

Was There a Heironimus Apesuit BEFORE 10/67?

By Roger Knights 8/10/2016

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For a fast overview, read the Summary that starts on page 29.
(Note: “Wareheim” has been corrected to “Warehime” throughout.)

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Heironimus has implicitly denied being involved in ape-suit hoaxing around Yakima before the PGF was filmed. It’s implicit in his basic stance that he was naïve about Bigfoot until approached by Gimlin & Patterson. (However, he didn’t deny that explicitly, either in Long’s book or in a subsequent interview.)

And, according to Heironimus’s confidant “Kitakaze” in the BigfootForums (BFF) thread “The Hoaxing of Jerry Merritt” (which he initiated and which I quote from throughout, in purple), at <http://bigfootforums.com/index.php?/topic/50885-the-hoaxing-of->

[jerry-merritt/](#), Heironimus explicitly denied ever having a suit to show beforehand:

Kitakaze—The suit shown in the back of Opal's Buick at the Idle Hour was not shown by Bob Heironimus on any other occasion and that was the only time he had it to show.

But there is testimony that indicates that Heironimus showed off a suit from his trunk before the filming of the PGF, or that supports that interpretation. Here's what five Long-interviewees said:

A. Merle Warehime

Les Johnson—A person you ought to talk to is Merle Warehime. He's a realtor. He used to run the Circle Inn Tavern. He told me not long ago that the suit was in his tavern.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 328

Merle Warehime—Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the monkey suit. It was always a joke. So when it started getting blown out as it did, it was funny. But nobody said anything about it, because we didn't know if it would get Bob in trouble or not.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

As a subsequent quotation by Les Johnson on page 13 confirms, by “the monkey suit” Warehime was referring to the Bigfoot-hoax-sightings to the southwest of Yakima in 1966 & 1967, which were covered (“blown out”) in the media, mostly, I presume, radio and TV (because press coverage was nearly non-existent—I checked).

Greg Long—Les Johnson told me the suit was in your tavern.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

Not exactly—Johnson said that Warehime had **told** him (Johnson) that the suit was in his tavern—see the first quotation above (*TMoB*, p. 328).

Merle Warehime—“Well . . .” He lowered his voice. “I’m not going to comment on that.”

Long—You’re not going to comment?

Merle Warehime—No. You know, a lot of people seen it. I don’t know who ended up with it. I don’t know.

That sounds to me that he's implying: a lot of people saw it *elsewhere*, so get off my case. Continuing:

Long—I could see the suit was a sensitive subject, so I dropped it. But I suggested that Heironimus might have put on a costume to help Patterson convince the public of the existence of Bigfoot.

Merle Warehime—I don't think it's that complicated. I think it's a bunch of guys . . . It was kinda fun, go get drunk, put the suit on, and run out in front of somebody.

Long—He giggled.

Long—Les said the suit was in your tavern.

He stopped giggling.

Merle Warehime—Well, I don't want to comment on that. I heard that some guys had it there one night. I understand when I was gone for a couple of days, on a weekend, they had it there. But I don't know. I wasn't there. **Who cares?**

Greg Long—So you never saw the suit yourself?

Merle Warehime—In the back of the car, yeah. . . . I believe we were out in the Ahtanum [a river valley to the southwest of Yakima along which Patterson lived] by that old church. We was sittin' there. We was about to go Jeepin', and somebody had the thing. It was in a box there, you know. It was just in kind of a box in the back. I didn't pay much attention to it.

.....

Merle Warehime, paraphrased by Long—Although he believed that Heironimus had a blue Buick, he wasn't sure the car with a suit in it was a Buick. . . . Everybody knew Patterson and Merritt were trying to make a movie. "That's what they wanted to do, you know. **Who really cares?**" People laughed about it, joked about it, and we went to work."

Greg Long—Are you convinced that Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the Bigfoot suit?

Merle Warehime—Oh, yes. Yeah. That's the way Bob walks.

This "Bigfoot suit" just above refers to the suit in the PGF. In the previous part of this Q & A segment, on page 2, "the monkey suit"

referred to the one he saw while out Jeepin' during the earlier period when "Patterson and Merritt were trying to make a movie."

Greg Long—Warehime became pensive, then he said he found it fantastic that so many people who didn't know each other kept the fact that Heironimus had worn the Bigfoot suit "at a low profile."

Merle Warehime—No one, no one, talked about it. Very few people. We didn't even talk about it amongst ourselves, because everybody was kind of afraid that maybe, uh, it might get Bob in trouble.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, pp. 331–32

Observations on Long's interview of Warehime:

1. There were two occasions where Warehime said that people kept mum about Heironimus and his suit for fear that "it might get Bob in trouble." They shouldn't be conflated:
 - First, on page 331, in the second quote box under "Warehime" above, he was referring to "the monkey suit" that was used in roadside hoaxings. In that context, I think the "trouble" that people worried about was: ***If it came to the attention of the police***, Bob would be in trouble. (Especially if the police had investigated any of those hoaxed sightings. The police wouldn't have cared if he'd acted in Patterson's Bluff Creek filming.)
 - Second, on page 332, in the last quote box above, he was referring to the PGF. In that context, I think the "trouble" people worried about might have come from those owning rights to the PGF (e.g., DeAtley) or from the possible violation of some law or regulation that might prohibit hoaxing the public for money, such as for theater tickets. (Kal Korff, who wrote the foreword to Long's book, made such an interpretation and called for the prosecution of Bob Gimlin in the weekly appearances he made for a while on Rob McConnell's XZone late-night radio show in 2006 and 2007.)
2. The suit was in a box. No other suit witness mentioned that. This is consistent with Warehime's implication that this was a sighting at a different time and place from witnesses' sightings outside the Idle Hour or at Opal's place. That suggests that this event occurred *before* the filming of the PGF. (If one accepts

Heironimus’s claim that he didn’t have the suit *after* Patterson supposedly retrieved it.)

3. Warehime didn’t want to comment, played dumb (“I don’t know”), implied the matter was unimportant, and thereby seemed to wish the interview were over. In other words, Warehime behaved like a person who was hiding something.
4. Almost as clear is that **Warehime didn’t want to point the finger at Heironimus:**
 - When Long suggested that Heironimus might have been involved in roadside hoaxing, Warehime implicitly denied it or softened it, transferring responsibility to “a bunch of guys.”
 - When Long asked if the suit had been in the Buick, Warehime wouldn’t confirm it.
 - Warehime’s reference to the documentary movie production opened the door to the interpretation that Patterson and Merritt owned the suit, not Bob.
 - His admission that “everybody was kind of afraid that maybe, uh, it might get Bob in trouble” so “No one, no one, talked about it” might mean that he was *still* afraid that naming Bob might get him in trouble with the law—or might get Warehime in trouble with Bob or his friends.
5. Despite his cageyness, Warehime may have let one clue drop:

Greg Long—So you never saw the suit yourself?

Merle Warehime—In the back of the car, yeah.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

“The car”? Maybe alluding to the Buick?

Warehime’s remark that “Everybody knew Patterson and Merritt were trying to make a movie” (the Bigfoot Documentary) seemingly implies that his Jeepin’ episode occurred in the spring or summer of 1967. (The Documentary was shot, per Greg Long, in May or June of that year—probably over the three-day Memorial Day weekend, IMO, because the filming took three days, per Long.) At any rate, it occurred before the news of the October 20, 1967, Patterson-Gimlin film was circulating in the Yakima area, talk of which would have superseded a reference to Patterson’s Bigfoot Documentary.

When I called Warehime and asked for the names of suit witnesses, he rattled off the names of at least four persons in the Ridge Runners (a Jeepin' group) who very well might have seen it, but merrily added after each, "he's no longer with us." In effect, he avoided giving me the names of living witnesses. And he didn't specify where they might have seen it: outside the Idle Hour or on a Jeepin' adventure.

And his evasiveness went further. As soon as I pressed for sensitive details, he got antsy and repudiated ever seeing the suit! (And that after initially confirming it to me—and despite the fact that Long presumably has his words on tape, in addition to being in the book.) Then he terminated the call. Based on that, I suspect he knows more than he's telling.

If Warehime would go to such lengths as flatly contradicting himself to me, to avoid undermining the credibility of Heironimus's claim, he'd likely have denied having had the suit in his bar to Long, even if he had.

This is consistent with what seems to me like a general attitude in Yakima of avoiding knowingly implicating Heironimus in any funny business that might make him look less credible or get him into trouble (or get *them* in trouble with local public opinion). E.g., some other witnesses or possible witnesses I talked to were also evasive, or became so as I pressed further, or they got pushback after I posted their testimony on BFF:

- Paul Falon, one of Heironimus's two roommates for years ("I don't know anything about a suit or the film"),
- Les Lenington, initially ("I've forgotten everything"),
- Les Johnson ("talk to Warehime"),
- Bob Clem ("I have to live in this town"),
- Don Trammel ("I wish I'd never spoken about this"),
- Bernard Hammermeister ("I don't want to talk to you"—after he'd done so),
- John Miller (who didn't return my call: "he's very shy"—Bob Heironimus explained to me),
- Marlene's Upper Valley Press (which gave me a runaround when I tried to obtain back issues of Jim Pearson's interview with Heironimus; interviewer Jim Pearson sent me a digital copy of it),

- **and others** whose names I can't remember at the moment who were chilly when I asked for leads.

B. Les Lenington

A summer date for Warehime's witnessing is consistent with what Les Lenington told me in 2006, which I quote below. **First, here's some background.**

Bob Clem told me Lenington had seen the suit and that he was a **successful businessman, orchardist, and classic-car collector,** with many valuable items in his collection.

Lenington is mentioned in passing in Long's book (*TMOB*, p. 406). (For Clem, who gave me the lead to him, see *TMOB*, pp. 328–29.)

He was in his mid-70s when I called, I think. He was emphatic and colorful. **I got the impression that he is a real "character."** He told me at the start that he was recovering from a bad reaction to a medicine he'd been prescribed, as a result of which he'd **"forgotten everything."**

So I talked to him about his cars for a while. **He told me that he shared his passion for hot-rods with Heironimus, and in the sixties had employed Heironimus, his brothers, and his friends as workers in his orchards.** (This may have been weekend or evening work during the harvest season—I didn't ask.)

Then the dialog, from my recollection, went like this:

Roger Knights—Do you remember that Heironimus drove his mom's **blue Buick?**

Les Lenington—[brightly and spontaneously] **Yeah, that's the one!** We hot-rodders had our cars on blocks half the time, so we needed a back-up car to get around in.

Roger Knights—**Did you see a Bigfoot suit in its trunk,** as others have reported seeing?

Les Lenington—**Yes, that was when the boys were off in the woods making that Bigfoot film.**

—Phone interview of Les Lenington by Roger Knights, early 2006

By **"that Bigfoot film"** Lenington meant the **"documentary" that Patterson was filming** near the South Fork of the Ahtanum Creek, near his home:

Long—It [Patterson’s Bigfoot documentary] was shot in May–June 1967.

—Greg Long, “Q & A—*The Making of Bigfoot*,” item #13–10, at <http://www.rense.com/general51/q.htm>

In Long's speech to the International Bigfoot Society in March 2004, he specifically said, “May.” I suspect the filming occurred over the three-day Memorial Day weekend at the end of the month, because Long said somewhere three days were devoted to it.

Lenington told me that he saw the suit in Bob’s left-open trunk, rather than being given a private peek, suggesting that others working there, especially those working as partners with Heironimus like “Clarence” (*TMoB*, p. 406), could have seen it too. Long should call and asked “Clarence” if he did see it, if he hasn’t already done so. (Hmm.) Or Kitakaze should do so.

Maybe Lenington probably saw the suit in the early fall of 1967 (harvest time). That time would be a good fit with “the boys . . . makin’ that Bigfoot film.”

When Heironimus called me in April 11, 2006, and I cited Les Lenington as having seen the suit, he implicitly denied it, saying, “Only six people saw the suit.”

C. *John Ballard*

John Ballard had heard rumors of Heironimus’s earlier suit-possession, which hearsay is not as strong evidence as Lenington’s:

Greg Long—During this period of time, were you aware of any local Bigfoot sightings in the Ahtanum Valley area?

John Ballard—Yep.

.....

Greg Long—The Ken Pettijohn sighting was one. Patterson reported it in his book. The sighting occurred about a month before the book was released. This was the sighting Bob Heironimus had voluntarily mentioned when I first phoned him.

Ballard recounted the sighting for me: the Yakima high school boy driving home and coming face-to-face with a gigantic man-like figure covered with silvery white hair in the middle of a road in the West Valley area during a lightning storm.

Ballard said at about the same time, “things” started happening up around Tieton, twelve miles northwest of Yakima. Bins of apples were mysteriously turned over at the edge of wheat fields and in apple orchards. Ballard’s uncle, who worked in Tieton, informed him that something was tramping on and spoiling the apples.

.....

Another sighting happened around the time of Pettijohn’s encounter. Supposedly seven people saw a Bigfoot near a store located at the Y where the Summit View extension branches off of Summit View. The creature walked right across Summit View Road and into an orchard.

.....

John Ballard—There were a lot of things going around about Bigfoot then.

Greg Long—He stroked his goatee and looked at me with a cagey expression.

Greg Long—Ever hear of a man running around the Yakima area in an ape suit?

John Ballard—“Yes,” he answered quickly, and he knew who was supposed to have worn the suit. But he didn’t know the facts. “I heard they even found the suit in the trunk of his car.”

Greg Long—Who was it?

John Ballard—Bob Heironimus. I never did confront him with it. He was a good friend of mine.

.....

He set the glass down and told a story that could have been, he admitted, a rumor. Some teenage boys and girls were on a ditch bank in the orchards one night when a silvery hairy creature appeared and almost scared them to death.

John Ballard—Not long after they found a suit in the trunk of Heironimus’s car.

Ballard’s fleshy lips parted into a grin. Ballard’s impression was that the boys at the ditch knew the creature was going to show up, that the encounter was “a put up job.” The incident occurred after the Pettijohn sighting, probably in the late fall of 1966.

A fact sprang forth in my mind. Pettijohn's creature, Patterson had written in his book, also had "silvery, white hair." It was an interesting coincidence.

Greg Long—How well did Bob Heironimus know Roger?

John Ballard—He knew Roger well.

Greg Long—Was Heironimus capable of running around like a Bigfoot in the Yakima area?

John Ballard—Not beyond him. I think he did it to scare people.

Greg Long—Could he have jumped out in front of Ken Pettijohn?

John Ballard—I've often wondered.

Greg Long—As he often wondered, he said, about why the Summit View Bigfoot sighting, in daylight, and at the exact time when workers in the orchard were getting off work, shortly after 4:00 P.M.

All the Bigfoot sightings in the West Valley area occurred in the same year [1966]. Ballard smiled.

Greg Long—You think Bob Heironimus had anything to do with them?

John Ballard—Could be, but I don't know.

Greg Long—I asked if Roger could have convinced Heironimus to wear a suit.

John Ballard—He might have.

Greg Long—"Do you think Bob Heironimus might have been performing certain activities for Patterson?" His brow wrinkled as his pale brown eyebrows lifted up.

John Ballard—I've heard rumors, yeah.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, pp. 230–32

D. Jim Falon

Greg Long—Curiously, locals were now reporting Bigfoot west of Yakima.

Jim Falon—We’d never seen no Bigfoot, or nothin’, in our whole lives, and all of a sudden here on Wide Hollow, just below the school, there’d been a sighting one night. Everybody’s laughing, ‘Honker [Heironimus], you got to stay in the cage. You can’t be out running around anymore.’ There was always comments like this.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 408

That sounds as though Heironimus was widely suspected of hoaxing sightings in 1966. Long wrote, on page 232: “All the Bigfoot sightings in the West Valley area occurred in the same year,” which was 1966.

Continuing from the extract above:

Greg Long—And what was Bob’s reaction?

Jim Falon—Bob was kind of quiet. He didn’t come out and boast or brag about it, because it was kind of a hush-hush deal.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 408

That might mean, IMO, that his roadside hoaxing was a “deal” being done for Patterson, perhaps on his promise to pay him eventually.

Note that Heironimus didn’t deny the accusation.

But, by ignoring the context of “a [local] sighting one night” and “You can’t be out running around anymore,” and the adjacency of his follow-on comment about “hush-hush” to that context, it could be twisted into an allusion to being silent about a role in the *PGF* instead. That’s because two persons to whom Heironimus confessed, Bernard Hammermeister and Russ Bohannon made the similar point that Heironimus also wanted no publicity about his *PGF* suit display, in hopes of obtaining what Hammermeister called his “payola.”

E. Les Johnson

Note: despite Long’s once sort-of implying Johnson was a suit-witness, he was only a borderline eyewitness:

Les Johnson—I was in the Idle Hour Tavern in Wiley City. There were fifteen or twenty guys, some of the guys that hung around with Roger. The guys were drinkin’ and talkin’ about things they had been doin’. Bob Heironimus said that in the back of his Buick—he had a blue Buick—was an ape suit, or a suit. They were talkin’ about this suit. Someone said, ‘What are you talkin’ about?’ And someone said, ‘Go and look in the back of Bob’s Buick.’ The

guys were teasing each other about it. Everybody in town talked about it. There were lots of guys who sat around and talked about it.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 47

That doesn't sound like the night of Heironimus's return from Bluff Creek, because, first of all, Heironimus told me there were "only six" witnesses that night. (AFAIK he used the words "only six" when he spoke to Kitakaze, too.)

"Showed six" (see below) sounds like a by-invitation event that happened within a short period, or short periods if the six were given separate private peeks, not a long-time come-one, come-all open-trunk evening that Johnson seemingly described.

Further, those six were in the dark until Patterson announced his filming, so presumably it didn't become the talk of the town until two or three weeks later.

Heironimus—Because six people saw the suit, and it leaked out after that.

—Tom Biscardi Internet radio interview, section 12-KK,
March 14, 2007

Heironimus—when I got back from down there with the suit in the car I went up to the local water hole where all those guys hang out around here and I showed six guys.

—Second XZone interview, section 13-N, August 6, 2007

It's unlikely that nine or fourteen others would have passed up the opportunity to see such a sight—especially after the first viewers had returned and said it was really there.

That interpretation is supported by Johnson's remaining words:

Greg Long—I probed deeper his memories of this event. He [Les Johnson] recalled that among the onlookers grouped around Heironimus's car were the Ridge Runners, members of a jeep club. Johnson was either walking toward the tavern or leaving it.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

I suspect that few of the six witnesses Heironimus invoked regarding his supposed October 1967 suit display were members of the Ridge Runners. E.g., not Bernard Hammermeister or Gary Record; and probably not all three of the rest. Perhaps there were only two (or fewer)

off-road vehicles among the six of them. We'll know if Kitakaze finds out who they were and tells us.

Second, the Les Johnson passage seems to be suggesting that “everybody in town was [**already**] talking about it” (the suit), presumably as a likely explanation for the recent past sightings in the locale, not in the PGF.

Third, Heironimus was explicit about what was in his trunk: “Bob Heironimus said that in the back of his Buick—he had a blue Buick—was an ape suit, or a suit.” But he claimed, on the “Lie Detector” TV show (see paragraph #1, below), that “I didn’t tell them what it was.” Continuing:

Les Johnson—I heard them talkin’ when I went by. They were laughin’ and gigglin’. They were makin’ fun of this suit, like, ‘**We’re going to fool everybody.**’ I mean, I got that opinion. But **you couldn’t fool us.** We all lived here. The monkey suit is what **they called it.** **There’s four Heironimus boys.** Bob. And Bill. Bill worked for me for a while. Then there’s Howard and Mike. **The Idle Hour Tavern’s where we’d go to congregate, lie to each other, and tell these big stories and try to make out like we was somethin’.**

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

1. By “**We’re going to fool . . .**,” the members of the jeep club seemingly referred to a future event that they were involved in, e.g., a roadside hoaxing that night or that week. They didn’t likely mean that the PGF was going to fool everybody, because Heironimus hadn’t told them about his suit’s link to Patterson or the PGF at that point. Heironimus acknowledged they were unwitting:

Heironimus—I lifted the trunk up and said, uh, take a look at this. **I didn’t tell them what it was . . . I said just look at this** and do not forget what this looks like. Well, two or three weeks later, out came the movie, you know, on the television, the film. They said, ‘Ah ha! That’s what you were doing,’ you know.

—“Lie Detector,” PAX network cable TV show, section 9-D,
May 17, 2005

2. By “. . . **fool everybody,**” the members of the jeep club meant the motorists they pranked and those who heard the motorists’ accounts, mostly via media (I presume radio and TV) publicity about such events.

3. By “**you couldn’t fool us,**” Johnson meant the skeptical cowboys from the hills like himself (see the continuation of this quoted dialog below for more detail) as opposed to the drugstore cowboys and Roger’s friends at the tavern.
4. By the “**they**” in, “The monkey suit is what **they** called it,” Johnson referred to the hoaxers in the Jeep club. This “they” included Heironimus, because:
 - The suit was seen in his car, per John Ballard, above.
 - “The monkey suit” is the item Warehime referred to, where he said, “Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the monkey suit” (*TMoB*, p. 331).
 - Johnson’s next sentence, “There’s four Heironimus boys” suggests he was specifying who the “theys” were—or some of them, anyway. Heironimus was enthusiastic about Jeeps (see the quotation below) and presumably kept up contact with members of the Ridge Runners.

Greg Long—In high school and after graduation, Bob’s favorite past-time was cars. “I got hot rods and fixed them up and sometimes sold them,” he remembered fondly. “I got a jeep when I was sixteen. [About 1957] That was the first thing I ever owned.”

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 369

- The boldfaced “**we’d**” in “where we’d go” seemingly specifically referred to, or at least included, Johnson and the “four Heironimus boys,” in the sentence, “The Idle Hour Tavern’s where we’d go to congregate, lie to each other, and tell these big stories and try to make out like we was somethin’.” That also implies Bob Heironimus was something of an exaggerator and yarn-spinner.
- Heironimus’s Jeep reference just above fits in neatly with Warehime’s account that I quoted on page 3, above. Warehime said, “We was sittin’ there. We was about to go **Jeepin’**, and somebody had the thing [the suit]” and “It was kinda fun, go get drunk, put the suit on, and run out in front of somebody.”

Greg Long—Do you remember any discussions about Bigfoot or Bigfoot pranks?

Les Johnson—All the time.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

“All the time” would have included 1966, since Johnson was referring to local sightings, as his remaining dialog makes clear:

Greg Long—Inside the tavern?

Les Johnson—Everywhere. It was just a hoax to me. And the group that we run with were all cowboys. We were up there in the hills runnin’ cows, and you never seen any of those guys [i.e., Bigfoots or guys in Bigfoot suits] up there. It all took place down at the gab station [the Idle Hour Tavern].

Greg Long—The hullabaloo occupied the minds of many of the locals.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

This “hullabaloo” sounds to me like a reference to the local sightings & footprint finds in 1966 and the discussion of them that persisted into 1967, not to the PGF. Another quote from Long's book nails down those years:

Greg Long—I told [Jim] Nolan that [Bob] Clem had remembered the media running stories between 1966 and 1967 regarding Bigfoot sightings in the Ahtanum Valley.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 330

Greg Long— . . . in 1966 he [Clem] started working for KIMA-TV.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 329

So Clem was in a position to be aware of media stories on the topic from 1966 onward. Continuing:

Greg Long—Who is this Bob Heironimus?

Les Johnson—Well, I think he works for Pepsi Cola. He must be getting old enough to retire. He apparently carried this thing [the suit] around in his car for a long time.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

“ . . . for a long time.” Heironimus could have been driving a 1967 Buick for a year before the filming of the PGF, because it would have been available from dealers in the fall of 1966, as was standard practice. (Incidentally, Heironimus didn’t describe that car as “brand new”

anywhere, even in his interviews, although Kitakaze quoted him as saying so.) It was Heironimus's "get-around car," according to Les Lenington, so its trunk could have become notorious around town before then as the suit's repository.

Greg Long—Do you know what Heironimus looks like?

Les Johnson—He had a glass eye. He'd pull it out and put it in his ten cents glass of beer just to make people laugh, as a joke. They'd do anything they could to get attention.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, pp. 47–48

Hmm . . . :

- "we'd . . . lie to each other, and tell these big stories and try to make out like we was somethin'."
- "They'd do anything . . . to get attention." (That would have included the Heironimus boys.)

Heironimus's Response? Evasion . . .

Greg Long—I also asked his opinion regarding Les Johnson's and Merle Warehime's statements that he showed the suit to a number of bystanders at the Idle Hour Tavern and boasted that he'd worn it for Patterson.

Greg Long—Did you frequent the Idle Hour Tavern?

Heironimus—Oh, yeah. That was our hangout.

Greg Long—What happened next?

But at this point, when we're on the edge of our seats, Heironimus changed the topic (see below), or Long omitted his answer—and this key question was never revisited!

Heironimus—I tried to run into Roger and Bob a couple of times, Bob especially.

Greg Long—So they'd give you the money?

Heironimus—I may have asked Bob, 'Am I ever going to get paid?' [Etc.]

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 351

. . . and diversion:

Heironimus—I have heard that there was a couple of other suits. Some friends of mine that used to work for Roger said that

they used to put a suit on and jump out in front of cars on different places, you know. Course they never got paid either,

—Second XZone radio show, section 12-HH, August 6, 2007

This implicitly denies, without outright saying so, Warehime’s statement that *Heironimus* was the guy in the monkey suit roadside hoaxings in 1966 & 1967 (*TMoB*, p. 331)—see page 2 here. And it points the finger of suspicion elsewhere—at two unnamed friends who worked for Patterson. But, if Heironimus wants to be believed, he should name those friends (at least to Long or Kitakaze, so one of them can check them out), and also try to name the places and times of their hoaxings.

BTW, one candidate is “Clarence” (pseudonym) and his brother. Long said that “Clarence” and his brother worked for Patterson for two months in 1969, interviewing “alleged bigfoot witnesses.” “Clarence” said:

“Clarence”—We got three hundred dollars a month [for both of them, I presume]. And subsistence pay, which we didn’t get. A lot of time we ate crackers and ketchup because we couldn’t get no money.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 406

Heironimus strongly implied above that Patterson paid them specifically for hoaxing. (He has wiggle room to deny that, though; he could say they were paid for other work.)

But the misdirection didn’t stop with Heironimus. Consider how Long spun the testimonies of Warehime & Johnson later:

Greg Long—I sat and thought. Les Johnson and Merle Warehime had themselves said, independently of each other, that they had been physically present outside or near the Idle Hour tavern when they had seen or heard talk that the suit was in the back of a car; next to that car stood Heironimus, who said that he had worn the suit in the Patterson’s film.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 358

There are four misleading statements in there. First, here’s what Johnson actually said (to repeat):

Les Johnson—I was in the Idle Hour Tavern in Wiley City. . . . Bob Heironimus said that in the back of his Buick—he had a blue Buick—was an ape suit, or a suit. They were talkin’ about this suit. Someone said, ‘What are you talkin’ about?’ And someone said, ‘Go and look in the back of Bob’s Buick.’ The guys were teasing each

other about it. Everybody in town talked about it. There were lots of guys who sat around and talked about it.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 47

1. So Johnson had *not* quoted a statement by Heironimus that he'd been in the Patterson film, which Long had insinuated. (This can be fully proved by reading all Johnson's relevant testimony (*TMoB*, pp. 47–48).)

And here's what Warehime actually said (to repeat):

Greg Long—So you never saw the suit yourself?

Merle Warehime—In the back of the car, yeah. . . . I believe we were out in the Ahtanum [a river valley in southwest Yakima, the locale of Patterson's home] by that old church. We was sittin' there. We was about to go Jeepin', and somebody had the thing.

.....

Merle Warehime, paraphrased by Long—Although he believed that Heironimus had a blue Buick, he wasn't sure the car with a suit in it was a Buick. . . .

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

2. So Warehime had quoted no statement by Heironimus that he'd been in the Patterson film. Warehime only *inferred* that Heironimus had been Bigfoot because of the way he walks (*TMoB*, p. 332; here, p. 3); he never said he'd heard Heironimus claim he'd been Bigfoot in the PGF.
3. Warehime's sighting wasn't "outside or near the Idle Hour," but "by that old church," miles away—see Ahtanum Creek in the map in Long's book (*TMoB*, p. 6). (By "outside or near" Long was insinuating either near OR outside, and thus by "outside" anywhere in the general vicinity, including places that were *not* near, like "out on the Ahtanum.")
4. Heironimus wasn't observed standing at the car.

These negatives can be proved by reading Warehime's whole testimony (*TMoB*, p. 331–32). Long over-reached.

F. Multi-Interviewee Considerations

Only two of the five interviewees I've mentioned here tied Heironimus to Patty: Warehime (page 3) and Johnson (next page). And they did so on the basis of thinking their gaits are similar—not because they tied a suit display of Heironimus's to news of Patterson's filming shortly thereafter. I.e., they were just speculating.

Not one of those five mentioned the PGF in the context of “the monkey suit” or “the hullabaloo.”

On the contrary, they made specific statements tying “the suit” or suspicion of Heironimus's suit wearing to *local* events, at other times, not to his supposed 10/67, Idle Hour suit display:

Greg Long—So you never saw the suit yourself?

Merle Warehime—In the back of the car, yeah. . . . I believe we were out in the Ahtanum [a river valley to the southwest of Yakima along which Patterson lived] by that old church. We was sittin' there. We was about to go Jeepin', and somebody had the thing.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

Roger Knights—Did you see a Bigfoot suit in its trunk, as others have reported seeing?

Les Lenington—Yes, that was when the boys were off in the woods making that Bigfoot film.

—Phone interview of Les Lenington by Roger Knights, early 2006

Jim Falon—We'd never seen no Bigfoot, or nothin', in our whole lives, and all of a sudden here on Wide Hollow, just below the school, there'd been a sighting one night. Everybody's laughing, 'Honker [Heironimus], you got to stay in the cage. You can't be out running around anymore.' There was always comments like this.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 408

Greg Long—Do you remember any discussions about Bigfoot or Bigfoot pranks?

Les Johnson—All the time.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

Greg Long—Who is this Bob Heironimus?

Les Johnson—Well, I think he works for Pepsi Cola. He must be getting old enough to retire. He apparently carried this thing [the suit] around in his car for a long time.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

Heironimus initially denied involvement in the PGF to local inquirers for at least a year, according to statements he's made in Long's book and in interviews. I suspect that the supposed 10/67 suit events occurred at other times and weren't related to the PGF at all.

I suspect that his acquaintances' awareness of his roadside hoaxing role and his association with Patterson's Bigfoot Documentary led to them to assume that he played the role of Patty in the PGF. The following statement suggests that they kept pestering him to admit it:

Long—I questioned Johnson further [i.e., after he'd finished talking about local events—RK] about Heironimus, but he could supply little else.

Les Johnson—Nobody can convince me otherwise—Bob Heironimus was in that suit [in the PGF]. We kind of tormented him. If you ever watch Bob walk, he's got the same "drag" they've got in that picture [Patterson footage (Long's note)] He's got a gimp. It's kind of a waddle

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

I suspect that eventually he succumbed to "the fatal temptation to swank" and "confessed" to them. In time, maybe he worked himself up into half-believing it himself. And here we are.

G. Kitakaze on John Ballard

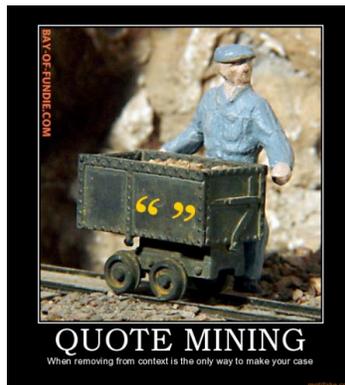
Kitakaze has his own interpretation of the meaning of those quotations above. In a BFF thread titled, "The Hoaxing of Jerry Merritt," on BFF's "pages" 1 & 2, he quotes and speculates as follows (Kitakaze's comments are in purple throughout; their URL is on page 1):

Kitakaze—Ballard then relates to Long the story of teenage boys and girls were on a ditch bank in the orchards when they were

nearly scared to death by a silvery, hairy creature. He then states after telling this story...

[Quoting:] JB [John Ballard]: "Not long after, they found a suit in the trunk of Heironimus' car." [(TMOB, p. 232)]

Kitakaze—Note that Ballard claims no direct experience of this nor any details in the colouration of the suit. He is relaying a rumour heard about Heironimus having a suit in the trunk of his car, which despite the grapevine garbling, is undoubtedly the suit in the trunk of his mother's blue Buick shown at the Idle Hour Tavern after returning to Yakima from California.



Not so fast with that “undoubtedly.” Here’s the full quotation. (It’s from my page 8, above, and from TMOB, p. 232):

Ballard—“Not long after, they found a suit in the trunk of Heironimus' car.” Ballard’s fleshy lips parted into a grin. Ballard’s impression was that the boys at the ditch knew the creature was going to show up, that the encounter was “a put up job.” **The incident occurred after the Pettijohn sighting, probably in the late fall of 1966.**

So Ballard’s “not long after [late fall of 1966] they found a suit in the trunk of Heironimus' car” implied a date about ten months before October 1967, which was when Heironimus (supposedly) “returned to Yakima from California.”

Later on, Kitakaze continues his argument thusly:

Kitakaze—Ballard then goes on to speculate about other sightings that all occurred in 1966. Again, he has no direct experience or link to Heironimus and the basis for his speculation is founded solely in the core story of a suit being shown in the trunk of Heironimus' blue Buick.

And:

Kitakaze—it is quite clear Ballard has grapevined together elements of the Ken Pettijohn encounter story and melded them with that of the PGF suit being shown in the trunk of Opal Heironimus' Buick by Bob at the Idle Hour Tavern.

In the two quotations above, Kitakaze asserts (e.g., “It is quite clear”) that Ballard conflated different events, because “he has no direct experience or link to Heironimus.”

But what if Ballard had an *indirect* link? That wouldn't count for nothing, in my view. What if he'd heard a tale from witnesses to suit displays such as:

- Heironimus's co-workers at Lenington's?
- The Ridge Runners at the Idle Hour? (Implicitly, from context, per Johnson, this occurred in 1966.)
- Patrons of the Circle Inn (per Warehime)?
- Witnesses at other bars or workplaces that Long didn't hear of, but Ballard did?

And what if Ballard heard of suit displays from more than one such source? Then he wouldn't have been *just* “speculating.”

Of course, Ballard's mightn't have been a one-link indirect connection. It might have been a friend or relative of a witness—a two-link connection. Or it might have been an acquaintance of one of those second-link connections—a three-link connection.

Is it likely that Ballard had such an indirect link? Probably, IMO. In a close-knit community, among co-workers and fellow partiers and Idle Hour regulars, even a three-link connection wouldn't have been a baseless urban legend. Presumably a friend-of-a-friend would have specified how he learned what he was relating—i.e., who told him.

So it's not “clear” that Ballard has “melded” two events ten months apart. Rather, it's somewhat murky what he knew, like much in the PGF story.

Kitakaze—The suit shown in the back of Opal's Buick at the Idle Hour was not shown by Bob Heironimus on any other occasion and that was the only time he had it to show.

It appears that Kitakaze's claim in this paragraph is the basis for the claims in the prior two comments—that Ballard's reference *must* be the supposed October 20, 1967, suit display at the Idle Hour. But how does

he know this? Because he believes Heironimus's denial that he ever displayed the suit at some other time.

(Incidentally, Heironimus is not on record as explicitly making that claim. Did he actually say so to you, Kit, or is that your inference? I'd like to be able to cite Heironimus as saying so.)

But can we believe Heironimus? No, because:

1. There is testimony the suit was shown at the Circle Inn tavern. (It was on the east side of Yakima, IIRC from my Google Maps search, probably over seven miles from the Idle Hour.) Merle Warehime said:

Greg Long—Les [Johnson] said the suit was in your tavern.

Merle Warehime—I heard that some guys had it there one night. I understand when I was gone for a couple of days, on a weekend, they had it there. But I don't know. I wasn't there.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

2. Les Lenington (see page 7 here) told me Heironimus had displayed the suit to him in his apple orchard around “when the boys were off in the woods making that Bigfoot movie [in late May 1967].”

I posted my interview of Lenington on BFF in 2006. If I'd made that up, I was taking a big risk, because anyone could have looked up “Lenington's orchards” in the phone book and given me the lie. As far as I know, Lenington didn't recant. (I couldn't find the URL for the BFF thread in which I posted that interview, despite having premium membership giving me access to BFF 1.0. It's probably the fault of my outdated browser.)

I wasn't the only person who's said that Lenington had seen the suit—so did Bob Clem, who gave me the lead to him. Unfortunately, I can't ask him to back me up, because he's no longer with us. Perhaps his widow or other relatives might remember him mentioning Lenington's sighting to them.

(Although he may no longer be with us, I have Lenington's private cell phone number and will PM it to Kitakaze, if he wants it.)

Lenington's might have been the showing that Ballard was alluding to. There were others working alongside Heironimus at that orchard, according to Lenington, so if they'd all seen the suit they'd have spread the word.

One such co-worker was “Clarence” (pseudonym), interviewed by Long on pages 406–07. But Long never asked him if he’d seen the suit himself, for some reason.

I suspect Long *did* ask –why not?—and didn’t see fit to print the answer he got. (Or maybe “Clarence” covered for Heironimus.) Prometheus or Long needs to release the transcripts of Long’s interviews, so we can see if there were any such strategic omissions.

If Heironimus did indeed display the suit at Lenington’s, it’s likely he displayed it elsewhere, to others, too, before the filming of the PGF. This would have been the basis for the “rumors”—actually, if so, well-founded suspicions—in the Idle Hour and around town that Heironimus or an accomplice had been hoaxing local roadside sightings.

(In addition, I located three witnesses who told me they were shown the suit *after* the filming of the PGF, which would also discredit the claim that the suit “was not shown by Bob Heironimus on any other occasion.” But I’ll defer discussing that tangent until another time. It would take too much space and distract us from the focus of this Item.)

H. Kitakaze on Merle Warehime

Next, Kitakaze turns to Merle Warehime:

Kitakaze—The details he [Warehime] shares about the suit being shown in the back of the vehicle right before going Jeepin’ match to Les Johnson’s own account of Warehime’s Ridge Runner’s jeep club being present when the suit was being shown in the back of the Buick.

Possibly the Warehime suit sighting did occur within hours after the suit display event at the Idle Hour that Les Johnson described, and so there was a “match” in that sense.

But:

1. The event Johnson described occurred in the midst of the 1966 local area roadside sightings, as I argued above on page 14.
2. The showing Warehime described wasn’t **at** the Idle Hour, as I explained above, in my point 2 on page 3. To repeat: Warehime said, “I believe we were out in the Ahtanum by that old church. We was sittin’ there.”

BTW, that “sittin” clashes (slightly) with “grouped”—i.e., standing—which is how Les Johnson described his encounter.

Greg Long—I probed deeper his memories of this event. He [Les Johnson] recalled that **among the onlookers grouped around Heironimus’s car were the Ridge Runners, members of a jeep club.** Johnson was either walking toward the tavern or leaving it.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

3. The Ridge Runners were only “**among the onlookers at the Idle Hour.**” **But all of the onlookers out by “that old church . . . about to go Jeepin’” would have been Ridge Runners.** (Plus maybe a guest or two.)

Later (in the Hoaxing of Jerry Merritt thread) the following objection was raised:

Neanderfoot— . . . It doesn't matter a **** if there were allegedly a number of people involved too [out on the Ahtanum Jeepin’]. One of them was Heironimus according to Warehime.

But Neanderfoot made an assumption: that Heironimus wouldn’t have let the suit out of his possession—that’s how he figured that Heironimus was present. That’s a reasonable assumption, especially if, as I argued on page 4, “Warehime didn’t want to point a finger at Heironimus.”

But it might not be true. Heironimus might have lent out his suit for others to play a prank in.

Based on the iffyness of Neanderfoot’s assumption, Kitakaze wrote:

Kitakaze—Then read it more slowly and/or carefully until you come to the place where **the only incident he [Warehime] can attribute any manner of knowledge about is the Idle Hour showing of the suit in Opal’s Buick trunk.**

On the contrary, 1. The only incidents Warehime had direct knowledge of were different: A) participating in an unspecified hoaxing event, and B) seeing the suit, or a suit, taken along on a Jeepin’ outing.

2. Warehime had no “manner of knowledge” of the supposed PGF suit being displayed at the Idle Hour, or of Bob Heironimus displaying a suit, or of seeing a suit displayed in a Buick, as claimed by Kitakaze. Read on, for proof:

Long began the heart of his interview of Warehime with the words, “I suggested that Heironimus might have put on a costume to help Patterson convince the public of the existence of Bigfoot.”

Warehime countered by saying that “a bunch of guys” did it, adding, “It was kinda fun, go get drunk, put the suit on, and run out in front of somebody.” “It was kinda fun” implied direct knowledge and even personal involvement in such hoaxing.

Next, after a non-denial denial by Warehime to a question about the suit being in his tavern, Long quoted Warehime as seeing the suit “out in the Ahtanum” while about to go Jeepin’. This implies direct knowledge of the monkey suit—and not at the Idle Hour.

Then Long paraphrased Warehime as follows: “he wasn’t sure the car with the suit in it was a Buick. . . . Everybody knew Patterson and Merritt were trying to make a movie.” That “documentary” was a hot topic in the middle of 1967, soon after the 3-day filming in May, suggesting this was the time of his Jeepin’ adventure.

Then Long asked, “Are you convinced Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the Bigfoot suit?” Warehime replied, “Oh, yes. Yeah. That’s the way Bob walks.” That’s not direct knowledge, only inference.

I warned, on page 4, against conflating “the monkey suit” used in roadside hoaxings in 1966 (*TMoB*, p. 331) with the PGF suit displayed in late 1967 (*TMoB*, p. 332). But that’s just what Kitakaze did in the following quote:

[quote]Kitakaze—Merle Warehime quote-mining hack context restoration (Merle Warehime interviewed by Greg Long in the summer of 2000)...:

"Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the (PGF) monkey suit. It was always a joke. So when it started getting blown out as it did, it was funny. Nobody said anything about it because we didn't know if it would get Bob into trouble or not." [/quote]

First, in America, though maybe not in Canada, an editorial interjection like the “PGF” above is conventionally surrounded by square brackets. If parentheses are used, Americans assume the interjection was part of the original quotation. Tsk, tsk. Second, Kitakaze did not restore context; he obliterated it. The context of “the monkey suit” was the 1966 local-area sighting reports.

Following this, Kitakaze accused Neanderfoot of quote-mining:

Kitakaze—No, you're textbook quote-mining... your deceptive quote-mining makes it appear Warehime had firsthand knowledge of hoaxing with a suit. This is a very shifty contextomy...

But Warehime *did* have “firsthand knowledge of hoaxing with a suit,” as implied by his ““It was kinda fun, go get drunk, put the suit on, and run out in front of somebody.” What Kitakaze probably meant but forgot to append to what he wrote was, “by Heironimus.”

But even that isn't correct. It would be more accurate to write, “Warehime didn't **say (or admit)** to firsthand knowledge of hoaxing with a suit by Heironimus.” We can't say for sure, *pace* Kitakaze, that he *didn't* have such knowledge. And, since Warehime gave the appearance of trying not to point the finger at Heironimus, as I argued on page 5, it's possible he was in the know.

Anyway, if the Ridge Runners were about to play a roadside prank, where'd they likely get the suit from, if not Heironimus? If they got it from him, then that at least implies that Heironimus possessed the suit on a different date than October 19 and 20th, because he very likely wouldn't have lent out the suit on those two days. (See the next two items, “I” and “J”.)

Here's Kitakaze's next paragraph:

Kitakaze—The question from Long to Warehime about Heironimus wearing a suit for Patterson at any other time than the PGF is one which is purely speculative and Long is simply asking him if he thinks it was possible. Warehime's answer is in return completely speculative.

But Warehime's answer might not have been *completely* speculative. Not if he learned indirectly of Heironimus wearing a suit for Patterson. He might have heard such tales from other Ridge Running Jeepers.

Here's how: Heironimus might have been driven to a hoaxing site, either in a friend's Jeep or in the Buick. He might well have wanted a Ridge Runner buddy along to pick him up and drive him away, especially if he had to make a fast getaway, which would have been difficult in an ape suit. He mightn't have wanted to involve his mom's car in such hijinks, fearing its license plate number might be reported.

Warehime was reporting a fact: that the 1966 suit-hoaxing events were widely (among the barfly crowd, per Les Johnson) attributed to

Heironimus. It's unlikely they were all "completely speculating." They expressed their suspicions mockingly to Heironimus's face (see page 10). He didn't deny them.

I. Could the October 20 Idle Hour Suit Display Have Occurred on the Same Day as the Display to the Ridge Runners?

Let's assume that Heironimus went to the Idle Hour the night of his return, as he strongly implied in the last quote below . . . :

Heironimus—The next day [Friday] I drove home, and uh, I went to the local watering hole where all us guys hung out.

—Lie Detector, PAX network cable TV show, section 9-D,
May 17, 2005

Heironimus—After I got back from down there I still had the suit in the car. I went up to the local water hole and some of the boys wanted to know where I'd been the last few days. I took 'em out to the car, I opened the trunk, and I said, "Take a look at this. . . ."

—First XZone radio show, section 10-O, 12/7/2006

Heironimus—And I come home the next day and I went up to our little local water hole there, and there were a half dozen of my friends sitting around there, and I said, "I want to show you something." . . .

I went back home. Next day, or that next day evening, Roger and Bob come by, dropped my horse off, took the suit out of the trunk of the car.

—Tom Biscardi radio interview, section 12-X, 3/14/2007

First, "A half dozen of my friends," does not match up with Les Johnson's "fifteen or twenty guys, some of the guys that hung around with Roger." (*TMoB*, p. 47.)

Second, if Heironimus went to the Idle Hour before he went to sleep at home, and he was present on this Jeepin' trip, that implies one or more of several absurdities:

1. That Heironimus drove miles out from the Idle Hour on a Jeepin' adventure. Warehime said, "I believe we were out in the Ahtanum by that old church." That's miles away, I assume. Don't forget, Heironimus had just returned from a 14-hour non-

stop drive from Eureka. (“14 hours” was the time he gave in his Rense interview, section 1–N.) He’d likely have been too tired to drive for another hour—especially not at night.

2. That Heironimus chose never to mention making a second suit display “out in the Ahtanum by that old church.” Why not? The more witnesses, the better, right?
3. That Heironimus drove along on a rough-road Jeepin’ expedition in his mom’s just-scratched Buick. Jeepin’ expeditions, I read in an article in a Bluff-Creek area weekly, the *Klam-ity Kourier*, drove along logging roads. I don’t recall exactly, but those Jeeps may even have gone off-road—that was their forte.

If Heironimus *didn’t* go along out to “that old church,” then he lent Patterson’s suit for “someone” on the Jeepin’ adventure to wear for roadside hoaxing, with its breasts, big feet, built-in waders, and glued-in eye. How was a novice supposed to run across a road in that (especially if in the dark)? And how would Heironimus be sure of getting the suit back in time?

4. That those Jeepin’ adventures occurred late Friday nights, when Heironimus returned. But they were more likely held in the daytime, and probably on weekends, when everyone had free time and logging trucks wouldn’t be encountered. (Les Johnson didn’t say what time of day his view of a suit display occurred.)

The absurdity of this option implies that if the Jeepin’ event out on the Ahtanum was connected with Heironimus’s return from California, that Heironimus either lent out his suit the next day (Saturday) or took it along with him the next day, riding in someone else’s vehicle. I explore this in the next item.

J. Could the Idle Hour Suit Display Have Been the Next Day?

IIRC, Kitakaze implied somewhere else on BFF, years ago, that Heironimus’s visit to the bar occurred, or might have occurred, the day *after* his return. But Kitakaze also said that Gary Record told him that his Idle Hour suit viewing occurred at 9 P.M.

But Record's viewing couldn't have happened on Saturday, because it would have conflicted with Patterson's supposed suit retrieval at that time or earlier. Long wrote:

Late that night after she saw the suit, Patterson and Gimlin dropped off Chico and took the suit. "It disappeared," Opal recalled. "I never seen it leave, and I do remember them comin' in with a horse in a green truck and Bob's horse, Chico."

—The Making of Bigfoot, p. 365

In October in Yakima, sunset is between 6 and 7 P.M. If Opal saw P&G arriving, it presumably was before 9 P.M., making Gary Record's suit-viewing impossible.

Even if she somehow saw them at 10 P.M., that would have been cutting it pretty fine. It would have been rash for Bob to be off with the suit at a time when Patterson's return was expected, because Patterson had told him the day Heironimus left:

Patterson—We have to go back and make them [tracks]. We'll either do it today, or tomorrow, and we're out of here and come home.

—The Making of Bigfoot, p. 350

IOW, they would be expected to arrive, at the latest, one day after Heironimus.

Anyway, a next-day Jeepin' adventure seems unlikely, because if it had happened, you'd think Heironimus would have told one of his subsequent radio interviewers.

K. Did Heironimus Rarely Drive His Mom's Buick?

Kitakaze—... both men [Warehime and Johnson] place Heironimus as having a Blue Buick, a vehicle he only ever once borrow[ed] from his mother for any extended period, going to Bluff Creek. The 1962 Corvette being his vehicle and his pride and joy at the time.

But:

Roger Knights—Do you remember that Heironimus drove his mom's blue Buick?

Les Lenington—Yeah, that’s the one! We hot-rodders had our cars on blocks half the time, so we needed a back-up car to get around in.

—phone conversation with me in 2006

(Lenington was an orchard-owner, fellow hot-rodder, and occasional Heironimus employer, as I mentioned on page 6.)

Greg Long—Who is this Bob Heironimus?

Les Johnson—Well, I think he works for Pepsi Cola. He must be getting old enough to retire. He apparently carried this thing [the suit] around in his car for a long time.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 48

By “in his car” he presumably meant the Buick.

Roger Knights—Do you remember if Heironimus drove his mom’s blue Buick to work at Boise-Cascade?

John Ballard—Seems to me that he did, yup.

—phone conversation with me in March 12, 2012

Ballard was a co-worker at Boise-Cascade—see *TMoB*, p. 231 or this article, page 8.

I suspect Heironimus used the Buick regularly to get to work on weekdays and returned it to Opal for use on weekends, for shopping. He mightn’t have wanted his Corvette, a thoroughbred meant for racing, used for daily dray horse duty.

Nobody in Long’s book mentions seeing the Corvette. When Heironimus’s car is mentioned, it’s always the Buick.

L. Summary

Merle Warehime. I think Merle Warehime’s story is awkward for Heironimus. It demonstrates that members of the Ridge Runners Jeepin’ club were involved in roadside Bigfoot hoaxing. If Heironimus, a member (presumably) had been involved, they’d have known about it. If they’d known about it, they’d have talked about it. If they’d talked about it, it would have created a consensus in local watering holes that “Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the monkey suit.”

That wouldn't have been a mere "grapevine" rumor with no traceable source. There'd have been at least half a dozen Ridge Runners, over time, with first-hand knowledge. The persons who heard the story from them would be able to cite them. The persons who heard their tales relayed by someone with second-hand knowledge would mostly have asked, "How do you know?" and only passed the story along if such a citation, which they could check, were supplied.

The witnesses to the suit's display at his Circle Inn would have been another solid (first-hand, checkable) rumor source.

At any rate, this remark of Warehime's is indicative of a local consensus that Heironimus was involved in Bigfoot-sighting hoaxing:

Warehime—Bob Heironimus was the guy who wore the monkey suit. It was always a joke. So when it started getting blown out as it did, it was funny. But nobody said anything about it, because we didn't know if it would get Bob in trouble or not.

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 331

Les Lenington. His account of seeing Heironimus display the suit in his orchard, presumably at apple harvest time (i.e., earlier than October 20) is bad news for Heironimus's claim of only having a suit in Yakima for 24 hours. That is, if his account is true—and if I'm telling the truth.

Since it is and was illegal to record phone conversations in Washington State without the other party's consent, I didn't do so. And I didn't ask for his consent lest that make him wary about saying anything that might get Bob in trouble. (For the same reason, I didn't ask any other interviewees to consent to being recorded.)

And I couldn't get a sympathetic reporter at the Yakima *Herald* (Jane Gargas) to call him to check out what he'd told me, because she'd told me, when I'd earlier requested that she call my first interviewee (Gary Record) to verify his story, that her editor didn't want her to pursue it.

In the case of Lenington, he was in such poor health, and he had been so antsy and erratic, and liable to pop out with "I don't remember anything" (he was mad at his doctor for giving him a bum prescription and this was his way of venting his ire, IMO), that I wouldn't have asked a reporter to call him anyway.

Lenington told me that Bob left the trunk open, presumably for co-workers to see. If he had and they had, they would have been another solid source for "rumors" that Bob was Bigfoot.

John Ballard. Ballard said, “Not long after they found a suit in the trunk of Heironimus’s car”—meaning not long after the Pettijohn sighting in the late fall of 1966, 10 months or so before October 20, 1967. This of course contradicts Heironimus’s one-suit/one-day (in Yakima) claim. And Long makes the statement in the interview that “All the Bigfoot sightings in the West Valley area occurred in the same year [1966],” which establishes that all the talk in the Idle Hour (described by Ballard, Johnson, and Falon) was going on well before October 1967.

Ballard didn’t have firsthand knowledge of seeing the suit, but—as I argued above—I think the rumors he heard were likely fairly solid. Someone big was hoaxing those sightings; Heironimus is a good candidate, apart from everything else, because of his fun-loving, outrageously daring nature, as described here and there in Long’s book (e.g., *TMOB*, pp. 214 and 356).

His account is also useful in fleshing out the notable specific sightings of 1966. The fact that he remembered them is an indication of the big impact they had on people in Yakima at the time.

Jim Falon. This remark of his indicates how widespread was the suspicion that Heironimus was behind the local sightings:

Jim Falon—“... there’d been a sighting one night. Everybody’s laughing, ‘Honker [Heironimus], you got to stay in the cage. You can’t be out running around anymore.’ There was always comments like this.”

—*The Making of Bigfoot*, p. 408

As I wrote on page 11, “Note that Heironimus didn’t deny the accusation.”

Les Johnson. Johnson was in the Idle Hour when 15 or 20 guys, including friends of Patterson’s, were in it too and Heironimus’s suit was on display in his trunk. Heironimus said that his trunk contained “an ape suit, or a suit.” Many visited it for a look, but not Johnson. As he entered or left the bar he observed many members of a Jeepin’ club, the Ridge Runners, standing around the trunk. Johnson said that the suit was known as “the monkey suit,” the same term Warehime used to describe the suit used in Bigfoot roadside hoaxing.

This differs somewhat from the account Heironimus gave in his broadcast interviews of his PGF display, in which he said he showed the suit only to six friends of his, and he was standing by the trunk when he

displayed it, and he told them to take a look and not to forget what it looked like, but he did *not* tell them what it was. He didn't mention Ridge Runners as being among the witnesses.

Like Warehime, Johnson described the hullabaloo about the sighting events in the West Valley in 1966 and how Heironimus was widely believed to be hoaxing them.

He described how the Ridge Runners were anticipating fooling people, which suggested an upcoming roadside hoaxing. Heironimus was a likely member of the group, since his suit was taken along on one of the group's adventures, per Warehime. If he was involved, members of the group would have talked about it, implicating Heironimus as a hoaxer in the eyes of the regulars at the Idle Hour and elsewhere.

No such suit-viewer anticipation was what Heironimus described in his interviews; he said the onlookers were puzzled and silent until Patterson announced his filming two or three weeks later.

Johnson claimed, "He apparently carried this thing [the suit] around in his car for a long time." That suggests that Heironimus made several suit displays. Now *that's* believable.

Johnson said this, which diminishes Heironimus's credibility:

- "we'd . . . lie to each other, and tell these big stories and try to make out like we was somethin'."
- "They'd do anything . . . to get attention." (That would have included the "Heironimus boys.")

Long spun the testimony of Warehime and Johnson in a way favorable to Heironimus (*TMoB*, p. 358). I criticized what he said as misleading on four counts (on page 18).

M. Appendix. Heironimus's Hiding His Idle Hour Suit Display

Heironimus didn't admit to author Greg Long, who persistently asked him, that he'd told his buddies about the suit when he returned, let alone that he'd displayed it, claiming for years that he didn't remember saying a word to anyone (e.g., *TMoB*, p. 370).

If he had been sincere in claiming forgetfulness, Heironimus had many years, starting in early 2000, in which to ask his friends (some of whom he saw regularly at the Idle Hour) if *they* remembered it; or if Jim

Gosney did—he had heard his story many times, starting in 1981, something Long didn't discover until after his book was in print, because Heironimus didn't give Long a lead to him.

It wasn't until after *Skeptical Inquirer* published a skeptical book review that pointed to the many suit witnesses besides the group at Opal's place that Heironimus changed his story and admitted—or rather proclaimed, in an interview on the *Lie Detector* show in May 2005—his new version.

This story-change circumstance weakens his revised claim. It's implausible that he truly forgot about a suit display. Long attempted to explain it away by saying that Heironimus's admission to being in the suit “slipped out” when he was drunk (e.g., *TMoB*, p. 414), but he actually did much more than that: he *displayed* the suit.

When Long asked Heironimus about what Warehime and Johnson had told him, Heironimus was evasive: he changed the subject and then pointed to a couple of his friends as the hoaxers (*TMoB*, p. 351 or this article, p. 16).

The reason Heironimus concealed the suit-display from Long was that the version in Long's book made him look like an appealing character—an injured innocent: *he* kept his pledge of secrecy to Patterson and the suit was discovered inadvertently by his mom.

The revised suit-display at the Idle Hour version meant that he broke his pledge of secrecy on his first opportunity, thereby voiding the credibility of his claim to be owed \$1000 by Patterson, because he'd voided his deal with Patterson with that display. Incredibly—or not—he shamelessly continued in subsequent interviews to play the role of an aggrieved creditor.