

What I Seen

By Derek Frazier

Transcript of a conversation between Baxter DeJean and Michael Hero; May 26, 1996 (Sunday):

BD: (slams a can of beer and crushes the can) Goddamn, that beer tastes like shit. (eats from a box of Cheez-Its) Hey man, (burps) I want to tell you about something we got going on out here.

MH: What's that?

BD: Out here on County Road 3414 we ain't necessarily living in the swamp, but we can smell it from here. You know what I mean?

MH: Mm-hmm.

BD: Huh?

MH: Mm-hmm. (drinks beer)

BD: (opens another beer). The other day me and Seth Domangue was out in the swamp. (slams a beer, burps) Aww, fuck me naked. (burps) Fuck. (eats Cheez-Its) The other day we was out there in the swamp, kind of playing grab-ass and looking for a place to put our deer blind for next year, and we seen it, it was uh, it was the Bigfoot.

MH: Was a what?

BD: It was the Bigfoot. It was uh, nine, ten feet tall, covered with hair, kind of dark brownish hair, a little grizzle in there like a, more like a pole-cat than a grizzly bear. And uh, usually when you're out there in the swamp there's all kinds of sounds, you know, like birds and whatnot. Ever now and then a snake'll wiggle off of a branch and fall off down into the water, mostly them copperheads. We got a couple of them water moccasins, whatever they's called, mossacin, water moccasin, sockin, mossacin.... Anyway, uh, it was real quiet and we, uh, we looked up in the, kind of up in there on the levee, and, uh, (opens and slams a beer) oh, goddamn, (burps) and he was walking off in them trees (eats Cheez-Its) kind of up in that thicket, you know, where them briars live, where them briars grow. Now, (burps) we've had the Bigfoot out here quite a while, and, uh, the reason I know is, uh, my daddy's, let's see, my daddy's, my daddy's granddaddy, and my granddaddy's daddy... and my granddaddy's granddaddy, (burps) and my daddy's daddy, they all seen him.

MH: Yeah?

BD: You ever seen him?

MH: No.

BD: Huh?

MH: No.

BD: And uh, also I've seen a, I read me a book one time and it had a lot of pictures of the Bigfoot in it, and had a lot of talk about folks seeing them and shit, and uh, a lot of them was off up in another part of the country, that shit don't matter, but out here in the East Texas we got them, too. They was talking about that (burps) and uh, they seem to like the, they seem to like the thickets and woods and all, kind of like us out here. And uh, I guess you could say, uh, that (unintelligible) kind of like the Bigfoot, uh, we both kind of just stick to ourselves, uh, kind of live off the land you know, I don't know if he's eating 'possum, but I know I do, they pretty good, when you can't find enough squirrels you know, there's not much meat on a squirrel.

MH: Nope.

BD: You can get them both with a .22, though, and they's both pretty good eating but they's kind of hard to find, and uh.... (begins singing) My heroes have always been cowboys, and it still are it seems, sadly in search of (drinks beer) but one step in back of, themselves and their slow-moving dreams. (speaking) That was old Waylon, Waylon Jennings, and uh, he made that song with old Willie. (finishes beer) Fuck, what was I talking about?

MH: Bigfoot. (drinks beer)

BD: (pauses, eats Cheez-Its) Well, shit, it don't matter. Anyway, couple of days ago my buddy Lloyd, I call him Beaudroux because I got another buddy named Lloyd, and if you got two Lloyds, that's just one too many Lloyds. Anyway, Beaudroux fell off his four-wheeler, and uh, we uh, had to put one of them plasters on his back, hook him up with some, you know... (sound of dog barking) Get out of that. What you doing over there? We got dogs.

MH: Yeah.

BD: Anyway, what was I saying? Oh yeah, Beaudroux, we put one of them plasters on his back, and uh, I still had uh, I still had that box of plaster of Paris in the back of the truck, (drinks beer) and uh, me and Domangue made one of them, uh, (eats Cheez-Its) what do you call, uh, one of them footprint things? You know, when they make a footprint and you pour the plaster in there, and you make a footprint? A picture of it? (eats Cheez-Its)

MH: Yeah.

BD: Huh?

MH: A cast.

BD: Huh? Anyway, we did that, and uh, this is it right here. (holds up cast of a large footprint)

MH: Hmm.

BD: (burps) As you can see, it's got a foot a lot bigger than mine. (holds up his own foot) Shit. Anyway, it's got five toes, uh, some of the Bigfoot I read about only got the four toes, sometimes they only got the three toes. But anyway, there's his foot. And uh, old Domangue (dog barks)... What the fuck? What you doing over there? (barking continues) Dogs, we got dogs. Dogs barking and shit. I get a little uneasy when a dog bark like that, though, cause you never know who's coming up the road. Anyway, (drinks beer) anyway, that's about all I got, (burps) I just wanted to tell you about (pauses) anyway, I just wanted to tell y'all about the Bigfoot, and uh, suggest y'all keep your eyes out for him, and uh, cause he's out there, and uh, (eats Cheez-Its) and uh, me and Domangue's going to go back and see if we can't, can't bag us one. Cause uh, they pretty rare, pretty scarce, so it makes sense to me to kill them off, or at least shoot one ever now and then. They worth, they got to be worth something, the pelt on a Bigfoot got to be worth something. (dog barks) Would you shut up? (burps, coughs) Aw, anyway, that's all I got on him.

MH: (drinks beer) That's about enough, isn't it?

BD: Shit, no. They's plenty more. Did you know he ain't the only hairy dude out there? Huh?

MH: Mm-mm.

BD: Well, you got the Fouke monster up in Arkansas. You ever heard of him?

MH: Don't think so.

BD: Sure you have. They made a movie about him. *The Legend of Boggy Creek*. Ever seen it?

MH: Oh, yeah.

BD: Huh?

MH: Yeah, they used to play it all the time on Channel 11 in Dallas. Like a documentary, right? With actors and stuff?

BD: Yeah, that's the one. Except the actors wasn't actors, they was the real people. It was some kind of monster living in the swamp up there. Didn't know they had swamps, but there is, I guess.

MH: There you go.

BD: Terrorized the folks in their trailer homes and whatnot.

MH: Yeah, I remember that one guy sitting on the toilet when it broke through the window and tried to get him.

BD: Yep.

MH: That was some scary shit when I was little. I didn't know it was real, though.

BD: Yep. And that ain't all, neither. They's that Momo up on the Missississippi River in Missouri or thereabouts. Dog eater. And them Cherokees, up in Oklahoma? They got stories about the (undecipherable), big old thing like the Bigfoot but with weird-ass pointy eyes. Supposed to be from Georgia or something. (sings) The devil went down to Georgia, he was looking for a soul to steal.

MH: Chicken in the bread pan picking out dough.

BD: Yeah, and then there's that, uh, what they call the skunk ape. Down off there in Florida, in them Florida Everglades? They's supposed to wander around down off in there. Like in the swamp, and shit. Smell like a polecat, that's why they call him the skunk ape.

MH: Is he really an ape?

BD: Don't know. And I ain't saying I do. Know what I'm saying?

MH: Yeah.

BD: Huh?

MH: Yeah. (end of tape)



Baxter DeJean: "What I seen."