

THE UFO/BIGFOOT CONNECTION

Janet & Colin Bord

WHILE researching for our latest book, *Alien Animals*, we have collected over 30 cases in which both UFOs and Bigfeet have been reported. This seems to indicate that there may be some kind of UFO/Bigfoot connection, and perhaps a closer look at the cases might provide some clues to its nature. The earliest case in our file goes back nearly 70 years, to about 1912. Near Gallipolis in Ohio, a man and his mother were berry-picking when they saw a strange dark cloud hovering above them. It followed them into a wood (presumably above the treetops), and as they walked on they saw a "monster" walking parallel with them. It was dark in colour, with wide shoulders, a bulky head and no visible neck. The woman screamed "Let's go!"; and they saw the monster look at them. It also made a growling or barking noise. When they had covered about 100 yards, both the cloud and monster had gone.¹

Now a jump of nearly 45 years to the next case. The date is 21 August 1955, the place the Ohio River near Dogtown, Indiana, where Mrs. Darwin-Johnson was swimming. Suddenly a furry hand with claws grabbed her knee and pulled her down. She escaped by struggling and making a noise by hitting out at an inner tube held by a friend who was with her. For several days a green palm outline could be seen on her leg. When the incident was reported in the press, several people claimed to have seen a "shiny oval" over the river at the time of the attack.²

It was not until the late 1960s that, possibly coinciding with an increased public awareness of Bigfoot, cases linking the creature with UFOs began to accumulate. During the summer of 1966 there was a UFO flap in the Edinboro/Presque Isle/Erie area of Pennsylvania and a tall, unidentified creature was seen several times.³ On 31 July a UFO landed on the beach at Presque Isle Peninsula Park and one of several young people whose car was stuck in the sand saw a tall, lumbering figure in the bushes.⁴ It is not clear from the accounts we have seen, however, whether this was indeed a Bigfoot-type creature, since the main feature of Bigfoot, that it is entirely covered with hair, is not mentioned.

In the autumn of 1967 during a UFO flap near Ithaca, New York, there were rumours of a giant hairy humanoid being seen in the woods.⁵ In Salem, Ohio, in the spring of 1968, Mrs. Alice Allison saw a UFO hovering outside her house. Inside it was a man with olive skin and slanted eyes. Around that time the Allisons often saw a large catlike animal; and something else, "big enough to be a man, a big man," but definitely not a bear, could sometimes be seen standing in the woods, watching the house.

Commented Bruce Allison: "It ran so fast it didn't even look like it touched the ground."⁶

The following year, a power black-out near Rising Sun, Indiana, on 18 May 1969 was followed by a sighting on 19 May of a muscular, upright figure just under 6 feet tall. It had no neck, a black face, close-set eyes, and was hair-covered. George Kaiser stood and watched it, but when he moved the creature grunted, leapt a ditch, and ran off at high speed. Four-toed footprints were later found. During the following evening, a neighbour saw a greenish-white, glowing object moving about in the night sky.⁷

In Vader, Washington, on 4 December 1970, no Bigfoot was seen, but 16-inch-long footprints were found in the snow covering Mrs. Wallace Bowers' farmyard. The state of Washington is Bigfoot country, and Bigfoot often leaves the footprints which gave him his nickname, and so it can be assumed that it was he who visited the Bowers' farm. Three days later, the Bowers children watched a UFO for 10 minutes in the evening sky; and a few days after that Mrs. Bowers was sure she saw a shape in the bedroom. It was later found that the visitor had stolen nothing, but had gone through the contents of the bedrooms. For several months the family heard thudding noises in their yard in the early morning, but could find no explanation.⁸

In 1971 a possible UFO "nest" was found in weeds and grass near Sharpsville, Indiana, by a man who during 1971-2 saw a Bigfoot several times in the same area.⁹ In January 1972 two 16-year-old boys on their way to do some night-time fishing at Battle Creek, near Balls Ferry, California, saw a glowing object swoop over their car. Later they heard a scream and, shining a light in the direction of the sound, they saw a 7-foot tall "weird thing" which seemed to have humps all over its body. The two tried to escape, but their car would not start. They eventually got it going, and as they left at speed they saw many objects, in different colours, moving about the fields.¹⁰ Again, it is not clear whether the creature seen was in fact a Bigfoot.

Momo

On July 1972 the 'Momo' (Missouri monster) scare hit Louisiana, Missouri. Several Bigfoot sightings were made, though the excitement engendered seems to have been out of all proportion to the number of sightings. On July 14, two 'fireballs' were seen, one white, the second green, going into trees behind an abandoned school.¹¹ Soon afterwards, in early

August 1972, a Bigfoot turned up at Roachdale, Indiana. His arrival followed the sighting of a luminous object which "blew up" over a cornfield. The story of the Roachdale Bigfoot is an interesting one, but too long to detail here. It was the end of the month before he left the small rural community in peace.¹²

1973 was a notable year for UFO/Bigfoot reports. In May a UFO with flashing red lights was seen to descend over a reservoir at Sykesville, Maryland, and drop a large object before departing. For two weeks afterwards, there were reports of an 8-foot monster with big luminous eyes being seen in the area. Some witnesses shot at it from closer than 20 feet, only to see it disappear before their startled eyes.¹³

Fantastic events occurred in Pennsylvania in the summer and autumn of 1973, when the Greensburg area seems to have been literally overrun by Bigfeet. Stan Gordon investigated and documented the reports, some of which also involved UFO sightings. On 11 May, a UFO was seen hovering above a lake east of Greensburg, and soon afterwards creature reports began to come out of the same area.¹⁴ As Stan Gordon commented, "There are over a dozen cases where UFOs were observed at low level minutes before or minutes after a creature sighting had been made in the same immediate area. There are other instances where UFOs were observed at a certain spot, and within a few days a creature would be sighted at the exact same location."¹⁵

In early August, a UFO was seen over the Greensburg Country Club golf course, as if about to land. Several days later, two dark hairy creatures with large strides were seen on the greens, one 4 feet tall, the other 6 feet. They ran into some trees as the witnesses approached; and the latter themselves took off when they saw a huge, 9-foot creature with glowing red eyes coming towards them.¹⁶ As Stan Gordon noted, there were a number of apparent UFO/Bigfoot cases in Pennsylvania in 1973, and we will not be able to note them all here, only the most outstanding. The most intriguing report, unfortunately made by telephone anonymously to the Westmoreland County UFO Control Center early in September 1973, described how three women driving through woods near Penn saw a landed UFO, large, metallic and rectangular. They watched as a door opened, a ramp came down, and three 7-foot tall apelike, hair-covered creatures ran out and into the woods.¹⁷

Witness goes berserk

A major UFO/Bigfoot sighting took place in Pennsylvania during the 1973 "flap." Part of its strength lies in the fact that investigator Stan Gordon and colleagues arrived on the scene while the events were still taking place; and the whole incident was closely investigated by Dr. B. E. Schwarz.¹⁸ The date was 25 October 1973, the place a farm near Uniontown. The main witness, "Stephen," and several other people saw a bright red ball hovering over a field at about 9 p.m., so "Stephen" and two 10-year-old twin boys decided to take a closer look.

As they walked nearer they saw a bright white object in the field and then one of the boys drew their attention to two figures walking along by a fence. One was about 8 feet tall, the other 7 feet, and both were covered with long, dark greyish hair. They had greenish-yellow eyes, and were whining. "Stephen" fired over at the creatures, hitting one. The white object disappeared and the creatures walked back towards the woods. When police and UFO investigators arrived soon afterwards, a number of strange things occurred, too complex to describe briefly here. The Bigfeet were not seen again, but "Stephen" went berserk and had a form of mental attack.¹⁹

A week afterwards, on 2 November, a disc-shaped object was seen near Midland in Pennsylvania and many witnesses. There had also been reports of a hairy, apelike creature with glowing green eyes in the area, and next day three-toed footprints were found which were 11 inches long and 5 inches wide. (One of the enigmas of Bigfoot is that the footprints found vary so much, not least in the number of toes the creature has.) The day after that, the apparent landing site of the UFO was found, only 250 yards from the tracks.²⁰

That completes the most important Pennsylvania UFO/Bigfoot cases for 1973, but there are two others to note from October 1973 in other parts of the United States. Early that month Jeff Martin saw a Bigfoot near Galveston, Indiana, while fishing. It touched him on the shoulder and then ran away in leaps "... like a man on a rope being pulled too fast by a car." Soon after it was lost in the woods, Martin saw a glowing bronze object shoot out of the trees into the sky. Next day, on returning, he saw nothing, but that evening when he again drove back to the site of the encounter, he and his friends were followed by a white starlike light, and found the Bigfoot, 8-9 feet tall, standing waiting for them.²¹

Near Middletown, New Jersey, on 22 October 1973, a girl saw a "bear" which sounds as though it could have been a Bigfoot, since it was 6 feet tall and stood upright. A UFO had been seen the previous night, and several were reported on the evening of the following day.²²

Bigfoot shot on the porch

After the flurry of activity in Pennsylvania during October 1973, things seem to have quietened down somewhat, only to erupt again in a fantastic case in February of 1974. A woman living near Uniontown was watching TV about 10.00 p.m. on 6 February when she heard a noise on her porch. As the house was isolated, she feared intruders or wild dogs, and so took her loaded shotgun to the door. On stepping out, she saw a 7-foot, hair-covered, apelike creature standing only 6 feet away with its hands raised above its head. Sure it was about to attack, she fired into its middle — whereupon it "disappeared in a flash of light." Her son-in-law, living in a trailer close by, heard the shot and phoned to find out what had happened. When she told him, he loaded a gun and walked over. On the way he saw four or five red-eyed hairy creatures at the edge of the woods, and he

also saw a bright red flashing light hovering over the woods close by.²³

In December 1974 in rural Wisconsin, dairy farmer William Bosak was driving home at night through patchy fog when he saw a strange sight. It was a disc-shaped UFO resting on the ground and in its "curved front of glass" stood a furry figure with arms raised above its head. The creature was human-shaped and had ears which stuck out about 3 inches. Only its face and chin were not covered with dark tan fur. Bosak, scared, accelerated past the UFO, hearing a whooshing sound as he did so.²⁴

Staten Island, New York, was the site of UFO and Bigfoot sightings in late 1974 and early 1975. Large hairy creatures walking upright were sighted on several occasions, crossing the road or wandering around the woods, and during the same months UFOs were sometimes seen in the same area, though there is no evidence which positively links the two phenomena.²⁵ Near Waterloo, Indiana, in September 1975 a more positive sighting was made, by a farmer, in the small hours of the morning. Looking out of a window, he saw a red light in a field, and close by a large, two-legged "animal" walking towards the object. Suddenly the light changed into a magnesium-like light for a few seconds, then disappeared, as too did the creature. As with other similar cases, it was not stated that the creature was hair-covered, and so we cannot be absolutely sure that it was a Bigfoot.²⁶

Gun-toting witness chases Bigfoot

At the end of 1975 and in early 1976 there was a wave of UFO sightings in the Great Falls, Montana, area; large, hair-covered creatures were also being seen. On 22 February 1976 a motorist driving near Great Falls airport saw a Bigfoot in a field. Grabbing his gun, he chased it — until it turned towards him. As it was 7 feet tall and 3 feet wide with a "solid and muscular appearance," the witness decided he would be safer back in his car. He also saw a grey, oval object hovering just above the ground not far from the road.²⁷

A week later, on the afternoon of 29 February, two people near the Settlers Park area of Oakdale, Pennsylvania, saw a 7–8 foot, dark hair covered, creature from only 25 feet away. It had long arms, bumps for ears, wrinkled skin on its face, and claws. A UFO had been seen in the same area the previous night, and there had also been a brief local power failure.²⁸

During 1976 a possible UFO/Bigfoot case was reported from outside the USA. On 9/10 July five young people had a frightening experience at a mountain chalet near Fuengirola in Spain. In the small hours of the morning they heard 'deep and powerful breathing' noises, as if there were a strange animal outside. They could find nothing; indeed the noises had stopped when they went out. At 5.00 a.m. they were woken by the noises, and looking through a window saw a creature which was "very tall, bigger than the tree [beside which he stood]. And with two bright lights at the level where the eyes would be." It seemed black, "as though the thing were wrapped up in a black blanket." Other strange things happened

to the party, occurrences of a poltergeist nature, which caused them to leave the place. The UFO connection is a tenuous one, in that a UFO had been seen passing over the area two months before. Of course from the description given we cannot even be sure that the Fuengirola monster was a Bigfoot, but there are certain similarities: the size, the glowing eyes, the dark colouring, the behaviour. So this case can legitimately remain a possible example of a UFO/Bigfoot link.²⁹

The most recent UFO/Bigfoot case we have on file dates from 1977, when UFO sightings in the first half of the year (up to late August) were followed by a Bigfoot "invasion" in September and October. This was in the area of Little Eagle, South Dakota.³⁰ If any pattern can be traced at all in this apparent UFO/Bigfoot activity covering nearly 70 years, it is a building up to the hectic months of 1973 in Pennsylvania, and then a gradual decrease in such cases, with none in our files for the last eighteen months. However, we do not claim that we have tracked down all such cases, and the pattern apparent from the cases we do have may not be confirmed by other people who have followed the UFO/Bigfoot activity.

Comment

Read all together, these cases may seem like powerful evidence for a UFO/Bigfoot connection. But when one takes into account the hundreds of Bigfoot sightings, in which the other was *not* seen, then the link seems somewhat weaker. But can it be simply "coincidence" that UFOs and Bigfeet were seen in the same place at the same time, as for example at Uniontown? It is hardly likely. "Coincidence" may be invoked when UFOs and Bigfeet are seen in the same district around the same time, but even so, the more times that that happens, the more strained the "coincidence" explanation becomes. Only a diehard sceptic could claim that "Coincidence" explains those cases where UFOs and Bigfeet are actually seen together.

Assuming that such reports are accurate, and we have no reason to doubt the experienced investigators whose data we have used, then it seems that there must, *on some occasions*, be some kind of link between UFOs and Bigfeet. Various theories have in the past been suggested: that Bigfeet pilot UFOs, or are among the occupants of the craft; that the UFOs are kidnapping Bigfeet for their own purposes; that UFOs are bringing Bigfeet here for some reason; and so on. We cannot begin to judge the validity of these theories, for we have no evidence whatsoever to show in favour of any particular theory. The only evidence we have, and it is still based only on a few cases, is that sometimes UFOs and Bigfeet are linked. But before we assign science-fiction actions to the UFO entities and the Bigfeet, it might be worth considering if the UFO/Bigfoot link might perhaps be more apparent than real. Bigfoot is only one of several 'monsters' that have been reported on this planet in the 1970s, others being lake and sea monsters, out-of-place big cats and kangaroos, giant birds, and birdmen (e.g. Mothman of West Virginia,

and the Owlman of Cornwall). These have a number of features in common, not least their seeming insubstantiality, and conceivably all these "monsters" are but expressions of a single phenomenon. UFOs too have some characteristics in common with monsters, and may also be part of the same phenomenon. So might it not be more logical to assume that whatever stimulus (and there are several possibilities) causes or enables UFOs to materialise, also causes or enables monsters to materialise, and therefore they are sometimes seen in the same location and at the same time, and even, in some cases, side by side? This speculation leaves many questions unanswered (but which UFO theory doesn't!), and we do not have space here to detail the theory fully, but in our forthcoming book *Alien Animals*³⁰ we examine a large selection of the huge number of authentic reports of unearthly animals and illustrate the various possibilities by quoting from individual cases.

If our theory has any validity, then cases where UFOs and Bigfeet appear together could hold many clues to the nature of the phenomenon, and these cases should therefore be investigated especially thoroughly. The authors would be pleased to hear about any major UFO/Bigfoot cases which have not been included in this article.

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BEDFORDSHIRE CROSS-COUNTRY CHASE

Ken Phillips

Our contributor investigated these incidents whilst still an investigator with the British UFO Research Association. His completed report has now been submitted to UFOIN for publication in *Flying Saucer Review*, and consists of voluminous data upon which this summary is based. Drawings and map for this article by Pauline Bowen.

READERS may recall the story of two young fishermen and their close encounter one miserable night in the Summer of 1978. This incident took place on the River Ouse, near the village of Harrold in Bedfordshire. As will be seen from the sketch map accompanying this account that is right in the midst of the scene of these amazing events.

This particular story is fascinating for several reasons. Not only are at least 13 witnesses involved in each sighting, but the phenomena witnessed performs remarkable manoeuvres, leads its participants a merry chase, is repeated on four separate nights, and involves some associated close encounter effects. On one occasion the object was seen close-up *on the ground*.

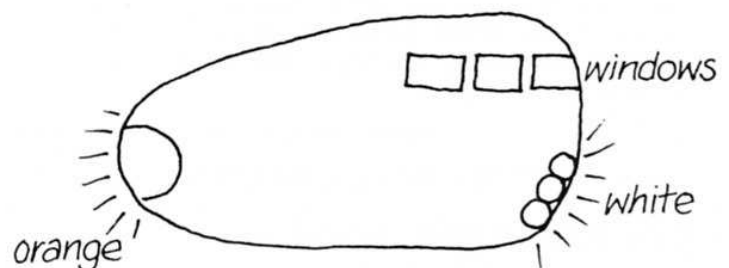
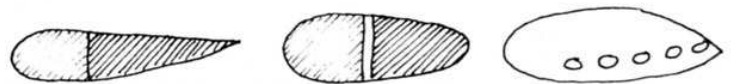
These remarkable sightings stem initially from the tiny village of Felmersham, Bedfordshire. This lies about 6 miles NNE of Bedford and the area is mostly open farmland. About 3 miles NW of here, however, is the Royal Aircraft Establishment works at Radwell. There is also the RAF base at Cardington, just to the SW of Bedford.

On the night of Thursday, January 19, 1978, we begin our story. At about 8 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. (estimates vary) a large group of children at the youth club in the village observed a strange light in the north east. This would, of course, place it in the direction of the aircraft establishment, although they considered it to be much closer. It appeared to be hovering over a nearby cattle shed.

The youth club is situated in the grounds of the Pinchmill School and the witnesses were outside on a dark, starry and cool evening. Most of the children were aged between 10 and 12, although there were a few who were older. It is impossible to say exactly how many observed the phenomenon, but there were at least 13. Eight of them were traced to one school and their teacher was most co-operative. He got them to fill out UFO report forms under examination conditions. Their stories were very consistent under these circumstances. He is convinced that they are sincere and said that none of the children involved were of an over-imaginative type.

Basically, what it appears they saw was an oval or cigar shape that was surrounded by a whitish vapour. It consisted of a red band to the fore, and a green band to the rear. Most children said it was

silent, but two of them described a faint buzzing sound. The object moved to the west and appeared over the war memorial in the village. It hovered here for 2/3 minutes, during which time some of the boys became agitated. Several of them claimed that they began to feel unwell and became very hot during the sighting. Two boys admitted that they started to cry. Their youth club leader was told of the object and did, in fact come out to view it.



Above: Samples of the childrens' sketches of the red/green object seen on 19 January 1978.

Below: The "bubble-car" object (see page 30).

Two of the children were Stephen and Robert Honeywood (aged 12 and 17), who lived nearby. They dashed home to fetch their father, but when he arrived the object had gone. The other witnesses had watched it move off very fast to the west after being seen for about 4 minutes.

Mr. Howard Honeywood, aged 39, is an agricultural manager and a very practical man. As he says: "I didn't really believe them that night, but on the next sighting I saw the objects too."

It was exactly a week later, January 26, 1978 — this time at about 6.30 p.m. The night was very cold, with some localised frost. A large group of children were again at the club, but this time the sight that greeted them was fantastic. Over to the south west,