



BIGFOOT TIMES

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10926 Milano Avenue, Norwalk, California 90650-1638
www.bigfoottimes.net

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Bigfoot Tracks Seen Near London, Oregon

The following matter came to my attention via e-mail from longstanding *Bigfoot Times* member Joe Beelart, from West Linn, Oregon. In his message on February 21st he wrote in part: "I think you should consider doing a feature article on this; possibly the best evidence since the P-G film."

In note like fashion, Mr. Beelart spilled the beans, "It was a very long, tiring day; but Thom Powell and I went down to check it out. Trackline was probably made on the 12th [February]. Met Beth Heikkinen who was already there. Not 160 tracks as reported, only about 120 in mud flat. Looks like people came in and cast a little over 100. Remaining tracks were either partials or 'damaged.' Met a fellow who said there were 19"+ tracks in photo where Beth and Thom are standing. It appeared the larger Bigfoot was watching the smaller below. Casters took huge amount of soil. Main line tracks were 17"+ per photo. In many of the partial remaining tracks, the toes were very pronounced and showed a gripping action."

Joe also wrote the "story is complicated," and in bold writing he indicated "probability of hoax: very low."

Within the day I was on the telephone trying to round up additional primary source information and I was able to speak with Joe Beelart, Beth Heikkinen and *Finding Bigfoot's* Cliff Barackman, who also went to investigate the matter. Thom Powell, author of a Bigfoot book called *The Locals*, and Toby A. Johnson spoke with me as well. I was astounded by what I heard and it was clear from one interview to the next that a high water mark had been etched into the fabric of Bigfooting -- "the most documented trackway ever," as Toby Johnson opined.

Joe Beelart told me by phone it was "literally impossible to believe this happened" and that what he saw was "absolutely amazing."

Beth Heikkinen from Sequim, Washington expressed that what she saw in the ground told an "amazing story," and added it was "pretty phenomenal what happened." Of the

Top photo by Toby A. Johnson, the 17" inch track, with tape measure for scale. Middle track, part of the original discovery, the 14" inch track photographed by Max Roy and plaster castings of the 14" inch tracks with rulers for length and width scale by Thom Powell. Photos courtesy and copyright © by aforementioned photographers, 2012.

two Bigfoot trackways discovered, the 17 inch and the 14 inch track, it was the smaller individual that went for the long stroll and later documented by video and plaster castings. The two were not walking together. Beth told me the smaller 14" inch track maker twice skidded in the clay like soil and it was her opinion the tracks were made when the soil was dry. Whatever made the tracks made "military turns" [90 degrees] and the odd thing about the footprints is the "pinky [little toe] lifted up" and the "toes were spread." The ball of the foot and the toe section was impressed deeply in the ground in

some

cases. Asked if the trackway represented a tight rope walking formation, Beth told me "dang close to that." In an e-mail two days



later Beth Heikkinen said, “I’m thrilled I had the chance to be part of [this] along with others [Toby Johnson] who deserve the recognition.”

Toby A. Johnson was first on the scene and he followed up on a tip by Max Roy, an antique car collector, who was alerted about the discovery by an unidentified man walking his dog. I rang him on February 22nd and he told me the 17” inch track was “much more human like and the smaller track maker had toes that were “splayed” apart. His interpretation of what he saw: it looked like there was a meeting that happened between the larger track maker and the smaller one. He also told me there was “a rather big hole” in the grassy clay bed and if he had to guess the smaller individual dug the hole but he isn’t certain for what reason.

Of the military turn by the smaller one, Toby called it as such: “it pivoted on one foot on the heel” to make a turn but why the sharp turn is open to speculation. Toby also told me that a total of about 3.5 hours of raw video was shot by Cliff Barackman, himself and Thom Powell as part of the documentation of this stellar event.

“I was totally unprepared and overwhelmed” by the track discovery, Toby remarked. His opinion of what agency made the tracks: “It’s Bigfoot.”

On the same day I spoke with Toby, I also rang Thom Powell from Oregon City, Oregon and as he spoke I scribbled notes.

Due to Thom’s teaching obligations, he was “late arriving on the scene” but was immensely impressed by what he saw. “Pretty confident it was the real deal” and in Thom’s mind, upon arriving, his idea was “do the [plaster] castings first, worry about authenticity later.” When Thom was there the weather was partly bad with wind and rain. Thom casts “a bunch” [about 21 in number] of footprints and the measurement were 14” inches in length, 6” inches at the ball and 4 - 3/4” at the heel. He was able to observe “different variation in the foot... you couldn’t fake that.” The “toes were deep” and the heel was “fairly shallow,” Thom told me. He was there on the 17th and 18th of February, having spent a night in the motel so as to retrieve the somewhat dried castings in the morning.

In closing, he told me, “oh yeah, it was definitely a living foot,” the “splayed digits” [toes] only served to reinforce his opinion of the trackway.

More reinforcement and excitement came from one of the television stars of *Finding Bigfoot*, now living in Portland. Cliff Barackman told me “I have never seen anything like this,” and that he was “99% sure they are Bigfoot.” The “toe variation is amazing.”



The London, Oregon Bigfoot tracks were discovered about 25 miles south of Eugene, on the west side of Cottage Grove Lake. This section of the lake was mostly dry at the time in question. An unidentified man walking his dog near the Weyerhaeuser-London Road discovered them on February 12, 2012. The approximate center of the extended trackway: 43° 42’ 16.36” N, 123° 04’ 35.78” W. Elevation: about 790 feet.

Cliff told me the smaller track was walking somewhat parallel to the shoreline of the lake on a substrate layer of organic clay silt and that he got the impression the 14” inch track maker headed back from the open area to the woods to meet up with the larger track maker, the 17” inch track.

Cliff Barackman was able to get a staggering 72 footprint castings in total and another staggering number: 64 consecutive footprint casts! Never in the history of Bigfooting has such a colossal feat been accomplished. This is the type of physical evidence that speaks volumes about the reality of Bigfoot, yet most scientists will pay little attention to the matter much less have a look at what was collected. It’s easier to brush the matter aside with a dismissive ‘it was faked’ or words to that affect.

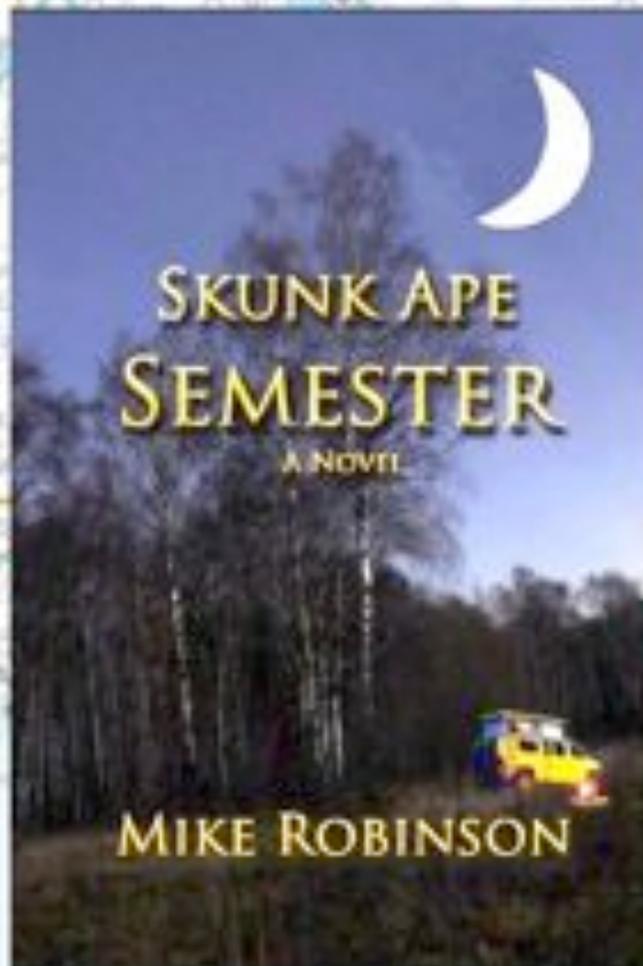
According to Cliff about 122 individual footprints were discovered, 118 of the 14” inch footprint and 4 of the 17” inch track.

Cliff also told me that he was “not prepared” for what he saw, adding that it “blew my mind.” “Autumn [Williams] looked [at the tracks] and marveled at them,” noted Cliff in closing. That essentially is a summary of the notes I was able to acquire by phone and Joe Beelart was kind enough to send some pictures of the area in question.

From Thom Powell’s website, www.thomsquatch.com we learn how the story of this set of Bigfoot tracks begins: “Max Roy, of Eugene, Oregon is an antique car buff. He sometimes drives the rural roads around Eugene looking for old cars that he might buy and restore. Last Sunday, February 12th, Max was cruising the Weyerhaeuser-London Road south of Eugene looking for a car he could use for parts. He decided to stop alongside a reservoir to take a half-hour walk. What ensued is one of the most remarkable combinations of serendipity and synchronicity that I have yet encountered.”

“Max headed for the trail when he encountered a pet owner who was coming the other way. This unidentified gentleman cheerfully informed Max that, while he was walking his dog, he should keep an eye out for some Bigfoot tracks a short distance up the trail. Max knew a little bit about Bigfoot. He had seen the cable television series and his interest was piqued by this unexpected invitation to inspect real evidence for himself. The unidentified dog owner pulled out his cell phone and showed Max a photo he had taken. Now Max knew what to look for. Max headed down the trail and sure enough, he happened across three plainly

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visible large barefoot tracks [the 17" inch tracks]. Later, that day, Max happened to tell his insurance agent and friend about the tracks he'd seen."

The insurance agent was adamant that what he saw was important, and that Max should go back and get some pictures of what he saw.

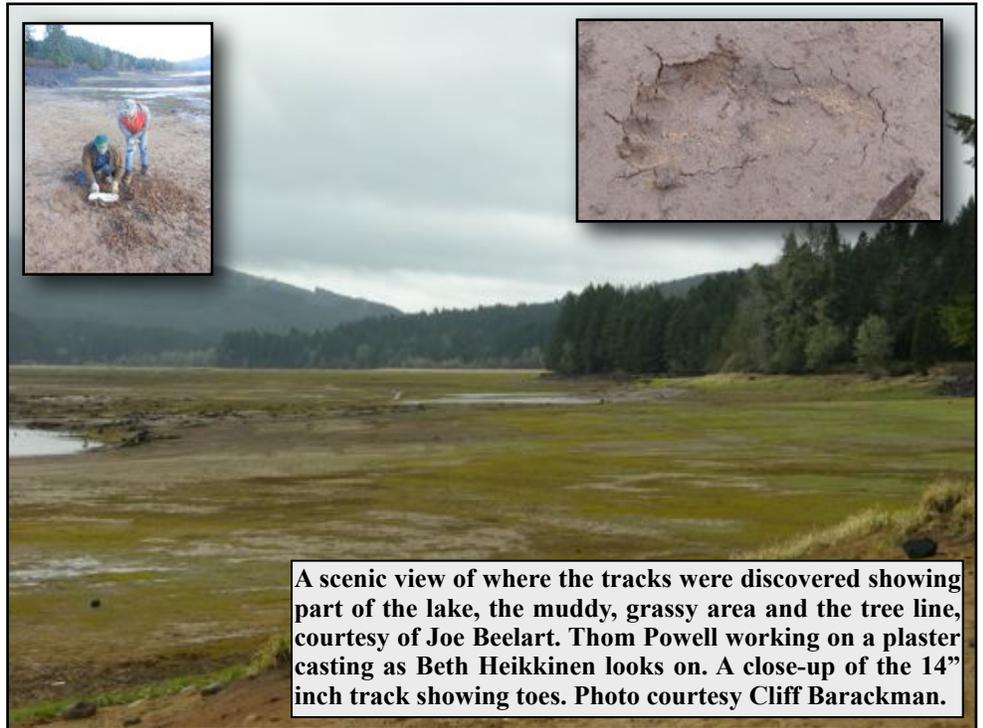
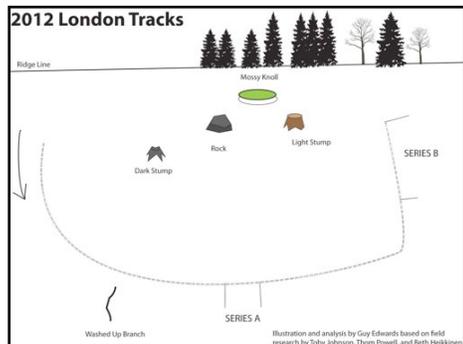
He did. Later, he would track down the now divorced Toby Johnson, who had a vehicle with Bigfoot stickers, now removed. The car was now in the possession of his ex-wife, but Max, being a car buff, was able to locate the car, knock on the door that was close by and hit pay dirt. The person who answered proved to be Toby's former wife and she was able to provide a phone number.

Max Roy called Toby and that is where the story jumps from just everyday citizens going about their business to the Bigfoot community. Toby in turn calls Thom Powell and quite a few Bigfooters afterward were involved in the documentation process of this very important discovery.

When Toby Johnson arrived on the scene to investigate his friend, "Tracker" was with him. Tracker decided to survey the surrounding area from the initial track discovery, and lo and behold another set of tracks (the smaller ones) were noted.

Many websites were able to cover the matters, some with greater detail than others. www.northamericanbigfoot.com was able to post quite a few pictures of what was discovered and I suggest you have a look for a write up by Cliff Barackman, who also stated, "I think it's safe to say that the London footprints are the most significant footprint find in the last 40 years. They certainly represent the largest collection of data ever retrieved from any single Bigfoot site, ever." Another website, www.bigfootlunchclub provided news on the matter.

I can only say that I am really impressed by the amount of documentation that went into this discovery by way of still photography, measurements, plaster castings, diagrams and videos of the area. I find myself in full agreement with those who investigated the matter on site, the footprints are representa-



A scenic view of where the tracks were discovered showing part of the lake, the muddy, grassy area and the tree line, courtesy of Joe Beelart. Thom Powell working on a plaster casting as Beth Heikkinen looks on. A close-up of the 14" inch track showing toes. Photo courtesy Cliff Barackman.



tive of Bigfoot. Hopefully a detailed monograph on the discovery will be published.

A field sketch of the pathway of the 14" inch track showing the pronounced "military turn" as provided by Guy Edwards. The mossy knoll provided a resting spot for many plaster castings, above. Toby Johnson trying to duplicate the step length (with an average measurement of 47 inches) of the track maker. Photos courtesy Thom Powell.



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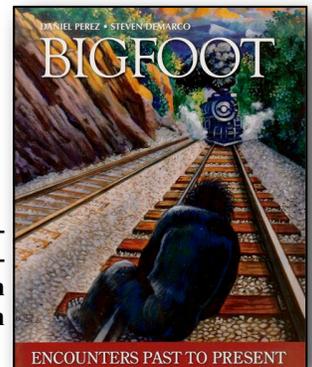
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