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No. 17

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BUCKLEY EXPEDITION VISITED BY BIGFOOT

The Buckley Expedition, consisting of Archie Buckley, his brother Delmas Buckley and their brother-in-law Jim Whalen, as mentioned in the last issue, intended making an extended reconnaissance of the Middle Eel Yolla Bolly Wilderness Area, Trinity National Forest, Trinity County, California. They were prevented from doing so by washed-out roads and a fresh snowfall which reached the 3,000 foot level. They then established a base camp at the Basin Gulch campground, a half mile from the Harrison Gulch Ranger Station.

At 3:00 A.M. on the morning of May 14th they were awakened by dogs barking about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away. At 3:15 A.M. they distinctly heard about a dozen or more loud thuds, apparently the footsteps of an extremely heavy creature. Archie Buckley later described the footsteps as sounding like those you would hear if made by a 200-pound man deliberately stomping by at a distance of ten feet. They were unable to see anything because it was dark and a light rain was falling with occasional snow flurries.

After daylight Jim Whalen was the first to find footprints in the adjacent campsite about 50 yards from their tent. The footprints - the clear and distinct ones - totaled 27 with 25 of them in a definite series. Length of the foot was evidently 16" with a distance across the ball of 6". The average stride was 51" with one stride  $66\frac{1}{2}$ ". The lateral width of the tracks, the distance between the left and right footprints, was about 12". The footprints were in soft soil and pine needles and ended on a harder road surface. Footprints were parallel with no eversion or inversion. Prints sunk into the soft soil about 1" and into the pine needles the heel depth was from 4" to 6". In many footprints the pine needles were crushed, especially in the ball area, indicating a weight of the creature of probably 600 to 750 pounds.

The Buckley party had set out a rotten salmon on top of a garbage can each night and think that is what may have attracted the creature. The footprints indicated that the creature was headed directly for the salmon but suddenly veered off sharply in another direction. Archie Buckley thinks it may have become alarmed by hearing them coughing or talking in the tent. Good toe marks were not generally visible in the soft soil and pine needles but in several prints on the road they were clearly evident. Two casts were made and photographs, both movies and color slides, were taken. An attempt was made to follow the tracks but they were lost in hard ground and rough terrain.

JIM McCLARIN writes (May 23, 1970) : " I am writing after spending several days with Archie Buckley at Basin Gulch campground. My evaluation of the prints there is that they are probably genuine, though they are generally 'poor' prints, not 'very good'. The stride (44" - 66½", average 51") and the 80 - 90 degree turn in the sequence of the remaining prints I was able to examine were very impressive. The turn was apparently made at some speed and the heel seemed to strike heavily on some prints. I made one cast showing heel print."

BEN E. FOSTER JR. and ELDON BRACKETT accompanied by John and Jim Kitchen, all of Anderson and Redding, California, visited the Basin Gulch campground on May 16th and examined the footprints found by the Buckley party. They report finding two other sets of tracks, one about 11" long and the other about 14" long, approximately 50 to 75 yards away from the larger prints.

BIGFOOT REPORTED SHOT IN BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

CLIFFORD BRUSH , who lives beyond the end of Helltown Road in Butte Creek Canyon, east of Chico, California, is said to have reported to the Sheriff's Department that he had shot at a Bigfoot on the night of May 12th. He is reported as saying that he shot it four times with a .22 caliber rifle because it frightened him by waving its arms and growling at him when he went to his spring to get water. The next day Sheriff's deputies, several newsmen and an anthropologist from Chico State College investigated the site of the alleged shooting but could find no definite physical evidence to substantiate Brush's claim. Jim McClarin also interviewed Brush and examined the site without finding any conclusive evidence. ( Information from : Bill Short, Jim McClarin, The Sacramento Bee of May 14 and the Chico Enterprise-Record of May 14.

THE COMPUTER MAY CATCH UP WITH BIGFOOT

JOHN GREEN writes (May 24, 1970) : " A Salt Lake City wildlife movie firm, operating under the name North American Research Association, is paying partial expenses for a resurvey with a questionnaire of all the people who have reported sighting Sasquatch or their tracks. Results will be processed by computer to see if any useful patterns can be established. John Green is co-ordinating the survey, except in northern California, where Jim McClarin is responsible. Others working on it are Ken Coon, George Haas, Anne Schwalen, John McCrimmon, Dick Grover, Clarence Fox, Rene Dahinden and Bob Titmus, in order from south to north. Anyone who would like to help, or who has information about incidents not generally known, is asked to contact Jim McClarin, Box 512, Willow Creek, California 95573 or John Green, Box 99, Agassiz, B.C., Canada."

Here is one we missed : MAN'S ACTION magazine, April 1970, "On The Trail Of The Sasquatch, America's Abominable Snowman" by Bryan Stevenson. (Credit : Russell Gebhart). Does anyone have a copy your editor could buy, beg or borrow ?

BIGFOOT BEWARE ! Another Bigfoot hunter, Ben Carl Foster Jr., weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz. was born May 28 to Mr. & Mrs. Ben E. Foster of Redding.

BOB BETTS REPORTS FROM ALASKA

BOB BETTS writes (May 9, 1970) : "Things have been busy here in Fairbanks with training new jumpers and getting ready for the forthcoming fire season. We've been working with a new program of rappelling out of helicopters which BLM wants to use as a method of getting to remote fires for initial attack. Rappelling out of a helicopter would be an excellent way of surrounding a Sasquatch if we had a Sasquatch to surround and a helicopter to rappel out of.

We have a jumper here in Fairbanks who jumped out of Cave Junction, Oregon, last year and the year before. Since he had jumped in the Kalmiopsis area several times, I asked him if he had ever heard of Oregon jumpers finding large human-like tracks. "Hell, yes, I've seen them myself" was the reply. Jerry Katt then went on to explain how, in 1968, when he and several other jumpers were packing out from a fire jump they came across a string of huge footprints on a sandbar on Indigo Creek in the Kalmiopsis Wild Area. Jerry said the tracks were half again as long as his boot prints and the five toes were distinct.

I have a couple of anthropologists at the University of Alaska interested in the Sasquatch. These people will be in the field in southern Alaska this summer and have promised to notify me in the event that they come across anything."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

TIMES-STANDARD , Eureka, California, May 3, 1970. "'Bigfoot' Makes Big Tracks In Humboldt". A rehash of old reports and information. (Credit : Mr. & Mrs. Marlin Fauerbach, Fred L. Haas)

HOOD RIVER NEWS, Hood River, Oregon, no date on clipping. "Mystery Of Bigfoot Creature Revived" by Jeanie Senior. (Credit : Mrs. J.T. Davidson) A rehash of old reports from Skamania County, Washington.

BERKELEY DAILY GAZETTE , Berkeley, California, May 6, 1970. "Those Real Native Californians - Do They Leave 18-inch Tracks ?" by Mike Culbert. (Credit : Gilbert W. Colby).

SACRAMENTO BEE , Sacramento, California, May 14, 1970, "Settler Reports Sighting, Smelling 'Bigfoot'" by Jimmie O. Skjelstad, Bee staff writer. Concerns the Butte Creek Canyon "shooting" incident. (Credit : Bob Behme)

CHICO ENTERPRISE-RECORD , Chico, California, May 14, 1970, "Did He Shoot A Bigfoot ?" by Richard Ramella. Concerns the Butte Creek Canyon "shooting" incident. (Credit : Bob Behme).

THE ADVANCE, Agassiz, B.C., Canada, April 23, 1970. A photo of a 15-inch footprint taken in the Tien Shan mountains in the early 1960s. Sent to John Green by Professor Boris Porshnev of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. (Credit : John H. Hall).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LOREN E. COLEMAN (after June 10th, 1970) : 1564 West Hunt (2), Decatur, Illinois 62526.

"THE YEAR OF THE SASQUATCH"

JOHN GREEN has written another book titled The Year Of The Sasquatch which is now ready for distribution. Printed in the same style and format as his earlier book On The Track Of The Sasquatch, fall 1968, this new volume is essentially a sequel to the former book, continuing the recording of Sasquatch research activities through 1969 and well into 1970. Added are many old reports including one from David Thompson's journal of 1811. There is a chapter concerning Russian research on similar creatures with information taken from a recent article by Prof. Boris Porshnev of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. There is a chapter on the Bigfoot Bulletin and a particularly interesting one on "Card File Calculations." Altogether, a most interesting and valuable addition to Sasquatch lore that is documented, well-researched and objective. Highly recommended and a must for all researchers as well as for those merely interested in the subject. Copies of this new volume as well as copies of the former book may be obtained for \$3.00 each, postpaid, from Cheam Publishing Ltd., Box 99, Agassiz, B.C., Canada.

A ONE-FOOTED BIGFOOT IN THE PARADISE, CALIFORNIA, AREA ?

JIM McCLARIN writes (May 23, 1970) : " There is some evidence a one-footed Bigfoot may frequent the Paradise, California, area. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Behme (see BB 5, page 3) report the creature they saw near the Magalia reservoir limped, favoring its left leg. Mr. Clifford Brush, without apparent knowledge of Behmes' account, said he saw 2 prints in sand in May 1969. The right print was about 18" long and 2" deep. The left was an apparent stump mark, 5" to 6" in diameter and 4" to 5" deep. They had apparently been made by such a creature jumping from rocks down into the sand bar before taking a long stride into Butte Creek. The right print was a foot or so in front of the left."

