

Right From the Source - Bossburg, 1969

Among my archives is a copy of a letter René Dahinden sent to John Fuhrmann on the Bossburg “cripple-foot” tracks finding in December 1969. There are a number of things René mentions in his letter that are very amusing, and I don’t recall seeing this level of detail on the incident in any published reports.

Rather than re-typing and correcting René’s work (his written English is a bit rough), I think you will get more pleasure by reading exactly what he said in the way he said it. For those of you who knew him, you can really hear him talking in your mind. René’s report is provided full size on the next two pages. Perhaps read it and then come back here.

As you can see, René was highly impressed with the Bossburg tracks. You can also see that he was a keen observer—he can never be faulted in that department.

In the passage of time, however, René became more and more skeptical with this finding, and indeed other findings. He evidently reached a point whereby he thought that the vast number of sightings, footprints, and other sasquatch-related evidence (particularly the P/G film) should have resulted in more/better firm evidence as to sasquatch existence—and subsequent high profile scientific involvement.

I think the fact that he saw first hand numerous footprints made things even more difficult for him. It is one thing to look at pictures of casts; quite another to see actual prints in the ground.

I must admit that it is hard to believe that something with feet that big appears to be wandering around in our forests; however, by the same token, if the prints were fabricated, making prints of that nature was very unusual. I will mention here that if the prints are indeed those of a sasquatch, it is evident that they are susceptible to physical defects or injuries just like any other animal—not sure how this fits in with paranormal theories.

One day in the mid 1990s I went to see René and asked him to show me the cripple-foot casts. He went to his trailer and got a large suitcase, The tracks were in the suitcase with two pieces of foam rubber. He laid out the casts on the lawn and we both stood looking down at them. They are very impressive and I said to him, “What do you think of the tracks now?” He did not answer immediately, sort of took a breath and said “50/50.”

In 2003, after René had died, I borrowed the casts from his son, Erik, took a proper photograph of them (seen here) and had them in my Museum of Vancouver Sasquatch Exhibit, which later traveled to the Museum of Natural History, Pocatello, Idaho (Idaho State University) where



Dr. Jeff Meldrum was able properly study and make a mold of them.

What do I think of the casts? I always default to the opinions of our scientists. All I can say from all my cast-making activities is that I just don’t think I could make prints to produce casts of that nature. I would not have thought to make a deformed foot in the first place. Skeptics (even most scientists) don’t think of things like that.

René Dahinden's Report

Bossburg. Dec. 13. 1969. Saturday.

Track Sighting.

Amount of Tracks by count ; 1089.

Lengths of Track Left Foot; 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ball .5 $\frac{1}{2}$ heel.

Lengths of Track Right Foot 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 7. ball .5 $\frac{1}{2}$ heel

Right Foot deformed; Third toe missing ,littel toe sticking out at sharp angel ,whole foot curved outward , two bumps at outside of foot ,slight impressen were missing third toe was.

We found tracks about 11.0 clock ,slight rain , in about 3-4 inches of snow. The came up a 150 to 200 foot bank ,30 to 40 degrē angel ,a few tress , up to a bench over to the railroad Tracks ,along Tracks and were the Tracks cross road ,the 3 track went over the Road and toward the Mountains , and bush, The track crossed a 43-inch high barbwire fence into a clump of tress , wer we found a pressed down area about the size 4 feet by 5 feet , the ground was Pine needles (long) and a few small ,sticks of brush, something allong like alpine heather ,from there the tracks went up a slight grade among some bare bushes ,then back again ,in this area were one hell of a lots of tracks ,and we were not quite sure what went on , in this place we found were something urinated found two tracks close together right there ,if the tracks are real this thing did it , snow discolord around , hole of urin did not go all the way trough Snow . From here the tracks went down to the fence again ,about 50 feet from first place crossing, crossed over and went about 30 feet away from fence ,turnd around and crossed fence again , and went back to the area were all the other tracks were , anyway, we fallowd the tracks along a deer or cattel trail allong inside the fenced off area for a while , than the tracks crossed over the fence again ,about 500 feet from the last crossing ,the went allong the fence for a while and thru some dick brush and angel toward the road ,and crossed over ,and down the other side , trough some brush and open spots and over the railroad tracks toward the river , the came out by the River there was a very steep bank , you could see were it was standing the tracks then went allong the river ,about 20 feet away from the bank ,tha n toward the bank , there was a tree ,the tracks went to there and down ,the slope was bare and ice and had snow on it , a small limb ,branch was broke off , down the bank was a curved trail , like somebody would make skiing down ,this trail was hard pressed and iced up , we did not think watever made this Trail was sliding down ,~~was~~ sitting down , but used the feet like Skis. Along the River bank was some loose gravel and it made a 3 to 4 inche groove in it but snoop about tree feet away from it, I mean the groove snoop about that far away from the Water ,there was a rocky band allong the shore ,loose ,the rocks are about 6 inches through and slipery,hard to get footing , . We think it dove into the water from there . this was about a 100 feet down river from were the tracks came up .

Tracks were allso found about a mile up river out across from there by a Hygway Border patrol man , wen we got there the were badly washt out by Rain . By the last Fence crossing we

found 8 Hairs, wich were dick and heavy and black , 2.were about 3 inches long and the rest shorter , and broken off .
The are now are in Edmonton , three of the and are exaimend there .

For other detaile see the News paper, I think you can get a good report from this letter and the paper for the Bulletin.

I made a damm bad mistake in not collecting the urine ,but we were were so busy filming ,and loking at the tracks ,and we did not have anything to put it in,so I lost it , I sure regret it .

This is the first time I have seen tracks in Snow , and I must say this were the most impressive set of tracks I have ever seen we covered up some of them and the are still all iced up even today a week after ,wich makes me think there was a lot off weight involved wen this tracks were made .

The Border Patrole ,Hyway Patrol and the Sherrife from Northport was there , and were very impressed .

The lengt of stride was from 43 to 57 inches but many were shorter shorter , we allso found lots off piles of snow with toe impresser in it , it seems the damp snow piled up on it's foot and it kickt this off , there were pine needles in the snow , the tracks were so hard inthe snow we made Plaster cast of the tracks in Snow. we were patroding the same area the day before and there were no tracks there , so we feel the were made from Fryday to Saterdag Saterdag.

I think this is about all from this Track find , the paper paper is correct in everything so you can quote from there if you need anything more .

We were hoping this tracks to heed into the hills , and this would have made it possible to fallow same over a longer distance , the more Tracks one sees the better , I think this Tracks to have been made by a Sasquatch , but you know how I feel about Sasquatch , one just never knows . I lookt at this line of tracks 7 times and did not find any indication of Fake, allso I have seen toe movments , or what I think were toe movments.

The Tracks or Sasquatch went over the same fence four(4) times and it is not lower than 43 inches on any place. and very thight. This tracks indicated the thing did not just steep over , but we found were both feet were close to the fence and on the other side one footprints and from there the trail went on , so I think it just pusht the fence down a littel and liftet on foot over sidewise ,like we did.

So I think this is all for this time , and as I said before this were the best set I have ever seen ,and made one hell of a impression on me.

Sure hope Roger will come up here in Jan.

All the best to you for the New Year. and hope we going to catch this hairy bastart.

Paul