

Huge Drew's Creek Print Traced To Ancient Sloth

Editor's Note: An exhibit of interest at the Hart mountain Antelope convention this year was a plaster impression of a gigantic footprint discovered on Drew's creek in Lake county, not far from the Klamath county line. The Herald and News asked Phil Brogan, Bend Bulletin newsmen and an authority on geology and the remote background of the east-of-the-mountains country, to interpret the story for Klamath readers.

By PHIL BROGAN
Bend Newspaperman

Footprints in stone, believed to have been made by a giant ground sloth in a remote age, have been reported from the Drew's creek area of South Central Oregon, where the prehistoric tracks were recently discovered by J. B. Howard of Klamath Falls and recorded in cases for study by scientists. Made by Kenneth McLeod, Howard's fellow townsman, one of these casts received its first public showing this past week-end at the annual convention of the Order of Antelope, on Hart mountain.

Tracks similar to those reported from a tributary of Drew's creek, 75 miles east of Klamath Falls, were found years ago in the Nevada state prison yard, in Carson City, and identified as footprints of a creature known to paleontologists as mylodon, a ponderous and slow-moving animal that lived in jungles, forests and rolling plains of the west in the pleistocene period, probably a million years ago. Giant sloths are believed to have wandered over the ancient Oregon country in small herds, feeding on herbs, fruits and roots.

Tiger Was Enemy

Scientists believe that the sloth's most destructive enemy was the sabre-toothed tiger. Skeletons of sloths and tigers have been found in the Rancho La Brea tar pits of Southern California. In Oregon, remains of mylodon have been reported from various places—Fossil lake, the John Day valley and the Willamette region. In the John Day area, the remains have been unearthed from terrace deposits, not from the ancient clays that entomb the three-toed horse, the rhino and the ancestral camel.

However, never before have tracks of the ground sloth been reported from Oregon.

Tracks Weathering

When Howard discovered the fossil footprints in South Central Oregon early last winter, 15 of the aged tracks were visible, in soft rock. They had apparently been exposed only recently by water erosion. Early this summer, only three of the tracks remained, and they were reported to be weathering rapidly.

The replica of the Oregon sloth tracks made by McLeod provides measurements slightly greater than those obtained from the Nevada prints. In the Carson City beds are also found "tracks of a drove of horses that swing up to a cliff and disappear beneath the rocks above." Also in the prison yard is a trail where a wolf walked and where a great elephant seemingly strolled into a rock wall. Carnegie institution scientists bored tunnels into the Carson City rocks, in their study of the ancient tracks.

Quarrying operations exposed the ancient tracks in the Nevada rocks. Water, ever cutting deeper, a tributary to Drew's creek, brought the Oregon tracks to light.

In the California tar pits were found the foot bones of a pleistocene ground sloth. These fitted perfectly into the Carson City tracks. A similar test with the Klamath tracks is possible.

The Oregon tracks are so large that some amateur paleontologists are inclined to believe they were made by the megatherium, a giant cousin of mylodon, with elephantine feet.

Clyde Foster Dies At Grants Pass

Word was received today of the death of a former Klamath Falls resident, Clyde E. Foster, 67, of Grants Pass, who died suddenly in that city Thursday. Mr. Foster made his home in Klamath Falls for 10 years before moving to Grants Pass in 1942.

He was for many years an employee of the Great Northern railway, and retired just before moving to Grants Pass. Surviving him are his wife, Mrs. Foster of Grants Pass; three sons, Ralph and Marion of Klamath Falls, and Robert of Long Beach, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Hixson of Eugene and Mrs. Grace Warmack of Pasadena, Calif.; and one brother, Milton, of Banning, Calif.

Funeral services will be held at Grants Pass at 2 p. m. Monday, with Hull and Hull Funeral home of that city in charge. Interment will be in Grants Pass.

School Boards To Meet Monday Night

School boards of districts one and two will meet jointly next Monday night in a regular meeting to discuss staff recommendations and to study the building and improvement program to be carried on in local schools.

Several projects are being studied and will be brought before the board in Monday night's meeting. Both the high school plant and the elementary schools are due for the annual face-lifting usually administered them prior to school opening and these problems will be presented for action.

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Ground Work Classes Open

Flight instruction ground school classes, compulsory with GI flying courses, will be started in two weeks, in the top deck of the main hangar at the Klamath airport.

Evening classes will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 p. m., three nights a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. One hundred and 50 hours, or 32 weeks of ground school training are required for the commercial course which includes navigation, map reading and general fundamentals of plane equipment and an overall knowledge of flight rules.

Instructors for the classes have not been named. At a meeting held at the hangar Thursday night, flight students voted on having the classes at the

airport rather than at the Oregon Vocational school and agreed upon the number of nights each week that classes should be held. An instructor expected to arrive from Salem to conduct the class was not present and the meeting went ahead without him.

More Scouts Go To Camp On Sunday

Plans are in readiness for the third week of the annual Boy Scout encampment at Camp Makualla on Crescent lake. On Sunday, the following troops will be taken to the camp: Troop No. 1 from Klamath Falls, with 19 boys going. The troop is sponsored by St. Paul's Episcopal church. No leader has been selected as yet.

Troop No. 9 from Klamath Falls. Eight boys going to camp under the guidance of Grover Yantis. Troop is sponsored by the Pelican Bay Lumber company.

Troop No. 19 from Bly, Oregon. 16 boys going to camp under the direction of their scoutmaster, Spike Armstrong. The troop is sponsored by the Spangler Lumber company.

Troop No. 12 from Lakeview, Oregon. 10 boys will go under the leadership of Alex Zevely. Troop is sponsored by the Lakeview Lions club.

Troop No. 13 from Lakeview, Oregon. 10 boys going to camp with

Rodney Harlan, assistant scoutmaster as their leader. The troop is sponsored by BPOE lodge 1836, Lakeview, Oregon.

Returning to their homes on Sunday afternoon after a week at Camp Makualla will be nearly 100 Scouts from the following troops: 16 from Klamath Falls; two from Klamath Falls; 33 from Malin; 42 from Klamath Falls; and 44 from Tulelake.

SPUDS GO SOUTH
BUENOS AIRES, July 26 (AP)—The Argentine government announced today that 2,000,000 bags of potatoes have been bought in the United States and will be shipped here immediately to alleviate the current potato shortage.

Hans Norland Fire Insurance, 123 N. 6th St.

Transport Slips Ready

Transportation slips for cattle moving have been received here from the state department of agriculture, and are available at the county agent's office, sheriff's office and KPCA.

These should be used for moving cattle from ranch to ranch, or to slaughter houses or sales yards, without inspection.

B. T. McKimins, state brand inspector here, and his deputies, will have a few of the slips with them for emergency use. The slips will give shippers and movers road clearance when stopped by state police.

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