Sandy youths report recent 'Bigfoot' sighting

by KAYE BARTON

It was just another family fishing trip for the Brader family on the weekend of July 8-9.

Sons Robert and Stephen were exploring on the far side of the lake while their parents, Donald and Macy, hauled in crayfish from the boat.

But the legend of Bigfoot turned the routine outing into an adventure.

The boys were looking for caves in a rocky landslide area in the Mt. Jefferson-Metolius River region.

"We came up on a deep hole, with cold air rushing out," 14-year-old Stephen related. "We made a torch before entering so we'd be able to see."

His younger brother, Robert, jumped ahead of the story. "We think it was the torch that scared him," he interjected. Stephen explains that they saw nothing unusual until they made a second venture into the cave through a back entrance.

Then he interrupts himself. "Look, I never really believed in Bigfoot. But I was scared of something when I came out of that cave."

After sighting what he believed to be Bigfoot, Stephen sent his brother in for a look.

"I saw him sitting on a big rock, well inside the opening," Robert relates. "My eyes were well adjusted to the darkness, and I saw a tall, hairy animal with dark skin."

The brothers compared the creature they saw with pictures of primitive man. Robert believes the animal was female because the breasts seemed to be developed. But both boys continue to refer to the creature as male.

SEPARATE SIGHTINGS

"We didn't see the creature at the same time," Stephen explained. "So when we got together we compared our descriptions and they matched pretty closely."

They agreed that the animal had a small head, "no smaller than a human's," but out of proportion to its size."

The boys debated over the animal's height. "How tall is that door jamb?" one of them asked. "I think that's about right."

But his brother disagreed. "No it was a little taller," he said, gesturing to a point above the door, perhaps seven and a half feet high.

The family returned to Sandy without further sightings. The boys' father remained unconvinced.

Mrs. Brader explained that her husband's scientific training (he is an engineer employed with the Bonneville Power Administration) makes him skeptical of anything that can't be proven.

"Shall I drop you off in Scotland so you can look for the Loch Ness monster — or would you prefer the North Pole and Santa Claus?" he asked them.

Mrs. Brader is less skeptical. "I can't say what it was, but I trust the boys' judgement completely," she asserts.

The reported sighting occured on Friday, July 7. By the next weekend, the boys had organized a return expedition to continue the search. In the second party were Dan Sheehan of Brightwood, a long-time Bigfoot enthusiast, and Chuck Spradling and son Robert, of Sandy.

The second expedition took cameras along, Sheehan's equipped with a telephoto lens. They also took a canoe and kayak to travel to the far side of the lake and some fruit for the creature because they believed it was herbivorous.

PRIVATE SEARCH

The party waited all day before moving in on the cave because the beach was crowded and they wanted to make their search in private. Sheehan and the boys were afraid the animal might be harmed if too many people took up the search.

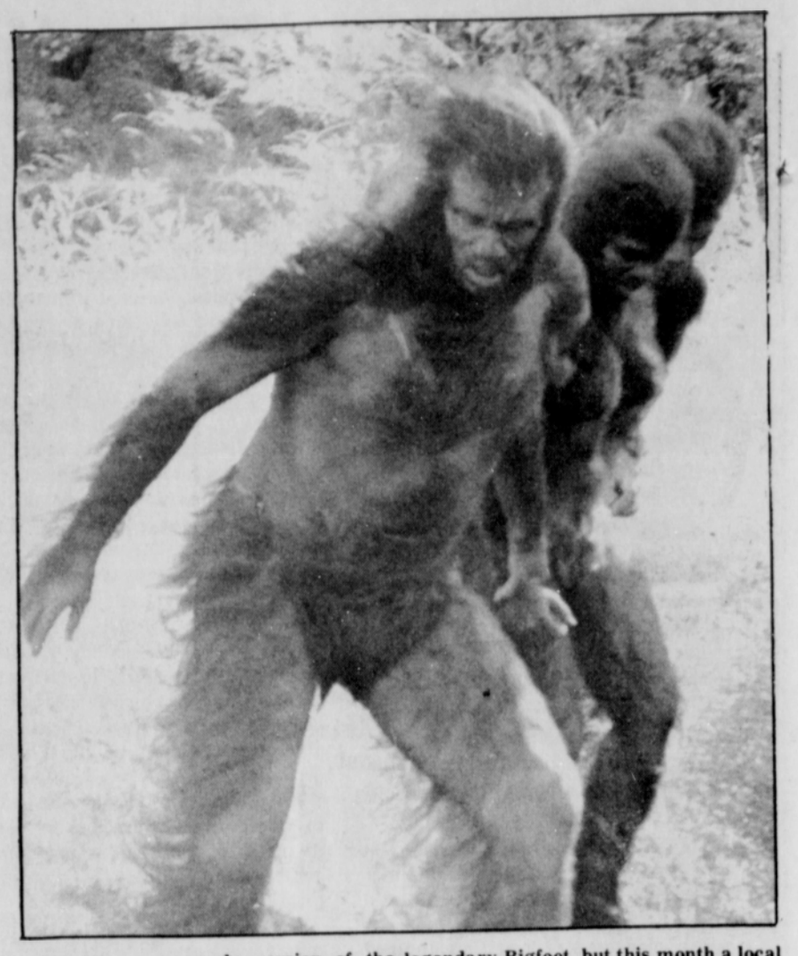
The expedition brought back no evidence which a skeptic would consider conclusive. They hoped to find hairs or tracks, but the terrain was so rocky that no footprints were made. On their second trip they noticed the rottenegg, musky smell which Sheeham says is characteristically associated with Bigfoot. But they did not sight an animals.

The brothers believe that the creature they saw is an intelligent one who destroyed its lair because of human invasion. One their return trip, there were bounders blocking one entrance and numerous changes in the cave's interior which the boys attribute to intentional destruction. They also speculate that the animal might have psychic powers, which is a common theory, according to Sheehan.

The group discarded their original assumption that the creature subsisted solely on berries and plants when they found large pile of crawdad remains near a boulder. They believe the creature sat on the boulder and consumed its catch of crawdads by crushing the bodies and sucking out the juices, then spitting out the remains.

The brothers know precisely what they'd have done if the second expedition had sighted and photographed "We would have sold the pictures and given the money to some good causes," Stephen explained. "One thing we'd like to do is to 'spread the light' that Bigfoot really exists."

THREE SANDY youths study an Oregon map to pinpoint the location of the Bigfoot sighting they have reported. Robert Spradling, on the left, points out the Madras area to Stephen and Robert Brader.



THIS IS a man-made version of the legendary Bigfoot, but this month a local family reported a sighting of the elusive creature while on a fishing trip in eastern Oregon.

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Lafky wins award for Post

The Sandy Post has been awarded an honor for excellence in feature writing in competition with other weekly newspapers throughout Oregon.

The award honored Sue Lafky's Nov. 3, 1977, feature titled "Rape: It even happens in nice towns."

The story reported the possible danger of rape in Sandy, plus ways to respond to an attack.

"The story was well thought out and presented in such a manner that a message is easily identified with a growing concern nationwide," said judges in the statewide newspaper contest.

"The quality of writing is excellent," they added.

The second-place award in competition with larger state weekly papers exceeding 2,700 circulation was presented at Sunriver Lodge near Bend last Saturday.

The Springfield News topped the field of larger weekly papers in feature writing, while The Oregon Journal won feature writing honors in the daily division.

The 1978 Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspaper Contest was judged by members of the Nebraska Press Association.

Post general manager Von Braschler accepted The Post's award at the Oregon Newspaper Pulbishers Association summer convention this last weekend.

Sue Lafky

Rape: It even happens in nice towns

HITCHHIKING IS not advised for women. However, if you must, try to do it with a friend.

Stories by Sue Lafky
Post editor

Rape. Some say those things just don't happen in our nice place like Sandy.

"I'm they do," said Mia Hokonson, head of the Clackamas County Rape Victim Advocate Program, 971-87. "You just don't hear about them.

"And many rapes get reported, accordingly to Ms. Hokonson. Women out here just don't report it.

"National statistics indicate one out of ten women will report the crime. In Clackamas County, a rural county, Ms. Hokonson forecasts, conservative estimated one woman out of ghoul 20 reports a rape.

One of the reasons is the fear others will find out.

"I think rural communities have a tremendous grapevine," she says.

Fear is another reason.

Usually the victim is better attacked in the rapist adds the 911-87 director, and often he has threatened her personal safety if the crime is reported.

The chances of him attacking you again are very small, says Ms. Hokonson.

But that's the normal concern of the rape victim.

In Clackamas County, women who are raped have a friend in the Rape Victim Advocate Program. As soon as a rape is reported a woman volunteer is dispatched to meet the victim sometimes arriving minutes after the crime is reported.

The purpose of the program is to answer questions, refer women to appropriate help and be a friend when one is needed.

Clackamas County began holding the program daily 1 of this year although the program began in May 1976. The program, which has two paid staff members and 27 volunteers, is under the control of District Attorney James O'Leary.

Volunteers are carefully screened, go through extensive and continuing training and offer their services on 24-hour shifts.

"These women are united. They re very capable and empathetic really super people," says Ms. Hokonson enthusiastically.

The program works with the philosophy that the faster someone assists a rape victim, the easier it will be for her to recover from the often misunderstood crime.

Advocates have found that part of the healing process for a woman who has been raped is to tell someone — happened.

It makes her feel better in the end if she does something about it," she adds. "Then she knows she has done all she can.

Rape is not a sex crime, stressed Ms. Hokonson, it is a crime of violence.

"It's an overall . And during that assault the loss of control is one of the most difficult things for a woman to handle and get back. Supporting the victim helps give a woman that control, says Ms. Hokonson.

Another reason for reporting the crime is consideration for future victims.

The rapist is a repeater. He's not a one time offender. He will do it again and the next time it might be an 87-year-old woman or a 2-year-old female, no matter of handling what is happening to them.

The rape victim advocate helps women with the courage to report the crime. The advocate is available to go through the emergency room procedures with the woman and stays with her during the collection of evidence.

Ms. Hokonson and others involved in the program have worked with hospital employees as well as the staff of various social agencies in trying to let them know how a rape victim is feeling after the attack.

Ms. Hokonson is quick to dispel the myth of unsympathetic and unsupportive police officers.

In reality, they're extremely compassionate, says Ms. Hokonson. The biggest majority are really supportive. The best thing I can say about them is they really do care.

The 911-87 director also dismisses the television image of police staying in the investigated room during the collection of evidence. In images the doctor collects, rapist and hands in silence to the police.

Rape victim advocates are available for counseling anytime a woman deals with officials, whether it be during a grand jury hearing or court session.

She frustrates what is happening in the complicated legal system to the woman or her family.

After a rape a woman goes through what is now recognized as rape trauma syndrome. Ms. Sue Sad describes, goes through a lot of guilt a lot of anger, says Ms. Hokonson.

Common reactions immediately after the incident include moving, changing jobs, changing or quitting schools or at least getting an unlisted telephone number.

She may start eating or stop eating.

Unfortunately, during this time many families do not respond well at all, says Ms. Hokonson, and into three classes reactions.

The first is anger low at the person who committed the crime. This is the "give me a gun I'm going to patrol the streets and kill the guy who did this to her" stage.

Anger is a very healthy reaction, it's something you can work with, explains Ms. Hokonson.

The second reaction is self guilt, which includes asking "Why wasn't I there when she got out the bus or "Why didn't I let her walk.

That's taking responsibility for what has happened to someone you love — showing concern. "You can work with that," says Ms. Hokonson.

The third, and unfortunately the worst reaction, is blaming the victim.

This includes statements such as "I always knew you were a little tramp," and "Why didn't you fight harder.

The final reaction usually arrives in tragedy, the victim's problems, something the 911-87 is trying to minimize.

No matter what the victim has done, it is a alive she did the right thing, says Ms. Hokonson.

'There's no one way to respond'

If a rape victim comes out alive after an attack, no matter how she reacted, she's have the right thing.

"If you do have to give in it's okay, says Mia Hokonson, director of Clackamas county's Rape Victim Advocate Program. It means you're a hard person.

Sometimes a victim has no alternative but to submit. "A lethal weapon is a good reason for doing whatever the man said, she adds.

Women have several alternatives if they assume victims of an attack, experts imagine or only one way to respond.

It's important for a woman to know what factors she holds, stresses Ms. Hokonson. It's important to think about those factors before an attack occurs.

The various options have their pitfalls as well as their merits, and any one of them may work under some circumstances.

Screaming is one alternative but a woman should assess whether or not she has somewhere to run to and if she can outbalance her attacker.

A rapist wants to see obvious chaos for a woman, screaming or assaulted. Rape can be loose, suggests Ms. Hokonson. Don't stick him in the crotch or anything.

If the door is locked, throw something through the window, she adds. It's a signal to passersby.

Screaming is another alternative.

Fifty percent of the time if you scream he won't go ahead with the rape, says Ms. Hokonson. The other 50 percent he will try to shut you up.

Women should consider their assessment before yelling.

If she is at the Circle Center during the Saturday rapists and a policeman is stationed every 20 feet, screaming would appear a logical alternative. On the other hand if she is out in the Sandy forest it

Ms. Hokonson recommends screaming "Fire" before yelling "rape.

"People don't react personally on fire, she says.

Although such is said of public safety, Ms. Hokonson tends to break it off. "People don't know what to do. They're in a non-stock situation.

She urges women to wear a device connected to would be rescuers such as "call the police" or "fire.

"Make cover people stop and ask if it and assist you, she says.

If you were a rape in progress, the best thing to do is call the police. Ms. Hokonson says. "It sounds cold but it may be the most immediate help available.

If a woman chooses to fight, she should know exactly what she is doing, according to Ms. Hokonson.

Many women rely on the "kick them where it counts" tactic, she adds. What if he comes up behind you? It's a physical impossibility.

The assailant may respond with force if the victim fights. And defenses learned during a friendly karate class may not save as well during an actual attack. Fright often freeze a an emergency.

If the woman has a weapon, it should be accessible and in a position to be used, adds Hokonson. A weapon won't do much good in the bottom of a purse.

"There's always the possibility he'll take it away from you," Ms. Hokonson observes. Women should ask themselves if they are fast, strong and determined enough to use it or has before he grabs and uses it first.

Still another alternative is submission. If you appear to go along with the attacker it may lay you time to use another alternative.

One such alternative is what Hokonson calls the psychological defense. This can include talking with the attacker and getting him to see the victim as a human being.

"You have to understand the rapist," Ms. Hokonson reflects. "He doesn't see you as a person. You are a means of acting out aggression.

Attackers sometimes come to realize the victim is human as she talks. But whatever a woman says she should make it believable.

"Say you're three months pregnant," advises Ms. Hokonson. "Don't say you're nine months pregnant.

And be prepared for him to tell you to shut up, she adds.

Ms. Hokonson relates a host of examples of how women have repelled of attackers using the psychological defense. Some are humorous. The important thing, she stresses, is that they have worked.

Some successful dialogs include telling the rapist "I've got VD" or "How would you feel if this was happening to your sister?"

Socially unacceptable actions such as vomiting, taking seizures and drooling can also deter attackers.

And I guarantee that he leaves exercise very quickly when some victim wets her pants, Ms. Hokonson adds with a laugh.

One woman, a Portland State University student, proclaimed her actions should she ever come under attack. Then one night she was grabbed while in the Park Blocks near campus.

She fell down on all fours and began clawing at the grass like a cat. The attacker immediately dropped back and took a double take.

"Lady, you are sick," he said as he left the scene.

"It's embarrassing, acknowledges Ms. Hokonson. But it's so much better than being raped.

Another woman told her attacker she had just come from visiting a doctor who told her she had terminal cancer.

"I just can't handle this today, she said. The attacker apologized and left.

Still others have startled their attackers by making funny faces or barking like bears.

Many times natural reactions become the most effective ones, Ms. Hokonson says.

The worst thing about the psychological defense is that you won't endanger yourself. And it just might get you through, Ms. Hokonson says.

The important thing about any defense is to think about it now, the Rape Victim Advocate director notes. The brain is a marvelous thing and can often come up with the right reaction in a matter of seconds.

Common sense precautions can decrease attack chances

In a recent episode of All in the Family, Edith Bunker, the trusting, motherly wife of redneck Archie was assaulted by a rapist.

In her plight raised their eyebrows. After all, what's the most likely rape victim, young good looking and scantily dressed?

So says Mia Hokonson, head of the Clackamas County Rape Victim Advocate Program.

Statistically, every female regardless of age, race or economic background may be a rape victim. She is open to attack at any time, any place.

In reality the typical rape victim is younger than Edith Bunker, says Ms. Hokonson. Someone who's non aggressive, someone who's vulnerable.

Rapists, she adds, seem to have a particular knack for picking out people who are trusting and approachable.

Rape is a crime of violence, not sex, she says. It is committed to control frustration and degrade the victim.

Women are fearful of all reported rapes occur not in dimes with a stranger who grabs the victim off the street according to statistics from the Clackamas County District Attorney's Office.

About 50 per cent of women raped in Clackamas County know their attacker.

He may be her husband's best friend, a next door neighbor, someone or repairman.

"It might be someone she's met casually or a casual friendship, says Ms. Hokonson.

We call those confidence rapes because the woman has confidence in the person committing the crime.

Although law enforcement officials especially it is responsible to tell if a woman is raped until it's too late, women can make themselves less vulnerable to attack through prevention.

Heightened awareness can reduce your chances of becoming a victim, say law enforcement officials. So can a little common sense.

Among those most vulnerable to attack are women hitchhikers.

You give up all your personal rights to someone she's approachable, points out Ms. Hokonson.

Sometimes they take the door handles off the cars of the attackers, who pick up endangering females. Other would be rapists set the door lock mechanism so the woman is trapped in the car.

She recommends relaxing or after her a ride if there are doubts about the driver. And if a woman does hitchhike, it is suggested that she do it with someone she and both riders enter and leave the car at the same time.

Ms. Hokonson also urges hitchhikers to find out the driver's destination before getting where they're going.

Other common sense tips are listed below.

At home do not open your doors to strangers. Keep doors secured with deadbolt locks.

Use special window and sliding glass door locks available through locksmiths.

Have your keys at hand as you go to your car's lock of your door are ready.

If you have to walk alone, walk on well-lit, well-traveled familiar streets.

Let someone know where you will be going and when you will be back.

Be reasonable aware of what and what is unusual on in your walk.

If you're jogging or bicycling early night or late alone stay in the public first-class and aerobics class is that could give you assistance, suggested Ms. Hokonson.

Judge distances to what homes you'll be if you need help somewhere, she added.

Other suggestions to make a woman less vulnerable to attack include:

Going to public places with a group until you know your date well.

Having your keys in hand when you approach the car.

Keeping your car locked and windows rolled up.

Not stopping if you suspect someone is following you while you're driving. Drive to a populated area or to a police station.