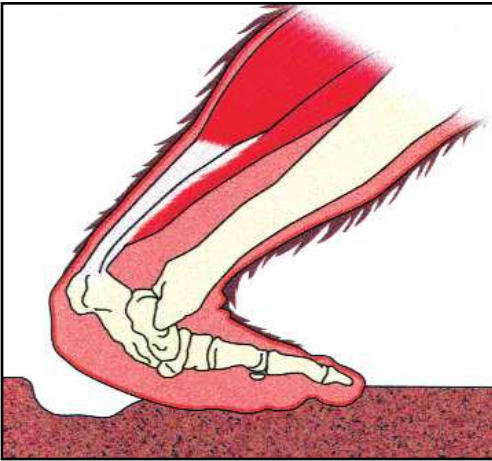




Bits & Pieces – Issue No. 111

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Edited by Gene Baade



If this first illustration by Dr. Meldrum were of a real sasquatch foot, the thickness of the foot sole would be about 1.2 inches. It would be quite hard and callous-like with all sorts of cracks like the Nepalese hillman's foot seen in the next illustration (center). On the right of that is the foot of the hominoid seen in the Patterson & Gimlin film (P/G film). You can sort of visualize a thick sole by the way the image rolls up on the left and right edges. Unfortunately, the subject was too far from the camera to see any fine details like the cracks in the hillman's foot.

There was a professional soil test performed to determine how much weight was needed to make a particular sasquatch footprint. This was done by Dr. Maurice Tripp in about 1959. He determined that it took about 800 pounds to make the footprint he examined.

As a sasquatch walks, its total weight transfers to each foot. If standing still, then the weight is distributed evenly to each foot, unless it shifts its weight as we often do when standing.

For certain, the sasquatch foot sole must be very thick to withstand a lot of weight on a rough surface. You may have walked barefooted on a rocky beach. With our feet, pain immediately registers because our foot sole is so thin. I will guess that the sasquatch would not feel pain until something sharp depressed the foot sole to within about .125 inch of the bone.

The horse, a very large and heavy

animal, is equipped with a hoof to eliminate problems caused by a human-like foot. Nevertheless, all large animals walk on four legs, so normally their weight is distributed to at least three feet at any moment.

The weight tolerance for human feet is really quite low. I will guess that more than 30% of one's normal weight is about the limit. Beyond that feet start to "complain."

I believe that having around 800 pounds (or even half that) concentrated on one foot will result in a footprint up to reasonably hard soil. Naturally, the softer the soil, then the deeper the impression.

In talking with John Green over the years, he was always impressed with the depth of the sasquatch footprints he observed in forest soil. Obviously significant weight was needed to make the prints (generally many prints). Snowprints were a different story, and were certainly much easier to fabricate. Nevertheless, they were very good, and indicated a flexible foot.

The 18-inch footprints Thomas Steenburg found in 1986 (110 in total) near the Chilliwack River, BC, were in very hard ground. In this case, people had seen the hominoid go into the bush, so there were witnesses. Thomas took me to the spot in 2003 and I looked at and sort of tested the ground. I don't think it would have changed. I suppose it had recently rained when the hominoid trekked through the area; that would have made a difference. Nevertheless, I don't

think a man of, say, 200 pounds would have registered prints even in this case.

I will mention that wearing boots makes it much easier to register prints (boot prints). This is because the boot sole and heel are harder than a bare foot sole and heel—they sort of dig in. You can walk barefooted softly on a sandbar and leave no tracks, but put on shoes or boots and tracks result. This leads me to believe that the thick sole of a sasquatch foot is very hard. The effect of all the weight being transferred to one foot is seen in this P/G film frame.



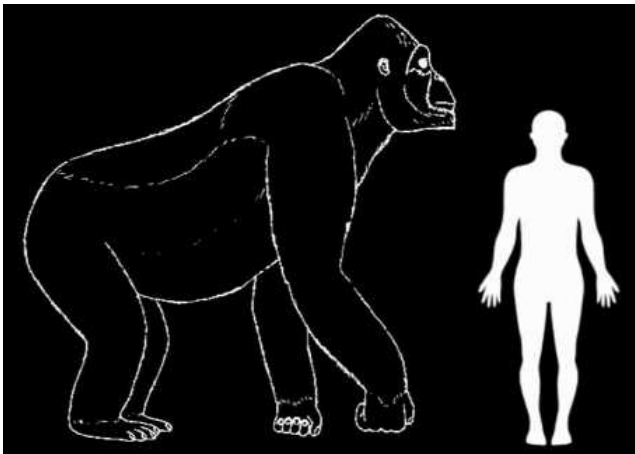
We can see in this image that the tendons and calf muscle on the right leg have tightened and the foot appears to have gone into the ground to about the depth of the foot sole as seen in Dr. Meldrum's illustration. The resulting footprint, and many others, would have been superior for determining the hominoid's weight, as had been done with a print by Dr. Tripp some 8 years earlier. Such information would have made a very big difference in hominology.

A few months ago, my dentist said I needed a night guard to stop my teeth from grinding. A mould of my teeth (convex) was taken, and a night guard produced (concave). Just the lower is needed to fit over my teeth on the left side. My dentist handed me the mould (upper and lower as seen below) and said, "Would you like to have these?" I said, great, I will put them in a clay sculpture.

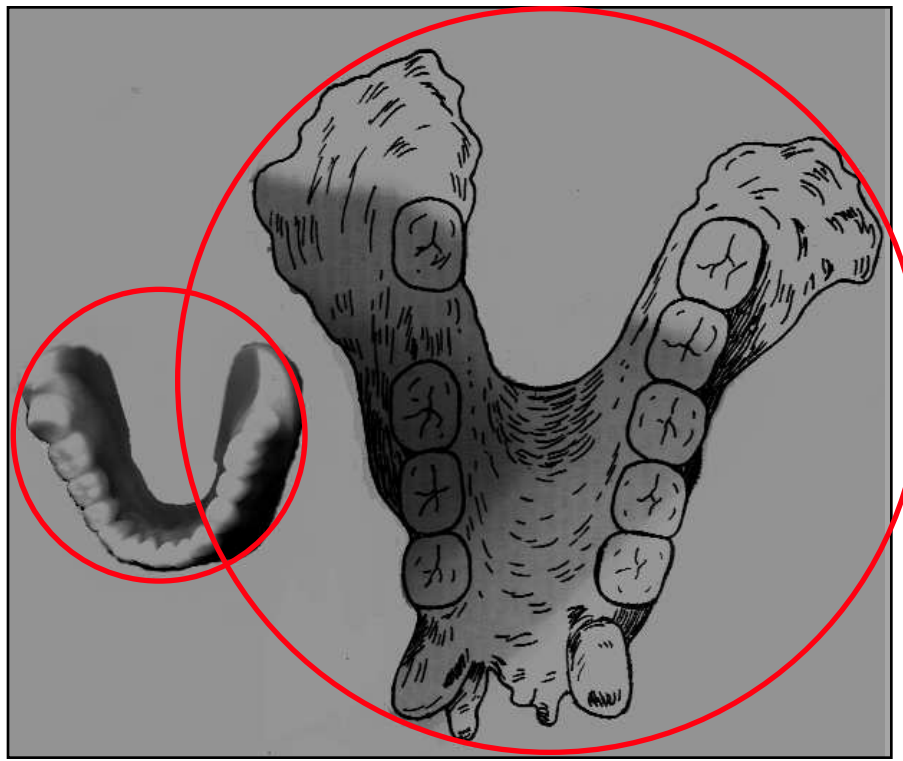


Upon seeing John Green's life-size drawing of a Gigantopithecus (Giganto) lower jaw in *The Best of Sasquatch Bigfoot*, page 80, I decided to see how I matched up in size to Giganto (adjacent image); for sure that's my lower jaw. I am about 6 feet tall and 200 pounds on a bad day. The red circles provide a bit of an idea of size comparison. It indicates that the Giganto jaw was roughly 2.522 times the size of my jaw.

Jaws are the first stage of digestion (I remember that from my high school biology class). Jaws chew the food and break it up so that it can go to the next stage without choking us. We believe Giganto was strictly a vegetarian, so it had to eat a lot of food. That required a very large jaw. The following shows a full figure size comparison with a human.



We have now come to the conclusion that food was the reason Giganto became extinct. Over millions of years the species became accustomed to certain vegetation, and when climate changed his favorite foods, he did not like the replacements. That situation, of course, was in what we now call China (and region). I don't know if the same thing happened in North America. Is it feasible that Gigantos came to North America and found lots of vegetation that they



Human lower jaw teeth compared with a scale drawing of a Gigantopithecus lower jaw. The drawing was life-size and scanned with the human teeth.

liked, and that such did not change?

Many years ago, in talking with Frank Beebe of the BC Provincial Museum (now Royal Museum), he expounded on the quantity and quality of available non-cultivated food that there is in the Pacific Northwest. The reference here was to the availability of food for sasquatch. For certain, Giganto would have found more than abundant food resources in North America. It has been noted that he did not care for bamboo, so did not mind wandering away from where it was available.

Obviously, Giganto was too big to climb trees to obtaining the food resources they offered. This would not have made much difference. We have brown bears the size of Giganto and they can't climb trees.

In the history of sasquatch, Giganto became a sort for "saving grace," or a place to hang your hat, as it were. I don't know exactly how or when John Green connected Giganto with sasquatch; I never thought to ask him. Nevertheless, it was a great theory, especially with the added reasoning that the creature came to North America over the Bering Strait landbridge.

Dr. Jeff Meldrum sums up the Giganto theory as follows: "Nevertheless, the *possibility* is certainly sound and the *plausibility* is quite reasoned and tenable."

Wikipedia has it that the Giganto became extinct about 300,000 year ago, so we would have to reason that it came to North America prior to that time.

What we believe the sasquatch looked like is shown here. To go from the artist's conception of a Gigantopithecus to a sasquatch would likely take a significant amount of "evolution," but I am not going to get into that question. I suppose my biggest problem is that the sasquatch appears to be much farther "up the ladder" than Giganto. In other words, if the sasquatch is not human, it's too human. I suppose it could have evolved in that way as well. Nevertheless, we are told that Giganto went extinct because it had problems with the type of food available, not the quantity. That was not too smart, was it? —00—



DISPATCHES

By MIA TURNER, in Beijing

Does This Creature Really Exist?

THE LONG STRANDS OF GOLDEN HAIR STORED IN A BEIJING LABORATORY REMAIN the best clue to a puzzle that has tantalized Chinese scholars and scientists for 2,500 years. There are other shreds of evidence, none of it conclusive: the plaster cast of a giant 40-cm footprint, excrement from an unidentified species, hundreds of reports by people convinced they have seen a towering, humanlike figure known as the “Wild Man.” They describe a hair-covered being, 2.5 m tall and walking upright, with apelike facial features. The golden hairs were recovered from a tree trunk in China’s Hubei province in 1976, soon after a local woman and her daughter described watching a strange erect creature scratching itself against the tree. All this might rate no more credibility than sightings of those mythic denizens of the Himalayas, the Yeti and the Abominable Snowman—except for believers like paleontologist Yuan Zhenxin and his colleagues on Beijing’s Rare Animals Research Committee. “We tend to believe he is the descendant of the giant ape, a kind of erect unknown primate,” says Yuan, “more advanced than gorillas, but not yet into the Stone Age.”

Yuan is helping oversee a 25-member scientific expedition that left last week for the Wild Man’s purported habitat, Hubei’s Shennongjia forest, hoping finally to prove or disprove its existence. Four previous searches in modern times failed to do so, but Yuan was impressed in 1977 when his team found a well-concealed cave. “We were convinced the creature existed,” he says. “The problem was we never saw it.” Exactly, say the skeptics. “The



Yuan Zhenxin believes the “Wild Men” of China are descendants of the prehistoric giant apes, whose fossilized jawbones are shown above

possibility of the Wild Man’s survival into the modern age is rare,” Zhou Guoxing, a senior paleoanthropologist with the Beijing Museum of Natural History, told the *China Daily*.

First sighted back in the Warring States period (475 B.C. to 221 B.C.), the Wild Man has eluded pursuers through the centuries. This time the scientists have been ordered to refrain from hasty conclusions and to bring back hard evidence. “The most satisfactory thing would be to get a picture or even a videotape of the creature,” says Wang Fangchen, the expedition’s leader. A \$60,000 reward is on offer to anyone who can catch the Wild Man, \$6,000 to anyone who turns up its bones. Huang Wanbo, a research fellow of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in the Chinese Academy of Sciences, notes philosophically, “Even if we don’t find the Wild Man, that would not be a bad result. It would finally prove that it does not exist.”

But Yuan is certain it does. And if they capture one? “We will try to make friends with him. We will not kill him or hurt him.” The find would be a research boon. Says Yuan: “They say man came from Africa, but this might change that ... It will help us fill in the blanks in human evolution.” A meeting of *Homo sapiens* and the bearer of the golden hair would be good for both, Yuan insists. “If we find him, the government will make a Wild Man reservation. No other country will have this.” And that, at least, is beyond dispute.

This article appeared in *Time* magazine, May 22, 1995. Unfortunately, nothing transpired. Dr. Zhou Guoxing, the most prominent Chinese scientist, is mentioned and seen in the bottom photo with Dr. Grover Krantz. In 2012 Dr. Guoxing declared that the existence of the yeren was improbable; he gave it a 5% chance. He had researched the hominoid for 50 years. Nevertheless, the mystery continues and the yeren likely has more enthusiasts than at any time in history. As with the sasquatch, footprints are the main tangible evidence.



Yuan Zhenxin with a yeren footprint cast.



Yeren head sculpture seen in the article.



Dr. Grover Krantz, Zhou Guoxing and Diane Horton (Grover’s wife) in China in 1995.



The up-side-down trees seen in the first image above appear very intriguing; however, they are a small part of probably 50 such oddities. They are in Young State Park near Boyne City in northern Michigan. The display is called an Inverted Forest. A short video is provided of a young man planting an up-side-down tree, although just a small one. I am sure several men would be needed to plant a large tree. Suffice to say, I don't think the trees have anything to do with hominoids. Certainly, there are cases where exceedingly large trees have been planted upside down and this undoubtedly required machinery. If evidence of such is not apparent, then I can only suggest a crew of 6 or 8 men.

In horticulture, using upside down trees has been around for many years. The root system is somehow infused with topsoil and becomes a platform for hanging plants, providing an astounding display as seen in the following image taken at Glacier Gardens in Alaska.

Furthermore, the "trees" as it were, become favorite nesting spots for small birds. The final result is wonderful tourist attraction.

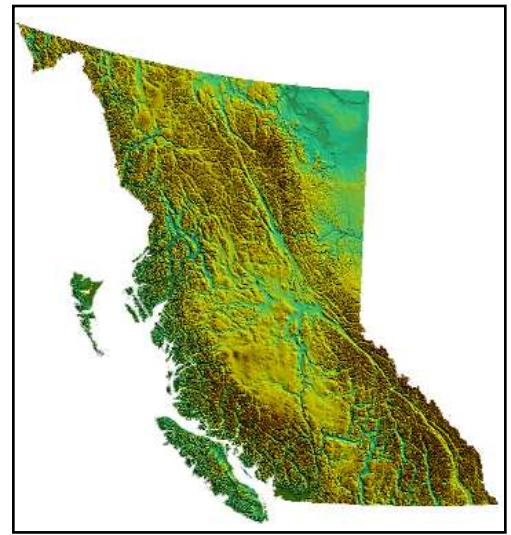


Young people like to play little tricks. Believe me, had I known about up-side-down trees when I was a youth, I would have planted some. —00—

A study performed in about 1947 found that the Ainu (or Aynu) people have the most body hair of all human races. The Ainu are an East Asian ethnic group native to Japan (Hokkaido and formerly Honshu) and Russia (Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands, Khabarovsk Krai and the Kamchatka Peninsula).



Ainu man—hair completely covers his body.



Although statistics are boring and I have been sort of warned about using them, please bare with me for a moment. Seen here is British Columbia, Canada, where I live. It has some 40,000 islands off its coast, about 20,000 lakes, about 550 named rivers (just a guess), 149 million acres of forest (64% of the entire province) and 8,476 mountains (by some sort of standard).

There are about 5.1 million people, most (90%) of whom live within about 150 miles north of the USA border. The vertical length of the province is about 1,100 miles and width about 421 miles (as the crow flies).

Beyond the 150 mile "people area," there are not a lot of roads—just main highways that lead to some cities or towns with populations mostly under 100,000, but up to 150,000. Come October, you don't dare go by road to these locations unless you are extremely well "vehicle-equipped."

If one ponders the question how much of BC has been explored (i.e., looked at on the ground), I would have to say, very little. Going in by foot is extremely difficult and dangerous. All one can really do is fly into the lakes and have a look around. However, even that is a bit of a tough call because of distances, weather conditions, and forest fires.

What all this boils down to is that the hominoid we call sasquatch apparently has no difficulty with, and actually likes, the type of environment here that is beyond city lights. I will venture to say that this environment has been the same since the hominoid arrived in North American (your guess as to when).