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On the trail of 'Old Bigfoot'

It isn't just a lark for the Marxes. It's a concerted effort to prove or disprove the existence of the bigfoot or sasquatch or abominable snowman, the hair-covered giant whose presence in various areas was reported as early as 1901.

According to Marx, who has been a big game guide for several years and a tracker since his father taught him when he was a child, the animal is about 7½ feet high. The head is shaped much like a gorilla yet with some features of the prehistoric man. He is a cold weather animal and can endure temperatures up to 80 degrees below zero. The ears have no external flaps, Marx says. They look to be merely small canals that lead into each side of the head and are covered with thick hair for protection. The eyes are small and set well back under a protruding brow with hair growing on the eyelid. The nostrils are two large chambers covered inside and out with thick hair. The mouth is small, lips are thin and hair-covered. Hands are half hand and half paw. The thumb sets far back toward the wrist and the palm has a heavily padded area. The feet also are protected with fur and heavy pads. He walks in an upright position which is why when seen, the viewer at first thinks he is a bear or ape, but his movements upright deny that fact.

The Marx's trail bigfoot on their own and check out sightings of the animal.

"You wouldn't believe the number of people who put somebody in a monkey suit and parade him around for photographers and hunters," Marx said.

He went on to tell a story of a whole gang of motorcyclists who



TRACKING—Peggy and Ivan Marx of Washington are in Alaska for the summer on the trail of Bigfoot or Sasquatch, the legendary animal that is more human than not, yet is covered with hair and lives in the wilds of nearly every section of the country. The Marx's travel in their Volkswagen camper and follow up leads of nearly every sort that may help their research. With them travel their early bear warning systems—two small dogs that apparently make more noise than necessary at the first scent of a bear. (Staff photo)

put on monkey suits and terrorized a town by showing up under street lamps and climbing up and down nearby hills.

But still there is enough real evidence, hair left on rocks and trees, actual footprints and real

sightings to make a few people believe in his existence.

Marx and his wife have a wildlife farm and an exhibit of their findings concerning bigfoot that they show as they travel and that is how expenses are met. Marx has a theory that the



BIGFOOT—The animal pictured is said to be the bigfoot or sasquatch, both terms for the large, human-like animal that has been sighted in several different areas. Much has been written about him and there are a few photos, usually distant shots of the animal. This photo is said to have been taken by a rancher in Washington with a 1,000 millimeter camera and a telephoto lens.

arctic is a breeding grounds for the sasquatch, but he has no idea exactly where it might be. Since he believes the animals are mainly migratory, traces of them could be found almost anywhere.

"I've got to see for myself if he is real or not," Marx said.

He hopes to either find a dead sasquatch sometime or to capture one just long enough to study him for a while without removing him from the area.

It's a long shot, but he and his wife will keep trying.



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