

Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 1

Christopher L. Murphy



Here is my sasquatch hand sculpture properly mounted on a varnished board. It is kept at a 45 degree angle with a metal corner bracket on the right side. The hand will be put into my museum exhibit—next one at the Moses Lake Museum, Moses Lake, Washington; opening in June 2018. Full details will be posted.

Just so we are all clear, the hand sculpture was physically created on a copy of the hand cast taken by Paul Freeman in the Blue Mountains, Washington, 1995. In other words, the cast is entombed in the clay. I had a very fine copy of the cast seen here in 2003 (loaned to me by Dr. Henner Fahrenbach) and is in my exhibit). I made a copy for myself between exhibits using sand. It came to light a couple of months ago and I decided to sculpture a hand based on it.



Here is the sculpture in progress, with my youngest son's hand. He is about 5 feet 11 inches and weighs around 250 pounds (considerably larger than I am). Once you get the clay to about where you want it, you let it dry and then sand it and use tools to get various details. I painted the hand skin with an acrylic paint, thus turning it into a sculpture/model. I chose a color called Raw Umber because it seemed to match the color of gorilla skin. The main advantage sculptures have over paintings is that you don't have to worry about shading—you just let light do that for you. The paint has a natural sheen.

Did you notice that the gorilla hand I use in my paper on the hand has one extra-long finger nail? This brought to mind something Peter Byrne told me. He said that monks in the Himalayas grow a long nail on one hand, which they effectively use as a tool. The monks, of course would have to clip the nails on all their other digits. Is it likely gorillas naturally grow one long nail for the same purpose? In this case all nails would reach a certain length and then stop growing. I wish this were true for human toe nails.



The other night, National Geographic's latest yeti documentary was on TV again. This is the one where the researcher gets to the temple where a "yeti scalp" is kept in a locked box with a glass front. He was unable to have the chief monk take the scalp out of the box, and was refused a hair sample. We hear the old story about the scalp being taken to England in the 1950s where it was concluded that it was made from the skin of a serow (a goat-antelope). This is all old news. Of course, it's too much to ask National Geographic (NG) people to go a little further in their research—no mention of the strange mites found on the scalp that are not common to serows; and that there are two other yeti scalps in different monasteries (why keep picking on this one). Peter Byrne, Loren Coleman and I have written about this. Our books are in public libraries everywhere if NG has budget problems.



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When Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin went to Hodgson's store in Willow Creek after their filming in 1967, the store looked like this, not as I show in *Know the Sasquatch* on page 50. Al Hodgson sent me the wrong image (second store). Roger used a telephone booth outside the store to call Hodgson. He came down to the store and Roger likely used his store phone to call others.

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Through the efforts of Thomas Steenburg and Bill Miller, Tourism Harrison (Harrison Hot Springs) now has a permanent sasquatch exhibit. It is located in the house/office for greeting visitors and so forth. It's only about the size of a condo living room, but it is very professionally done. I provided posters, prints and an "artsy" artifact to help out. The photos seen here were taken by Thomas Steenburg when the exhibit was in process. I went up to have a look, but a severe wind/rain storm moved in and knocked out all the power before I got there.



All the staff had been sent home about 20 minutes before I arrived. I will get up there again and provide more photos.

Harrison is noted for sasquatch sightings and the little town has wavered back and forth for 60 years as to accepting the entity as a tourist attraction; it appears we are "back in business"

The new exhibit is within walking distance of the Harrison Hotel and Harrison Lake front, so I expect it will get a lot of visitors.

In some ways, the exhibit is a major inroad—effectively a "government" agency has provided a platform for sasquatch information.

What makes Harrison attractive is, of course, its hot springs. There is one very large spring near the hotel, which pumps its water into the hotel sauna and swimming pool. The water is cleaned, so there is no "rotten egg" (sulphur) smell.

I believe there are other hot springs up in the local mountains, and it's possible they are an attractant for sasquatch. Japanese snow monkeys regularly bathe in hot springs. Sasquatch in this region would end-up with a fairly pungent sulphur odor to perhaps add to their reported bad odor.



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In December 2005 I posted the following article. It appears appropriate to re-post it at this time

I see King Kong is back in the news again with a new movie to be released this month. I am sure that this time the "great ape" will be so convincing, it would be impossible to prove it was fabricated without highly sophisticated analysis. This is very good news for movie-goers, but bad news for bigfooters. As time goes on and technology edges in on the world of reality, the less believable photographs and videos become. Had Roger Patterson taken a video of the Bluff Creek creature in this day and age, we would all be much more skeptical.



At one point in time, we all were convinced that another good movie of a bigfoot would turn the tables. While it would certainly help, it is a far different world, and would definitely not be considered firm evidence. There is no doubt in my mind that we are going to need a "piece" of one of these creatures to even get to first base with the general scientific community. Bones would do it, and while we have a lot of reasons for not finding any, that does not preclude the possibility they are out there.

There are indeed claims of unusually large bones being found that appear to be like human bones. Unfortunately, none seem to have made it to someone who could do something with them. Then again, perhaps they did, and for various reasons it was decided not to do anything.

Ray Crowe mentioned once that bigfoot bones have probably been found, but are "lost" in museum storage rooms. Upon personally seeing a major museum storage room, I am inclined to believe him. The only record of items in the vast room (a complete basement floor) was a paper file, and the papers in the file were created at the time the artifacts were donated. If the paper on any item was destroyed or misfiled, the item itself would virtually disappear.

Every now and then you see articles about

museums finding things they did not know they had. Now you know the reason. Perhaps we should lobby for a "National Museum Inventory Day," who knows what "treasures" would turn up.

What has happened in the last 12 years? Technology moved forward in leaps and bounds; essentially anyone now can create "too real" images. Also, a museum in Toronto uncovered the fossils of a rare dinosaur they did not know they had. There was an entire documentary dedicated to the incident. A museum researcher went in search of dinosaur fossils of a specific type and he took with him a catalog of the museum's inventory. He browsed through it while on a plane to his destination. He saw a curious entry as to the fossils he was looking for so took the next plane back home and went searching through the museum's massive storage area. There he found numerous crates with dinosaur fossils (exactly what he was after) that had been there for many years without notice. Sasquatch bones (even a complete skeleton) could sit there gathering dust for centuries.

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This remarkable sculpture of two yeren is located in Hubel Province, China. Cliff Barackman took the photo. What is important to me here is that the artist(s) chose to depict the homins as reasonable biological entities with ordinary biological processes; rather than some incredible, fearsome "thing" as most artists do with the sasquatch in North America. We really got off on the wrong foot (no pun). As news of possible sasquatch existence emerged, artists with schoolboy imaginations grabbed and ran with their "incredible hulk" depictions. The more they flooded the continent with their nonsense, the further away scientists retreated. What is it about our nature that compels us to resort to sensationalism (even disgust) rather

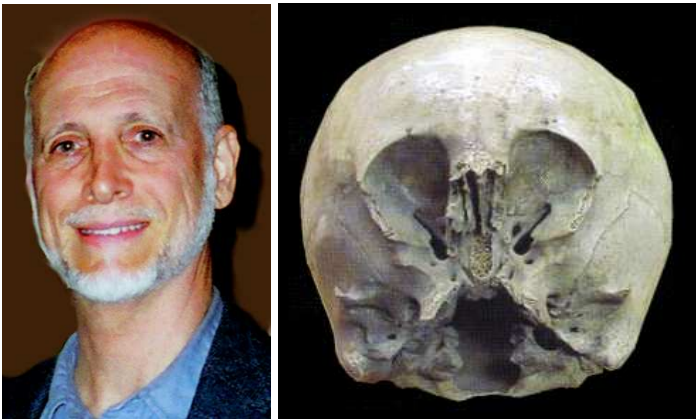
than fact? Journalists have a lot to do with this; I am not a journalist and even hate the word. Many journalists have become less credible than 1950s used car salesmen.

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TODD PRESCOTT has contributed to a major article titled “50 Years of Cryptozoology’s Most Famous Film” in the current issue of *Fortean Times*. He also has an article titled “Sasquatch: The Myth that Won’t Go Extinct,” which will be in the next issue of *Atlantis Rising*. Todd has become an outstanding chronicler of the sasquatch/bigfoot issue; you will enjoy his material.

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December 9 marks the 4th year of the death of Lloyd Pye. Lloyd dedicated a good part of his time to the analysis of what he call the “Starchild Skull.” I worked with him to a minor degree on this project, but we had extensive communications on the sasquatch/bigfoot issue. It was Lloyd who brought my attention the fact that cheetahs are part dog and part cat—a strange combination. He used this and other examples to imply genetic engineering at a time when even the words did not exist. Is it possible the sasquatch was the result of this type of “engineering?” I am sure the guys on Ancient Aliens would (or likely have) given this a “thumbs up.”

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The “official scientific” word on the Starchild Skull is that it belonged to a deformed human child. Also, that the female skull found in the same location was not the child’s mother. There is still debate on the Starchild’s nature, but further testing of the skull has been suspended. As with everything “scientific,” what is concluded today may not be so tomorrow. I don’t think we have heard the last of Lloyd’s “passion.” He was a great guy and I miss him and our great conversations.

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On page 213 of *Know the Sasquatch*, a photograph is missing. It is a photo (seen here) taken by Russ Kinne in the Sechelt area, BC. How the photo was missed is a mystery because it was in the file (pdf) sent to the printer. It simply showed up missing after the book was printed.

My oldest son lives here and it is a classic example of civilization “moving in” on nature. Bears are often seen in your back yard (or on your porch), and deer wander down the middle of the main road. A young bear (200 pounds??) got into my son’s house as he was napping on the chesterfield. He woke up to find the bear with one paw on his chest and looking at him curiously. My son managed to “scramble” into a bedroom. A little later he ran out and opened the front door and the bear fled. I think that is what the bear was asking him to do

Black bears are the most plentiful, with lots of encounters, but from what I can find, in the entire USA and Canada only 63 people were killed by a black bear in 109 years (1900–2009). Most of these incidents (44) were in Canada. I can’t find just BC, but I believe it would be high on the list.