



Monte Stookey looks through a days dredging.

(G-T Photo)

GOLD

Man's best friend

Gold (gold), n. 1. A precious yellow metallic element widely used in coins, jewelry, etc. 2. Riches. 3. A yellow color. n.—goldsmith.

Monte Stookey, n. 1. Heppner man, curious, inquisitive, anxious. Part time goldsmith, now ranked fourth in the state in gold panning.

Monte Stookey's dredging curiosity to locate the Mother Lode has produced a fourth place finish for the Heppner man in the Oregon State Gold Panning Championships.

Stookey took the honor last week in Baker, competing against stiff competition that included the world champion, the California State champion and the United States champion.

"It's a hobby more than anything else," Stookey says. But when he's asked if he'd find a big nugget some day, he just answers, simply "I will."

Stookey uses a motorized dredge right now. A recent trip to the John Day River produced six or seven little nuggets and some gold flakes.

From the dredge, Stookey pans the sediment and finds the heavier gold metal, at the bottom of the pan.

Stookey has a couple gold claims near Cable Cave by Sumpter, but hasn't got the cash on hand to start in that type of mining in the rocks.

So he keeps dredging and panning. What for? To find "a little gold for a little cash."



Guy Patterson, left, and Frank Sampley survey Bigfoot prints they found. Guy's feet are in the animals foot prints and Frank's hand point to where animals hand prints are. Guy, a 6'1 man, is still about five feet short of the animals frame when it drank water here. (G-T Photo)

BIG FOOT

Hundreds of tracks found near Heppner

By WIL C. PHINNEY

The large German Shepherd dog whined and whimpered and jumped up on its masters' side for protection. Its owner looked bewildered and said, "something's wrong."

A small posse of about seven young men were carefully surveying the mountainous terrain near Johnson Creek, south of Heppner.

"Here's another one," Guy

When the grader found the tracks, he got out of his rig. But a foul, almost nauseating stench forced him to get back in his rig. The Indian tales tell of the bad smell.

Monday night, after more of the crew had received word of the finding, Guy Patterson, 23-year-old son of Pat Patterson, Pine Contract Logging

at first. But at the first sighting of the huge prints, some measuring 21 inches long, a firm believer was made.

The small band of trackers found many signs of the big animals. Besides groups of tracks, Guy quessed that there were five different sets by the sizes, there was also

At one spot, Guy put his feet where the animals foot-prints were and bent down to where the animal's hand prints were. He was short, with his 6-1 frame, by at least five feet of coming up where the animal had taken water.

Guestimates ranged from nine to 12 feet and Guy, by the impressions left, guessed that



21"

'It's a damn good hoax, if that's what it is.'

Patterson, head tracker said enthusiastically. He brushed away some soil and there it was.

Another track. It is Bigfoot. For more than 200 years, Indians have told tales about a mammoth beast, with monstrous feet they call Sasquatch. Bigfoot became part of Morrow County this week.

Not just a few prints. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, lending more and more credence to a theory that has escaped most people's wildest dreams.

The first prints, three in all, were spotted by a Pine Contract Logging grader last Wednesday morning. Those tracks were still very distinct Tuesday afternoon.

boss, took a couple buddies and began a trek that ended only after about four miles and four hours of constant tracking.

Their tracking yielded more than just three tracks. It found hundreds in the brushy area near Johnson Creek.

Tuesday, this writer took the tour with Guy Patterson, his logging buddies Frank Sampley and Don Lippert and Guy's younger brother, Jay. There have been at least ten people that have seen the tracks.

Skepticism was inevitable

feces found and kept. Tracks were found in almost all directions almost everywhere a human foot was put down.

The human foot made an impression almost impossible to see moments after it left the turf. The Bigfoot prints left impressions, sometimes as deep as one and half inches in the ground, after two days of rain.

The group shared findings and found four spots where the animals, whatever they are, had knelt near Johnson Creek to take water.

the animal could weigh as much as 1000 pounds.

Pure speculation? Impossible? Incredible? Possibly but not probable by the evidence in the mountains.

Frank asked Guy Monday if he believed in Bigfoot. Guy had told him no, but by the end of the day, Guy says he was a firm believer.

"If someone would have told me this two weeks ago, I'd have said 'Bull,' Guy said, "But now I've been made a firm believer."

Later in the day, the grader

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Mini - Cloud burst causes area crop, road damage

A Monday afternoon storm hit Morrow County this week, causing extensive crop damage to area farms.

A low pressure system off the Pacific Coast swept into the area Monday, bringing rain, hail, and lightning to

Morrow, Umatilla, Gilliam, Grant and Wheeler Counties.

Morrow, southern Umatilla and northern Grant counties appeared hardest hit. Ten forest fires were reported in the Umatilla national forest and Morrow County farmers

reported wheat crop losses as high as 20 per cent.

The storm did little damage to roads in Morrow county. A mud slide stalled traffic between Lexington and Heppner for about an hour. The mud also damaged Dr. How-

ard Huber's home.

Hail, not as bad as last year, did crop damage up to 20 per cent on 350 acres of wheat on a ranch run by Pat Cutsforth. Cutsforth reported more than one inch of rainfall in 10 minutes.

He said he already harvested 350 acres of wheat, with yields running at 25 bushels.

Water ran tire deep on trucks at the Al Bunch ranch. Another rancher near Bunch, Dean Hunt, reported .85 of an inch of rain in the 10 minutes the storm took to cross his field.

Clark's Canyon received some damage as the water from the mini-cloud burst swept through the canyon's draws, washing out top soil and some crop land.

Morrow County suffers June employment loss

Umatilla County experienced a substantial employment increase during June, while Morrow County suffered an even more substantial loss in employment, according to Labor Force Trends of the state employment division.

The employment increase occurred primarily in food products, wholesale and retail trade and government.

Even though Morrow County employment decreased over the month, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate also decreased—from 9.6 per cent in May to 6.7 per cent in June. The major portion of the loss in employment was tied to a lull in construction at Portland General Electric's coal-fired plant site. Food processing and the government sector also experienced employment losses during June.

The unanticipated decline in contract

construction stemmed from a temporary lull in activities at the construction site for the PGE plant. By the first week of July, much of the June employment loss had already recovered. With the letting of additional contracts for the construction of the plant structure itself, the rapid expansion of area construction will resume.

Lumber and wood products activities increased slightly in Morrow County and moderately in Umatilla County.

The Morrow County wholesale sector is inactive as the potato packing sheds are currently down until the potato harvest in August.

For the future in Morrow County, a \$80 million residential and commercial project to provide homes for 11,000 people is planned for Boardman. An initial \$25 million phase of the development is scheduled to begin this summer.

LABOR FORCE SUMMARY FOR MORROW COUNTY (By Place of Residence)

	June 1976	May 1976	June 1975	Change From 1976	June 1975
Civilian Labor Force 1/	3,690	4,040	3,220	-350	+470
Unemployment	240	300	200	- 60	+ 40
Percent of Labor Force	6.5	7.4	6.2	xxx	xxx
Seasonally Adjusted Percent	6.7	9.6	6.4	xxx	xxx
Total Employment 2/	3,450	3,740	3,020	-290	+430

MORROW COUNTY NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT (By Place of Work)

	2,200	2,440	1,680	-240	+520
Total	2,200	2,440	1,680	-240	+520
Manufacturing	720	800	540	- 80	+180
Durable Goods	350	340	390	+ 10	- 40
Lumber & Wood	330	320	380	+ 10	- 50
Other Durable Goods	20	20	10	0	+ 10
Non-durable Goods	370	460	150	- 90	+220
Food Products	370	460	150	- 90	+220
Other Non-durable Goods	0	0	0	0	0
Nonmanufacturing	1,480	1,640	1,140	-160	+340
Contract Construction	330	490	140	-160	+190
Transp. - Utilities	120	110	100	+ 10	+ 20
Trade	380	380	370	0	+ 10
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	50	50	50	0	0
Service & Miscellaneous	210	190	130	+ 20	+ 80
Government	390	420	350	- 30	+ 40
Labor-Management Disputes	0	0	0	00	0

NOTE: Estimates are subject to revision.

1/ Includes employed and unemployed individuals 16 years and older. Data are adjusted for multiple job holding and commuting.

2/ Includes nonagricultural wage and salary, self-employed, unpaid family workers, domestics, agriculture and labor disputants.



Larry Fetsch

A surprise resignation from John Mollahan as Morrow County sheriff hasn't left the county without its chief law enforcement officer.

Mollahan's resignation became effective Aug. 1. However, Larry Fetsch, deputy sheriff, has taken over as acting sheriff until the county court makes an appointment.

Mollahan, Judge Paul Jones described his resignation as "a complete surprise", was not available for comment. Under Oregon law, Mollahan has until Aug. 27 at 5 p.m. to withdraw his resignation.

Sen. Mark Hatfield will swing through Heppner next Thursday, August 12 on a tour of Oregon cities.

Hatfield will be at the Wagon Wheel at 3:15 p.m. Thursday to talk to local citizens.