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**Being some notes, in brief, on the general findings  
in connection with the California Bigfoot.**

In the middle of the year 1958 some unusually large, human-like footprints were found in the forests of northern California. The prints were five-toed, some sixteen inches in length and were found by workmen building a road into a new and previously unknown area of the primitive forest. The place where the prints were discovered is in mountainous country, twenty-three miles from the nearest human habitation.

At the time of this discovery I was in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal, leading an Abominable Snowman expedition and as there was not a lot of publicity in connection with the Californian findings, I did not hear about them until the latter part of the summer of that year. As soon as the matter came to my attention I was anxious to go to California and investigate the problem. I have, for a long time, held the theory that there are creatures akin to the Abominable Snowman to be discovered in other little known parts of the world and for many years I had hoped for the opportunity to try and collect one of these creatures in an area that was more accessible and less difficult to explore than the rough, slow-going terrain of the Himalayan ranges. Again, when I heard of the Californian discovery the memory of the Pekin man discoveries came immediately to my mind and with it the hypothesis that the California Man, if, indeed, the creature is a man, could have come from the same general areas, across the land masses that once bridged the present watery gap of the Bering Straits.

It was May of 1960 before my work in Nepal was finished and in June of the same year I arrived in California. My first task was to establish myself in a cabin, with a telephone, as near to the centre of the area as possible and this done I immediately started on the long, hard task of practical and theoretical research on the problem.

By jeep across the narrow, rough roads of the back country, and on foot through the wilderness areas and the primitive forest, I travelled many hundreds of miles in the first few months, interviewing people who had seen the tracks, talking with forest workers, lumber men, Indians and hunters. The real problem, of course, in those first few weeks, was to find out if the footprints were merely a hoax, made by some prankster to draw attention to himself, or to the area, or for some other reason.

At the end of three months I had drawn my conclusions. This was no hoax and never had been. The footprints that were found in the forest in 1958 had also been seen in other areas, hundreds of miles distant, fifteen and twenty years ago, in many cases by very reliable people. Later I was able to find evidence dating back over 100 years.

There were many factors that contributed to my belief in the real existence of the creature. (Here I use the word creature, singular; later I was able to determine that there are more than one at present living). Among these was the simple genuine honesty of the country people of the area. The great distances, sometimes hundreds of miles apart, between the places where tracks were found. The dense nature of the brushy, heavily forested country which would make it extremely difficult and quite pointless for a hoaxer to make tracks that might never be seen by anybody. And, lastly, the first tracks that I saw myself and which I had an opportunity of examining before they were seen or tampered with by others.

I shall describe the tracks and the circumstances under which I found them.

With a companion, a young university student on vacation, I had walked about nine miles down the bed of a shallow mountain stream. All day we had made slow progress, climbing over huge piles of fallen logs, wading the stream and pushing our way through dense undergrowth. The sun was setting when we came to a small sand bar that ran along the side of the stream. Running down the centre of the sand bar was a single set of tracks. The imprints showed that they were made by a human type of foot with great weight behind it. The set of the imprints and the formation of the stride showed the maker to be a biped.

I examined the imprints. Each print showed the impression of five toes and an unusually large, blunt foot, sixteen inches in length. The sand showed the natural crease that takes place in the plantar surface of the human foot (under the toes) caused by movement of the joints between the proximal phalanges and the metatarsals. A second crease, showing clearly in the sand, lay higher up in the foot and suggested greater than normal use (by this I mean greater than is normal in the human foot) both in the metatarsophalangeal joint of the first digit and the metatarso-cuniform joint of the same digit.

There were some fifteen imprints in the sandbar. The creature had crossed the bar, making its footprints with a uniform stride of exactly 45 inches, and then climbed over a huge fallen log. To get on to this log it was necessary to step upwards, for the log was 36 inches in height from the ground level. Here the stride shortened to 25 inches. On the log the creature turned to the right and walked down the log for about six feet and then, I believe, lowered itself to the ground by placing its hands on the log. The imprints of the feet were deep and blurred here, as though the creature stood here for some time to examine the ground ahead. From here the creature moved down along the edge of the stream, all the time keeping very, very close to the edge of the forest. In following its tracks I noted that at times it must have been almost difficult for it to travel so close to the edge of the heavy undergrowth. It would have been a lot easier for it to have walked down the edge of the stream, clear of the bushes, and dry where the water did not reach. I was reminded, in seeing this, of an Indian Leopard which I once kept as a pet. If it could possibly be avoided the animal would never cross an open space and even when in my house would, when going from one room to another, walk along each wall in turn, as close to the wall as possible, rather than cross the open space of the room.

I followed these tracks for about five hundred yards and then lost them on hard stony ground about three hundred feet above the stream. I spent the next six days in that area but did not find any more tracks.

During the summer and autumn of 1960 I saw two more sets of tracks.

I also was able to gather a surprisingly large number of stories and incidents connected with the creatures and dating back for more than one hundred years. Some of the stories were actually recorded in official records. Added to my own findings in the forest (the full extent of which I do not care to publish at this time), plus my theories formed on these findings, a fantastic and almost unbelievable picture has begun to form. And this is what I believe this picture now shows...

A small group of hairy, bipeds, extremely shy, utterly primitive, living and ranging over a huge area of wild mountainous country, the last of a race of creatures completely unknown to science.

I further believe that if they are men, they are as giants among men, for my estimation of their height and weight is a minimum weight of 400 lbs for males with a height of not less than seven feet. Females probably weight not less than 300 lbs and stand close to six feet when fully grown. In conclusion, let me ask some questions which the reader of this article may already have in his mind, the answers to which I think should be included here.

What makes me say that they are hairy? Answer... I have, to date, talked with seven first-hand witnesses, each of whom has described the creatures seen as hairy.

Why bipeds? The tracks that I have personally seen could only have been made by a biped, and not by a quadruped.

Height of seven feet for males, etc? I base this on a calculation made from the length of the stride and from other observations. Weight of 400 lbs? This estimation is based on a calculation made from the imprints in comparison with the imprints, in the same material, of similar shapes containing a known weight. A small group? I believe the group to be very small indeed. There is the possibility, now, that their numbers are in the process of arriving at a biological minimum, after which, when the present members of the group die off, they will disappear for ever from the earth. And in this country, where the carcass of anything that dies in the forest is quickly disposed of by buzzards, crows, coyotes and bears, this means that even the last trace of them will disappear also.

In conclusion I would like to say that although we are a small group here in California, where looking for new evidence is like searching for a needle in a haystack, we have high hopes of success in the future. We have been greatly encouraged in our work by the unwavering support of a great American, Thomas Baker Slick, of Texas. Mr. Slick, a scientist in his own right, is the one man who has had the courage and vision to go ahead with this research, often in the face of serious ridicule from members of the lay general public. He and his associates are the ones to be commended, when the California bigfoot is eventually brought to light, as, I feel, he soon will be.