

“Do ‘Snowmen’ Really Exist?”:

1966 Yakima *Eagle* Article Containing Patterson’s Opinions on Bigfoot

Transcribed from microfilm and copy-edited to remove punctuation errors by Roger Knights

The following collection of Patterson’s opinions on Bigfoot appeared on November 30, 1966, in the Yakima *Eagle*, a short-lived right-wing weekly founded by millionaire Kwik-Lok inventor Floyd Paxton, who was involved with Roger Patterson. (As described in pages 220–21 & 223 of Greg Long’s book, *The Making of Bigfoot*.) (I’ve looked through all available issues of the *Eagle* by interlibrary loan and at the U. of Washington’s library but found nothing else like this.)

It was probably written by Paxton, as was the editorial response to an upset fundamentalist minister letter-writer the next week. Here are points that struck me:

1. Patterson’s statement that he was a rodeo cowboy from 1950–58 makes it unlikely that he’d have been hanging around a rodeo-related office and picked up a copy of *Amusement Business*, where Philip Morris advertised starting in 1966. (I’ve examined issues for several years prior.) And it makes it less likely that he’d have pretended to Morris that that was his job in 1967, as Morris claimed (*MoB*, p. 446).
2. He said, “Females average from 6 to 7½ feet tall and weigh from 400 to 600 pounds.” But his initial weight estimate of Patty’s weight was under 400 pounds, although his height estimate was well over 6 feet, IIRC.
3. He said, “They live to be quite old, probably from 200 to 300 years.” I wonder where he got that idea.
4. He hoped to capture a Bigfoot, which would require far more funding than a film expedition. Perhaps he was hoping to get money from Paxton. Or he may have thought that a captured Bigfoot could be exhibited at a greater profit than the licensing of a film, which might only catch a fleeting glimpse, or be jumpy or blurry, or both.
5. The caption of his Bigfoot sketch states that it represents Patterson’s conception of what a Bigfoot looks like. This counters the claim by skeptics that he had the Roe creature in mind as a model. This creature is taller, stockier, and male--and light-colored, like the Pettijohn Bigfoot, which is shown on page 178 of Chris Murphy’s *Bigfoot Film Controversy*. The two drawings are nearly identical. And their heads are not coconut-shaped like the Roe Bigfoot he drew, shown on page 101. His drawings of the Albert Ostman Bigfoots (on pages 114–21) were even less like his “conception.”

—Roger Knights



Do “Snowmen” Really Exist?

PREPARE YOURSELF FOR A SHOCK

According to Roger Patterson, a 33-year-old Yakima man, along with some of the top scientists of the nation, they certainly do exist. Patterson started his study as a skeptic and realizes many people find it hard to believe, but he states, “I know it seems fantastic to have giant hairy creatures roaming about this country, but if people could have been with me the past eight years, they would have no doubt about the existence of these huge creatures.”

WROTE BOOK

Now Patterson has collected the knowledge of his eight-year study into a book that was published in October, entitled “Do Abominable Snowmen of America Really Exist?” The book has drawn a great deal of interest in many areas and is available at all newsstands.

Patterson said he’s never met anyone who has come to believe the existence of “big foot” first off “unless he came face to face with one.” On the other hand, he has never found a person yet, no matter how skeptical, who didn’t become a believer after they really looked into the matter.

The former Yakima Valley College football halfback doesn’t mind being laughed at. He just wishes people would be willing to approach the subject with an open mind and give it some serious thought. Because, he states, “This is going to be the greatest scientific find in the history of mankind.”

ANY QUESTION

Patterson, who used to box for the army while stationed in Germany, is prepared for any question about the “big foot.” The one he always is asked: “If these giants do exist ... then why don’t people see them?” “That’s just it ... many people have seen them.... I have taped interviews with over 20 people that have, and literally thousands that have found tracks. Even at that I have just begun to scratch the surface,” Patterson says. “Many people are afraid to tell their story for fear of ridicule, otherwise I would have much more information.”

The Northwest, though no longer a frontier, still has lots of areas that are virtually inaccessible. Patterson believes it is these areas where the mountain giants dwell the most. “And they are nocturnal,” he said. “Most of them do their moving around at night.”

SQUAW MOUNTAIN

Patterson pointed to the Squaw Mountain area, 30 miles from Portland, where a West Coast airliner crashed earlier this fall. “It took them three days with planes and helicopters to find the wreckage, and they of course knew the flight plan of the jet. After

it was found the only way in was by helicopter ... and people still say, "Where would these giants hide?"

There are miles and miles of inaccessible woodland like that in the Northwest. One such place is around Mt. St. Helens in Washington State. Many sightings of the "big foot" there have caused people to name a canyon, in the high foothills, "Ape Canyon." The canyon is north of the town of Cougar and south of Spirit Lake just on the east side of the mountain.

Another point Patterson brings out, "most wilderness areas have many cougars around, but it is seldom that the most ardent hunter sees one."

Patterson, (who probably is better known as a rodeo contestant on the Northwest circuit 1950–58), plans to line up speaking engagements in the Northwest.

He spoke to the Yakima Bar Association and to the students at Yakima Valley College two weeks ago. He was impressed to find that most students were sincerely interested.

Some of Patterson's precepts about the "big foot" are:

They have many names tacked on by each area --- Northern Calif.—"Bigfoot", Indian name—Oh-Mah; Washington—"Giant Hairy Apes", Indian names—"Stick Indians" or "Seatco"; Canada—Sasquatch, Indian name—Bogs." All of the older Indians know of their existence.

They are usually not aggressive unless wounded.

They appear to be something between a man and an ape, even more primitive looking than the Neanderthal cave man. Adults are huge. Big males are between 7 and 9 feet tall and weigh 700 to 1000 pounds. Females average from 6 to 7½ feet tall and weigh from 400 to 600 pounds.

They seem to stay in families some, but not in large groups.

They are primarily vegetarians. "Big Foot" feces have been found in Northern California and throughout the Northwest and Canada.

The dwell mostly in rain forests but summer in higher elevations. During the fall they seem to descend to the lowlands and raid fruit orchards. Patterson says he has revised his earlier thinking that the aboriginal giant was strictly a high-alpine, mountain-peak creature. He now thinks the Bigfoot moves to different environments with the seasons. During the fall they have been seen in the upper Yakima Valley orchards near Cascade foothills.

Generally the "big foot" avoids humans.

They are found mainly in these states---California, Oregon, Washington, Canada, and Alaska.

Their senses are developed highly, making them very cunning and hard to locate.

But they are not of superior intelligence. Nor can one attach any religious significance to them.

They make a high-pitched whistling whine that is an eerie sound indeed.

They live to be quite old, probably from 200 to 300 years. This is one reason they have not become extinct.

Of their general habits we know little, however bits of information which is still slow in coming in is starting to form some type of pattern.

WHERE DID THEY COME FROM

seems to be one of the big questions asked of Patterson. He parries that this is to be answered by the scientists. Years ago in Northern China giant teeth and skulls were found that belonged to huge man-ape creatures. They were carbon-dated and found to be at least 200,000 years old. They evidently survived—walked across the peninsula that once existed to Alaska and made their way down into the Northwest.

Patterson plans an expedition next year to capture a “big foot.” If he is able to do so it will bring to a close the mystery of these strange giants once and for all.

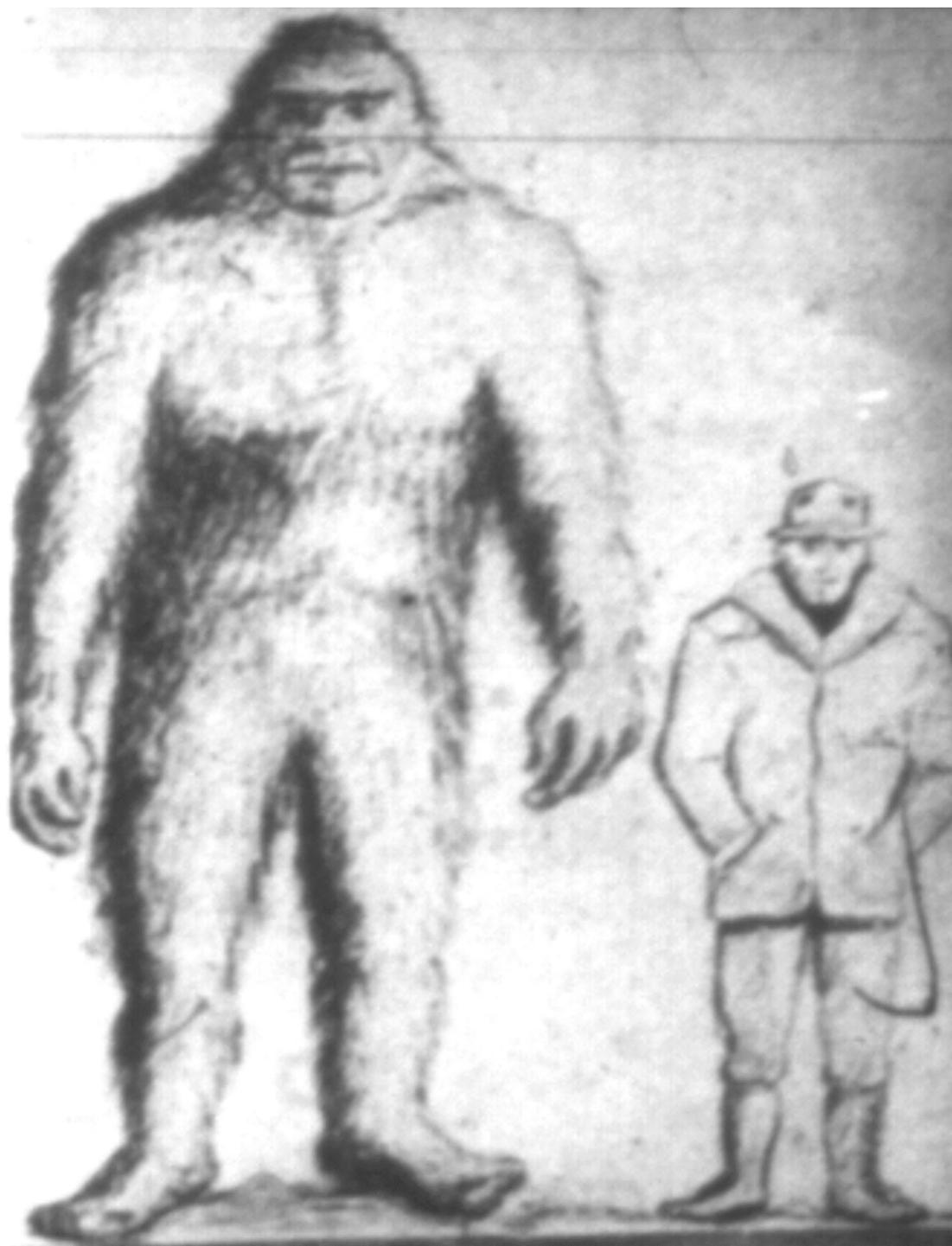


Here's a short link to the image below, so readers can examine it closely:

<http://goo.gl/p23Glc>

Link to Patterson's sketch of a Bigfoot alongside a hunter, with the newspaper's caption included for authentication that this was “Patterson's conception” of a Bigfoot:

http://i7.photobucket.com/albums/y254/RogerKni/Bigfoot/CaptionandclearPattersonsconception_zps6ed6b50d.png



Patterson's conception of the "Abominable Snowman" compared to average size hunter.