

page 12, under the title, "Strange Tales of South Broward," we find the following account of a Bigfoot visit to that part of the country, as told to Christine Evans, a *Herald* Staff Writer, by a Broward County police officer. Like the other accounts, in order that the reader can make a fair and impartial judgement on his own without the intervention of editorial comment, the *Miami Herald* story is totally duplicated here.

"One of the weirdest accounts came from Davie's Sgt. Harry Rose. In the business 18 years, Rose remembers the Skunkape, Florida's version of the Abominable Snowman.

Folks in Broward and Dade Counties said that 14 years ago they saw the big ape that smelled like a skunk. Then he disappeared for a while - went back to the bush or something - only to stalk Broward roads again in 1974.

Sgt. Rose was there:

"The way we heard about it was this: The wife of one of our officers was a secretary over at an office building on State Road 84. The people who owned the business lived next to it in a trailer. Every so often, their dogs, which slept under the trailer, would act up.

Myself and another officer staked out the trailer one night, trying to find out why the dogs were acting so funny.

That's when we spotted it.

It was about 2 or 3 a.m. The creature looked like a very large ape. It was seven or eight feet tall, and it must have weighed 300 pounds. It had eyes that glowed in the dark.

The paper had carried a story about him being shot at near U.S. 27 and Hollywood Boulevard. That one was supposed to smell like a skunk, but ours didn't. I think it was the same one, and he sometimes got into a covey of skunk or something.

After we saw it, it lumbered out into the orange groves, along about where The Seed (a drug rehabilitation center) is now.

The next day we went back into the orange

grove. We saw all the oranges were gone off the tree tops - like he plucked them off and ate them.

I still don't know what to make of it."

THE MORMON YETI

Because South Weber is basically a Mormon community and in order to give the reader the most complete picture possible, there is one more sighting that must be told. But before it can be disclosed, it is necessary to quote a verse or two from the Old Testament (Genesis 4:8-14.):

"And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand;

When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.

And Cain said unto the LORD, My punishment is greater than I can bear.

Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me."

There are Mormons who believe that when the Lord said Cain would be a "fugitive and vagabond in the earth" that He was condemning Cain to wander the earth forever, even to our present era. And there are just as many who believe Bigfoot to be the Cain of old.

David W. Patten, who was born in 1800 at Indian River Falls near Theresa, New York, and ordained a Mormon apostle in 1835, had an

interesting experience with a creature which was very like the one described as Bigfoot. His account follows:

"As I was riding along the road on my mule, I suddenly noticed a very strange personage walking beside me. He walked along beside me for about two miles. His head was about even with my shoulders as I sat in my saddle. He wore no clothing but was

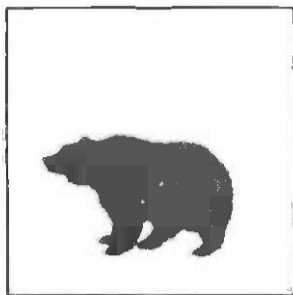


Figure 607. What Did David W. Patten See?

covered with hair. His skin was very dark. I asked him where he dwelt and he replied that he had no home, that he was a wanderer in the earth and traveled to and fro. He said he was a very miserable creature, that he had earnestly sought death during his sojourn upon the earth, but that he could not die, and his mission was to destroy the souls of men. About the time he expressed himself thus, I rebuked him in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by virtue of the Holy Priesthood and commanded him to go hence, and he immediately departed out of my sight."⁵

And it is said there are stories of creatures which fit the Bigfoot description from the Civil War era.

It is interesting to note however that a Bigfoot has never been captured, positively identified, or clearly photographed. Is there really such a creature? I am afraid that is one of those questions each person will have to decide for himself.

NOTES TO CHAPTER 29

1. Cavendish, Richard, Editor: *Man, Myth and Magic, an Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Supernatural*, P.16., Marshal Cavendish Corporation, New York, NY, 1970.
2. Harrington, John, *Ogden Standard Examiner*, "Did Bigfoot Visit Small Davis Town? Citizens Buzz," February 12, 1980.
3. Wright, Jim, *Ogden Standard Examiner*, Sunday, Aug 3, 1986, "Facts about creature walk in shadow of legend".
4. *Ibid.*
5. Brooks, Melvin R., *LDS Reference Encyclopedia*, Bookcraft Publishers, Salt Lake City, Utah, 1960, pp. 367-368.