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February 25, 1957

Mr. L.H.J.Cook,  
Superintendent,  
B.C.Engineering Co. Ltd.,  
960 Richards St.,  
Vancouver 2, B.C.

Dear Mr. Cook:

This will acknowledge your letter of February 20 in which you ask for information on the "Sasquatch" of the Harrison Lake region.

I am sending you a copy of my book on the Indians of the Fraser Valley, in which there is a short section on these creatures. The word "sasquatch" is the Fraser Valley Indian word for "giant", and these giants belong to a class of supernatural monsters which the Indians sometimes saw. Most people of the world believe in giants, dwarfs, fairies, leprechauns, or some such creatures, and they formed an important part of the population of the world as the Indians saw it. The sasquatch himself, however, has enjoyed a great revival, partly because Indians continued to see them frequently, but also because of the imagination and zeal of several free-lance writers. I think the Provincial Archives could give you references to quite a few magazine and Sunday supplement stories if you want them.

I am not enough of a psychologist to explain exactly how it happens that a person can look at a bear, or stump, or shadow on a moonlit night and see a hairy giant. Perception is a funny thing in that we are apt to see what we expect to see, and hear only what we have been trained to hear. Some day (or night) I may see one too, but I won't believe it until I touch it or it touches me.

Yours very truly,

Wilson Duff,  
Curator of Anthropology.

WD:EMcG