



# Creature Chronicles



Spring · Number 6 · 1983 ©

## FORENSIC INVESTIGATIVE TECHNIQUES

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ~ Charles J. Wilhelm ~ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Forensic Investigative Techniques is an area of Bigfoot research that needs to be utilized more than it has in the past. To some Bigfoot investigators, forensic investigative techniques may be a new thing to them. There are only a few investigators who are actually applying the techniques of forensic sciences in their investigations.

The Bigfoot investigator has always been a detective. Traditionally he has had to use his tools and talents for gathering evidence for his investigations. The application of science by the investigator has pointed the way for many of the ideas and techniques that were later to be discovered very beneficial regarding Bigfoot investigations.

The Bigfoot investigator maybe regarded as the Sherlock Holmes in his field. After all, it was Sherlock Holmes who inspired many new techniques of investigating crime that became standard procedures for law enforcements around the world. It was just a matter of time before his applications of investigating would be recognized. Those applications are today now called the forensic sciences, which are especially used by the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

The forensic sciences must be used more extensively in the investigating of Bigfoot cases. The multitude of problems an investigator faces at the site of an alleged Bigfoot case are compounded when the investigator isn't prepared to secure all the evidence left behind by the unknown. These cases are not common, but neither are they so rare as to preclude specialized training and instruction in their proper handling. It is a well recognized fact that mistakes made during preliminary investigations, especially in an alleged Bigfoot case, may well prove fatal to the successful conclusion of the investigation.

In this issue, I intend to provide the Bigfoot investigator with some useful guidelines and procedures in dealing with the forensic sciences, so that each Bigfoot case may be pursued confidently and successfully to the identification and reconstruction of what took place. I will discuss briefly the following:

- A. The importance of preserving prints and impressions as evidence.
- B. Walking pictures.
- C. Tracking a wounded or hurt creature.

In future issues, I will devoted special attention to such critical areas as pre-planning, availability of expert assistance, surface processing and examination of evidence, proper removal of evidence, kinds of evidence, soil sampling techniques, proper methods of preserving prints, lab testing, etc. So lets begin with the first of the three areas I mentioned above.

(continued on page 3 )



★ A. THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING PRINTS AND IMPRESSIONS AS EVIDENCE - Reading prints or impressions is not easy. Just as a criminal investigator, with certain broad principles in mind, find each situation somewhat different, so the Bigfoot investigator must be prepared to use his ingenuity to try an interpret what he sees. A print in the mud may look different from one in dust, or in snow, even if the same creature or unknown made them. A print in snow is different after a warm sun has shone on it, causing enlarging and distorting effects.

The print in many instances, especially an allege Bigfoot track, may not seem to fit other similar tracks, because it is not all there; it may not show all the toes and it may be off-shape due to an irregularity in the ground. Remember, a perfect print is not always found.

The degree of precision with which the modern Bigfoot investigator is able to use the techniques of taking impressions and making casts in-order to obtain evidence is well known to the professional criminal investigator. He may be interested to know, however, that many of the methods and materials that law enforcement agents use today are essentially similar to those used by the Bigfoot investigator. So similar are the techniques used by workers in these unrelated fields that one particular impression taking material, which originally was developed for use in criminologic identification, has found a much wider application in the field of Bigfoot research. This material will be discussed in a future issue.

The main purpose of adequately preserving prints and impressions is to provide the Laboratory expert with a basis for comparing prints and impressions with others taken from other cases.

In many cases, positive identifications of similarities from other cases have been made. This, however, is dependent upon the condition of the print or impression left at the scene of the event, the ability of the Bigfoot investigator to reproduce the print or impression, and the condition of the evidence when it is examined. In some cases, the markings found in a print or impression are not sufficient to support positive identifications, but even in these cases the general similarities in size, design, and shape may be important circumstantial evidence. For this reason, fragmentary or indistinct prints or impressions should not be discarded or overlooked by the investigator.

★ B. WALKING PICTURES. The term "WALKING PICTURES" relates to the footprints or other signs left by a walking unknown. Indian hunters were skilled in the art of interpreting these signs and were able to learn many things about the walker by a study of their tracks and other signs. It is possible to tell the relative size of the thing being tracked; whether it was walking or running; whether it was hurt or fatigued; and several other factors about its condition and identity.

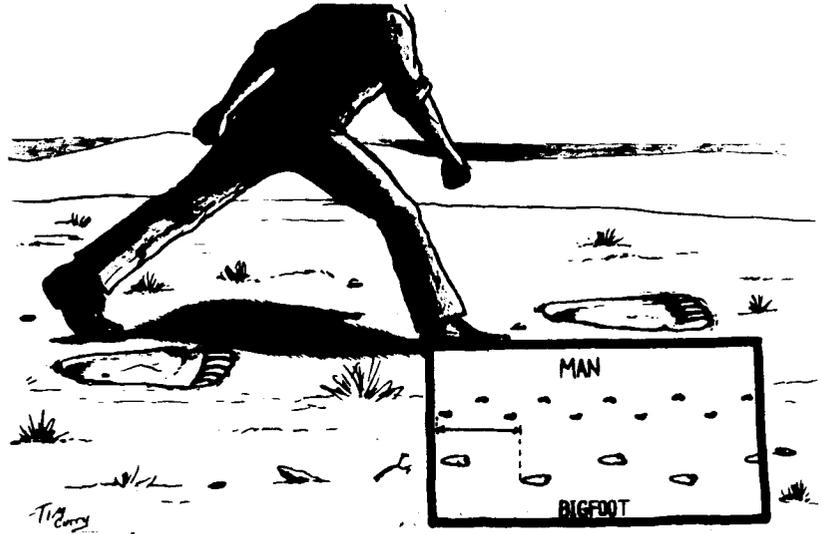
In the act of walking, the heel of the foot is first placed on the ground. The sole is then pressed to the ground from the heel forward to the toes. The foot is raised by exerting pressure against the toes. As each step is taken, the weight of the body exerts greater pressure on the outer and rear parts of the heel and sole. In describing the "WALKING PICTURE", the following terms apply;

1. The direction line indicates the direction in which the walker is moving.
2. The walking line is an imaginary line that fuses with the direction line and runs along the inner sides of both heel prints.
3. The foot line is a straight line through the longitudinal axis of the footprint and shows the angle in which the foot is put down at each step. The angle between the foot line and the direction line is called the foot angle.
4. The foot angle indicates a characteristic movement of the walker and does not vary except when the subject is standing still, running, walking up or down a slope or carrying a heavy weight. The foot angle of a male usually is great-

er than that of a female.

5. The step length is the distance between the centers of the walker's successive heel prints. The distance depends on the size and speed of the walker. An individual walking stealthily or one who is hurt will take steps which are very short in proportion to the length of their legs. The step length is said to vary from 20 to 40 inches. Females usually have a shorter step length than males.

Footprints of an individual who has stopped walking may indicate how long it stayed in one spot. Usually the individual will shift their weight from one foot to the other a number of times and the depth of the footprints in the soil will show how long it remained standing in one place.



## BIGFOOT'S STRIDE VS MAN'S

★ C. TRACKING A WOUNDED OR HURT CREATURE - Some time an investigator may be required to track or follow a wounded or hurt creature. If the creature moves from soft ground to a hard-surfaced road, its footprints will no longer be distinct and it may be necessary to follow other signs. For example, blood spots may be seen on the hard surface.

Drops or smears of blood if found on the hard ground provides a means of following the creature, and an accumulation of stains will tell where a creature stopped for any length of time. If the creature is hurt in the leg, the blood will run down the legs and the stains will appear as smears along the road. Blood flowing from wounds in the arms will splatter the hard surface with drops.

Drops of blood falling a short distance will appear as round spots unless the surface is rough or uneven. As the height from which the drops fall increases, the round spots will form tooth-like jagged edges.

It is possible to trace the direction in which the creature is moving by spots of blood. When the first part of a drop of blood from a moving creature touches a hard surface, the remaining portion of the drop is still moving in a horizontal direction and splatters over the first part, forming the tooth-like projections from the original spots. The direction of these projections determines the direction in which the creature is moving. If the creature's movement is rapid, the blood drops will be long and narrow and resemble exclamation marks. The pointed ends of the exclamation marks indicate the direction in which the creature is moving.

The most important thing for the investigator to remember when tracking a hurt or wounded creature is to be extremely careful. It isn't recommended to track any hurt or wounded creature, unless the investigator is an experienced woodsman or tracker. Safety must always come first, even before any case.

I have only touched lightly on just a few areas of Forensic Investigative Techniques. Although no two Bigfoot cases are exactly alike, the basic facts remain the same: the creature is gone, and the investigation of the case forces the investigator to make use of all his talents and training. Part of this talent and training should be recognizing the existence of specialized expert assistance, such as the forensic sciences.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The information which you just read was derived from a current manuscript by the editor's entitled "A GUIDE TO INVESTIGATING UNUSUAL PHENOMENA". The Forensic Techniques are based on actual forensic work by law enforcement agencies. The Hominid Research Group strongly feels that the principles of the forensic sciences can apply to the investigation of crytozoological events. This is the first of a series of articles dealing with the techniques to be used in the field, but is not inclusive of all variables, such as expenditures for laboratory fees and equipment inventory.



\*\*\*\*\*

## { Ohio Valley Creature Reports - Part 1 }

\*\*\*\*\*

\* NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PIECE IS A MULTI-PART SERIES OF CHRONOLOGICAL LISTINGS OF  
 \* CREATURE SIGHTINGS IN THE OHIO VALLEY. CLASSIC SASQUATCH REPORTS ARE NOT  
 \* ★ INCLUDED. FOR A FULL STORY OF BIGFOOT LISTINGS, REFER TO OUR RECENT PUB-  
 \* LICATION "THE OHIO VALLEY HOMINIDS".

\*\*\*\*\*

© Ron Schaffner © \*\*\*\*\*

According to Webster's Dictionary, a monster is defined as a huge and abnormal plant or animal. We might also add that the abnormal oddity might be a known creature, but not necessarily indigenous to the Ohio Valley. For example, panthers (*Felis Concolor*) that have been reported in southern Ohio and northern Kentucky are not unusual and incomprehensible, but are certainly not native to this environment.

In actuality, black panthers are a genetic trait, in which the blackness can be present in all the feline family. Consequently, any cat can be called a panther. Even the neighborhood alley cat can be considered a panther.

For what the laymen consider monstrous or hideous, the biologist can classify these many strange creatures of the plant and animal kingdom. Take, for instance, the story of the Ohio "BLOB" that was relayed through the Cincinnati Enquirer, June 5 and 7, 1973.

Al Chapman, of Painesville, called the Lake County Sheriff's Department to report a "white, gooey organism" that was bubbling out of the ground. Chapman's wife, Debbie stepped on it and it seemed like bleeding was occurring. The following day, Dr. Kenneth Applegate of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, studied and commented about the fungus and stated that the growth was myomycete (slime mold).

"It comes in various colors and develops in wet warm weather, lives on decayed vegetation and is nonpathological to man and

animals", he said.

Another case of an explained oddity happened in Batavia, Ohio, in 1947. In this incident, Hollace Baldwin found an unusual bug-like creature that was about six inches in length, green in color, with yellow and brown stripes. It had ten horns and a dozen or so legs. Other people reported the same type bugs to the Batavia office of the Cincinnati Post.

Explanation of the mystery came from Mrs. Hester Stephensen, a park board naturalist. She told reporters that the "monsters" were Hickory Horned Devils. In that present form, it is the larva of the Royal Walnut Moth.

While some minions maybe explained by science, mankind is still faced with the many biological freaks that manifest themselves to unsuspected witnesses. Throughout time, there have been reports of strange critters, such as large mystery felines, giant birds, birdmen, frogs and lizzards, and water monsters. Also, let's not forget the hominids discussed in the previous chapters. You may wish to believe, or not, but the majority of these reports come from credible individuals and many are documented.

We will now deal with some of these incomprehensibles. We have eliminated many reports due to questions of credibility and hearsay. Therefore, the stu-

dent of cryptozoology will probably notice that some cases have not been printed in this publication.

Our first report originates from a small piece in the Louisville, Kentucky Courier dated August 3, 1823: Russelville, Kentucky - "A tiger of brindle color with a most terrific front - his eyes were as the largest ever on any animal around these parts. The creature was shot at very close range, but seemed to have no effect on it."

Unfortunately, this column of news makes no mention of names or places; a fallacy of old newspapers. Therefore, the only use is to catalogue it with present reports for comparison.

A more intricate, early feline account is documented in the book, CREATURES FROM THE OUTER EDGE by Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman. The incident occurred around 9:00 PM, in December of 1877, near the town of Rising Sun, Indiana. An unidentified man, who worked for a wealthy family known as the Hunts, had a close encounter with a "monstrous animal" that had come out of the woods and chased him down the road. This area was known to the locals as the "Black Forest".

A few nights later, Mary Crane was told of the story while visiting a family on the Hunt's farm. On the way home, Ms. Crane was escorted by a young man. They heard a shrieking noise as they entered the "Black Forest" area. When Mary turned around, she saw two glowing eyes from the trees about forty feet away. They also heard what sounded like claws scratching on a tree.

The couple dashed down the road and when they looked behind them, they saw an animal as big as a calf, with a tail as long as a door, jump on a fence. The two began running again and the cat-creature began pursuing them down the road. When they noticed the animal gaining, the young man let go of Mary Crane's hand and rushed off to warn the villagers. Soon, the creature jumped Ms. Crane and she felt it ripping at her dress. She promptly fainted and when she came to, she was on the ground with something licking her face. All she could do was lay still and pray. When the local citizens approached, the creature perked its ears, rose and made a piercing shriek. It jumped over the fence and vanished.

The next day, a posse was formed and they

followed six inch tracks with hunting dogs. The tracks eventually were lost in the high ground.

Our next report is from our files. It happened in January, 1949 and involves an animal resembling a kangaroo. Louis Staub was riding a Greyhound bus between Columbus and Akron, Ohio. About two miles south of Grove City, on S.R. 3, Staub looked out the window and saw an animal hopping along the highway, when the lights picked it up.

Mr. Staub told the January 10, Cincinnati Post that the critter was about 5½ feet high, hairy and brownish in color.

"It had a pointed head. It leaped a barbed wire fence and disappeared. It resembled a kangaroo, although it appeared to jump on all fours. I'm certain it wasn't a deer", he further stated.

The Cryptozoology researcher is surely aware of the numerous reports of kangaroo-type animals reported in the midwest, especially in the later 1970's. Several Fortean investigators have dedicated their studies to collating such reports.

An Ohio investigator investigated a bizzare incident that took place in Branch Hill, Ohio. In March of 1955, at about 4:00 Am, Mr. R.H., of Loveland, was about to cross the Little Miami River into Branch Hill. His headlights suddenly illuminated what appeared to be three men kneeling at the side of the road. He first thought that someone was hurt, so he stopped the car to have a better look. He discovered that the figures were non-human, about three feet tall and greyish in color. Their clothing was also gray and seemed to be tight-fitting, as it stretched over a lop-sided chest which appeared abnormally large on the right side, buldging from the shoulder to the armpit. Over this bulbous area, hung a slender arm which appeared much longer than the opposite member. Legs and feet were not dis-

cernible because they were obscured by the vegetation in which the entities stood, but the observer got the impression of "something baggy".

The heads of these creatures, said R.H., reminded him of a frog's face, mostly because of the appearance of the mouth; it was a thin line cutting across the smooth gray face. The eyes, which lacked eyebrows, looked normal, the nose was indistinct and the top of the head appeared to have a painted-on hair effect.

Mr. R.H., said the middle one of the three, who was the closest to him, was first seen with his arms raised about a foot above his head and appeared to be holding a dark colored chain or stick, which gave off blue-white sparks. As R.H. approached, this entity lowered the stick to about the area of the ankle. He said he wanted to approach closer to the creatures, but by the time he reached the front fender of his car, one of them made a move towards him, as if motioning him not to move closer, so for about three minutes he just stood and looked, to amazed to be afraid.

It is believed by the investigator, that Mr. R.H. had a time loss, as the next thing he knew, he was driving back to Loveland.

On January 30, 1959, an unknown water creature was reported coming out of the Ohio River, just west of New Richmond, Ohio, on U.S. 52. A truck driver observed this incomprehensible emerging from the river. The thing was so ugly, the witness told reporters that he couldn't begin to describe it.

Two hours later, the same creature was sighted in Covington, Kentucky, where the Licking River empties into the Ohio. This time a description was given to the media. A woman, who wished confidentiality, claimed that a monster resembling an octopus surface for a brief moment. She said it was of greyish color, with a lopsided chest, ugly tentacles and rolls of fat running horizontally around a bald head.

Was it possible that an octopus or squid made a remarkable journey from the ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, then up the

Mississippi and Ohio Rivers? Even if this hypothesis were true, why wasn't the beast seen at other points along the alleged trip? Wouldn't the creature get caught in one of the major locks and dams? And, of course, these are sea creatures, not indigenous to fresh water.

In an article in Beyond Reality, August, 1975, author Brad Steiger makes mention of a phantom feline that invaded Lorain County, Ohio in the summer of 1959. A giant cat with a large head and a light brown body was reported to be consuming dogs, cats and sheep. A woman found six of her eight sheep literally ripped apart. One was completely skinned and another was missing.

f (END OF PART ONE) f

\* \* \* \* \*

## ☆ Book Review ☆

MANLIKE MONSTERS ON TRIAL  
Early Records and Modern Evidence  
University of British Columbia Press  
ISBN 0-7748-0119-0  
Edited by Marjorie Halpin &  
Michael M. Ames

Manlike Monsters is an unique book. It is a collection of reports that were presented at the May, 1978, "Sasquatch and Similar Phenomena" conference at the University of British Columbia Anthropology Department.

I need not go into detail, as many researchers have obtained their copies. I highly recommend this work because the contents may help the amateur investigator to evaluate a case. I must, however, point out that a few parts are quite boring. This should be taken easily, as it is basically a work in Anthropology, Sociology, and Ethnology.

Manlike Monsters can be ordered directly from the publisher at \$24.95 hardback. University of British Columbia Press  
2075 Westbrook Mall  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Canada V6T 1W5 c 1980



☆ **Retrospective** ☆

The Washington Post  
January 27, 1923 Edition

STRANGE CREATURES LIKE FISH AND REPTILE  
KILL KANSAS CATTLE

Medicine Lodge, Kansas, April 26 -  
All Barber county is interested in the origin and nature of queer creatures, half fish, half reptile, which are wreaking havoc in a pond on A.D. Shaw's farm near here.

The creatures have heads shaped like those of mud catfish, but have four legs and feet. The tail is long and flat. The fish-reptile swims by use of its tail, but at the bottom of the pond, crawls on its legs. Just behind the head, it has long feelers much heavier than those of a catfish.

The pond is alive with the queer animals. They have been pronounced a species of salamander. Several cows have been killed by bites from the creatures.

\*\*\*\*\*

~~~~~ **A NEW PUBLICATION** ~~~~~

The latest project from the editors of Creature Chronicles is a booklet entitled, "The Ohio Valley Hominids". It is jointly published by the Hominid Research Group and the United Aerial Phenomena Agency, of Cleveland, Ohio. "The Ohio Valley Hominids" deals with the chronological listings of cases from 1869-1979, the 1980 Flap, and the best cases from the files of Hominid Research. Also included, are illustrations, maps, and police reports.

This booklet is soon to be released and

orders are now being accepted. The price is \$5.00 plus \$1.25 for postage and costs. This is a limited edition, so order as soon as possible. Please make checks or money orders (US Drafts) payable to:

Ron Schaffner/ OUFOL, Inc.  
P.O. Box 436  
Fairfield, Ohio 45014



HOMINID RESEARCH GROUP  
P.O. BOX 335  
LOVELAND, OHIO 45140  
USA

☆ **Late News** ☆

The March 1983 edition of the magazine, PACIFIC NORTHWEST contains an excellent piece on the series of events that happened near Walla Walla, Washington during the summer of 1982. Also, there is a brief account of the famed Patterson film and its unusual history of ownership. Although there are a few discrepancies, the writer, Scott Forslund, objectively shows the reader the pros and cons of research and the alleged footprint finds of Paul Freeman.

Back issues available for \$2.50

PACIFIC SEARCH PUBLICATIONS  
222 Dexter Avenue North  
Seattle, Washington 98109

Credit: Rene Dahinden

