



Creature Chronicles



Summer · Number 5

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Fouke monster is still alive and well

Arkansas, you should know that the Fouke Monster is still at large.

This famed creature has been the subject of countless stories, studies, and even a motion picture ("The Legend of Boggy Creek"). But somehow the monster continues to elude capture.

Named for the tiny southwest Arkansas community in Miller County, the Fouke Monster is usually sighted at night. It has been described as large and hairy, with fiery red eyes. People who have caught glimpses of the 'thing' say it looks like a giant monkey with long swinging arms and a swift, galloping gait.

The monster is said to weigh from 250-300 pounds and stand six to seven feet tall. Searchers don't have to be told they'll need more than a flimsy net to catch this monster.

The Fouke Monster seems to like animals because numerous pigs, cattle, and an occasional human or two have reportedly been accosted by the huge beast.

In 1971 Bobby Ford of Fouke was treated at a Texarkana hospital for several scratches and symptoms of shock after he reported being attacked by a "large, hairy creature" at his home.

Later that same year, a Texar-

kana couple reported seeing the monster as it ran across the highway in front of their automobile.

In 1977 a Miller County farmer checked on his pig pen and discovered the remnants of a small-scale attack. Several pigs had been ripped open and one carcass was found outside and away from the pen where it apparently had been dragged and abandoned.

So, if you're ready to start collecting unusual species in the state, Fouke, Ark., might be the place to begin. However, the Fouke Monster might have other ideas about that.

Source:

Arkansas Democrat
Little Rock, Ark.
10/25/81

Credit:

Lou Farish

Background

In his book, *Strange Creatures from Time and Space*, John Keel tells us that there's hardly a respectable swamp in the Deep South that does not boast at least one Abominable Swamp Slob. (A.S.S.) One of the most popular and sensationalized A.S.S. is that of the Fouke monster. In fact, this creature became so famous, that a movie was centered around it. "The Legend of Boggy Creek" was part fact, but was also fictional in nature.

John Green tells of 14 year old James Lynn Crabtree who witnessed a seven to eight foot, reddish haired animal in 1965 near Fouke. Crabtree claims to have shot the creature three times in the face, but with no effect. (1)

In May of 1971, the Ford family of the Jonesville area had a frightening experience with a large, hairy, unknown animal. The creature pushed its "claw" through the screen while Mrs. Ford was sleeping

on the couch. Mrs. Ford's husband, Bobby and his brother, Douglass, pursued the creature towards the woods. The Sheriff arrived and took casts of some unusual prints. An hour later, the same creature was back at the Ford's residence. When it was shot at, the animal again disappeared from view.

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Editorial

Hair Analysis; A Skeptical Viewpoint

In the past few years, there has been an enormous amount of articles in the tabloids concerning proof of Bigfoot. The stereotype headline always reads something like this:

"New Evidence; Bigfoot Exists!"

At first glance, the unsuspected reader will naturally believe this sensationalism.

A consistent point always raised is that of unusual hair samples found near a sighting. The article will go on to say that the hair was analyzed and it is of no known animal. Some tabloids will even go further and say that analysis proved that the sample is hair of some type of primate.

Last year, I wrote to the editors of the Weekly World News objecting to a piece in their June 16, 1981 issue. The lead-in sentence stated something like: **Astonishing new evidence-hair and blood samples prove Bigfoot Lives.** I finally received a reply from the editors, only to have them say that they felt the article was accurate.

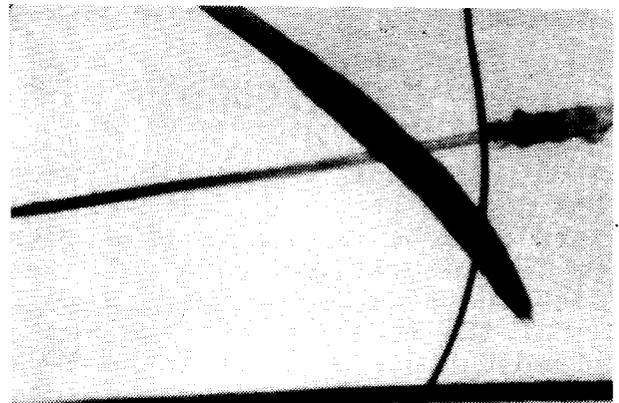
So, what is the procedure used for identifying hair from any unknown animal? The method is comparative study of the unknown sample with that of a known hair. Tools needed are a microscope and slide mounts. A 35 mm camera with an adaptor and a microscope lamp will allow a permanent record of comparison. (photomicrography) The photo on the right was originally a 2x2 transparency.

With the help of Mr. Ted Ogden, I

Continued on page 4

Bear

Unknown



Gorilla

Gorilla

x700

Photo Credit: Ted Ogden

CREATURE CHRONICLES

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to Ron Schaffner

Fouke; Con't

On May 2, Bobby was outside when he was grabbed and pulled to the ground. After a brief struggle, he escaped his assailant. He was later treated at a Texarkana hospital for scratches and shock. More footprints were found on the Ford's property. (2)

Later that month, on the 23rd, several motorists reported seeing a 6-7 ft. creature running across Highway 71. (3)

During 1978, several sections of Arkansas was experiencing the phenomena again. During March, footprints were discovered by Joe Cook, of Appleton. He and his brother had been prospecting about 45 miles north of Russellville. The prints measured about 17 inches long and 7 inches wide. Cook also made mention of several caves in the area. (4)

Meanwhile, 10 miles away, near Center Ridge, sightings were making news. Large footprints were present and several livestock were reported missing. (5)

On June 26, Mike Lofton of Crossett, Arkansas proved his courage by shooting at a 7 foot "something" outside his home.

The incident began as Mike was feeding his puppy, when it began to tremble. He then saw this thing coming out of the woods. The 10 yr. old then ran into the house and retrieved his father's .22 caliber rifle. He fired on the creature and it fled into the woods. (6)

Additional Information

We have made mention of some of the activity in Arkansas. There have been other sightings since the 1930's, when moonshining was a big business. During the years of 1969-75, the Fouke creature made news headlines all over the country.

On April 5, 1982, Gary Webster,



(KUFOIL) Earl Jones, and I had the opportunity of talking with Mr. Don Pelfrey, of Covington, Kentucky. Don has spent several summers at his relative's house. His Aunt and Uncle live about 50 miles east of Hope, near the Ozark Mountains and Black Lake.

Fouke Creek, which runs behind the house, has been the center of activity over the years.

Don's relatives, who wish to remain anonymous, have seen the creature on several occasions. They describe the "Monster" as a "gorilla type", except that it looks more human than animal. It's arms are much longer than a man and the face is covered with hair.

The manimal leaves 17 inch footprints. According to Mr. Pelfrey, one can see the lines on the bottom of the prints. The ball of the foot is more flat than a human and there is no indication of an arch.

"It is about 800 pounds and appears to be about 11 feet tall. It sounds like a bear with a screeching voice added", stated Don.

He also says that it leaves a bad stink, like that of a skunk.

Several animals have been found in a mutilated state, such as chickens, a calf, and prairie dogs with large lacerations. Don told us of one such incident on his Aunt's farm in July of 1977. His story is as follows:

next page:

Fouke Monster

"My Aunt Martha had two prize hogs that she always hand fed until they were a couple of hundred pounds.

Late one night, we heard such a calamity, that we ran to the back porch and turned the light on. When we checked the pin, both hogs were missing. There was no sign of blood or anything else.

While looking around the house, we discovered a hugh path through the weeds into the swamp. About five hundred yards away, we saw what was left of the hogs. There appeared to be large bites and scratches and the vital organs were torn out. The hogs seemed to be killed for sport rather than food.

The neighbors had two dobermans killed. Every bone in their bodies seemed broken. They were mutilated so rapidly, that by the time they got dressed and outside, the dogs were dead.

I believe this creature has become more aggressive due to more people venturing into the swamps."

Don went on to explain that the local authorities will not talk to anyone about the creature. In fact, they will chase you out of the county.

Hopefully, in the future, we will be able to accomplish field work in the area. Negotiations are in progress with Mr. Pelfrey's relatives, but they are dubious of a large investigative team on their property. They do not want their names associated with any investigation or newspapers.

We will keep the reader abreast of any recent developments.

References:

- (1) Sasquatch; The Apes Among Us
John Green
- (2) Arkansas Democrat; May 3, 1971
Fate; vol. 25 no. 3
The Sasquatch File; John Green
- (3) Arkansas Democrat; May 25, 1971
- (4) Daily Courier, Russellville,
Arkansas; March 12, 1978
- (5) Log Cabin Democrat, Conway,

Arkansas; March 13, 1978
(6) The News Observer, Crossett,
Arkansas; July 12, 1978

Hair (from pg 2)

will explain some of the real facts behind hair analysis.

Mr. Ogden collected various types of known hairs, such as gorilla, human, and bear. These specimens are then mounted with the unknown sample on slides. (see photo on page 2) A large assortment of magnifications is used to see any similarities or differences.

This process seems rather simple, but what happens if the unknown does match up with the control samples? Even if one had samples of 100 different mammal hairs, the possibility of a match is minimal. To make matters worst, a hair from one part of the body may not match-up with one from the leg or arm. A good example is the difference in hair structure on a man. The hair on the top of the head is not the same as a beard.

When an analyst compares the unknowns with samples in their collections, the statement about no known animals may come about. The tabloids have a long history of stretching the truth.

What is the validity of hair analysis when it claims proof of Bigfoot? I, for one cannot accept this process for hard evidence for the existance of this elusive creature, until we have a proven Bigfoot hair sample to use as a control.

Investigator's Tip C.J. Wilhelm

When obtaining or reproducing photographs and motion pictures, be certain that written permission is given. Verbal agreements are not legally binding.

Any witness or parties may object to your findings. In turn, they might insist that you are in possession of stolen property.

Have knowledge of the copyright laws.

Don't get burnt! Make sure of written OK and date it.

Bigfoot Rocks; Solved!

In the last issue of Chronicles, I briefly discussed the round rocks that were allegedly found in caves of the Cascade Mountains. Since then, two researchers have published undocumented conjecture about their origin.

We now know that the make-up of the rocks is sandstone. Igneous rock was ruled out due to the texture and the discovery of a plant fossil inside. (see photo) We managed to split the rock in half by heating it then quick freezing. Throwing one of the rocks out of a two-story building only dented the concrete.

Realizing that the roundness may appear odd to some, I sought the advise of my brother, Tom, who is a geology student at U.C. He submitted the following brief as to why the roundness occurs.

I have some information concerning the spherical sandstones found in Washington, which have been associated with Bigfoot.

According to two professors from the University of Cincinnati, these rocks are a product of "spheroidal weathering." All rocks exposed to water and air will physically and chemically decompose. Geologists call this process "weathering". Most rocks are weathered by running water, which tends to wear away sharp edges and impart a rounded shape. In some rocks, this process is carried one step further. The weathered surface slowly breaks apart, exposing a fresh surface, which also erodes and finally breaks. This process is akin to peeling an onion layer by layer. Over long periods of time, a sandstone becomes spherical.

It would be impossible to say that these rocks have anything to do with Bigfoot. Both professors I spoke with said that these types of rock are quite common and are frequently brought to them by people who think they are "fossil cannon balls".

Tom Schaffner
5/6/82

It has been printed that several of these rocks were found to have some strange symbols carved in them. These "glyphs" are speculated to be the result of a laser.

When we heard of this theory, I began a series of simple tests. We discovered instantly that any sharp object can cut through the outer layer. My hunting knife easily carved over 3 mm deep into the rock. We feel that the laser theory is absurd, considering that a simple human tool can achieve the same result!

We do not argue the possibility of the sasquatch using these rocks as weapons. It would be the perfect munition for the creatures, as some weigh from 5-40 pounds. There have been many documented cases where these animals have thrown rocks at witnesses.

Whatever the case, the Bigfoot Rocks are an earthly substance and there is nothing unusual about them, other than a geological wonder....RS

Bigfoot
Rocks

Photo Credit:
R. Schaffner



Bigfoot 'all my hoax,' logger says

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — At 86 and wanting to set the record straight, Rant Mullens says he created the Bigfoot of Mount St. Helens legend, using whittled wood for feet and public imagination for heart and soul.

His Bigfoot, believed by some to roam the forests around Mount St. Helens, is a hoax and the product of a practical joke six decades ago, Mullens said.

However, Dr. Grover Krantz, a Bigfoot researcher and an associate professor of anthropology at Washington State University, said Monday that Mullens' tall tale was only one of many — and a "particularly dumb hoax."

Krantz contends Mullens' confession adds credibility to the Northwest's sylvan legend because the St. Helens story didn't mesh with other sightings.

Mullens recounted his Bigfoot story in a copyright article published Sunday in the *Columbian of Vancouver*, Wash.

"If I don't set the record straight now, people will go on believing there really is a hairy monster," the retired solitary logger said from his home in Toledo, Wash.

"I tell you, people will believe just about anything."

Indian legends of the man-like beast, also known as Sasquatch, have been around for centuries. But accounts of "the hairy apes of Mount St. Helens" began in 1924 — after three miners from Kelso fled to a ranger station near Cougar, spinning an incredible tale of huge, hairy, apelike creatures that hurled boulders down on their cabin. They finally fought the monsters off with rifle fire, the miners said.

Their stories grabbed the public fancy around the world. Anthropologists swarmed to the area, hoping for a glimpse of the "mountain devil," or to capture the creature itself. The miners' sighting gave weight to subsequent Bigfoot reports from B.C. to Northern California.

But the real story, Mullens said, began when he and his uncle George Ross were returning from a fishing trip in 1924 and decided to throw a scare into some miners in the area.

"George was always playing jokes, so he

and I rolled some rocks down over the edge. Then we got out of there fast.

"When we heard that the miners were telling hairy ape stories, we both had a good laugh. We never told anyone the true story."

In 1928, Mullens and fellow Forest Service workers "thought we would have a little fun" while building a trail near what is now the Swift Reservoir.

With jackknife and hatchet, Mullens whittled out a pair of huge feet from some green alder wood from the banks of the Muddy River.

"Ned Packard held up his bare foot, and I drew a print of it and enlarged it," he said. "When the feet were finished, Bill Allen fastened some sticks to them (as handles) and stomped around some parked cars belonging to huckleberry pickers.

"When the pickers came back and saw

the huge footprints, they got out of there fast."

Mullens says, "I was born within 30 miles of Mount St. Helens and have worked in the woods here almost all my life. I have never seen anything there that I could not explain."

Mullens notwithstanding, Bigfoot won't die, says Krantz, co-editor of the book, *The Scientist Looks at the Sasquatch*.

"I always had my doubts about the miners' sighting," Krantz, who believes Bigfoot exists, said Monday. "It didn't follow the regular pattern.

"In other sightings, the Bigfoot was solitary, not in a group. And they don't normally attack or throw objects.

"If anything, (Mullens' disclosure) makes the Bigfoot thing a little clearer because a very deviant story has dropped out."

VANCOUVER SUN: WED., APRIL 14, 1982

Credit: Rene Dahinden

feedback

Recently, we received a letter from a Mr. Don Wallace of Seattle, Washington, who tells us of his unique experience in the North Cascade National Park.

"It was early September, 1978. I was deer hunting with my brother. We saw these tracks that were about 13 inches long and 7 inches wide. There wasn't much of a heel.

We never saw anything, but got spooked-out an hour later while on a deer stand. I felt the same sensation once when a cougar was around me. I got goose bumps on the back of my neck.

Later, I spotted a large trail, perhaps 6 or 7 feet wide. The weeds were smashed flat.

On another occasion, we heard calling and high-pitched sounds, like a kid playing Tarzan. We were certain that we were the only humans in the area, as the only route was an old logging road that runs about 22 miles into the North Cascade National Park.

We heard the brush moving, as if something was in a hurry."

Editor's Note:

This type of sensation that Mr. Wallace talks of is a common denominator in many of the Sasquatch encounters. As mentioned in my last newsletter, our team felt in a strange manner in the area of Brinson's Hollow, near Winlock, Washington.

Thanks

A real special thanks to Madeline Teagle and La Verne Davis of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio who were so kind to us during our visit to their meeting in February.

LaVerne publishes a newsletter entitled SYNTHESIS, that deals with Fortean events.

P.O. Box 936, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

Notes & Comments

Retrospective

THE MINNESOTA WEEKLY RECORD
January 23, 1869
Page 2, column 5

A GORILLA IN OHIO

Gallipolis is excited over a wild man, who is reported to haunt the woods near that city. He goes naked, is covered with hair, is gigantic, in height, and "his eyes start from their sockets." A carriage, containing a man and daughter, was attacked by him a few days ago. He is said to have bounded at the father, catching him in a grip like that of a vice, hurling him to the earth, falling on him and endeavoring to bite and to scratch like a wild animal. The struggle was long and fearful, rolling and wallowing in the deep mud, half suffocated, sometimes beneath his adversary, whose burning and maniac eyes glared into his own with murderous and savage intensity. Just as he was about to become exhausted from his exertions, his daughter, taking courage at the imminent danger of her parent, snatched up a rock and hurling it at the head of her father's would-be murderer, was fortunate enough to put an end to the struggle by striking him somewhere about the ear. The creature was not stunned, but feeling unequal to further exertion, slowly got up and retired into a neighboring copse that skirted the road.

Credit: Alan Woolworth/
via Mark Hall

Notice

The Hominid Research Group and the Ohio UFO Investigators League have their meetings on the third Saturday of the month at the Norwood United Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Earl Jones at: 513-841-1396.

Book Review

THE BIGFOOT CASEBOOK
Janet and Colin Bord
Stackpole Books

If one were to criticize this current work, the only fault would be the heavy use of previously published cases. Many incidents in this endeavor are abstracts taken directly from newspaper accounts and investigative reports from various persons and groups in Bigfoot research. Some listings were eventually proven to be hoaxes.

However, the important aspect to point out is that this book is an invaluable tool for dissemination of reports. All a researcher has to do is find the date of the sighting and refer to the chronological listings in Part II. The report is given in an abbreviated form with the source. If particular information is needed, than the reader can link themselves with the original source.

The Bigfoot Casebook has 1,000 recorded cases from 1818-1980. Part I deals with the more interesting and detailed cases. For this reason, the Bord's have eliminated those incidents of footprint finds, but no actual sighting. The reader will also notice the broad use of terminology that has varied throughout the years of eyewitness accounts. For example, Wild Men of the Woods: pre-1900 and Red-Eyed Monsters of the Night: 1966-1970.

Believers and skeptics alike will appreciate this reference book. I suggest reading it in conjunction with Alien Animals; another recent book written by the Bord's that discusses possible theories and intents of Bigfoot and other strange critters.

The Bigfoot Casebook is available through Stackpole Books, Cameron & Kelker Streets, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA. 17105. \$14.95 for hardcover; \$10.95 for paperback.

4-toed footprint story was hoax

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP) — An Associated Press story reporting the finding of four-toed footprints on a bank of the Concho River has been found to be a hoax.

The AP account Wednesday was based on a story in the San Angelo Standard Times. The Standard Times said Thursday that the story was fictitious and was printed as a promotion for the unveiling of a new city symbol, a "Concho Creature," by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce.

Credit:
Mark Hall

What has reddish-brown hair, stands a stocky 4 feet to 5 feet high and smells like a sewer?

That's what some folks around Vici, Okla., would like to know.

Billy Parry, a 15-year-old high school freshman, says he saw such

a creature while scouting for coyote tracks along Trail Creek near his home south of Vici. His family says it prowled on their property and near their house for more than a month this winter.

Hair samples found by Parry's house were sent to Hayden Hewes, director of Sasquatch Investigations of Mid-America, who says they look "very interesting."

Extra / Late News

'Olentangy monster' keeps hunters guessing

By DAVYD YOST

Police cruisers screeched to a halt, fire equipment pulled up with lights flashing, SWAT showed up and so did Columbus Zoo Director Jack Hanna.

Television and newspaper reporters were on the scene and a man with a brace of bloodhounds paced the banks of the river.

"It's a hippopotamus!" cried a police officer, eyeing a mysterious animal swimming in the Olentangy River near West North Broadway.

"It's a mountain lion," a bystander offered.

"No, it's an otter!" corrected the firefighters.

The whole circus began at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, when Columbus police received a call that a hippopotamus was swimming in the river.

Police immediately dispatched a helicopter, and the fire department sent a rescue squad and an engine company, including four men, a boat and an emergency medical coordinator.

24 Columbus Citizen-Journal

Mon., April 5, 1982

(Ohio)

Credit:
Tom Archer

Cincinnati Enquirer
April 13, 1982

But, like the Loch Ness Monster, the creature — whatever it was — vanished beneath the dark waters before anyone could positively identify it.

"Somebody got a look at it, and it wasn't as big as a seal," claimed battalion chief Gene Wedemeyer. "We thought it might be an otter."

And SWAT Officer Joseph Dickerson quipped, "We figured it was kind of far from the zoo. We thought it might be the Olentangy Monster."

He deferred authority to Hanna, who arrived on the scene shouting, "What is it, what is it?" as he crashed through the underbrush in the darkness.

When Hanna was told that it was probably an otter — an animal indi-

genous to the area — he collapsed with laughter.

"We counted our hippos (when the report came in) and we've got three, just like at 5 p.m., when we left," he said.

"And Pete's still in his grave . . ." he added, referring to the hippopotamus that died last month.

How had he intended to capture the "hippo," if one had indeed been in the river?

"I had no idea — that's why I brought my brother from Tennessee, he's a cow farmer," Hanna replied.

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