

The elusive Sasquatch: will film evidence finally prove it's real?

A warm October day in 1967 had two men, Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin, riding along the dusty creek bed of Bluff Creek, in Northern California and searching for what they thought might be a Sasquatch - judging by the 18½ inch footprints left all over the soft sand of the creek.

The Sasquatch was to get the biggest boost to its claim of reality yet by the two men. They would be the first ever to capture the creature on film.

They enjoyed their ride until Patterson's horse spooked and threw him to the ground. Then an eight foot, 400-lb., hairy creature strolled out of the bush.

Patterson grabbed a small, 16 mm. movie camera and filmed the creature on 25 feet of film. It strolled past the men, turned and looked at them and disappeared

into the bush.

"We just happened to see it coming out of the bush about 90 feet from us walking past us as if we were part of the scenery. It was big, eight feet or so high and weighing about 400 pounds. It ambled along at a slow pace and had reddish brown hair covering most of its body except for its large swinging breasts and face. It was obviously a female and as it walked along it took one good long look at us then disappeared into the bush," said Gimlin, an Oregon rancher.

"By that time it had gotten away from us. We didn't chase it immediately because Roger didn't want to be left alone without his horse and by the time we started to trail it, it had gone," said Gimlin.

While Patterson was filming

the creature from a distance of about 90 feet, Gimlin got close, so close he said he could see its eyes.

The film itself showed in fascinating clarity the creature walking along the creek bed, oblivious to the two men, then turning to face the camera and disappearing into the bush.

Most of the footage was jerky and out of focus except for 30 seconds of film which showed the Sasquatch in full view.

Gimlin and Patterson made a set of plaster casts of the Sasquatch's footprints. Fully 18½ inches long and eight inches wide with five toes, the footprints are big and bulbous, much the same as a normal homo sapien foot except for the fallen arches.

The two men had been in the Bluff Creek area for close to 10

days after loggers had reported the presence of hundreds of Big-Foot (the American name given to the Sasquatch) tracks. It was on the tenth day they shot the film.

The film, however, did not make instant converts of the

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world's scientists or laymen. Instead, it brewed up more controversy.

The creature in the film was not a modern phenomenon brought out by men with nothing better to talk about. It was part of a larger story as old as the

Canadian government and business said to prefer j

When the Canadian government announced their intention almost a year ago to formally recognize the military junta which overthrew Salvador Allende Gossens's government in Chile, external affairs minister Mitchell Sharp said the move did not imply approval—it simply meant the Canadian government was moving to protect Canadian economic interests in Chile.

The Canadian government, in the year since the coup, has not only protected its interests in Chile but is rapidly expanding them. It is supplying credit and contracts to the junta—a move which can only help entrench it.

Canadian credit and manufacturing contracts with Chile were almost non-existent during the three years of Allende's rule, but have recently mushroomed.

Within weeks of the takeover the Canadian government approved a \$5-million export credit to Chile for the sale of DeHavilland airplanes to the junta.

The External Affairs department claimed the credit was approved under the Allende government in April of 1973 but was announced after the coup, six months later. The

economic imperative to proceed with the \$5-million credit could have been one of the reasons why Canada was so quick to recognize the junta.

Private Canadian banks also played a role in helping the junta consolidate power by granting a multi-million dollar loan to Chilean militarists.

Most Canadians never knew about this loan because it was never announced in this country, only in right-wing Chilean newspapers, anxious to impress the world with the financial aid the military junta was receiving.

The junta's economic entrenchment was further strengthened this past winter with a decision by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), of which Canada is a member, to grant a standby loan of \$95 million to the junta.

The dollar value of this loan was, however, far outweighed by the importance it attached to the international financial community's approval of the junta's economic plans.

In recent months Canada's complicity with the junta has become more profound.

In February, the Paris Club, a group of rich nation Chilean debt creditors, agreed to renegotiate

the terms of Chile's payment to assist the junta in its "reconstruction".

Chile's debt to Canada is held solely by the Export Development Corporation (EDC) represented by Finance Minister John Turner at the Paris meeting.

The EDC has not yet decided what interest rate to charge the junta and when Parliament opens the EDC's new allocation might allow it to make more export credits available to Chile.

Several days before the April 1 meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was scheduled to begin in Santiago, the United States (which controls over 40 per cent of the bank's voting power), pushed through a \$22-million loan to the junta.

Canada's representative on BID, Gerin-Lajoie, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) president, voted in favour of the loan.

BID announced a \$75-million loan to Chile on April 25, explaining the loan was under consideration during the Allende years but a decision wasn't made until after the coup. Canada again voted in favour of this loan.

CIDA announced in February it

would contact a seminar to stimulate investment by Canadian based companies in the Andean Pact nations of Latin America.

Despite opposition in Canada to government aid to the junta, Chile will be included as a representative in the fall seminar.

Statistics Canada announced Canadian trade figures indicate private business is buying a great deal more Chilean copper and selling an increased amount of mining machinery to that country.

Under Allende the private manufacturing sector of Canadian industry curtailed mining machinery sales to Chile severely affecting expansion of the Chilean copper mines which Allende had nationalized.

Just recently Falconbridge Nickel Mines made the Chilean government an offer to invest \$300-million in the northern part of the country to begin a new copper mine.

While Canadian investments and aid in Chile recently started to climb steadily they were almost non-existent during the Allende years. There are indications the government did not support Allende's presidency and followed the U.S. example in