

Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 21

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An American man who was born and raised in Burma told this story of a strange encounter there, some years after the actual event in 1951. The man was a “jungle-walla,” which means a master of the wilderness. One night, hearing strange noises in his living room, he grabbed his shotgun and went to investigate. In the moonlight he saw an ape-like creature (known as a *tok*) crouched on his piano.

He blasted the creature and inflicted a gaping chest wound. It nevertheless immediately jumped up, leapt upon the man and struggled with him. Finally weakening from loss of blood, the creature broke free, jumped out a window, and disappeared into the jungle.

During the struggle, the man had ripped a swatch of fur from the creature that he sent to a museum for analysis. The experts at the museum said the swatch was that of an animal unknown to them.

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Serene Chong (seen here), a young rubber-tree tapper, was approached by three unusual ape-like creatures on a rubber plantation at Tapah, Malaya, March 7, 1955. The creatures, two males and a female, made a friendly gesture and tried to speak to the girl. One of the males reached out and grasped the girl's shoulder. When the girl screamed, other plantation employees (six men and a woman) came running to her assistance, scaring off the creatures, which they clearly saw.

The girl described the creatures as having hair to their shoulders; a fur-like growth around their mid-section; light but leathery looking skin; flattened noses, slightly upturned, exposing large round nostrils; small eyes sunken under craggy brows; and curved fangs that extended from their thick-lipped mouths. Malayan constables investigated the incident and casts were made of the creatures' footprints. An anthropologist and animal expert described the prints as “like those of a flat-footed human being, but broader and with indications of claw-like projections from the toes.”



In the previous five years (1950-55), there were a dozen sightings of such creatures by more than fifty reliable witnesses, including British police and army officers. On August 7, 1950, British police lieutenant Jock Bain stated he saw two of the creatures across a river and studied them with his field glasses. He said they were almost human in appearance, although hairy, long-armed, and broad-shouldered. They had light skin and reminded him of pictures of stone-age men. Both were naked, distinctly male, deep chested, hunched, and quite tall—close to six feet. Upon seeing the creatures, a Malay constable with Bain shouted *Kramat, Kramat!* (ghost, ghost) and took two rifle shots at them. He missed with both shots and the creatures disappeared into the jungle. Bain examined their footprints and stated that they looked quite human.

About one year later, another creature was spotted by Capt. Edward Halsted of the British Special Air Services Regiment whose unit had parachuted into the area. Another incident occurred in 1952 when again two males and a female wandered onto a rubber plantation in Grik, surprising a party of tappers. The estate manager, with three security guards, arrived just in time to see the creatures vanish into the underbrush. Descriptions of the creatures matched other eyewitness reports with one exception—the creatures appeared to be wearing loincloths.

Malay aboriginal people, the Semai's in the Ulu Slim area, reported that two apemen had carried off two of their women. The natives tracked the creatures and found the half-eaten remains of one of the women. Further on, they saw the creatures devouring the other woman. A police patrol and field worker of the Department of Aborigines investigated the incident and found the remains of the women. Fang marks in the flesh, however, were determined to be those of a man-eating tiger. Nevertheless, it was reasoned that the natives would not mistake tigers for apemen and it is almost unheard of for Malayan tigers to hunt in pairs.



These Semai aborigines call the apemen “*kramat*” (ghost). They claim apemen carry off their people and devour them.

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Mr. Robert Lincoln, of Boston and his timber survey crew (Western Lumber Company) captured three unusual ape-like creatures along the Mississippi River on June 25, 1839. The creatures, one adult and two “cubs,” were encountered during surveillance for lumbering prospects in the area.

As it happened, the adult creature was sighted a couple of times and Lincoln gave orders to capture it alive if possible. As he was giving his orders, the creature appeared at some distance and Lincoln observed it with his “pocket glass” (*hand-held telescope*). Lincoln estimated its height at between 8 and 9 feet. The group pursued the creature, which at one point “turned upon them,” so Lincoln shot it in the calf of the leg with buckshot. The creature was bound and taken back to camp. The next morning, two “cubs,” about 3 feet high and very similar to the large creature, wandered into the camp. The cubs were captured without resistance and when the adult creature (probably a parent) saw them it reacted violently.

Lincoln took the creatures to Boston where he invited *Boston Times* people to see them. A *Times* reporter, an old acquaintance of Mr. Lincoln, went with other newspaper people down to Lincoln’s rooms to examine the creatures. The reporter provided the following description of the adult creature:

He is a horrid looking creature, and reminds us very strongly of the fabled satyrs, as we have pictured them to our own mind. He is about eight feet three inches high, when standing erect, and his frame is of giant proportions in every part. His legs are not straight, but like those of any other four-footed animal, and his whole body is covered with a hide

very much like that of a cow. His arms are very large and long, and ill proportioned. It does not appear from his manner that he ever walked on “all fours.” The fingers and toes are mere bunches, armed with stout claws. His head is covered with thick, coarse black hair like the mane of a horse.”

The appearance of his countenance, if such it may be called, is very disgusting—say, almost horrible. It is covered with a thinner and lighter coat of hair than the rest of the body—there is no appearance of eyebrows or nose, the mouth is very large and wide, and similar to that of a baboon. His eyes are dull and heavy, and there is no indication of cunning or activity about them. Mr. Lincoln says he is beyond dispute carnivorous, as he universally rejects bread and vegetables, and eats flesh with great avidity. He thinks he is of the ourang-outang species, but from what we have seen, we are inclined to consider him a wild animal, somewhat resembling a man.”

He is, to say the least, one of the most extraordinary creatures that has ever been brought before the public, from any part of the earth, or the waters under the earth, and we believe will prove a difficult puzzle to the scientific. He lies down like a brute, and does not appear to possess more instinct than common domestic animals. He is now quite tame and quiet, and is only confined by a stout chain attached to his legs.

It is Mr. Lincoln’s intention to submit these animals to the inspection of the scientific for a few days, in order to ascertain what they are, and after that to dispose of them to some person for exhibition. Mr. Lincoln himself will return to St. Peters in the course of two or three weeks.

(End)

The reporter does not mention the “cubs,” which is somewhat unusual. Also the description of the adult creature’s hands and legs does not match what we believe to be those of the sasquatch. Further, to our knowledge, there were no other reports of the creatures, which would imply that the whole incident was a fabrication.



In the fall of 2000, this photo was taken of what is believed to be a Florida skunk ape. It is the only reasonable image of the subject. The best historical account I have of this creature took place almost exactly 100 years earlier. Here is the story.

Kissimee, Florida, September 28, 1900:

Great excitement exists here over the fact that a wild-man is roaming through the woods near here, and not a woman or child will venture out at night, nor half the men, excepting in company. One day last week Mrs. Arthur Shiver, who lives a mile from town, saw a strange creature skulking about near the house. It had the figure of a man about four feet high. It was without clothing and was covered with short, shaggy black hair. Its skin was red and the hair on its head was black and hung below its shoulders. It walked on its feet in a crouching attitude, and held between its legs a sort of stick, which it rode, as children do dragging one end on the ground. Its arms were long and the fingers looked like claws. Mrs. Shiver called to neighbors who were at the house and tried to catch the creature, but it bounded into a ditch and disappeared.

They tracked it up the ditch to a swamp, where it was seen crawling into a big bunch of palmettos. Search was made, but no further sign of it was seen. The creature’s track was plainly seen along the hard bottom of the ditch. It was about six inches long, with a deep imprint of the ball of the foot and a claw mark showing that the nail of the big toe was an inch long at least. The other toes protruded and left imprints like sharp claws. All the way up the ditch was the trail of a stick or something clearly marked in the hard sand. Three bloodhounds were put on the trail. Two of them paid no attention to it, but one, an

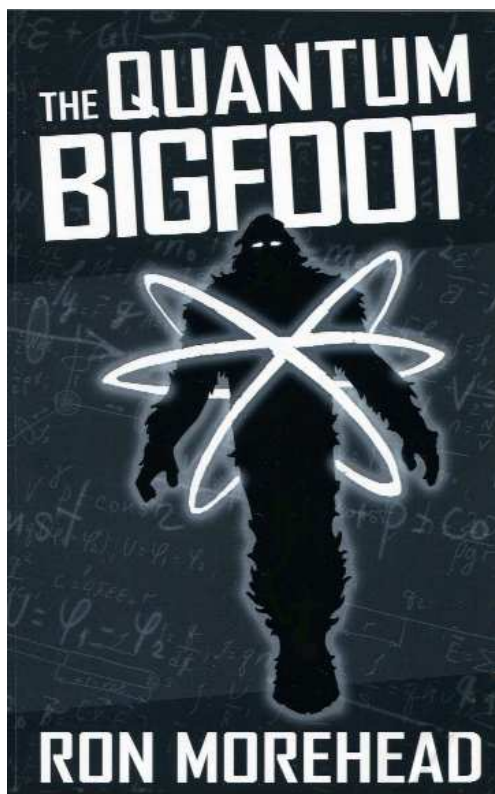
old hunting hound, bristled up, showing acute symptoms of fear and refused to follow. Before the monster took to the ditch Mrs. Shiver's daughter, while trying to cut it off at a fence came within a few feet of it unexpectedly and had a good look at it, and she said it growled at her and shook the club [stick].

The general opinion is that it must be a wild Indian. At the time it was seen there was a party of fifteen Indians at Lake View, not far off, but it is not supposed that the wild creature had any connection with this party. Several times dogs have found the trail near the town, but after following it a short time have returned with signs of fear and trembling, and no urging could set them on again. Reports have come in that the creature attempted an attack upon Bill Went's house, near Canoe Creek, and that Went shot at it several times before it left. It was heard to utter a kind of roar and seemed in a great rage when fired upon. A hunting party will set out this week in search of the monster.

(End)

Obviously the fangs seen in the photo make this creature different from a sasquatch; if indeed what we see is a skunk ape.

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Ron Morehead's remarkable book provides a possible insight into what I have termed the "missing piece to the

puzzle." I discussed this with John Green many years ago, simply saying we obviously don't understand something and that is why the sasquatch has eluded us for so many years. He totally disagreed; pointing out that we just need to "get luck." Well, René Dahinden, Dr. Grover Krantz, John Green, and now Dr. John Bindernagel have passed on and we are hardly much closer to resolving the sasquatch issue.

I have known Ron Morehead for a very long time and trust everything he says. He reports in his book that at his study camp high up in the Sierra Mountains he and his associates found footprints that measured 25.5 inches. The distance between the prints was 13 feet. That the prints could have been faked is considered totally out of the question.



For a footprint this size, based on what we know, then the walking height for the sasquatch would need to be at least about 12 feet.

By comparison, the Biblical Goliath was just 10 feet tall (maximum).



Thomas Steenburg found prints in BC that were about 18 inches long; over 100 all told. The sasquatch in this case had a walking height of 8.75 feet. I have also known Thomas for a very long time so don't doubt what he says.

The thought that homins this size are in our forests with only minimal detection is hard to take; despite how we rationalize the issue. Nevertheless, those are the facts, so resorting to the general scientific opinion that it simply can't be is also out of the question.

I certainly don't think this is a case of the "paranormal," it is just a case of the "normal" not yet discovered. It might have something to do with quantum physics as Ron offers; that's definitely a good start.

Even if one could put a number on the extent of universal knowledge, what we know would hardly register.

The dilemma in which we find ourselves goes much further than just large "unbelievable" footprints:

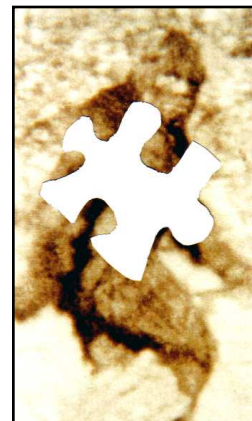
1. No bones in our possession
2. No tissue/hair in our possession
3. No confirmed sasquatch DNA
4. Only one acceptable film/video/photo
5. Only one instance of acceptable sounds

To make matters worse, there are yet other homins (yeti, yowie, yeren, alması) with even less evidence.

Essentially, all we really have is what people say they have seen along with some footprints that some scientists believe were made by a natural foot.

It appears we have been "spinning our wheels" for over 60 years with very little attention to the "missing piece in the puzzle."

None of us wish to resort to the paranormal for answers, and hoping that anthropologists will jump in and resolve things one way or the other probably won't happen. Is it feasible that the sasquatch is beyond anthropology? In other words, are we in the wrong department?



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A television film crew that included a former Playboy Playmate in a large recreational vehicle (RV) video-filmed a supposed sasquatch while traveling through Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park in northern California, August 28, 1995. The sighting occurred after nightfall, when the driver pulled into a side road. He alerted everyone to what he thought was a bear up ahead, illuminated by the vehicle headlights. It was then observed that the creature walked on two legs and had the appearance of a sasquatch, estimated at about 8 feet tall. The driver put the vehicle's lights on high-beam and the creature raised its arms defensively. At this time, it was about 15 feet in front of the RV. It then moved off into the forest, pausing once to glare back at the intruders. The photograph seen here is about the clearest image in the video. Unfortunately, some of the details the film crew reported are not seen in the video. The crew's cameraman, Craig Miller, took the 27-second video. We are told that the crew was constantly filming the sights, thus the reason for the quick action in getting the video footage. The film has been intently studied and cannot be proven to be either a hoax or authentic because of its poor quality. Some details seem to indicate authenticity, others the reverse. Oddly, the film shows the creature crossing the road from left to right and then re-crossing from right to left.

My analysis of the image is as follows. We believe that a sasquatch has a



5:1 head to walking height ratio. We can see the head reasonably clearly in the Redwoods image, so can simply give the height 5 heads to determine the ground level. We then compare the assumed full image to the sasquatch in the P/G film (Frame 323) to see how it matches up as provided here. It compares very well. The bulk is less because of the camera angle.

My conclusion is that what the film crew saw was probably a sasquatch. Were it a man, I would have to show a minimum of 7 heads, resulting in a human with legs that would be far too long. Just add 2 heads to the above image to envision what I mean.

The estimated height of the sasquatch was 8 feet; I don't think it was that tall, but definitely over 7 feet.

I went to the site of the filming some years later with Thomas Steenburg and



shown here is where we believe the incident occurred.

This is a magnificent forest. The first time I went through the area was in 1962; nothing has changed. A sasquatch could definitely remain concealed if it did not wish to be seen. I would imagine forest service people have seen sasquatch, but sightings would not be revealed for obvious reasons.