

Fred Beck & the Apemen of Mt. St. Helens

In the summer of 1924, Fred Beck, seen at left with his trusty rifle, and four other prospectors state they were attacked by a number of sasquatch. The men had been prospecting in the Mount St. Helens and Lewis River area (southern Washington State) for about six years. They had staked a gold claim, which they named the Vander White, about two miles (3.2 km) east of Mount St. Helens. Here, they built a cabin near a deep canyon. Occasionally, they saw large footprints, which as far as they knew did not match those of any known animals. The largest print they observed measured 19 inches (48.3 cm). One evening they heard peculiar whistling and thumping sounds that continued for about one week. Later, while Beck and one of the other men were getting water at a nearby spring, the two observed a strange creature about 100 yards (91.4 m) away. The other man took three rifle shots at the creature, which quickly disappeared. When it reappeared, about 200 yards (183 m) away, Beck also took three shots before the creature again disappeared.



Fred Beck, 1960s.

“He then shot his rifle along the ax handle, and the creature let go of the ax.”

After the other men were informed of this incident, all agreed to go home the following morning. That night, however, several of the creatures attacked the cabin. They started by pelting it with rocks. As there were no windows in the cabin, the men could not see the assailants. The men’s only view outside was through a chinking space. With the limited field of view and the darkness, nothing was actually seen. Later the creatures climbed on the cabin roof and tried to break down the door. The men fired their rifles through the roof and through the door. One creature even reached into the cabin through the chinking space and grabbed hold of an ax. Marion Smith, Beck’s father-in-law, turned the ax head so that it caught on the logs. He then shot his rifle along the ax handle, and the creature let go of the ax. The attack ended just before daylight. When it was light enough, the men ventured outside. A short time later, Beck saw one of the creatures about 80 yards (73.2 m) away near the edge of the canyon. He took three shots at it and saw it topple into the gorge, which was about 400 feet (122 m) deep. The men then hastily left the area without packing their supplies and equipment. They took only what they could carry in their packsacks.

There are claims that this entire event was a hoax played on the miners. However, there is no explanation

for Beck's claim that he shot one of the creatures. Beck later stated that the creatures were paranormal entities from another dimension.



Photo left: The Mount St. Helens/Beck incident was investigated and we are told a set of footprints was found, but no photographs were taken of them (one account states that they were of the same foot). This 1924 photo shows the investigators standing by the besieged cabin. From left to right: Burt Hammerstrom, free-lance writer; Bill Welch, forest guard at the Spirit Lake Ranger Station; Frank (Slim) Lynch, Seattle newsman; and Jim Huffman, forest ranger for the Spirit Lake district.

Photo right: Fred Beck (on the left) and one of the other miners, Roy Smith, went back to the cabin and took up positions within it to show newsmen and forest service workers how they stood guard against the attacks.

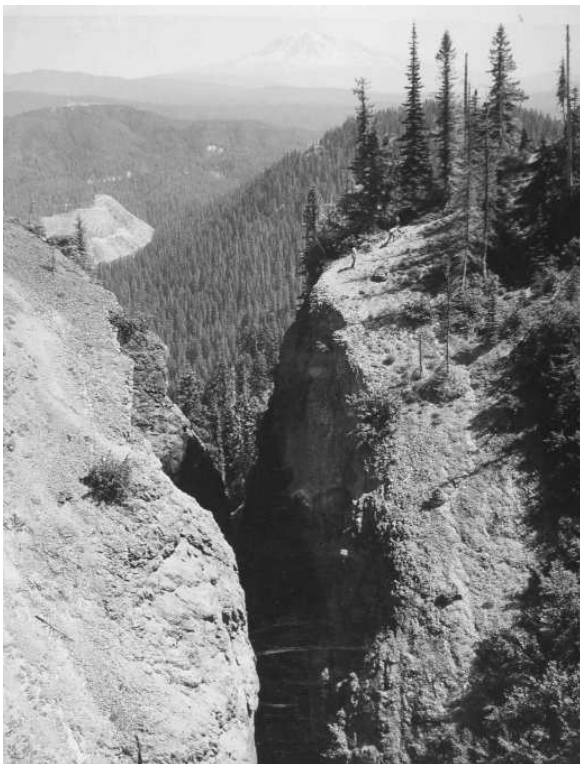


Photo left: The upper end of Ape Canyon, so-named for the unusual encounter.

Photo right: In 1967, Fred Beck, through his son, Ronald, wrote a booklet on his experience. The cover drawing is by Everett Davenport. Note: More about this booklet is provided in: Chapter 12: Between Two Worlds—The Paranormal Aspects.

