



Dave and Tom arrive at last year's BBQ

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

April 20, 2008 Volume 3 Number 12

**Message from the Curator**

Now that we have completed the third volume of this newsletter, we begin the fourth year of our museum membership program working on our second 100 subscribers. This Spring I'm happy to report that we have begun another construction phase to enhance the Bigfoot Discovery Museum and hopefully establish a revenue flow with the potential to sustain the Bigfoot Discovery Project for as long as necessary.

This phase is all about transforming our family cabin into an extension of the Discovery Museum, as a sort of "Bigfoot Bed & Breakfast" and Conference Center. It will also serve as the home of the research library and other parts of the museum collection.

Last year Paula and I had a wonderful time hosting the gathering of bigfooters,



Jim, Tracey, Patrick and Mike in the great room for a monthly meeting (M. Rugg)

making it crystal clear to us this was something we need to do on an ongoing basis. Our current mission is to educate the public about bigfoot and do our best to help solve the unknown primate mystery. But we also hope to create a center of community based edutainment and research, with creative activities for adults and children alike. We hope to get people

involved in discovery sciences (e.g. Cryptozoology), music, and the arts (folk concerts, art & craft exhibits and classes) on an ongoing basis. Another goal is to teach young people the importance of scientific exploration, the need for biological and cultural diversity, and reverence for wildlife and all other life forms.



Consuelo, Tom, Tracey and Jim at a monthly meeting in the great room (M. Rugg)



Bob, Jeff, Melanie, Paula and Ralph at last year's Bigfoot Discovery Day party under the carport/patio on the ground floor of the Felton cabin, a half mile from the Bigfoot Discovery Museum (T.Yamarone)

Those of you who attended last year's Bigfoot Discovery Day—or any of a number of recent museum meetings—are already somewhat familiar with the cabin. It's mounted on posts located 50' from the San Lorenzo River on a bump of land known as Gold Gulch, adjacent to an ancient stand of Coastal Redwoods. It's a short hike to the State Park Nature Center and the Roaring Camp Railroad Depot. The ground floor consists of an open carport that acts as a covered patio, and what will once again be a studio apartment. Paula and I will reside in the apartment in the near future as caretakers, leaving the entire second story open for use to members and other visitors and guests to the museum.

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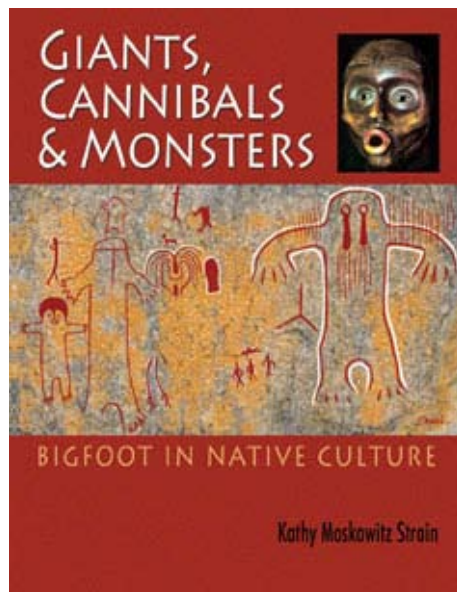
## Friends Filming Future MonsterQuest Episode & An Interesting Sighting from 46 Years Ago

by Tom Yamarone

Looking for news in the last month, I have to turn to my friends and acquaintances for anything interesting to write about. Oh, I've been on the move and have traveled across the continent within the last month, but none of it was bigfoot related.

The most recent news comes from friends and fellow Bigfoot Discovery Museum members Kathy and Bob Strain, Cliff Barackman and James "Bobo" Fay. They are all participating in the production of an episode of the hit series MonsterQuest (on the History Channel, Whitewolf Entertainment). A two-person team has been in California since last Friday and they are filming for an episode that will air sometime later this year. Now, as is the case with television shows, you can't discuss exactly what they're about until they air – most of the time. And in this case it would be very speculative because I can only give you a general idea about the subject of the show.

From what I've heard they are filming segments that involve bigfoot and Native Americans. Kathy Strain will be featured discussing the topic and I should note here that she also has a book due out this summer entitled *Giants, Cannibals & Monsters: Bigfoot in Native Culture* (Hancock House Publishers). The film crew spent the better part of 3 days filming a few members of the Mi-Wok tribe as they recalled their bigfoot encounters. They also visited the home of John and Montra Freitas (also museum members!) to get some footage of John discussing his work regarding interview techniques. The crew is now deep in the woods of Six Rivers National Forest with Cliff and Bobo and we'll see what happened once they emerge this weekend. Now we have something to look forward to in the fall!



Cover of Kathy's new book expected to be released in July 2008

In other news, I have spent about six hours investigating a report that comes from right here in the Bay Area in the early 1960s. In fact, it occurred only two miles from where I live in Pleasanton, California albeit in a very different era when this city was known more for its agriculture. The story came to us by way of Daniel Perez, author and publisher of *The Bigfoot Times*. He called to ask me whether the museum had received this report back on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mike had not spoken with this witness and since I was very close by, he passed along the contact information to me. I called the witness on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> and spoke with him for about 45 minutes. We didn't get all the details that night and I have had two more lengthy conversations with this gentleman who resides in nearby Castro Valley, CA. Here's the sighting report for your review. I'll have more to add afterwards.

### Two teenage hunters encounter creature in Pleasanton, CA farm field in 1963

**Report submitted:** March 15, 2008  
To Daniel Perez via telephone (Daniel interviewed witness by phone on Sunday, March 16, 2008)  
I spoke with the witness by phone on Monday, March 17, 2008  
**Witness info:** Tony C., age 62, resides in Castro Valley, CA  
**Report details:**

**Date:** January 1963  
**State:** California **County:** Alameda  
**Nearest Town:** Pleasanton, CA  
**Nearest Road:** Hopyard Rd. (approx 1 mile south of Hwy 50) (NOTE: Hwy 50 was a 2-lane portion of the Lincoln Highway in 1963...Today, Interstate 580 follows this route.)  
**Location:** creek habitat next to sugar beet field (NOTE: I've determined the creek in question is Gold Creek.)  
**Conditions:** dark, rainy morning; overcast skies

**Narrative:** My friend and I went quail hunting in Pleasanton early one morning in January 1963. We left our homes in Castro Valley, CA while it was still dark. We drove to Hopyard Road which was bordered by farm fields back then. There wasn't much there – it was the road to the fairgrounds. If you were going to the town of Pleasanton, Santa Rita Road would have been the way to go. This area was still very rural and a good area to hunt.

We started in the grove of trees along the creek, a riparian habitat that was approx. 50 feet wide with a dense growth of vegetation. It was very dark in there and we had no luck flushing out any quail. We decided to enter the sugar beet field that bordered the creek. There was a light drizzle falling at the time and it was fairly dark due to the cloud cover. As we entered the field my friend exclaimed, "What the heck is that thing?!!" and he was very excited and alarmed. I looked up and saw a creature running away from us. (NOTE: It was 60-70 yards from the creek and was dark brown in color. They were a few dozen yards into the field from the creek.) At first I thought it was a dairy cow because there were cows nearby that were brown and white. It was moving away from us at a good pace and was taller than the thistle bushes growing in the field. I'd say it was between 7 and 8 feet tall. It ran a distance and then stopped and turned to look back at us.

It took a few steps and that's when we realized it was walking on two feet! We could see it striding where we didn't notice that previously as it moved directly away from us. I pursued the creature to



Gold Creek, Pleasanton, 2008

get a better look at it against the protests of my friend. He was quite shaken by what he saw. I didn't run after it, but was following it at a trot. It angled around through the field stopping now and then to look back at us. It made its way back to the creek and the dense growth and stopped to take one last look. I clearly saw it looking through some branches of a tree along the farm road beside the creek. It then turned and disappeared into the dense growth of trees and bushes along the creek.

I made my way to that spot and my friend reluctantly caught up with me. We noticed several large indentations in the mud that were approximately 20" long and 7" wide. They were tracks but no detail of the foot was evident. I think this was due to the fact that it was clumping up mud on its feet as it ran across the field. That's what happened to my boots as I followed it – wet, sticky mud accumulated on my boots. The indentations were deep (approx. 3") and there was a very long stride between them. It departed in the direction towards where the creek splits in a "v" configuration. We went that far but no further in pursuit of this creature. It never made any threatening sounds or motions, but it was very big and quite unusual.



Gold Creek, Pleasanton, 2008. ( Photos by T. Yamarone )

We saw 3 men working there who we thought were associated with the jail nearby – they had a working farm and dairy fields associated with the jail. We asked them if they saw anything pass this way, but they did not respond. They were not very friendly.

We returned home and told some friends about our encounter. They wanted to come back and try to hunt it, but I said, "No, it didn't try to harm us. Why would I go hunt it down?"



Pleasanton aerial photo collage, 1960 (USGS)

I told this story to only a few people throughout the years and one of them came to me in 1966 or 1967 and said he had read of a similar sighting in that area in the local Pleasanton newspaper. According to the account he read, a mother and daughter were driving home late one night on Hopyard Rd. when a hair covered, upright creature crossed in front of their car. (Note: The paper was the Pleasanton Times. It is no longer in publication and is not archived at the local library. I may try to solicit local residents for any copies or memories of this corroborating event.)

That's all I have to say. I believe we interrupted it eating sugar beets that morning. It acted as surprised as we were when we saw it.

**Investigator Comments:**

When they first spotted the creature, it was 30 yards from them. It ran 20 yards and then stopped and turned to look back at them. That's when they realized it was walking on two feet.

He didn't observe much of the body movement due to the lighting conditions, his angle of observation and the plants. His view of movement was also limited because it was running away from them. He estimated that they observed the creature for more than a few minutes, possibly five minutes.

His friend's name is Wayne L. They are no longer in contact and he does not know his whereabouts. (He referred to him by a nickname as well – "Skeeter.") I will keep in touch with the witness. Daniel Perez has requested I take a photograph for his records and newsletter. We will try and arrange that. I will also notify him if I have any success in the newspaper archives at the Livermore library.

- Tom Yamarone

Notes taken on March 17, 2008...

summarized in this report on April 4, 2008.

I find this report to be very interesting on several accounts. The creature was caught off guard by two witnesses and responded by simply fleeing. Both young men had several minutes to observe this seven foot tall creature running away from them - even stopping to look back at them several times. They were not threatened by it and they did not threaten it. I find the event to be very compelling. The account as told to me is straight-forward and consistent over the course of three discussions with the witness. I am convinced the area where the sighting occurred could have been accessed by the creature via the creeks that ran through the fields. The mountains south of this area are still undeveloped, but back then, there was little out this way besides agriculture. The population of Pleasanton, CA was only 4,200 in 1960 and the majority of those people lived a couple of miles from where this encounter took place. The time, the setting and the situation all came together just right – after all, you have to have a witness (or witnesses) in order for there to be a "sighting". Such was the case here. This sighting places the creatures on the fringe of the Bay Area as recent as 1963. It fits right in with the historical accounts from the Diablo Range from the late 1800s.





This is a scene from the Redwood grove that is just across the river from Gold Gulch cabin (M.Rugg).  
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I'm still not sure what we're going to call it... The Bigfoot Lodge, perhaps. But whatever the final name, it will consist of three cozy and disinctive bedrooms, a common bathroom and a great room with a common kitchen and room for numerous dining tables and chairs. It will feature a woodburning stove, research library and audio-video equipment. This room will be a gathering place for guests for many activities and events, including conferences, symposiums, lectures, miniconcerts, classes and workshops, parties, meals and more.



Sierra and Grandma Paula at nearby Roaring Camp on the Top of Bear Mountain (M. Rugg)

The entire premises will be rustic and fitting to the surroundings, and will be decorated with bigfoot art and collectibles, and recognizeable as a bigfoot research center. The ground floor patio will serve various functions as a meeting room, for art & craft workshops and production studio or as additional sleeping space if needed. Outside there will be picnic tables and BBQ, a pit for songs and stories around the campfire, and a river beach that might even attract a bigfoot some day.

We have TV Cable and Internet WIFI and intend to start a series of ecotours for those guests who'd like to partake in some hands-on bigfoot research and some typical night-time fieldwork. These would include local nature hikes and late-night bigfoot outings as well.



Jessica, Paula and Nate (Tom Yamarone)



Margaret M Rugg, December 2005 (M Rugg)

This has become possible for the first time just recently, as Paula's kids (Jessica and Nate) are grown up now and out of the nest, and as most of you know, my Mother (Margaret M Rugg) passed on recently. So it's just me and Paula here now and a bunch of empty rooms. Now is the time for our members to think about getting more actively involved in bigfooting— we're

going to need more bodies to make this all happen: docents, librarians, researchers, craftsmen, artists, guides, interns and volunteers, medicine men and psychics.

So, any interior decorators out there? Any ideas as to what we might call the place? Any suggestions as to guest speakers you want to hear and any other events you'd like to see happen? We are planning a "barn raising" party soon. It's a bit of a project, and we need to get things happening quickly so we can start renting the rooms out during the upcoming busy summer season. But it shouldn't be difficult to get guest renters as we're surrounded by rental cabins, RV parks and campgrounds, all of which are filled every summer.

--Michael Rugg



## Bigfoot Discovery Day II Saturday, August 9, 2008

The date is set and so are the participants in this year's big event. Dr. Jeff Meldrum, MK Davis and Richard Noll will be our evening presenters and hopefully Kathy Moskowitz Strain will be there to sign her new book, as well.

At present the plan calls for a similar schedule as last year, with a lunch / book-signing /meet & greet at the museum in Felton on Saturday from 11-3 and a series of presentations starting in the early evening at about 5:30 in Santa Cruz, CA. Last year's event was a sellout, with standing room only. Our three speakers will be staying at the Bigfoot Bed & Breakfast as our guests; mark your calendars and reserve your space now.



Montra, Jeff and Kathy at the museum for last year's Bigfoot Discovery Day (J Freitas)