



www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

November 18, 2007 Volume 3 Number 7

Message from the Curator

Now that we're approaching Winter its time to start dialogues on next year's events and plans. But first I need to mention that on October 20th members of our museum met to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Patterson-Gimlin Film near the film site, in Willow Creek (Tom will chronicle that event starting on page 2.) On October 21 some of our other members met with Paula and I at the museum in Felton and at our home.

Just as Tom, Joyce and others were planning the Willow Creek event, I was working on promoting a special celebration at our little museum, but a family tragedy interfered with the plan. Paula and I have been caregivers for my 101 year old Mother for the last four years. In September she started a downslide, and for several weeks before her death on October 9 we were on a 24/7 vigil. As a result, the special public event we hoped to have in Felton was abandoned. We were just happy that the expansion of the P/G Film Exhibit had happened for the most part, and that the "Moment of Discovery" commemorative art (although still a rough draft) was presentable. The 21st was our scheduled monthly meeting date, so we looked for those members who could not make it to Willow Creek to show up at the museum, where we would pay homage to Roger and Bob. I did a local radio interview wherein I mentioned the Anniversary and our new exhibit on October 15; I made no mention of a program because we had given up on it.

But during the week prior to the weekend of the 20th, I was contacted by former member EB, who insisted I promote him as a presenter at our "event." He informed me that he had renewed his membership already (via PayPal) and that I owed it to him to let him speak at the museum or a nearby hall (the pizza parlor A/V room). He then attacked me verbally for not having promoted a special event for the weekend. When I told him of the death of my mother, he said in effect sorry, but your mom would be ashamed of you for not following through with the special event, featuring him. I told him I was too busy working on the art piece and the exhibit, and if he wanted to give a talk then publicize it himself (as I wanted nothing to do with it.) He then posted notices

telling people *not* to attend the event in Willow Creek, but to come to hear him speak on the P/G Film at our museum in Felton, claiming he would show pictures of Patty (the bigfoot)'s "anus and vagina" among other spurious claims. He explained to me when I complained, that sex sells and controversy brings customers.

While he was promoting himself online via our museum, he was also blogging about his latest "expedition" on his web site. This diatribe vilified a troubled woman. He admitted taking her into the woods then leaving her stranded on foot in a wilderness area without supplies after scuffling with her physically, and spraying her with mace. Whatever the truth behind the struggle, the fact that he chose to BRAG about it online is reprehensible. The fact that he abandoned her is unforgivable, and I can no longer turn the other cheek and ignore his insults, lies, threats and other disruptive behavior. (If anyone needs more details as to his actions over the last few years, contact me privately.) For more public information look at <http://www.cryptomundo.com/cryptozoo-news/hauki-eb/>

A number of our members have contacted me, expressing their conviction that these latest episodes are the last straw, and that it is imperative that the Bigfoot Discovery Museum curtail any contact with EB immediately and deny his latest attempt to rejoin the group. So even though EB has not been a member for over a year, and although he was only a member for a couple of months before getting angry and cancelling his membership (at most of the meetings he attended he was a "visitor") we still want to announce publicly that he is not, nor will he ever again be, a member of this museum, nor does he have any official affiliation with the museum. Rest assured that we are banning him based on his long history of ad hominem abuse, and the negativity he brings to the bigfoot community, *not* because of his contention that bigfoot is "paranormal."



Now on to more important things such as next year's activities and events, and follow-up on plans to enlist local residents as potential eyes and ears for our observation network. A very good project we could put together that would bring some income to the museum and help

spread the network would be a manual or guidebook on "bigfooting" in the local mountains. This would include suggestions for collecting evidence, recording sounds, constructing a sighting report, interviewing witnesses and so forth. It could also include a list of indicators, or things to be aware of that might hint at a bigfoot's presence in the area.

So far we have had several small events that were marginally successful, and one main event that was a gigantic success. Casting workshop, camping trip in Butano, participation in the local Memorial Day Parade and Festival, a Yard Sale Fund-raiser, a Grand Opening with a live band made up of some of our members, a talk by a local anthropologist and Bigfoot Discovery Day, featuring Jeff Meldrum.

So what do you see on next year's calendar? Are you ready to be a presenter at a meeting? Do you have a suggestion for an event or a person we should bring to Santa Cruz? One event I'd like to see happen next year is an Open House some evening in association with the Italian Restaurant next door, as a fund-raiser that would bring local educators and officials to the museum by special invitation: what a former member referred to as a "check-writing party." The museum will not continue at the present level without additional funding; field work and evidence seeking requires some expensive equipment and additional volunteer manpower. To attract a larger membership we must be more active in the local community, offering classes and workshops, music and art events, as well as guest speakers.

Recent acquisitions for the library:

The Abominable Snowman by Tytus Huffman, Macdonald Educational, 1979

-- Michael Rugg



Do you have a subscription to our newsletter yet? Why not? It costs as little as \$25 a year... see the web site for more information.

Die-Hard Enthusiasts Spend One Wet Day in Willow Creek

by Tom Yamarone



Daniel Perez with his publications and a display about Roger and Bob

56 people got together on Saturday, October 20th to celebrate the Patterson-Gimlin Film's 40th anniversary. You couldn't have picked a more dedicated group. They came from as far away as Alberta, Canada, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Hawaii and Florida. Many in attendance were members of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum including, James "Bobo" Fay, Bart Cutino, Tom and Consuelo Cousino, Ralph Jack, Mark Stenberg, Joyce Kearney, Scott McClean, Cliff Barackman, Ken Obey and me. I heard someone say that those who did come had more than a casual interest in the subject. No these were the die-hards and they had one thing in common – a great respect for the film, the men who made it and its place in history.

This celebration in Willow Creek was an event sponsored and organized by California bigfooters and we had six weeks to pull it all together. We contacted people within the state who could share specific information about the film and the men who made it. Joyce Kearney, a researcher who began investigating the bigfoot phenomenon after reading about the film in *Argosy* magazine, contacted me and asked if we could go ahead with an idea for a small, local celebration. A larger event scheduled for that weekend had been cancelled. I contacted Daniel Perez and David Murphy to see if they were available and several other friends including Scott McClean, Cliff Barackman and James "Bobo" Fay. Within two days, everyone was on-board and the event was announced.



James "Bobo" Fay, Robert Leiterman, Bart Cutino and Kim Souza enjoying the celebration.

From its inception, the celebration was to be short, social and unlike most of the bigfoot conferences held over the last four years. We wanted to have a common meal at a location that would keep us all together for the six hours we had planned for this gathering. The VFW hall in Willow Creek was rented and they also were able to provide a meal for those attending. Perfect!

As the weekend approached, we had several dozen people registered for the event and 15 other persons actively involved in the proceedings. We were all traveling hundreds of miles to get there and were certain that the weather would give us an early taste of the rainy season. No matter – we were indoors and a good drenching wouldn't stop this event. After all, Patterson and Gimlin had experienced a good drenching the night after all the excitement of October 20, 1967 when they took that amazing minute of film.

There was a good group gathered on Friday, October 19th in Willow Creek as we arrived at the Bigfoot Motel. We spent the better part of the afternoon and evening setting up the cozy hall with an array of displays and equipment for the celebration/conference. We went to dinner and gathered in our motel room afterwards to socialize in anticipation of the next day's events.



Tom plays "Jerry Crew" to begin the festivities.

Slated to begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, everything went as scheduled. There were about 40 people present as we welcomed them to the celebration and I started with a song about the man who brought out the first footprint cast in 1958 entitled "Jerry Crew (He Knew What To Do)."

Daniel Perez, author and publisher of the Bigfoot Times newsletter and the 1992 publication "Bigfoot at Bluff Creek," was first to speak. We had tapped him to anchor this event due to his long-time research of the Patterson-Gimlin film. He began his research of this subject in 1977 after seeing the movie "The Legend of Boggy Creek." He has been publishing a monthly newsletter in its current form since 1998 – "10 years ago this January."

all photos by Tom Yamarone



Mary-Anne McTrowe from Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada sings two original bigfoot songs.

He brought along a Kodak K-100 16 millimeter movie camera similar to the one Roger Patterson used that day. After explaining the differences in the lens configuration, he pointed out just how heavy the camera was. He also shared an interesting detail that the camera was equipped with a pistol grip that also had a trigger to control filming. "Once you feel how heavy this camera is, you'll realize how extraordinary it was that he got this footage," Daniel stated, "especially under those circumstances they found themselves in on Bluff Creek that day."

He spoke reverently about the late René Dahinden, a renowned sasquatch researcher with whom he developed a close relationship. During a visit to Canada to see Dahinden just prior to his passing in April 2001, René emphasized how important it was to carry on his research into the film event. He told him at a prior meeting that he considered the "Bigfoot at Bluff Creek" to be "the best damn thing published on the film" – and so on this occasion, Daniel would be selling copies of the booklet for a mere 67 cents in honor of the 40th anniversary.

We then watched the Patterson-Gimlin film and he started in on a series of slides that included a composite photo from the Glickman study that Peter Byrne had sponsored in the 1990s. He also showed us a photograph of the film site as it is today. He was there last year with a local man named Richard Henry who had accompanied Jim McClarin to the site on November 5, 1967. He exhibited a photo from the P-G film that René Dahinden had drawn on with surveyed lines of distance between objects in the photo criss-crossing the scene. He stated that Dahinden did much to assist research into the event with his on-site measurements. Slides were exhibited of John Green's comparison film of Jim McClarin retracing the subject's

steps and Peter Byrne's 1973 comparison photo of Al Hodgson's son at the film site. He also had several photographs of bigfoot costumes to show how "you can tell right away they're fake... They don't have the look of reality." Several other important figures in the film event were discussed including Lyle Laverty, Bob Titmus and current researchers M.K. Davis and Roger Knights. He concluded his presentation speaking of his meetings with Bob Gimlin and how his story has never changed. He made the point that "if this were a man fleeing a bank robbery, the film and footprints would be considered evidence." And that in forty years, no one has been able to duplicate the film (using a costumed actor). We took a 10 minute break to stretch, get some fresh air and meet those who had arrived a bit late, including Al Hodgson.



Cliff Barackman discusses similar footprint casts found near Bluff Creek.

Cliff Barackman addressed the gathering next and his presentation was entitled, "The Patterson-Gimlin Film Subject 1959 – 1967." He is a member of several bigfoot organizations including the BFRO and he has been conducting independent field work for 14 years. He is a self-described footprint "cast geek" and had the opportunity in 2006 to photograph the Titmus collection housed at the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum. With a convivial salute to the wall banner of Frame 352, he said this was St. Patty's Day and pointedly stated, "It's the real deal."

He had created multiple slides comparing track casts that had come out of the Bluff Creek area. He began with the premise that primates have very low birth rates and that we would expect to see the same individuals in the same area over time. Jerry Crew's cast was shown beside Roger Patterson's 1963 Laird Meadow cast. He was utilizing the casts made at the film site by Patterson and Gimlin and by Bob Titmus as his data set. He briefly described certain characteristics of a sasquatch footprint including the mid-tarsal break and showed examples of these from his photographs of the Titmus collection. He also said other identifying features for this comparison would include toe shape, toe size and what he called the "ball angle" – that is, a

line drawn under the toes that angles downward after the 2nd digit. The first possible casts of the P-G film subject's tracks were from November 2, 1958 when Bob Titmus cast four tracks on Bluff Creek. He also cast tracks exactly one year later along Bluff Creek and these, too, were the same length and exhibited similar characteristics as did Patty's track casts from 1967. He showed us a photograph taken by Peter Byrne in 1960 during the Pacific Northwest Expedition that showed the same similarities. Next, he compared the casts made by Al Hodgson and Betty Allen in October 1963 and also the Blue Creek Mountain cast of August 1967 made by John Green. He concluded his presentation by stating that similar tracks were never documented again in this area after the film event. "Once she was 'caught' by Patterson and Gimlin out in the open, she either was very careful about leaving tracks or left the area altogether."

Scott McClean was introduced after Cliff's presentation and he began by telling us about his archival newspaper article research and the subsequent book where he compiled these findings, "Big News Prints." He also told us how he had seen something cross the road in front of his car in 1984 late one night in North Carolina. Scott has printed and displayed nearly 35 articles that mentioned Roger Patterson or the film event on one of the walls. After his sighting, he read Dr. Grover Krantz's book in 1988 and the advent of the internet found him searching the Library of Congress site for articles about strange animals that he assembled into a collection entitled, "Strange Howls." This led him to the site www.newspaperarchives.com where he began searching for articles containing the subject "wild man of the woods" and this resulted in "Big News Prints."

He read to us an account from California in 1891 where the animal was observed to be in the trees, emit unearthly yells, thrash the undergrowth, beat its breasts, snap small trees, swing broken branches like a club and, after frightening the witness into dropping his game bag, eat some of it. The people fled after observing all this. He had an article from the Fresno Bee of an event in 1893 where the creature beat its breast and roared to such a degree that it made the air shiver. A search party found an apparent lair with scattered sheep bones and the article stated that "the Indians know of the creature and do not consider it dangerous." He then went on to display articles from California in 1964 from Pinecrest where one was spotted and most interestingly, one about a school teacher from the Fresno area who had found tracks on Bluff Creek that year. He also had an interesting article about Roger Patterson visiting Vance Orchard in eastern Washington in 1966 when Roger's book was released. He then discussed what he had seen in 1984 and stated that he considers the Patterson-Gimlin film a concrete reference for people who have had sightings of a similar

creature. Scott ended by showing us a Halloween card his father found for him in Wisconsin with a bigfoot costumed trick-or-treater on the front. Inside there were footprints across the card with the sentiment, "Believe...it's more fun that way!" Of course, it's not a matter of belief as much as it is just recognizing the available evidence.

It was now just after noon and time to break for lunch. We set up tables in the hall and enjoyed a relaxing, conversational meal time. At 1:20 p.m. we reconvened and I played my song, "Roger and Bob (Rode Out That Day)" with a slide-show to accompany the song.



Al Hodgson of Willow Creek addresses the celebration.

I then had the honor and the pleasure to introduce our special guest, Al Hodgson who attended the celebration with his wife Frances. Al is a central figure in all the bigfoot goings-on in Willow Creek since Jerry Crew first showed the world his giant footprint cast in 1958. Now, he admits that he didn't buy into the hoopla back then, but he was in the midst of it all as he ran the general store in town. He drove the Eureka-Times Standard columnist Betty Allen to Bluff Creek to see tracks and they did just that. He returned time and again and found some more in the early 1960s. He phoned Roger Patterson in 1967 to tell of the track discoveries that summer in the Bluff Creek area. And he was visited by Roger and Bob the evening after they had taken the famous film. Al Hodgson was integral in getting the bigfoot wing added to the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum and worked tirelessly to organize and support the 2003 International Bigfoot Symposium. He is Mr. Bigfoot in Willow Creek and he took the podium to share with us many of the more significant sightings in the area over time.

"Sightings are much more common than people think," he stated to begin his talk. The first he can recall was by a doctor driving the old, windy road to the coast in the 1930s. It was a road crossing over near the scales on the way to Arcata. Then, only a mile from

here across the river ten years ago, tracks were found. A woman from town was staying at the family's hunting cabin below Weitchpec, CA and saw one chasing her son as he road his motorcycle up the road. She came face to face with the creature for quite some time – the son didn't know it was there. Another friend was driving to Weaverville, CA to visit her son in the hospital and she observed a juvenile sasquatch along the Trinity River "that was the color of a Golden Retriever." He told us the story of two young guys who were bear hunting and almost shot one. They realized in time that it wasn't a bear and used an old instamatic camera to shoot some photos – they didn't turn out well. This was the closest anyone had come to documenting the creatures near town since the P-G film. He had another story from a retired highway patrolman who was getting firewood near Denny, CA. He had to get out to unlock a gate along the road and saw it moving through the brush from the waist down. He told Al that the thighs were "humongous" and that he had "never been so scared in all his life." Another story involved a young man riding a bike on county road 1 near the junction with highway 36. He hit the creature at high speed and when he came to his senses, his bike was ruined and he had a handful of reddish hair. His stories seemed endless and he was determined to make the point that bigfoot is still around and still seen on a regular basis near Willow Creek.

The last formal presentation of the day was by David Murphy, a Los Angeles area man who is authoring the biography of Roger Patterson. He explained his interest in the subject since the 1970s and how for the last ten years he has been interviewing bigfoot witnesses independently. In 2004 he began corresponding with Patricia Patterson to coordinate the opportunity to preserve Roger's bigfoot bust. A book was published at the time that vilified Roger's name and reputation and he discussed writing the true story with the permission of Mrs. Patterson. He flew to Yakima in February 2005 and spent a week at the Patterson house going through some of Roger's bigfoot collection. He has since returned on three occasions to the area and has interviewed over 50 people including all of Roger's siblings and children. He has amassed close to 200 hours of interviews and an amazing collection of personal photographs.

On this day he shared with us some of his own photographs of the Yakima area as it relates to Roger's life. He also had some photographs from Roger's brother, Glen. He took us on a quick tour of Roger's childhood and his acrobatic talent. David showed us photographs of Roger's childhood home, the property where he lived in 1967 and Jerry Merritt's house, a location that involved two sightings noted in Roger's book. Roger had also constructed a bigfoot restraint made of steel bars that he hoped to utilize once he had

tranquilized one. He had a collection of articles and information bound into a volume entitled "Prehistoric Giant Men." David located Bob Gimlin's old truck that they used in 1967 on the trip to Bluff Creek sitting behind a home in Yakima. He has taken his research the extra step in every instance and we should anticipate a very thorough and interesting biography in late 2008. David is also researching claims made against Roger in a 2004 book and has met with local residents who have had sightings near Yakima back in the 1960s and in the last few years. Indeed, Roger Patterson was a dedicated bigfoot researcher whose preparation and determination paid off when he and Bob Gimlin captured that creature on film forty years ago.



Steven McCarthy of Hanalei, HI and Kim Souza at Louse Camp.

After a short break, we reconvened to toast the film and the men who made the film. The champagne was generously provided by Terry Smith of Long Beach, CA and from here on the celebration lived up to its name. Mary-Anne McTrowe who had traveled to the event with her husband entertained us with two incredibly witty bigfoot songs accompanying herself on the ukulele. Both were about the Patterson-Gimlin subject and both took jabs at the naysayers. This was a surprise highlight of the afternoon. I then played a few verses of Buddy Knox's unreleased bigfoot song.

Daniel Perez returned for a question and answer session and James "Bobo" Fay took some time to tell us about Irwin Supple, a man he befriended in the late 1980s who had bigfoot experiences in the area dating back to 1947. Irwin Supple actually had heard of the creatures back in his Army training days at the Presidio in San Francisco. An incredible story of a cavalry unit chasing one in the mountains of southern New Mexico in the 1930s was told to him and his unit stationed along the Mendocino Coast at the beginning of World War II encountered one as well. Bobo's talk was informal and interrupted by frequent questions from the crowd. They seemed just as interested to ask Bobo an opinion on something bigfoot related as they did to hear his talk.



Scott, Cliff and Tom - final morning at Louse Camp.

We spent the rest of the afternoon talking bigfoot and enjoying the company of some dedicated individuals – dedicated enough to be in Willow Creek this day. I played my unreleased song "John Green" and pointed out a letter to the gathering from Dmitri Bayanov. We lingered at the hall until well into the evening when we broke away to grab a bite to eat. Some of us decided to take advantage of a break in the weather and followed Cliff and Thom Powell to Louse Camp two hours away. We spent the next two nights camped along Bluff Creek. A very appropriate way to cap off our celebration!

Thanks to all who participated in this historic occasion... Thom Powell made the event possible with his computer projector – and Mark Stenberg brought along an essential back-up projector! Scott McClean provided his computer and worked it all day during the presentations – and also designed the event poster, co-designed and produced the event commemorative t-shirt and printed out a plethora of articles for display... Cliff Barackman provided the PA system and had footprint casts on display. David Murphy made excellent displays about Roger Patterson. Daniel Perez brought relevant items to share and sold his "Bigfoot at Bluff Creek" booklet for 67 cents... Robert Leiterman, Bart Cutino, and Mark Stenberg helped with the set-up at the hall... and Joyce Kearney and yours truly organized the event. Phew! It was fantastic... glad we did it... see you in 5 years!



Thom Powell plays the blues at Louse Camp.