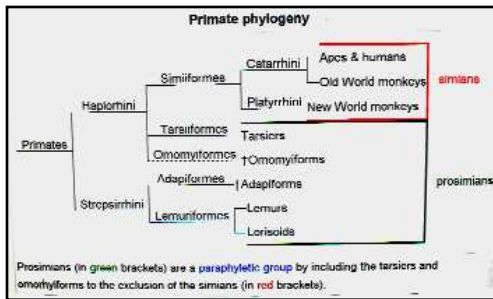




It's certainly nothing astounding, but if the question is, did primates other than human beings ever inhabit North America? The answer appears to be, "yes." According to this illustration I stumbled onto in an old *Time-Life* book (1965), "Prosimian (primitive primates having large ears and eyes and characterized by nocturnal habits) fossils have been discovered in central United States."

The following is an ancestry chart and you can see where these odd creatures ended up with apes and humans.



John Morley commented on my article as to the “Green Line” featured in the last *B&P*. He stated the following:

You recently wrote something in which you indicated that the toes apparently flex downward in the final push off during forward locomotion. Actually the toes are dorsiflexed which is caused by the rear and midfoot foot uplifting to the forefoot, which in turn moves to the toes which are now dorsiflexed. This dorsiflexion does result in the toes pushing downward against the substrate creating a powerful push forward until the entire foot leaves the ground.

This subject was discussed at length in Issue No. 52 of *Bits & Pieces*, which has been reprinted as follows:

Seen here is another clay impression of the toes and “pad” of my right foot. The first image is “regular,” the second image is “inverted” (like a negative). I made a full print with that foot. I dug in my heel and then went up to the toe-off position and applied all of my weight (195 pounds). The images were made with a digital camera. What surprises me is the depth of the impression created by my “pad” under the toes. Toe stems are visible on the first four toes, including the big toe. Dermal ridges can be seen; mostly on the “pad.”

The third image (below) is of what is considered the best sasquatch footprint. It is of a print found on Blue Creek Mountain in 1967. It is the opposite foot to my foot impression (big toe is on the right). Note that the soil under the toe line is not disturbed. My only explanation here is that the toes were arched after the foot made contact with the soil. In that way, a hollow was created. When toes are arched (scrunched) only the tips make an impression so the “peas in a pod” toes appearance results.

I let the clay for my toes impression dry and then scanned it directly. I made the image grayscale and inverted it as seen here. Now we can see all the skin folds that make up the “channel.” When the toes are arched, the skin in the channel completely folds and does not register in the impression. At the same time, the toes all even out in a straight line. The same thing occurs with one’s fingers. Note also that in this image



dermal ridges are clearly seen at the tip and side of the big toe. The scanner was able to record them like a camera “close-up.”



The Heryford cast, seen below (actual and inverted), is about the finest example I have seen in which the toes are not arched. We can see the toe stems and skin in what would be the channel, similar to what is seen with my toes.



Obviously, arching the toes is a matter of choice with sasquatch; it is definitely seen in partial prints when the hominid is going up an incline—the toes grab the soil. Humans in normal circumstances don’t do this; but where bare feet are always used, then it might be prevalent.

In my opinion, we need to do more work of this nature. In other words

examine things we have and see where we can find similarities and differences to humans. What we determine might not be totally correct as other information emerges; but in the process we learn things that lead the way to further analysis and additional findings.



Just to ensure we are all on the same page as to Green’s theory (what I call the Green Line), here (above) are the images he provided.

I have mentioned that there are exceptions to this rule. Obviously, if the hominoid is just standing still or sort of shuffling around, then the toes do not dig in and the footprints will be essentially the same as human prints, notwithstanding the size. John Morley mentions that other factors may be the type of substrate, speed of the track-maker, and dorsiflexion of the toes themselves.

John Morley has scientific credentials, so I think we are on fairly safe ground here. As I recall, my article in *B&P No. 52* was not favourably received by Dr. Meldrum, but perhaps the “Green Line” adds more credibility.



The surface of mastodon bone showing half impact notch on a segment of femur, (Tom Deméré, San Diego Natural History Museum).

This material was featured in the *Smithsonian* magazine in April 2017. It's interesting because there appears to be evidence that a hominoid of some sort was in North America much earlier than we thought.

In 1992, construction workers were digging up a freeway in San Diego, California when they came across a trove of ancient bones. Among them were the remains of dire wolves, camels, horses and gophers—but the most intriguing were those belonging to an adult male mastodon. After years of testing, an interdisciplinary team of researchers announced this week that these mastodon bones date back to 130,000 years ago.

The researchers then went on to make an even more stunning assertion: These bones, they claim, also bear the marks of human activity.

The team's findings, published today in the journal *Nature*, could upend our current understanding of when humans arrived in North America—already a flashpoint among archaeologists. Recent theories posit that people first migrated to the continent about 15,000 years ago along a coastal route, as Jason Daley writes in *Smithsonian*. But in January, a new analysis of horse remains from the Bluefish Caves by archaeologist Jacques Cinq-Mars suggested that humans may have lived on the continent as early as 24,000 years ago.

The new study, however, suggests that some type of hominin species—early human relatives from the genus *Homo*—was bashing up mastodon bones in North America about 115,000 years earlier than the

commonly accepted date. That's a staggeringly early date, and one that is likely to raise eyebrows. There is no other archaeological evidence attesting to such an early human presence in North America.



San Diego Natural History Museum Paleontologist Don Swanson pointing at rock fragment near a large horizontal mastodon tusk fragment, (San Diego Natural History Museum).

The big question, of course, is this: was this mystery hominoid the predecessor of the Native North American aboriginal or something else? At the most, reasonably firm evidence of human settlement in North America dates to about 16,000 years ago. Such people apparently came over the Bering Strait landbridge, which ceased to exist about 8,000 years ago. In other words, no more foot-traffic after that time. Please note that fossilized human-like footprints found in North America easily fall within the 16,000 year time frame.

All humans (*Homo sapiens*) evolved from a hominoid of some sort, so aboriginal people in North America may go back a lot farther than we think.

Whatever the case, it appears that at least one type of hominoid left evidence of its existence in North America long before we think humans (*Homo sapiens*) came to this land. If we are correct in our thinking about extant relict hominoids, then some of these species did not significantly evolve, they just stayed the same (like what is called the horseshoe crab).

As is often the case, the mastodon bones reported were discovered by a construction crew; in this case working on a freeway. This is likely the main process by which such bones, or any bones, will now be uncovered if aboriginal land (or land claims) is involved.

The science of anthropology is not high on the list of necessary research in the minds of aboriginal people, who can no longer be ignored.



Every now and then it is interesting to see what fly-by-night journalists and authors are saying about possible hominoids, in this case the yeti.

One of the alleged yeti scalps, probably the one seen here, was proven to have been made from the skin/hide of a serow (goat-antelope). That's fine, but there are at least two other scalps, as old or older, that have never been analyzed.

The skeletal hand shown (given it is the original, which was stolen) was determined by DNA to be made of human bones. That's fine, but can human DNA be totally excluded for the yeti? We have the same problem with the sasquatch, which comes up "modern human."

Nevertheless, strange footprints in snow continue to pose a question as to what made them. For certain the hominoid generally lives in the foothills of mountains, but goes up into snowfields for some reason. The prints are very tough to explain away. Again we have the same situation with the sasquatch in North America, although hundreds of times the quantity.

When I first presented the yeti in my book, *Know the Sasquatch*, (2010) the subject was very exciting. However, the scientists messed up in failing to properly identify DNA, so we are back at square one, but probably worse in many ways due to the COVID-19 problem in Nepal.

I don't think we can expect much out of that country for a very long time. Even our own research on the sasquatch in the USA and Canada has to take a back seat to a pandemic.

At one time keeping up with the bigfoot or sasquatch issue was no problem. There were just a few researchers and information was eagerly shared. I would print out emails and other

information and give it to René Dahinden—he so looked forward to my visits. At this time there is so much information that keeping up is impossible. The following article was featured in

the *Payson Roundup*, Payson, Arizona, seven years ago. It's rather good. If you have not seen it, forgive the delay in presenting it. In essence it is a little "thumbs up" to *Finding Bigfoot*.

Tracks in snow: Mogollon Monster watch

BY PETE ALESHIRE
ROUNDUP EDITOR

Finally.
Winter.
Mogollon Monster trackway season.

That's right: You heard me. Rim Country's own Bigfoot leaves distinctive trackways in the snow, all winter long. And you'll find a surprising number of skilled outdoorsmen who say they've seen the tracks crossing snow-sided roads atop the Mogollon Rim—and sometimes after a big snow close to Payson.

So when you drive through Rim Country after a winter storm—keep a lookout for the distinctive tracks—humanlike in their alignment, but too big for size 10s and too small for snowshoes.

The long-whispered traces of a shaggy, overgrown high country hominid broke out into the open last year when Animal Planet's "Finding Bigfoot" filmed a segment in Payson that invited area residents to share their stories.

Surprisingly, 19 somber people detailed their encounters with the legendary creature as the TV cameras rolled during a session in the Oxbow Saloon. As it happens, the historic saloon also reportedly has a full complement of ghosts—including a African-American cowboy lynched nearby.

The cameras rolled for two hours as the people who claimed actual sightings told their tales. Another 20 people raised their hands at the outset when asked whether they'd heard the cry of the Mogollon Monster. An additional 30 people raised their hands when asked if someone they knew personally had described a sighting.

The genial hosts talked each witness through their sighting, keeping the show moving and the mood light. The show hosts included Moneymaker, biologist Ranae Holland and "Bobo" James Faye.

Tyler Peters led off with the sighting of a gigantic creature in the forest near Oxbow Estates, where he and his friend were setting off firecrackers. They heard screams off in the woods and set out to investigate early in February when they spotted a tall, black figure he estimated at 7 to 8 feet tall about 100 yards from the nearest house.

"I thought it was a Bigfoot right away," said Peters.

Kevin Brownwell said he saw the creature 25 years ago while hunting elk near Pine. He spotted the creature following him at a distance of about 200 yards.

"I would have paid more attention, but I was freaking out at the time. I've hunted bear and it was like nothing I've ever seen."

Then nine months ago he went back roading up Four Peaks in the snow. He was actually looking for his cell phone, which he lost when he'd gotten stuck. He told friends about the tracks.

"Everyone was saying, 'maybe Bigfoot will call you on your phone.'"

So he took the doubters back up the mountain and photographed the tracks in the snow. He said he wears a size 12 boot, but these tracks were nearly 12 inches longer and four inches wider than his own.

Mickey Decker said he spotted a huge creature near his house in Christopher Creek in June of 2000. He said the motion sensor light of his neighbor often came on when deer, elk and other creatures moved past the house. He liked to sneak up on animals that had activated the light to enjoy the wildlife. One night he crept up the slope behind his house when that light went on, only to confront a "giant man, very hairy," at a distance of about 50 feet.



Pete Aleshire/Roundup
Todd Gilchrist, Shawn Makil and Kristine Kitchens brought an enormous plaster cast of a footprint they found on the road to Young to a Payson session for people who believe they've seen the Mogollon Monster.

Startled, the creature roared. "It was a scream, a growl, a howl. I turned and ran as fast as I could."

William Newell and his 6-year-old son Remington, who live in Tonto Basin, got the biggest applause of the night—thanks to Remington's commentary perched safely in his father's arms.

Newell said he had crossed Apache Lake on a hunting trip and followed three coatimundi up a hill with his son tagging along behind, when he spotted a frightening figure on a ridgeline 250 yards away.

"This thing started screaming and shaking this mesquite tree. It definitely wasn't a bear. Then it just walked off," said Newell.

Chirping up from his daddy's arms, Remington explained. "It was this big thing. It looked like a Bigfoot. That's why I ran back to the boat so I could get back to my truck."

The crowd laughed and clapped.

So Remington cupped his hands to his mouth and imitated the howl of the Mogollon Monster.

More applause.

John Hughes, a Lower Round Valley teenager, said he had his encounter playing basketball at night under the lights in his back yard. The ball rolled down the driveway and when he went to retrieve it, he found himself staring into yellow eyes set in the wrinkled face of a cinnamon-brown creature that towered over his 6-foot fence.

"I ran back to the house as fast as I could," said Hughes.

"Have you seen anything since that night?" asked Holland.

"No. We moved," said Hughes, getting another big laugh from the audience.

Todd Gilchrist, Shawn Makil and Kristine Kitchens showed up with the enormous plaster cast of a footprint they found on the road to Young, after they rounded a corner on the dirt road in the darkness and saw a towering figure standing some 20 feet off the road, illuminated by the headlights.

"I was scared to death," said Kitchens. "This thing was humongous. I never, ever thought I would see such a thing."

Steve Vallie said he had two sightings staying at a campsite near Knoll Lake where several friends had also reported encounters. He went equipped with a night vision scope and "sound traps" to record calls of the creature.

In one case, he glimpsed the creature running between a gap in the trees near the campsite.

In the second case, he and his nephew used "tree knocks" and calls to try to find one of the creatures. At one point, they got an answering whoop. They shifted through the forest trying to get a glimpse of the creature, which trailed them back to camp.

"We started hearing this very, very light footprint—like a ninja," said Vallie.

They finally turned in time to see the creature step behind a tree, leaving only its hand visible. They stood and stared at that hand through their night vision scope for about three minutes, before the creature slipped away. Vallie said the spot on the trunk where the creature rested its hand was 69 inches above the ground.

David Bingle of Pinetop, a linguist and former Naval Intelligence officer, said he was driving at about 45 miles an hour along Highway 260 and mile marker 301 when he saw something running at terrific speed alongside the road. The creature then went down on all fours as though it were bending to pick up something as he flashed past in the car.

He had a second encounter in May of last year when he heard a scream in the forest. "I heard something that sounded like it had (linguistic) structure," said Bingle. "Then it stopped."

But the sighting that came closest to home came from Benny Rodriguez and Josh Higgins, who said they live near Home Depot.

They then spotted a creature standing 8 to 9 feet tall, with black hair and black eyes and a gray, wrinkled face. "It was doing something with the tree," said Rodriguez. "It kind of freaked us out. It started really coming closer, so we went faster the other way."

"Do you have anything to add?" Moneymaker asked Higgins.

"He pretty much covered it."

"It was definitely Bigfoot," said Rodriguez.

"A bigfoot," corrected Moneymaker.

The one skeptical note of the evening was sounded by Margarette Young, an East Verde Estates writer of children's books, who opened with "I am a fairy."

She said "I live by a river. Sometimes I walk in the moonlight. I've seen fairies and magic fireflies. I believe I've seen what you're all talking about. You'll never find it. You'll never see a video. You'll never collect hair. You're all describing a hobgoblin. I believe it's a spirit."

"But we do have a video," said Bobo patiently.

"But it's a hobgoblin," said Young.

"Then we have a video of a hobgoblin," quipped Bobo.

Big laugh.

And a good time had by all.