



# Creature Chronicles



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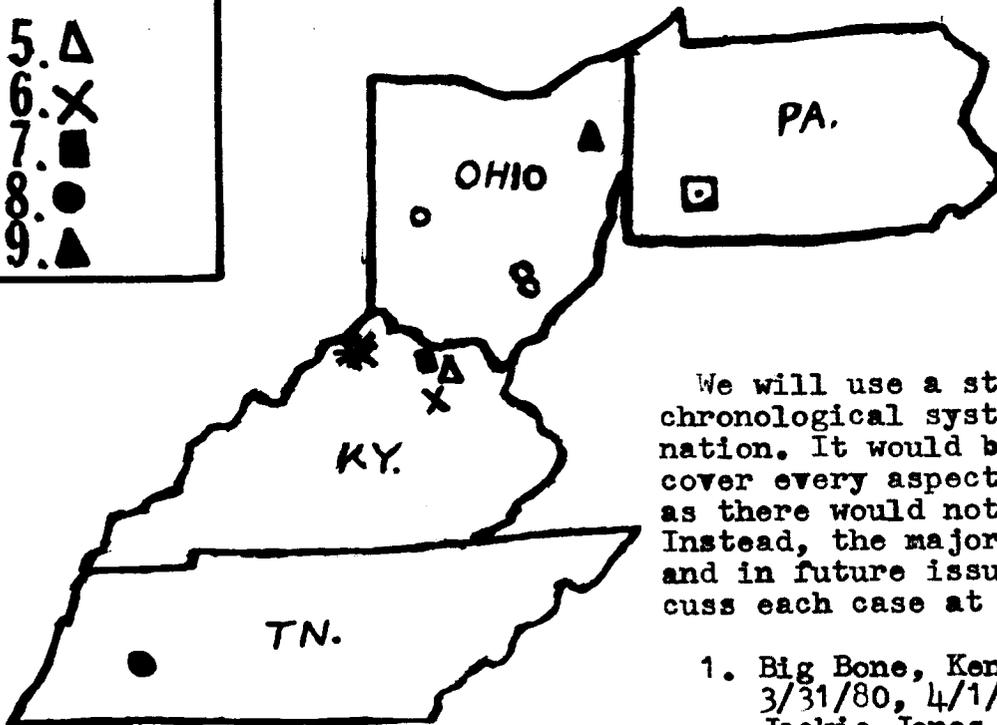
Spring

Number 3

1981

## 1980 BF ACTIVITY

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2. ○	7. ■
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We will use a standard type of chronological system for dissemination. It would be impossible to cover every aspect in detail now, as there would not be enough room. Instead, the major facts are listed and in future issues, we will discuss each case at length.

1. Big Bone, Kentucky (Boone Co.)  
3/31/80, 4/1/80  
Jackie Jones and Dave Stulz hear strange sounds and see a dark creature leap into the Ohio River.  
\* see Creature Chronicles #2

Continued on page 3

This map indicates the several alleged Bigfoot sightings in the Ohio Valley Region. There have been other incidents in North-Eastern Ohio, but since we have not received any documentation, they will at present be considered hearsay. It is our hope that some researchers will be more cooperative in the future and freely exchange information.

The following cases have been investigated by the Hominid Research Group or others in the field. This information was gathered by field investigations and newsclipping follow-ups. Some incidents have a high probability of hoax and will be discussed in this issue.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- \* 1980 Sightings
- \* Hoaxes
- \* Bearfacts
- \* plus other information and investigative tips

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\* The Hominid Research Group is a division of the Ohio UFO Investigators, Inc. and is affiliated with various other groups. Our research is based on factual investigative work, rather than rumors. All cases by us are done by experienced and well trained persons. Any serious researcher wishing to exchange publications, newsclippings, or cases, please write the editor.

# editorial

There is a certain element present during the investigation of Sasquatch encounters. This is a sociological enigma that I term the "Vigilante Factor". The term is self-explanatory, but allow me to site a few examples:

My first contact with the "Vigilante Factor" occurred in early 1975. A former OUFOIL man and I were checking on sightings west of Milford, Ohio. It was about 1:00 Am. We parked our car on a deserted road and were about to proceed on foot. As I opened the door, I saw a 12 guage barrel pointed at my nose. It took swift talking to explain our known presence. The man explained that his paranoia was due to the strange noises that he and his neighbors have heard in the woods at night.

Actually, this experience was our fault! Although we told the County Police of our intentions, we failed to notify the local land owners.

In 1977, local citizens of Eaton, Ohio formed a posse to track down a white ape-like critter that chased two teenagers into a soybean field. Our C.B. was jammed with Bigfoot reports. The entire area was packed with trucks, jeeps and hunters. They came with heavy armor and a hearty thirst for beer.

The gathering of evidence was difficult. We did find two exceptional prints, but think of all that was destroyed in the mass of boot prints and beer cans.

The situation in Vinton County was grave. This is explained elsewhere in this paper.

I see nothing wrong in firearms for your protection, but common sense should be a constant guide. Shooting up the forest can be fatal to wildlife and other outdoorsmen.



Team in Vinton County with Infrared spotting scope  
 Left to right: Bill Johns, Ron Schaffner, Earl Jones & George Greene

Cr. R.S.

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# CREATURE LISTINGS

2. West Mansfield, Ohio (Union and Logan Counties.)  
6/22/80, 6/17/80  
Ray Quay was unloading pigs about 11:00 PM when his dogs began to act up. Around the corner of his barn, he saw a large hairy animal. The creature fled through some waist-high weeds.  
Pat Poling was cultivating a field when he spotted an unknown animal walk upright out of the woods. Both witnesses describe the creature as a 7 feet tall hairy animal. Poling's encounter was at 9:30 PM. There are other conflicting reports in the vicinity, probably due to media response. There was one footprint find, but somewhat damaged.  
Source: Dayton Daily News 6/24, 6/29  
Investigated by Tom Archer
3. Conemaugh Township, Pennsylvania (Cambria County) Johnstown  
8/23/80, 8/24/80  
Frank and Jimmy Young were awakened by their dogs barking. There was a lot of heavy breathing outside the trailer. All noticed a strong odor. The next night was a repeat of the first. Family dog runs into the woods and is gone for several hours. When "Joe" returns, he is no longer vicious and refuses to leave trailer. Two footprint finds: 17½ inches long, 7½ inches wide and 3½ inches heel depth. The alleged creature has not been seen by anyone.  
According to John Ketwig, there are a lot of unsubstantiated and conflicting stories. Conemaugh Police have no reports of alleged dismembered canine. Jimmy Young is not credible and is prone to exaggerations.  
Source: Investigated by John Ketwig of MARCEN.  
Investigated by Joan Jeffers PCUFOR
- Ed. note: This incident has a high probability of hoax.
4. McArthur, Ohio (Vinton County)
- Southern Wayne National Forest.  
8/11/80, 8/24/80, 10/5/80  
(various other dates and times)  
Larry Cottrill and Rodney Peoples observe a large ape-like creature by their homes off U.S. 50. Cottrill claims to have shot and wounded the creature. Mr. Peoples says he has seen it on a couple of occasions.  
Hunters claim to have cornered several creatures near A-frame.  
Prints and tree markings found. Blood was discovered near prints.  
(see article on hoaxes)  
Source: Investigated by Tom Archer  
Field Investigations by the Hominid Research Group
5. Mayslick, Kentucky (Mason County)  
10/7/80 9:30 PM  
Charles Fulton and family were watching TV, when they heard a loud noise on the front porch. When Fulton peered out the front door, he saw a 7 foot tall, 400 pound creature with white hair and pink eyes.  
The creature was holding his son's pet rooster by the neck, then threw it against the house. Fulton followed the creature out back where he fired two shots with a .22 caliber pistol. Investigations show no evidence of family pet being harmed. Tree markings present. Fulton is credible witness. We actually believe he saw something, but unable to determine what at this time. There was a later sighting of a creature with the same basic description in vicinity. (see #7)  
Source: Investigated by Doug McGill, Reporter for WFTM, Maysville  
Investigated by John Daily  
Field Investigations:  
Hominid Research Group  
10/14/80
6. Flemingsburg, Kentucky (Fleming County) 10/11/80 8:30 PM  
J.L. Tumeay was watching the baseball game, when he heard strange noises on the back porch of his trailer. He

Con't. on next page

## '80 Reports Con't.

grabbed his pistol and went around back to investigate. Tumey saw what looked like a big dark man running towards the woods. He emptied his pistol at it than ran into the house for more bullets. He then saw the creature again by an old stable. He again shot his pistol twice, but missed.

Later, it was discovered that the freezer on the porch was broke into and some meat was removed and partially scattered outside. There was some unusual white hair found and a few ground impressions which could be footprints.

Fleming County authorities sent the hair to the State Police crime lab in Lexington for analysis. It was determined that the hair was that of a human. There had been reports of a prowler in the area and police believe that this incident was by this subject. However, one Fleming Co. officer told Doug McGill that more frozen meat was found a distance from Tumey's farm. The meat was found in half-eaten state and still half-frozen. There was evidence of the packages ripped apart in it's frozen state.

Ed. note: This is not the work of an ordinary criminal. Certainly, no human would care for frozen meat.

Source: Investigated: Doug McGill

John Daily KUFOIL

Flemingsburg Time Democrat 10/15

### 7. Maysville, Kentucky (Mason County)

11/5/80 4:30 Am

Noble Clay, an Alabama trucker was headed west on U.S. 68, when he saw a figure on the opposite side of the highway. He slowed down and turned his high beams; thinking that it was a hitchhiker. When he approached the object, he noticed that it was a 6-7 foot, hairy white color with an ape-like appearance.

After the sighting, Clay contacted some locals on C.B. channel 22 to see if there was a zoo or circus in the area. He believed that perhaps an ape had escaped. At this time the police were called and took Mr. Clay's statement and they filed a report. The police believe the man to be serious.

Source: Doug McGill, WFTM, Maysville

### 8. Big Sandy, Tennessee (Benton County)

10/12/80 10:30 PM

Larry Ross was headed home from work when he came to a dip in the road where a small creek crossed. When he drove up the incline, he saw a large black figure standing in the middle of the road.

He described the unknown as about 7 foot tall creature with 3 foot shoulders and a 16-18 inch chest. The head sat low over the shoulders with it's arms high above the rest of the body.

When Ross put his bright lights on the creature, it turned it's head away and walked over to some high weeds and soon was out of sight. Mr. Ross told Brent Raynes that some of his friends had also seen the creature while coon hunting. The description was the same, but with glowing red eyes. Vigilante Factor is high with various hunters in the area.

Source: Investigated by Brent Raynes, Waynesboro, Tennessee

### 9. Lisbon, Ohio (Columbiana County)

(not in order)

7/9/80 no time given

Sheriff's Dept. investigating reports of Bigfoot creatures about near Rogers Auction. Chickens missing, growling sounds and photo of a 15 inch footprint showed to a Deputy J. Smith. Something going through woods breaking off limbs of trees.

Also people hear strange noises at night; as if something heavy was lurking about.

Source: Lisbon Morning Journal

7/12/80 Cr. Vance Adams

Warren Thompson

via C.Cameron Bigfoot Co-Op  
12/80

Ed. Note: If anyone has more on this, send the info and I will exchange it for my report #009, Minerva case which occurred 20 miles to the west in 1978.

# Bearfacts

R. Schaffner

A majority of Sasquatch encounters and monster stories are misinterpretations of known animals. Given a particular situation, a witness may tend to exaggerate a description of a creature. This is not always the witness's fault, as any rational mind may play tricks in a state of fear.

Another example of misinterpretation was the Lewiston, New York case. Through correspondence with Dr. R. Thorington, of the Smithsonian Institute, we learned that the skull structure was that of a bear! Other evidence indicates a high degree of mutation. These oddities occur in all species of animals. A partially decomposed carcass will also alter the appearance.

One can soon realize that such a confusion between the local Bigfoot and a bear is very likely. The main argument is that bears are quadrupeds, while primates walk on two legs. (Biped) However, bears will motivate up-right for several yards when searching for food, eating, or if some unfortunate sole gets attacked by one turned predator.

The following information is based on statistics of the average bear species: Family Ursidae

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)

Description- Brown face with shiny black torso. Total length is 60 inches. The tail is about 5 inches with a 7 inch hind foot. The average weight is from 200-300 pounds. These mammals have short tails, small ears, long fur and walk on their entire foot, rather than on the toes.

Habitat- Found in forest areas, rough, rocky country, or in swampy areas. Each animal has a large home range.

They are omnivorous, which means they eat plants and meat.

During the winter, the black bear becomes dormant for a while, but do not have true hibernation.

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus horribilis*)

Description- Larger than black bear and the color ranges from light brown to black. The hairs usually have whitish tips. This animal has larger claws, a dish-like profile of the face and a hump on the shoulder. The total length is 70 to 100 inches, a 2 inch tail, with a 10-12 inch hind foot. The average weight is about 500 pounds.

Habitat- Similar to black bear, but the Grizzly is more associated with the Rocky Mountains.

Big Brown Bear (*Ursus middendorffi*)  
The description is similar to grizzly, but larger and brown only. This bear is found in the southern costal areas of Alaska.

Sources: "Mammals of North America"

Victor H. Cahalane

"A Field Guide to Mammals"

William Burt/R. Grossenheider 5



4/11/81 Earl D. Jones

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Recommended Book for field Investigators:

"Field Photography" Hardback  
Alfred A. Blaker

W. H. Freeman & Company 1976

This book is a must for anyone who does photo work on a case.

This technical and scientific source deals with equations, field and darkroom techniques as well as close-up and photomacrography. Great tips for photographing evidence.

# McArthur, Ohio Case: Hoax or Reality

R. Schaffner & E. Jones

The MacArthur sightings were probably the most talked-about case of 1980. The Columbus Dispatch and the AP wires were pouring out stories of hunters who believed to have found several Bigfoot creatures. The majority of the sightings occurred east of MacArthur, on U.S. 50, in Vinton County.

To make sure that you-the reader fully understand the scope of the situation, I will first present the background of the incidents. Secondly, will be our case documentation along with a few other sources. You will notice conflicting statements between the media and others involved. It is not our purpose to become a super-skeptic, but to explain all cases whether they be misinterpretations, unknowns or out-right hoaxes!

## Background

The first sightings were reported by Larry Cottrill who says that he saw three Sasquatch-like animals near his home and believes that he may have shot one in the shoulder. This was on August 24 and Cottrill has since moved out of the county.

The next sighting was made by Rodney Peoples, who lived across U.S. 50. He said that he had been hearing strange sounds for weeks. According to an article in the Cleveland Press 10/18/80, Peoples told reporters that he saw the creatures three times in the past weeks.

"It was right over there on that hillside. I'm saying 9 or 10 foot tall, and when it moved, it ran faster than any bear or human could", said Peoples.

That sighting was a dusk on 10/10/80. Peoples says that the sound is similar to a bark or growl, or sometimes even a "Chirping". Peoples and Dean Cottrill (Larry's brother) both agree that the creature leaves a cesspool odor.

Earlier in the week another story had developed. Robert Gardiner, Dean Cottrill, and Rene Debros had been hunting for the creature in the woods by a deserted A-Frame. Their story was printed in the Columbus Citizen-Journal 10/9/80. After finding a print, they decided to back-track. That's when they noticed blood dripping from the tree.

"We started looking around for something to take a sample,"-Gardiner. Then, we heard the first scream." The three then began to hear other sounds and began wondering if they were actually communicating. "Their bark sounded like a African silver-tip mountain gorilla", Gardiner stated. The article in the 10/10 edition of the Indianapolis Star was: HUNTER THINKS LAIR OF BIGFOOT IN OHIO. Gardiner, Peoples and others have found tracks just off U.S. 50. Some prints measured 17½ inches long and 9 inches wide. Casts were made and distributed between Cottrill, Peoples and Gardiner.

In the Columbus Dispatch 10/9/80, Gardiner was quoted as saying that he sent the blood samples to Wyoming for analysis and the results were that the blood was from a Primate.

Meanwhile, Dr. Gerald Svendsen, an Ohio University Zoologist had been doing some checking on his own. According to the Columbus Dispatch 10/13, the Dr. found too many things wrong with the prints and casts.

"All the footprints were dug out by hand-you can see where the sand was dug out. There are so many things wrong that anybody with any experience with functional anatomy or zoology would know. What we have hear is a small-footed Bigfoot with variable toes. Sometimes the toes point to the left and sometimes to the right. The tracks are about 11½ inches long, which would be extremely small for an animal reported to be 7-12 feet tall."

Dr. Svendsen was also shown scratches on trees. He said that they were not done by a primate, but with penny nails.

# Case Findings

Since this research group was busy in Maysville, we did not reach the Vinton county area until 10/18/80. The latest sighting was a week ago by Rodney Peoples.

Because of the already heavy media coverage, we decided not to tell anyone in the area of our presence. We did tell Vinton County deputies of our exact location; a deserted log cabin. We wanted to do a complete field check before talking to any witnesses and locals. Needless to say, many of the local hunters did find our camp and we discussed the various stories.

That night we set up our cameras with infrared film and connected them to a trip line which surrounded our campsite.

We talked with a Walter Coleman who owns much of the property by the A-frame. He told us that he had seen a bear and her cub about a year ago, but has not seen anything unusual. Coleman had been picking berries before our short interview.

"I've been out her most of my life and never seen an animal I couldn't make out", he said.

Of all the people we did talk with that night, nobody except Robert Gardiner ever heard any noises in the woods. Only Cottrill, Gardiner and Peoples reported seeing or hearing the creature(s). There is no way that we can prove nor disprove their statements.

As mentioned before, the press stated that Mr. Peoples had seen the dark form on previous occasions. During a taped interview with us on 10/18, he said he only seen it on the night of 10/10. Since it was several yards at dusk, he could not give any description, except a dark form. We feel that any large object seen at that distance and in darkness can constitute any animal. Even a man in an ape suit can give the appearance of Bigfoot.

We were shown several footprint casts that were in Peoples' possession. The print casts were 11½ inches long, with no heel or toe indentations, no arch and were extremely flat. The group feels that these prints are too small and flat to support a creature that reportedly weighs 400 pounds and 7-12 feet tall. We agree with Dr. G. Svendsen findings.

Peoples told us that the tree markings were done with a Phillips-head screwdriver.

There is no documentation to prove that the blood samples were that of a primate. Again, according to the newspapers, the blood was sent to Wyoming. There is nothing as to who did the analysis and where!

The print casts were all different shapes and sizes. Some had six toes, some five and some four. One alledged hand print has a striking resemblance of a child's baseball glove.

The toe configurations are not in proportion with the rest of the foot.



Casts of Rodney Peoples  
10/18/80  
Photo Cr.  
G. Greene

# Vinton Co. Con't.

# Late News

# Did Bigfoot visit Linton?

via Lou Farish

Many locals said that there had been zero wild-life activity. I guess they were not looking much, because we found evidence of white-tail deer, bobcat, racoons and a ring-tail.

We cannot dispute the sighting of an unusual animal, but the so-called physical evidence has been faked.

During the weeks, a lot of Ohio University students were having parties and stomping in the woods. The Vigilante factor was there, as usual.

Perhaps a third party was responsible for the phony evidence. Maybe even someone had a monkey suit and actually fooled Peoples and Cottrill. Nobody will really know for sure.

It has happened before:

On May 15, 1977, a Vancouver Bus driver and friend hoaxed an entire bus. They used a \$200.00 ape suite and shoulder pads.

One of these days someone will get shot and end up a "dead-ape".

### ONE LAST THOUGHT:

If states would pass laws against hoaxters, maybe it would stop this maddness; After all isn't fraud by deception against the law.

By Mike Waits

Someone is going to read this story and have a good laugh because they have pulled a practical joke on the people in this area. At least, I hope so. In my mind, I cannot conceive of a creature such as Bigfoot. Or could it be?

Anyway, following last week's snow, some strange footprints appeared in the Linton community near Lake Barkley. These impressions in the snow were about 18 inches long and perfectly shaped with toes and everything.

Residents of the area say Bigfoot has returned. Yes, returned. About three years ago, someone recalled a dog being attacked by a tall, hairy creature standing upright on two feet. Could it be?

From personal observation using outstanding tracking abilities (it was

easy in the snow), the footprints begin at a briar patch near the portable toilets at the Linton boat ramp on Lake Barkley. They twist and turn through the parking lot before continuing around the lake and up to Highway 164.

From that point, (I lost the track (my superb tracking skills again not to mention that I was out of time and almost late for the Chamber of Commerce meeting), but the prints stretched for about 500 yards. According to one report, someone had tracked the footprints for four miles, but that could not be confirmed.

From our information, Mrs. Lillian Dawson was the first person to notice the strange tracks and, not wanting to be laughed at, was not going to tell anyone until she saw a friend, William Bartee. After telling him about her find, they both followed the trail. Mrs.

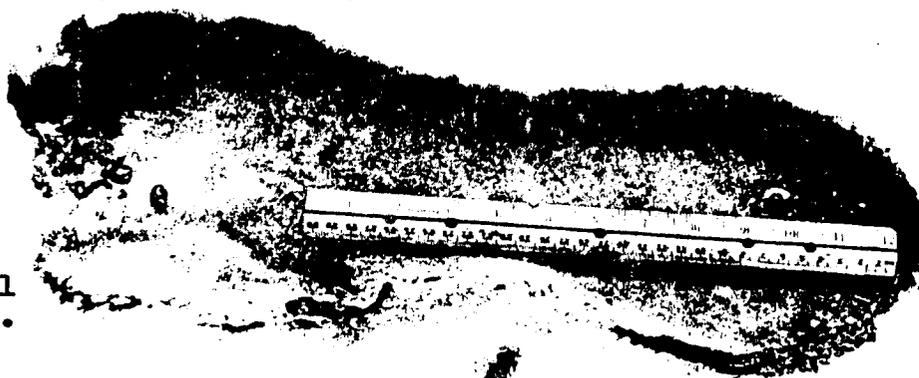
Dawson says there were no other footprints around.

After word got around, several others investigated the tracks including Rev Johnny Carr, myself and Dianne Ford.

At one point along the trail, the creature steps completely over a bush about three feet tall. Could it be someone on stilts? Maybe, but the depth of the impressions in the snow was deeper than any other human footprints near them.

Some residents of the area really believe they have been visited by Bigfoot, while others keep telling themselves that there is no such creature. But most believe it is the work of a practical joker that found these footprints in a gag store somewhere and has been waiting for the first snow. That's what I believe. Or could it be?

RECORD, Cadiz, KY - Jan. 15, 1981 CR: P. Guttilla

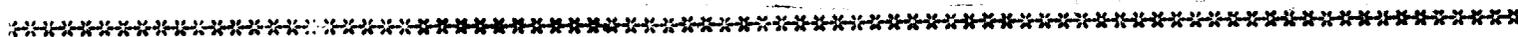


Under investigation:  
John Daily

*Bigfoot's big foot?*

8

YOU TELL ME WHAT MADE this footprint. The 12 inch ruler shows that the length is about 18 inches and the width about six inches at the widest point.



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