sand, where we first spotted her, her stride was from forty to forty-two inches from the back of her heel on the left side to the back of the right heel ahead; but when she got really going, she left tracks that measured sixty-five inches from back heel to back heel. (21) Man, she was running just like you and I do.”

“Why ‘she’?” I asked Roger.

“Well Ivan, Let’s run the film through again, and *you* tell me, as a trained zoologist, if that thing has pendant breasts or not.” (22)

The comments or clarifications for the red reference numbers in the foregoing are provided on the next page. There is a fair number because over 50 years has passed by, and contrary to common belief, history is a moving target. Almost every day, something

happens to change our mind about yesterday. As a result, I won't be critical.

### Comments or Clarifications

1. I do not know of any still camera images taken at the film site.

2. Sanderson is referring to the flood in 1964. There was no flood "two years ago" (1966).

3. The definition is: A steep-sided gully formed by the action of fast-flowing water in an arid or semi-arid region, found chiefly in the southwestern US.

4. Only Patterson was thrown off his horse. Gimlin was able to control his horse because it was much older and more experienced.

5. This being the case, then you have to add the distance of the men from the creek and then the width of the creek. This would be about 140 feet minimum.

6. The subject was not back up against the trees when first spotted. It went to the tree line later.

7. The problem here is that the logs must be very close to where the subject walked, no more than a foot or so. I don't know of any such measurements.

8. This was a good estimate. The final height was determined at 7 feet, 3.5 inches.

9. The sand is not very hard. I would rate it as soft. The subject's weight is highly controversial. I agree with the finding of a forensic scientist, which is provided and justified in B&P Issue No. 53, page 1.

10. I believe the color was a very dark red/brown. The images of the subject I provided in *The Bigfoot Film Controversy* (2005), pages 204–215 are likely the best. From a distance it would appear black.

11. I believe the subject had a normal, somewhat pointed head, which appears more pointed at certain angles. I think hair adds to the illusion of what is known as a sagittal crest.

12. The "no neck" appearance is the result of a very muscular upper body. We often see it with football players. There is a neck, it is simply on the inside. By the way, the neck is a weak spot in wild animals; the subject obviously solved that issue.

13. All people of dark skin have light colored feet soles and palms of the hands. There does not appear to be a practical reason for this. It could be that the subject, which had been at the creek side, picked up light colored soil/sand on the soles of her feet, which made the skin look lighter. For certain, the feet have a very thick sole (about 2.14-inches), which is probably callous-like in nature and color.

14. A little forgotten detail. Might it mean she contemplated changing course?

15. This is a good question. On the one hand, if the subject knew about guns, then she might have darted away, but if she did not know, then she felt quite safe and just moved on at a steady pace; which she did. The size of the men was not a threat. Nevertheless, moving straight ahead was the best option even if she knew about guns because forest in the foreground directly ahead partially blocked the men's view.

16. Horses don't scare wild animals, and a man on horseback is sort of considered one-in-the-same with the horse. It is when men or women are on foot that they are considered a threat. I think it was the odor that spooked the horses.

17. I really don't think that what is considered a yeti foot—from a footprint (singular) found by Erick Shipton and Michael Ward in 1958—has an opposable big toe. The foot would have to be extremely flexible. My research indicates that this footprint is simply that of a monk with a deformed foot (or deformed feet). (See B&P Issue No. 143).

18. Bob Gimlin just got his own horse and the pack horse calmed down. Roger's horse had ran away, and had to be collected by Bob after the subject left the scene. Roger's horse likely bolted until it felt there was enough distance between it and the subject, and then found some grass. Horses are not really afraid of much because of their size and speed. There are many wild horses in the Pacific Northwest. And that's a good point. Wild horses are really big animals, but they are seldom seen. My editor, Gene Baade, is the only person I personally know who has taken photographs of them.

19. There is no trash at the film site. What Sanderson means is forest debris.

20. I don't know how Sanderson determined the film speed (24 fps). Igor Burtsev, who has had a copy of the film since 1971, determined that it was shot at 18 fps. I have discussed this issue in previous papers, and my current position is that it does not make any difference. I don't think the film speed establishes whether or not the film subject is a fabrication.

21. Roger means the PACE (or step) not the stride. The stride is double the pace.

22. For certain, breasts normally indicate a female, but we have at least one very high profile scientist who could not see female breasts—just a fat male's chest.



This is the image of Patterson that Sanderson provided in his magazine article. Patterson is holding the right foot cast from the footprint of the subject in the P/G film. This cast is 15 inches long. The photo caption reads: "17 inches from toe to heel," which is totally incorrect. The left foot cast is just 14.5 inches long, sometimes one foot is a little larger than the other in humans, so this is not unusual.

Roger's foot in this image is 8.84 inches long. Roger was a very small man, just 5 feet, 3 inches, so he naturally has a small foot. The average male foot (USA) is 10.75 inches long. The red bar on the left is a relative 10.75 inches long, so represents the average male foot.

Dressing up Roger in the way we see was hardly the right thing to do if scientific attention was the objective. And then comparing his small foot made things much worse, along with showing 17 inches as the cast length.

Nevertheless, by the year 1968 we were well into the hippie movement and Woodstock came the following year, The general mind-set was, "Do whatever you want." Scientists in general, however, are not, and have never been this way. They would have considered this kind of publicity hoax-related. Very few got into the sasquatch issue.

Continued

I stumbled on the following material in Wikipedia. so decided to set the record straight.

### Cliff Crook and Chris Murphy

A computerized visual analysis of the video conducted by Cliff Crook, who once devoted rooms to sasquatch memorabilia in his home in Bothell, Washington, and Chris Murphy, a Canadian Bigfoot buff from Vancouver, British Columbia, was released in January 1999 and exposed an object which appeared to be the suit's zip-fastener. Zooming in on four magnified frames of the 16 mm footage video exposed what appeared to be tracings of a bell-shaped fastener on the creature's waist area, presumably used to hold a person's suit together. Since both Crook and Murphy were previously staunch supporters of the video's authenticity, *Associated Press* journalist John W. Humbell noted "Longtime enthusiasts smell a deserter."

As a rule, Wikipedia is not that careless with information. The truth is, I noticed an unusual detail in several film frames, along with several other anomalies, and sent a highly detailed paper to five (5) major researchers, who were surprised but non-committal on what was seen. I sent an image of the detail to Cliff Crook who was an ardent skeptic of the P/G film. He had previously publically declared that he thought the film was a hoax. We both agreed the object might be a fastener of some of some sort. I was asked by a Bothell newspaper reporter if this was POSSIBLE and I said yes, as in anything is possible. I then worked with Dr. Henner Fahrenbach to determine the nature of the "object." He established that mathematically the object was too small to be credible and declared it "photographic noise." He confirmed that that there was no fakery or hoaxing involved.

I did not talk to any other news people, although I believe Cliff provided further opinions. Nevertheless, the *Associated Press* telephoned and congratulated me on being responsible for "flushing out" Bob Heironimus, the man who alleged he was the person in a "suit" in the P/G film. This was considered a total fabrication and is now forgotten news.

In my opinion, the unusual object may not be "noise," it could be something caught in the subject's hair; probably a little tree leaf.



Russian biologist, explorer and mountaineer Serghiei Semionov in Moscow displays a hairy and clawed leg which was found on a glacier of the Siberian chain of Altai in 2003, in the area where the yeti lives, according to the traditions. Semionov, 40, from Siberia himself, found the whole limb in two successive expeditions, together with some ribs and fragments of the pelvis. The limb shown in Moscow is the whole leg from the foot to the knee, the most important part because both its articulation and the shape of the foot demonstrates that [such] belongs to a walking upright being. *Telegraph news website*, 2013

This rather sensational photo and caption looked a bit suspicious so I sent it to Igor Burtsev in Russia. The following is what he wrote (edited):

That foot info is an old dead duck of 2003, rejected many times. I personally investigated this case then, in 2003, discussed it with zoologists, found the bear paw skeleton in Zoological Museum in Moscow (fortunately the x-ray image of that very paw was published too)—the study didn't leave a doubt that that was a bear paw.

One TV team prepared the film about Yeti research with my participation then; I told them, that it was fake, not to include the paw in it. Though—they included this paw, explaining so. The sponsor-customer like it to be included—and this case had been included as a foot of a Yeti ...

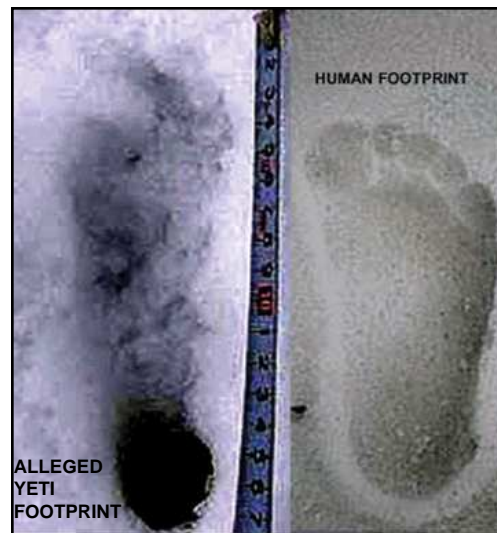
And till now that fake story was published here several times ... My article was titled then "Sensation Sucked from the Toes of a Bear's Foot" in one issue of my *Hominology Bulletin* (in Russian), issued then. and in some newspapers (in Russian).

Igor provided the following images:



(Note the claws. They are not highly visible in the opening image, but should have been a dead giveaway. CLM)

In 2008, a team of Japanese adventurers in the Himalayas discovered footprints they believe were made by a yeti. The footprints were about 8 inches long and looked like human prints. I was surprised with the similarity between the prints they found and the bear's foot previously discussed. The follow images show the similarity.



I measured the relic foot and arrived at about 9 inches long, which is definitely comparable. I believe a yeti would have a much larger foot, unless it were a juvenile. Anyway, I think the Japanese finding is simply that of a bear's track.