

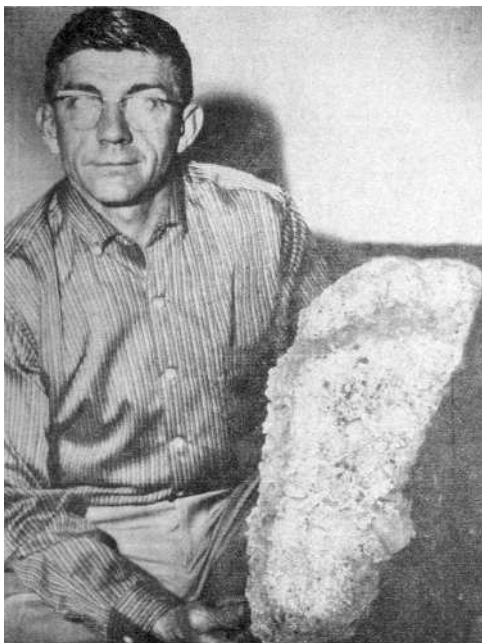
Jerry Crew & the Birth of the Name “Bigfoot”

A road was constructed into the Bluff Creek, California region in 1957, opening the area, which up to that time had been remote wilderness. Over the years, people in the region had noticed large human-like footprints and, while at least one report had been provided to a local newspaper, no further attention was paid to the matter.

On August 27, 1958, Gerald (Jerry) Crew, a road construction worker, saw such prints circling his parked bulldozer. Crew had heard of similar findings by a road gang about one year earlier at a location eight miles north. He showed the prints to his fellow workers, some of whom said they had also seen such prints in the area. Whatever was making the prints was appropriately being referred to by the men as “Big Foot.”

Crew saw additional prints about one month later, and more on October 2, 1958. This time, he made a plaster cast of one of the prints. He contacted the *Humboldt Times* newspaper (Eureka, California) and related the story of his findings. An *Associated Press* release on the story used the term “Bigfoot,” which resulted in this becoming the recognized name for the creature in the United States.

In later years, investigations revealed tracks of six different sizes, indicating that a number of bigfoot frequented the area.



Together with the footprints found at that time, there were also alleged sightings and other unusual incidents in the area. Footprint sizes ranged from 12.25–17 inches (31–43 cm) long. These facts made the Bluff Creek area a prime location for a possible bigfoot sighting.

Jerry Crew with his famous cast is seen in this Humboldt Times newspaper photo published on October 14, 1958. Crew later moved to San Francisco, where he worked with an airline company. He eventually settled in northern Oregon, where he died in the fall of 1993.



Jerry Crew, right, with Andrew Genzoli of the Humboldt Times, and the cast taken by Crew on October 2, 1958. This photograph is from a Humboldt Times (now The Times-Standard) newspaper article dated Sunday, October 5, 1958. The headline and caption read:

Huge Foot Prints Hold Mystery of Friendly Bluff Creek Giant

Gerald Crew of Salyer who made the plaster-of-paris cast of the big-footed wanderer in the vicinity of Bluff Creek, shows the size of the impression with the use of a 15-inch ruler. The foot measured 16 inches from heel to big toe tip. Andrew Genzoli, regional editor and RFD columnist for the *Humboldt Times*, who has been featuring stories about the big feet since September, brushes dust from the mould to obtain a better view. The imprint was made either Wednesday night or early Thursday morning by “Big Foot.” The impression was made by Crew Thursday morning also.

Note: This was the first article that appeared in the Humboldt Times. The Associated Press article went out the next day, October 6, 1958, and then another article appeared in the Humboldt Times on October 14, 1958.