

1 Along the Roads

Alaska continues to be, outside of its three largest cities, quite provincial, and Alaskans generally tend to be hard working and inclined to be rather tight-lipped about fish runs, gold claims and practically everything else. In spite of this, there really has not been any one period since 1950 when sasquatches, their tracks or possible vocalizations have not been reported in southeast Alaska. Most of the following stories have not been made known outside of friends and family until recently. It is likely that one reason for this is the fear of ridicule. It is perhaps for this reason that some of the following witnesses have not chosen to have their full identities published. Another may be that the existence of the creature along the Alaskan coast has not been widely mentioned in the local media. It is noteworthy that with the increased media attention given to sasquatches in the U.S. and Canada in the past three decades, more than a few southeast Alaskans have come to the conclusion that what they have experienced may be something more than simply a Native folk tale.

Native southeast Alaskans have certainly always had their stories of wild creatures resembling men. It may have been easy, in the early 1900s, to assume that any such story coming from an old sourdough, fresh from the Alaskan bush, was embellished by Native influence. With modern reports, however, this is much less likely.

Before getting into reports, a word or two on sasquatch names is called for. The word *kushtakaa*, the Tlingit name for a lost human transformed into a hair-covered creature, is still used in southeast Alaska today, even by some non-Natives, as a euphemism for sasquatch. This has made the whole thing rather confusing. There are still traditional Tlingits or Haidas who firmly believe that all

man-sized, hair-covered creatures are transformed humans, or *kushtakaas*, and that any larger, hair-covered hominids would have to be called sasquatches. In some of the earlier reports of sasquatchlike creatures assembled here there is often little awareness of widespread coastal sasquatch documentation. The terms sasquatch or bigfoot have been largely unused in southeast Alaska, with “hairy man,” *kushtakaa* or other local names usually given. Furthermore, some local Alaskans have apparently had the notion that such hairy, manlike creatures were only to be found in southeast Alaska. Where the term *kushtakaa* has been used in some sighting reports, it is taken here to signify simply “upright, hair-covered hominid,” or sasquatch, rather than the historical, transformational interpretation (to be dealt with later).

There have been a significant number of sightings along southeast Alaskan roads, by both highway motorists at night, as well as by hunters along logging roads at dawn and dusk. In most cases, both sasquatches and humans seem to have been mutually surprised, and the reported sasquatches have not seemed much interested in humans. Most sightings along roads are brief, the creature in view for less than ten seconds or so. Witnesses appear to have been even less inclined to stop and stare. Only reports from individuals found credible are documented. Each report is followed by a code containing the year, (eg 1967), and a map number following the code, eg. [S67C-map5]. What follows are some of these accounts.

Revilla' (Revillagigedo) Island Area Roadside Sightings

Mr. E. B., a retired Annette Island fisherman in his fifties, reported having seen something unusual in the bush sometime in the 1970s, while fall deer hunting five miles south of Metlakatla, Annette Island. He had been walking a gravel road into the mountains, through patches of open muskeg in hemlock and cedar forest, when he had been surprised by something running across the road about sixty yards away. This is what he said in a 1999 interview:

“It was around a curve in the road just west of Purple Mountain, near Metlakatla, but there was enough spacing in the trees to make out a light brown form running across the road from left to right. It wasn't low like a bear, and it didn't bound like a deer. I only saw it for a few seconds. It was about as tall as I am, six feet, and I have never seen anything move that fast before. I moved up the road

quickly and if it was a deer running, I should have been able to have seen it. It had covered the open ground real fast and was gone. I'm not sure what it was, but I think it could have been one of those creatures.” [S70C-map5]

Sasquatches are just as often reported seen along a road as by the ocean, and frequently near both. A longtime resident of Revilla' Island, Mrs. K. W., reported a typically brief roadside sighting along an undeveloped stretch of the North Tongass Highway, just north of Mile 13 and northwest of Ketchikan, Revilla' Island. In a 1999 interview, she summed up her experience:

“Late one afternoon in the late 70s, summertime, I had been driving southbound, toward Ketchikan with passengers, coming up on the scenic viewpoint that overlooks Tongass Narrows. As I came around a curve, I noticed a seven-foot, dark, hair-covered creature standing on the right-hand side of the road, just at the edge of the forest. It was on two legs and jumped quickly into the trees and was gone. But it stayed upright as it disappeared into the trees!” [S70B-map5]

The forest along the viewpoint looks now much as it did then, dark second-growth hemlock and cedar, with patches of pine and muskeg. What is curious about this minor “hot spot” location is that there are at least two other reports of sasquatches seen less than a mile away. One was a group sighting by five youths in 1955; another was the following sighting by Ketchikan cyclist Gerald P. in 1998. Three reports within one mile is unusual, but over a forty-three-year time span is downright peculiar!

Few people in southeast Alaska report seeing sasquatches in broad daylight, if they report them at all. The report that follows is unusual in that while it occurred along the same mile of highway north of Ketchikan as two other reports, it apparently occurred in the middle of the afternoon. Gerald P. is a serious young Ketchikan man who consented to being interviewed in December of 1998. In a quiet voice he recounted details of a surprising sighting he said he had while cycling back to town in August of that year. He stated he had been visiting a friend at the end of the North Tongass Highway at Settler's Cove recreation area, and in midafternoon was on his bike headed southbound down the highway. He had been cycling along the highway near mile-marker twelve, coasting quietly along at a good speed, having just finished a long downhill stretch. The sides of the highway beyond the ditches were well forested and the ditches

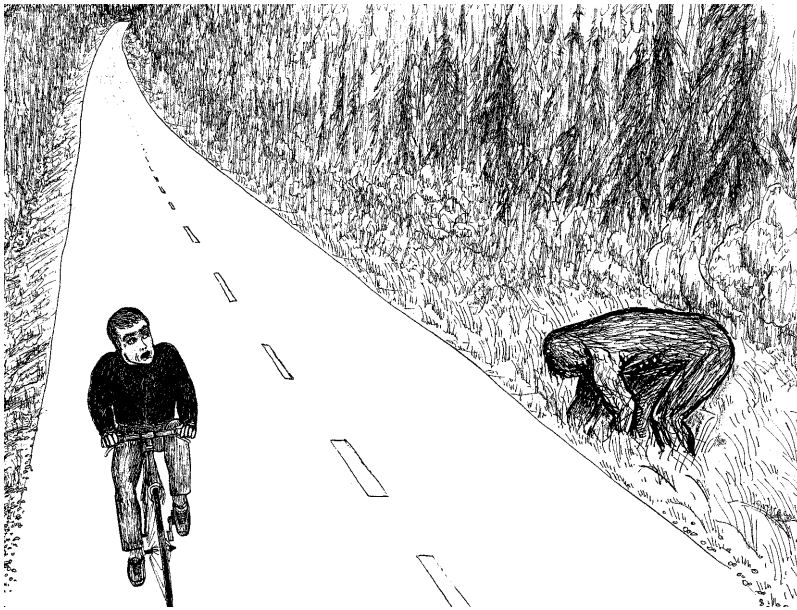


Figure 3: Illustration of sasquatch reported by cyclist Gerald P. on Revilla' Island Highway, 1998.

were empty of shrubs, just grass and such. Gerald said he happened to glance to his left across the other lane at a movement that caught his eye. At that moment he felt his hair go up.

“I had just slowed down from seeing how fast I could go, when I suddenly noticed something standing in the ditch on my left as I went by, less than twenty feet away. It was big and looked like it weighed maybe 275 to 300 pounds, with long arms and dark brown fur. I got a lungful of the most awful gagging smell, like a combination of rotten meat, urine and damp earth. It was opposite me in the bottom of the ditch with its head and shoulders bending down. It was shaped about like a man but larger; it would have been about seven feet tall if it had stood up straight. The hair on the body was a couple of inches long. The hair on the top of the head was longer and matted. Its head was bent over as I went by.

“It didn't look up, and I don't think it heard me coast up to where it was. I couldn't see its two legs well, just from the tops of the thighs up, but it was reaching down and looked like it was digging at some-

thing in the slope of the ditch nearest me. There were flies buzzing all around it.

“It smelled so bad it made me want to throw up. It was shaggy and not really heavily built, it kind of looked like it wasn't doing too well, kind of on the thin side. I know it wasn't a bear. I couldn't see its arms from the forearms down. I thought it might have had a dead dog it was digging at or something because of the smell. Its head was down and I couldn't see a neck or its face.

“I was scared and started pedaling real hard and heard crunching sounds like wood breaking behind me as I went past. I was scared—I felt my hair go up. I thought maybe it was coming after me, but after fifty feet or so I looked back and it was gone. I guess it went back into the woods on that side. The smell really made me want to gag. I didn't stop pedaling once till I got home in town.” [S98A-map5]

Sasquatches are commonly reported on this southwest corner of Revilla' Island. There are no human habitations to speak of along the inland side of this particular stretch of highway, and the forest continues uninterrupted from there some sixty miles north across the island. Deer cross the road regularly; there are clams on the beaches below. Not a bad place to live, for a sasquatch at any rate.

Miss Robin S., a Ketchikan retail clerk, told me in 1999 of a second-hand report she and her sister had heard in late 1986, which was said to have happened at a picnic shelter just five miles south of Ketchikan. Her account went as follows:

“My boyfriend and his friend had told me about a strange thing they had seen late one night at Bugge's Beach (a half-mile north of Saxman, south of Ketchikan). It was August, and they had camped out and stayed up late at the open picnic shelter in the trees between the beach and the highway. They had been up all night, had a fire going, and it was about four or five in the morning. They were at the tables in the shelter when they heard heavy footsteps crossing the highway. They said they watched as a real tall, darkly furred, man-shaped figure came walking down the hiking trail that passes a few yards from the shelter. They said they watched as it walked right past them at their fire, less than thirty feet away, heading south on the forest trail that parallels the beach.” [S86C-map5]

The year 1999 brought another sighting near Saxman, also in August, and just a half-mile from the previous spot. Saxman resi-

dent Mike V. reported that he and friends saw a creature that was “either a *kushtakaa* or a sasquatch” from his parked car.

“I had parked with friends on a dead-end service road north of Saxman one evening in August, and was enjoying some music with the other three in the car. I had the car running and the headlights aimed ahead down the blocked-off road and into the hemlock and pine on either side. There was a small utility building set into the forest, twenty yards ahead past a low log barricade, and the building had a single outdoor light on. Some time after midnight, we were all surprised to see a seven-foot, dark brown or black, upright creature walk real smooth across the road. It walked into the light about a hundred feet in front of us, left to right.

“It was swinging its arms and was heavy built. It didn’t turn to look at the headlights and continued into the trees. That was it, we stayed a while but it didn’t come back.” The other witnesses stated they did not hear any sound or detect any odor. Mike later estimated its weight at possibly up to 500 pounds.

In parts of the Pacific Northwest, sasquatch sightings in any one spot appear to fall off after a number of years, for reasons unknown. If reports obtained herein are any indication, Ketchikan’s Ward Lake, a popular forest recreation spot less than ten miles north of the city, shows no sign of doing so. A middle-aged Ketchikan grandmother, who wishes to remain anonymous, told me in an interview in March, 2000, of a sighting she had early one morning in late November, 1999. She stated that, at about 5:00 a.m., she had taken her usual morning drive out to the end of the Ward Lake Road at Signal Creek Campground to park, enjoy a cup of coffee and wait for the sunrise.

“It was dark and, because there was a light drizzle, I had just switched to high beams...passing the bridge over Ward Creek upstream of Ward Lake. Ahead of me, in the old salmonberry bushes between the forest on the left and the road, I noticed a man-sized, hair-covered figure, light brown all over. For a split-second I thought it might be a deer reaching up on its hind legs to browse, but what I saw next immediately changed my mind.

“I could see the body and head turn to look at me as I drove by less than thirty feet away. The shoulders and head were almost like a man’s, but hair-covered. It didn’t look right at me and there was no eye-shine. The creature was not especially heavily built and had

been walking upright in the bushes when the headlights caught it. I was amazed at seeing one of these creatures you hear about so close to town, but when I turned around at the Signal Creek intersection a moment later and drove back, it was no longer there.

“I waited a good half hour pulled over in my vehicle there, having coffee and watching, but didn’t see anything more. I felt safe enough in my truck for that, but I sure didn’t get out and go looking for tracks!” [S99B-map5]

The old-growth cedar, spruce and hemlock forest at Ward Lake is certainly popular. It is an ideal location to see deer, river otters, beavers, black bear, ducks, geese and swans, as well as many species of salmon and trout. That in the past forty years there have been at least fifteen sasquatch reports within a mile of Ward Lake does not seem surprising.

The campground one mile north of Ward Lake, Last Chance Campground on upper Ward Creek (a.k.a. Connell Creek), was the scene of one skeptic’s startling revelation. A military officer I know, a hale and hearty fellow who until recently would readily laugh at any sasquatch report, passed on to a mutual military acquaintance the following sighting account. As told by the second man, in the summer of 2001:

“He told me he had seen something which changed his mind about sasquatches before moving south, and there was no question about it to him now.... He had gone camping at Last Chance Campground this spring (2001) and told me that a few weeks previously, April sometime, he had been in his trailer late one evening, being the only vehicle there, and got out to stretch his legs and get a bit of fresh air. He was camped close to the creek and it was less than a minute’s walk to the highway. There was still some faint light to see by, it wasn’t raining, so he hadn’t bothered taking his flashlight. He said ‘I had just reached the middle of the highway and was looking back down toward Ward Lake and town, enjoying the quiet, when something made me look back toward the forest on the campground side. Just standing there on the near slope of the ditch, about twenty feet away, was a tall, dark figure with broad shoulders. It looked real heavily built, and was a lot taller than a six-and-a-half-foot man, maybe seven feet or more. Right away,’ he said, ‘it started walking past me swinging its arms, taking real long strides, and just stepped across the highway. It covered the twenty feet in about

four steps.’ He told me, ‘I was so amazed to see the thing, I just stood there with my jaw hanging open until I lost sight of it in the steep ditch on the other side. At that,’ he said, ‘I just went straight back into the trailer, and didn’t hear or see anything more the whole time I was there.’” [S01F-map5]

The friend added that the officer told him that at no time did he smell anything or hear it make any sound. He added the man had the impression that it had been coming out of the thick hemlock beside the highway when it had spotted him, and had just stood there watching him for a moment. Incredibly, it seems that his campsite, or one adjacent it, was the same exact campsite as one other nighttime sighting report around 1982 by a group of fishermen [S82C] and an earlier 1978 report of loud nighttime screaming [V78A].

Near the other end of Revilla’s paved highway, Herring Cove, southeast of Ketchikan, has been the focal point of several more recent sightings. Mark S., a twenty-eight-year-old Ketchikan retailer, recently passed on a brief second-hand report from a business friend who wishes to remain anonymous. Mark stated his friend had told him that sometime in late June or early July, 2001, at about 2:30 one morning, he had turned his car around 100 yards upstream from the Herring Cove Bridge. “He told me that there he had seen a brown, hair-covered figure as tall as a man in the meadow across the creek...” Mark stated, “He said it was upright and running across the open area—at least a hundred yards of open grassy flats—‘faster than anybody he’d ever seen.’ He said it ran into the forest. He seemed serious.” [S01E-map5]

Initially, I had not given much weight to this second-hand report, since it had described a figure that could have been any nocturnal athlete in a fur suit, unlikely though that may seem. But the next report, given in June, 2001, shed a different light on the first. Following is a statement from Doug Johnson, a surprised-looking twenty-eight-year-old Ketchikan cannery worker.

“It was the night of June 8, 2001, and I was taking a drive to the (south) end of the road a few miles past Herring Cove to enjoy the clear skies. It was about 9:30 at night, not really dark (Alaskan summer nights are quite short) and I saw this creature crossing the road just before Achilles Creek, from right to left about fifty-five yards ahead, walking on two legs across the gravel road, swinging its arms. It was about six feet tall, I would say, and it was covered all

over with dark hair, shiny—like it was dripping wet. It was crossing from the oceanside of the highway, going toward the steep inland side of the road. Before it stepped into the forest I got a good look at how heavy it was built. I’d guess about 300 pounds, anyhow. I didn’t slow down and it didn’t even seem to turn to look at my car or anything, it was gone in a couple of steps. It was, like, a bit spooky, y’know. I didn’t see any other wildlife that trip. One thing I remember was that there was a sort of stink to that stretch of the road. I never stopped later to see tracks or anything, but there is a little clam beach just through the trees at that spot, I’ve fished there before, a pretty quiet spot.” [S01B-map5]

Back at the Herring Cove Bridge, only weeks later, someone else had a very similar experience. Mr. D. H., a taciturn forty-two-year-old Ketchikan road builder, gave me a matter-of-fact interview in October, 2001:

“At about 9:30 p.m. on the night of July 14, I was taking a walk with my wife and son along South Tongass Highway. We had left the house heading north, and had just come into view of Herring Cove on our right. The shoulder of the highway overlooks a steep bank and the curving mud shore of the cove is just ten yards below. We were almost at the bridge when I noticed a dark brown figure below me near the water. It was as tall as a man, running away from me toward the ocean point on the south end of the cove. I don’t think my wife or son saw it. It ran on two legs, but it ran faster than a man—faster than a bear in fact. It ran toward the south end of the cove, about a hundred and fifty yards, in less than ten seconds! I saw it the whole time. The tide was out and the sky was clear, visibility was good. It was just starting to get dark and there had been very little traffic. The figure was entirely dark brown and it appeared hair-covered. There wasn’t any smell or noise. It disappeared into the bushes and trees near the end of the point. I just kept walking with my family, so I didn’t stop to look for tracks, but the tide had come in later that night and by the next morning there was no sign of anything.” [S01D-map5]

It would appear possible that the three previous reports are all describing one individual sasquatch, since all three were reported in the same mile of coast, all dark colored, about “man-sized” or six feet. Two of three locations were within 100 yards of each other, and two at precisely 9:30 p.m. These are a lot of coincidences for a hypothetical jogger running that fast in a fur suit in summer. If there

was such a person, he should perhaps either be warned of the dangers of wearing such apparel during bear season or be drafted by the U.S. track team.

It is even possible that the first anonymous Herring Creek report may have happened on or around the same night as the road-builder's Herring Cove report of July 14. The fact that there was a sizable return of king (chinook) salmon to the Herring Cove Hatchery in July might be one plausible explanation for a nocturnal sasquatch to follow closely upon the more often-seen evening visitors of this salmon-rich creek—the local black bears.

An immature, six-foot sasquatch, distracted by the noisy abundance of salmon, might perhaps be careless enough to venture sufficiently close to roads and buildings to be observed by passers-by. These three reports may also be related to the mysterious nocturnal lifting and throwing of a 600-pound furnace reported only a quarter of a mile south of Herring Cove in February of the previous year.

Prince of Wales Island Roadside Sightings

The largest island in Alaska, Prince of Wales Island, has more logging roads than anywhere in Alaska. Small wonder then that it also yields as many roadside sasquatch sightings as its smaller but more populous neighbor to the east, Revilla' Island. In 1999, a Ketchikan hardware clerk, Mr. B. E., told me that he had seen an unusual creature twelve years previously while deer hunting at Labouchere Bay, on the northeast tip of Prince of Wales Island.

"I was hunting opening day, August 1, 1987, at 'Lab' Bay. I had been dropped off up a logging road and had worked my way up beside a clear-cut to a good spot. It was about 11:00 a.m. I was just sitting near the top of the clear-cut, about thirty-five yards from the treeline, when I noticed something black moving on two legs just along the edge of the treeline above me. It was moving smoothly at about ten miles per hour and was just keeping to the trees, moving in and out of them as it went along. I watched it for about ten seconds. It wasn't that big, it was only about five feet tall, but it was upright and moving fairly quick. I knew it wasn't a bear. I saw it move off into the forest away from me. I hadn't seen any deer that morning, nothing came to the call. Right after that, I just decided it would be a real good time to head back on down and get picked up." [S87A-map2]

Only three miles south, around 1984, two other witnesses had

described finding two sets of large hominid tracks in snow. Tracks have also been reported in snow nearby, just several miles east of Lab Bay, up Flicker Creek. None of these tracks were small enough to match the smaller stature of the creature reported above, but the notion of a local family group is suggested by the 1984 track report, which mentions two quite different sizes of tracks as "traveling together." (See *Big Footprints on the Alaskan Panhandle*, 1984 by Scott and Bruce Shirley.)

For anyone hoping to see a sasquatch in Alaska from a vehicle at night, it seems the Klawock-Hollis Highway, crossing the middle of Prince of Wales Island, may offer the best bet. It is from the middle stretch between Harris River and Klawock Lake, that two independent reports (Al Jackson in 1996; J. S. in 1999) were forwarded, relating to one 1993 highway incident involving a Mr. I. W. and his wife, then of Klawock, Prince of Wales Island. Although I was not able to interview the witnesses in person, both second-hand accounts agreed in detail, alleging the sighting to have taken place at about 2:30 a.m., while the couple were driving home to Klawock from the ferry that arrives late at Hollis on the east coast of the island. They were driving over the middle of the island, somewhere near the junction of the main highway with Hydaburg Road and the south end of Klawock Lake, coming around a bend in the highway when they picked out a creature crossing the road in front of them. The husband had apparently immediately exclaimed, "Look, a bear!"—to which his wife replied "Yes, but look at that! Since when does a bear walk on his hind legs?" Both accounts agree the witnesses stated it was tall, dark in color and moved quickly. The middle of Prince of Wales Island is quite rugged at this location, densely forested with second-growth hemlock and cedar. This report is just three miles south of another sighting alleged to have taken place two years later [S95A-map4] and one earlier report of an unusual nest. [S93A-map4]

Reports have continued to emanate from this central Prince of Wales Island hot spot almost annually throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In fact they continue today. A brief second-hand report from central Prince of Wales Island came recently through Mr. Dan H., a burly senior forestry professional in Craig, Alaska.

"A local woman, named Michelle, told me briefly that in the fall of 1995 she had accompanied her boyfriend to an area southwest of

the south end of Klawock Lake. I believe they went in on the Shaan-Seet logging road via Craig and Port San Nicholas on the west coast of the island. They had gone up the road system about four miles from saltwater. She told me they had seen a sasquatch, dark brown in color, near the head [south end] of the lake.” [S95A-map4]

Although details for the previous report are lacking, this sighting was situated fewer than five miles from numerous midisland highway reports, including the following one. In yet another nighttime report near the middle of the Klawock highway, Mr. S. W., an enterprising Klawock businessman, stated the following in a 2000 interview.

“My son and I had been driving the Hollis-Klawock Highway, Prince of Wales Island, late one night during summer, 1997 or 98, driving west, home to Klawock. It was raining lightly and there were no traces of snow in the high places. Somewhere about halfway between Harris Creek and the middle of Klawock Lake, in the area around the south end of Klawock Lake, we spotted a nine-to ten-foot form, dark brown or black in the headlights. It was about 10:00 p.m. and the distance was about 100 to 150 yards. It was moving fast in an upright posture and was crossing the highway to the right, to the uphill side. It went from the middle of the highway to the right, and it sure wasn’t a bear or any other animal we have on the island! I looked at my son for just a second and we both said ‘Did you see that?’ By the time we looked back, it was gone into the forest on the right. The creature covered that distance in only three or four steps! I’ll say again, it was no bear. I’ve hunted a long time in these woods and I’ve never seen anything like it! Personally, I’d have to say that it was what people around here call a *kushtakaa*.” [S97C-map4]

These days in Hydaburg and Craig, on the southern half of Prince of Wales Island, the younger generation usually speak of creatures like the sasquatch as “the hairy man.” Stan Edenshaw and his cousin Mickey Calhoun are two such young Ketchikan men, who often travel to Hydaburg to visit their grandmother and family. On one such trip in early July, 1997, Stan and Mickey were halfway down the Hydaburg Highway, passing the trail head to Trocadero Bay around 2:00 a.m. Stan told me the following in a 2001 interview:

“We had just passed the trail sign that marks the trail to Trocadero Bay and were southbound when, forty yards in front of the car, a seven- to eight-foot hairy man stepped into the middle of

the road. It never even looked at us. It was chocolate brown colored and covered all over in six-inch-long hair or fur. The arms were swinging fairly straight with only about a twenty-degree angle at the elbow, but it was moving along real fast, left to right. The last two strides it took were about ten feet apart—it covered the twenty feet in two long paces. It didn’t even seem to be running that hard, not pumping its arms like a runner would do. It was heavily built, I don’t know exactly, but it looked like it would have weighed at least three, maybe four, hundred pounds. We noticed that it hadn’t any hair on its face, palms or the bottoms of its feet. Mickey wanted to stop and look for tracks and stuff, but I wanted to keep driving, I didn’t feel like stopping—if you know what I mean—and we kept driving on to Hydaburg.

“It was something that kind of shakes you up for a while, so when we got to Hydaburg, we didn’t just hit the sack, we stayed up to tell my grandmother about it. She knew all about these hairy men. ‘People used to see them regularly around twelve mile in the years past,’ she said. We reported it to the police but besides that, only to our family.” [S97D-map4]

The same man reported recently seeing a hairy man quite close to the town of Hydaburg. In an interview in 2001, he recalled that in early August, 2000, he had been driving past the gravel quarry one mile out of Hydaburg, late in the day.

“The second one I saw, I was driving past the old Hydaburg quarry last year, which in places is more like a meadow, and looking at it on the left as I drove past, I was a little surprised to see one of the hairy men that a lot of Hydaburg people talk about seeing. It was just getting dark, about 9:30 p.m. It was about fifty yards away, dark brown from head to toe, about seven feet tall, and it was just walking along in the open area, its back to me, away from the highway. It didn’t turn around as I slowed for a good look, it just kept walking away, heading west into the trees toward the ocean. I didn’t hear anything or smell anything, and I didn’t stop, just kept on driving.

“The thing that surprised me was that it was so close to town. All of the old stories, ones I heard when I was younger, were of sightings that people always had of them up the highway a ways, around twelve or thirteen mile, where the road makes a tight turn, there’s a cave up there the creatures use there, people in Hydaburg say. But lately a few people have been saying they’ve seen them

closer to town, although not all the old folks take that seriously, but I saw one that night, real close by.” [S00C-map4]

Two months later and thirty miles back toward Hollis and Klawock, a Ketchikan woman, who wishes anonymity, reported that in early October, 2000, she and her husband had been driving to the Hollis ferry at about 8:30 p.m. Just as it was getting dark, she said, they saw something unusual cross the highway in front of them. She stated in a later interview: “The creature we saw was large, dark and covered completely with hair. It was walking across the highway halfway between the Hydaburg cutoff and Harris River Campground. It crossed from south to north and was moving quickly on two legs. It was taller than a man, and it wasn’t a bear. I know what I saw, and I’ll admit I was scared!” [S00D-map4] (see Figure 4)

In 2001 several more reports came to light. In March, there was another report of a sasquatch crossing the Klawock-Hollis Highway on Prince of Wales Island. A respected Gustavus man, formerly of Ketchikan, reported seeing a sasquatch at close range on January 2, 2001. He stated the following in a telephone interview:

“About 5:00 a.m., my wife and I were returning to the ferry at Hollis from visiting friends in Klawock. As we followed the highway through a series of downhill s-turns about one and a half miles from the Hollis ferry terminal, we were amazed to see what appeared to be an eight-foot, hairy, man-shaped creature walking on two legs across the highway. It walked with just a slight up and down movement and had apparently been trying to cross the highway from left to right, but on seeing or hearing us, it seemed to bend down into a crouching position. It was kind of like it was trying to hide from the high-beams. What we noticed was the reddish eye reflection that the headlights picked up. We had slowed down to about twenty miles per hour, because at first we hadn’t wanted to hit anything. And looking at it, my wife and I agreed it was no bear. We supposed it would have to have been a *kushtakaa* or sasquatch or whatever you call it. It was interesting all right!”

In a follow-up interview, the witness mentioned that the creature appeared to have one arm up shielding its face, behavior that would be consistent with any nocturnal hominoid facing bright light. [S01A-map4]

In mid-August, 2002, just six miles south of Klawock, Prince of Wales Island, a surprised couple sighted a sasquatch crossing the



Figure 4: Artist’s impression of creature sighted by a Ketchikan woman, reported running across Klawock-Hollis Highway, Prince of Wales Island in October, 2000. Sketch by author under witness’ direction.

highway, reported Al Jackson of Klawock. Bert C. and his wife were driving north on the highway at about 11:30 p.m. returning to Klawock from a bingo game, when they saw an upright, dark, hair-covered creature walking across the highway, crossing to the inland side of the road in their headlights. They were reported to have stated that it turned as it walked, exposing “long hair running from the back of its head and neck down its back, kind of like a horse’s

mane.” This location is very close to that reported by Stanley Edenshaw, in August, 2002. [S02A-map4]

What these eight reports seem to indicate is that, on Prince of Wales Island at least, sasquatches might be seen almost around the clock, but somewhat more frequently late in the day or at night. Of course, this many reports are not fodder for any self-respecting statistician, and the largest databases, such as those of John Green or the BFRO (Bigfoot Researchers Organization <www.bfro.net>), may suggest something else. The 1987 Labouchere Bay sighting is somewhat unusual in that the reported creature was smaller than most, only five feet tall, and was reportedly seen at midday. The only other sighting of a smaller creature, on Annette Island in the early 1990s [S90B-map5], was also in broad daylight. Two such reports are insufficient to draw any conclusions, but it may be that infant or juvenile sasquatches have different sleep cycles than adult creatures or perhaps have simply not learned to avoid exposing themselves during daylight hours.