

## He won't rest until he discovers the Sasquatch

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first thing that startled me was it had breasts on it like those of a woman. They had hair on them also, except for the nipples which were black like the thing's face. While it was standing I could see the back of one hand and the palm of another and I could distinguish fingers. It had legs like a human and buttocks like a human."

After driving away from the scene of his experience, Herrington gathered two other members of his police force and drove back to the spot where they found footprints measuring 18 inches by seven inches in the soft shoulder of the road.

Although Indian tales tell of the fierce cannibalism of the Sasquatch, there is no evidence.

### *The creatures have been accused of cannibalism and kidnapping.*

In the cases of the Sasquatch spotted while eating, claims have been made to its preoccupation with roots and berries and balsalm buds. However, there were some stories of the Sasquatch eating rodents and field rabbits.

One was told by Glenn Thomas of a meeting with a Sasquatch near Estacada in the Northern United States.

Thomas was walking alone in the woods when he came across a rock slide where he was stopped by three large hairy creatures, two adults and a young one who were busily moving rocks around, apparently looking for marmots or rock rabbits, and eating them as soon as they were uncovered.

"They didn't skin them or anything, just crammed the heads in their mouths. Maybe they bit them in two. The little one didn't get any help from the adults, but had to fend for itself," he said.

The Sasquatch, through the hundreds of sightings Dahinden has on file, acted in a violent and aggressive manner only once, it was reported, in July 1924, in a canyon near Mt. St. Helens. The area has been since named Ape Canyon.

Fred Beck, who lives in Kelso, Washington, was travelling with three companions prospecting the area. They hadn't been there for six years and noticed several sets of large footprints.

"It was just after sunrise when we went to get water from a spring and we saw the first one; a big hairy face behind a tree. My father-in-law loosed three shots at it from a .35 automatic Remington. We figured the thing

had been hit in the head as the bullets creased the tree. When we got to the spot it had gone and we saw it running about a quarter of a mile down the canyon. We fired some shots at it but don't know if we hit it or not.

"My father-in-law was afraid they would come back at night. We went to bed in a cabin with no windows, which was made of logs between ten inches and two feet thick. Soon afterwards there was a bumping and banging on the roof. The chinking from one of the logs pushed through and landed on Smith's legs. Then a hand came through and grabbed an axe handle. I turned the axe head jamming it from being pulled through and fired up the handle after which it came free.

"Next we heard the things running around outside like a bunch of horses and then rocks were thrown on the roof and at the walls. Something tried to break the door down but it held. We fired shots through the walls where we heard the things. The noises went on to about 3 a.m. and we never saw anything because of there being no windows, just heard them."

The next morning the prospectors left early only to return and find the shack destroyed and provisions and tools scattered. They took two Portland, Oregon, detectives with them who found and measured four-toed tracks 19 inches long. They said the tracks were from bears.

One of the largest objections to the existence of the Sasquatch is the failure to find any of its remains.

Dahinden explained this. If the creature was man-like in appearance and intelligent, he said, then it could have hidden the remains of its companions where they wouldn't be found.

Another explanation was the remoteness and the extent of the Sasquatch habitat are such that man has never explored much of it. The final explanation Dahinden gave was the animals' corpses would decompose naturally.

### *... a hand came through and grabbed an axe handle.*

The most convincing and shattering piece of evidence about Sasquatch was Patterson's film. Its authenticity has been doubted by scientists; but not through sound arguments.

Patterson took his footage to the Universal studios in California so special effects masters could test it for authenticity. According to Gimlin their results showed:

"That the film was either real or cost a small fortune to make. They said they could not recreate such a creature with all their knowledge and even if they tried it, it would cost thousands of dollars."

### *The film . . . would have cost a small fortune to make.*

Another expert in anthropology, Professor Grover Krantz of Washington State University, explained the mechanics of the Sasquatch foot from the study of plaster casts made of tracks and the Patterson film.

"One gets the impression that the creature walks on slightly bent legs," he said. "If that is the case the impact on the heels should be less manifest than in a man's walk, and in the humanoids' tracks, usually rather even in depth, seem to corroborate this conclusion. While walking the creature swings its arms intensely, using them as walking beams as it were."

"The foot of the creature is flat, its width is greater than its length in proportion and it is generally bigger than man's. It has enlarged heels and ankle joints set relatively farther back forward along the length of the foot."

The scientist concluded the foot was highly similar to that of Neanderthal man, which was what most scientists called the Sasquatch.

They felt it was some isolated strain which never fully developed to the stage of modern day man. There was concern the Sasquatch may also have been Pithecanthropus (Java Man) or some mutation of the Neanderthal and Pithecanthropus man.

This could explain why some sightings of the Sasquatch differed in size - bulky - and in their hair colouring. However, skeletal remains of both these ancient men were too scarce to make any firm conclusions.

Rene Dahinden concluded the Patterson film was real.

"It was a hell of a shock when I first saw the film. After all this time I knew what the creature would look like but it still surprised me when I saw it," he said.

Dahinden's 20-year quest for the Sasquatch cost him \$20,000 as well as his marriage, he estimated. It was a case of either his family or the Sasquatch and he chose the Sasquatch.

"I don't know why I started looking for the creature, maybe it was just for the hell of it. But now

this is my life, everything I have is in the search for this thing," he said.

"There are a number of reasons to believe at least certain Sasquatch tracks could not have been made by hoaxers. Their obscure locations would mean that perhaps a hundred times as many tracks were laid as have been discovered," he said.

"Lengths of stride and obstacles stepped over surpass anything a man could do. Depths of the imprints would require a hoaxer to carry many hundreds of pounds of extra weight, thus making the walking accomplishments even more impossible. Independent toe movements as noticed in several of the tracks would require a special device to accomplish."

"To all these must be added the fact that our supposed hoaxer is an expert on human anatomy with a very inventive mind. He was able to create from nothing all the details of how a foot might be redesigned to support a body weight several times that of a man and has continued to plant these tracks over more than a lifetime, always showing only vague hints of these anatomical peculiarities."

"Even if none of the hundreds of sightings had ever occurred, we would still be forced to conclude that a giant bipedal primate does indeed exist and inhabit the forests of the Pacific Northwest."

### *The whole theory of evolution will have to be re-written . . .*

Dahinden was disappointed with scientists to whom he had shown his evidence. They did not even attempt to comply with his request to analyse the film and footprints, he said.

"The problem is the interpretation of the film. It must be analyzed over and over again. If this creature does exist the implications are staggering. The whole theory of evolution will have to be re-written," he said.

He said if there is another man-like creature alive and roaming the earth it would mean we wouldn't be the only products of human evolution and it would, in his words, "blow our minds." He planned to continue looking for a Sasquatch until he finds one and drags it before the scientific authorities.

"Something out there must be making those footprints and I won't rest until I find out what it is," he said.