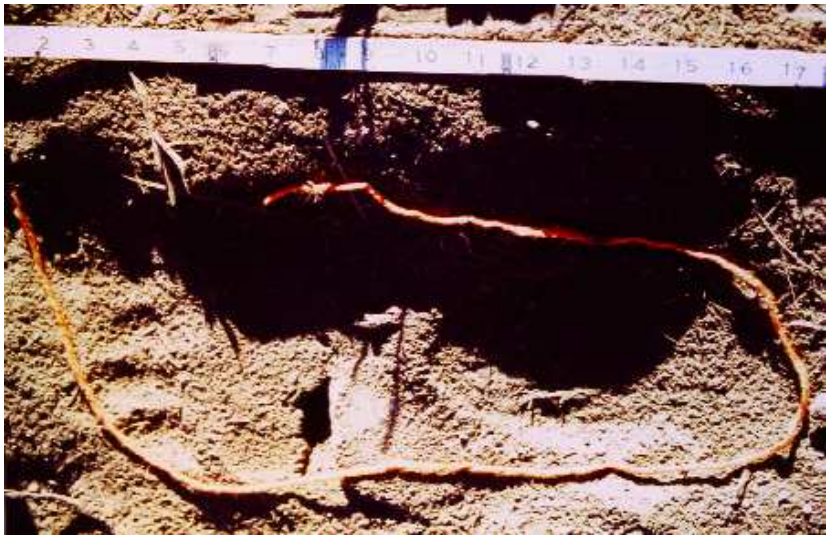
Buncombe Hollow

The five photographs that follow involve a remarkable footprint find at Buncombe Hollow, Clark County, Washington, in October 1974. Buncombe Hollow is on a narrow, dead-end road bordering the southern shores of Merwin Dam Reservoir (situated east of Woodland). Loggers on duty at a 24-hour watch on slash burning, sensed a "presence" during the night and in the morning saw unusual footprints. They notified Robert Morgan (a noted sasquatch researcher), and he and Eliza Moorman went immediately to the area. They followed the prints, first uphill along the long drag and then down to where they entered Buncombe Creek. In all, an unbroken string of 161 prints were counted. As the prints traversed several types of terrain, the effect of toe movements in different soil types and soil compaction could be compared. Morgan contacted Dr. Grover Krantz, who personally investigated the find.



Close-up of a Buncombe Hollow print. It measured about 17 inches (43.2 cm) long.

Robert Morgan measuring prints.

Dr. Tripp's Conclusion on Soil Penetration

In about 1959, an article appeared in the *San Jose News* on findings by Dr. R. Maurice Tripp, a geologist and geophysicist. Tripp went to the scene of a sasquatch sighting in the Bluff Creek, California, area and made a cast of a 17-inch (43.2-cm) footprint he found at the sighting location. He made engineering studies of the soil properties and depth of the footprint.

The following is the photograph and caption that appeared in the newspaper.

He Has Cast As Proof

Dr. R. Maurice Tripp measures a cast of what he says is the footprint of an "abominable snowman." Dr. Tripp says the footprint is that of a man who weighs more than 800 pounds (362.4 kg) and has been seen by residents of an area near Eureka.

*Robert Morgan (left) and Dr. Grover Krantz. Dr. Krantz wrote the following regarding the Buncombe Hollow prints:**

While examining a set of tracks in southwestern Washington with Robert Morgan in 1975 [should say 1974], the idea of impact faking occurred to me. In this particular instance most of the footprints were in loose dirt, and I had already noticed the pressure mound of dirt that surrounded many of them. A simple experiment showed that when I walked by, a similar pressure mound was pushed up around my own prints. But when I stamped my foot with some force, the dirt was shifted aside with much more speed and no mound developed (Fig. 16). My conclusion was that something there had placed those footprints with upwards of 800 pounds (362.4 kg) of weight coming down on them with no more impact than from a striding gait.

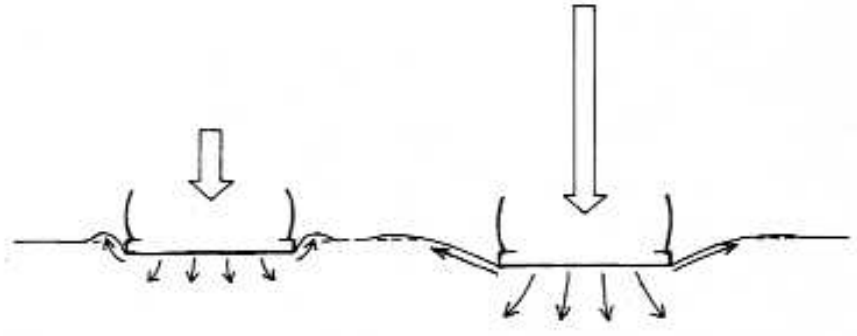


Figure 16. Pressure mounding. Soil compaction underneath a footprint is a product of impressed weight and speed of impact. These drawings are my interpretation of an experiment with shoes in loose dirt. At walking speed (left), soil is compacted directly under the sole, while some is pushed aside and rises in the direction of least resistance. With more forceful stamping (right), soil compaction is somewhat greater, and the side-shifted dirt is moved more rapidly. This rapid movement carries the dirt farther, leaving no mounding and a less distinct foot outline.

(Left) Morgan demonstrates the creature's pace. (Right) He and friends estimate its height.

* *Bigfoot Sasquatch Evidence* (Hancock House, 1999), p. 42.