



Story Angles

Monster Files

By Nick Redfern

Story Angle 1: The Army secretly finds evidence of Bigfoot?

When the gigantic eruption of Mt. St. Helens, Washington State occurred in May 1980, it was a terrible, life-changing disaster for all of the people that called the area their home. For some, tragically, it was not just life-changing: it was life-taking. It may have been a similarly terrible tragedy for Bigfoot, too. For years, reports, tales and rumors have circulated within those realms where cryptozoologists hang out, of large, lumbering, hairy giants roaming the ancient mountain. Indeed, such stories date way back to the times of the Native Americans of pre-Columbus era even. But, as we have seen already on several occasions, where there is talk of Bigfoot, there is very often talk of conspiracy, too. And that most certainly applies to the events at Mt. St. Helens more than thirty years ago. A significant number of people – from members of the public, to military personnel, to forestry workers – have told eerily similar tales of Army helicopters flown into the area in the immediate wake of the disaster, and which allegedly secretly airlifted out of the area the bodies of massive, ape-like animals killed in the pulverizing destruction. Their destination: unfortunately unknown. In this affair, are we looking at a modern day myth, tales of the friend of a friend kind, or stark, sensational reality?

Story Angle 2: The CIA makes a monstrous robot.

In the 1970s hit television series of ABC, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, military doctors confidently, and famously, predicted that “we can rebuild him” – a reference to Colonel Steve Austin, a retired U.S. astronaut played by actor Lee Majors, who, after a devastating aviation accident in which he lost both legs, right arm, and left eye, was carefully and systematically reconstructed using futuristic technology of the bionic kind. Austin was quickly transformed into a robotic James Bond. And while secretly working for the American government’s Office of Scientific Intelligence, and endowed with super-strength and the ability to leap tall buildings and run at an impressive sixty miles per hour, he saved the world from dastardly villains, deadly assassins, Russian spies, and power-crazed

military dictators on a weekly basis. But, a decade or so before the bionic man became the hero to kids all across the world there was another half-machine, half-living creature that was destined for the exciting world of espionage and adventure. This one, however, was not the work of Hollywood. It was all too shockingly real. Its name was Acoustic Kitty, a walking, meowing, zombie-like nightmare brought to life by crazed, mad professor-types at the CIA.

Story Angle 3: Lake-monsters and government secrets.

For hundreds of years they have been the stuff of dark legends and captivating myths. They are those long-necked, humped, coiling beasts of our world known infamously as lake monsters. But, for creature seekers just about here, there and everywhere, the likes of the elusive Loch Ness Monster of **Scotland, Champ of Vermont's Lake Champlain, and the resident beast of Canada's Okanagan Lake** – Ogopogo - are all too amazingly real. Rather than being the collective results of friend of a friend tales, misidentification, hoaxing, folklore, and too many potent beverages of the alcoholic type, they are unknown denizens of the deep, definitively mysterious beasts of a type that science assures us simply cannot be, but that – against all the odds – just might be, after all. Theories advanced to try and explain their true nature are as wide ranging and as multifaceted as are the descriptions of the creatures themselves: massively oversized eels; surviving reptiles from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods called plesiosaurs; and giant salamanders are just three of a significant number of **potential candidates. But, there's another possibility, too: they** – or, at least, some of them – may be the secret creations of government. No, we are not talking about bizarre, out of control biological experiments, or futuristic gene-splicing operations run wild. **We're focusing here upon fabricating** monsters to hide military secrets of the underwater kind.