



Type: Magazine Article

"The Moving Finger Writes..."

Author(s): Ralph A. Badger

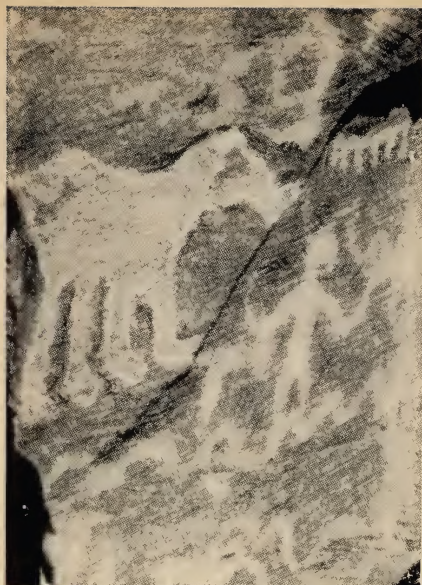
Source: *Improvement Era*, Vol. 53, No. 3 (March 1950), pp. 195, 239

Published by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Abstract: Describes several crudely drawn petroglyphs chiseled on rocks and walls of the Hava Supoi Canyon (Indian Reservation on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon), then concludes that "man and prehistoric animals must have lived at the same time, for man could not make a picture of an elephant or a mastodon if he had not seen one."

"THE MOVING FINGER WRITES..."

By Ralph A. Badger



Petroglyph of an elephant and a man. The elephant is seven and one-half inches high and ten inches long.

ONE evening President George Albert Smith spoke of having once read of petroglyphs of prehistoric animals having been found on an Indian reservation on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River. He stated that he would like to know more definitely of the discovery and what it was. The conversation led to the conclusion that pictures of prehistoric animals could only have been made had man and the animals lived at the same time, as man could not draw a picture of something which he had not seen.

As I was spending considerable time photographing unusual and outstanding natural phenomena, and ancient Indian lore including Indian hogans, moqui houses, and petroglyphs, I volunteered to go to Hava Supai, an Indian reservation on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon, about

thirty-five miles west of El Tovar Hotel, and see what I could find. There are two ways to go to Hava Supai—one from Peach Springs, Arizona, over the plateau for about sixty miles to Walapai, a government tin barn with an old-fashioned ring telephone in a box on the outside; the other way is the mail route from El Tovar, which goes twice a week. We took the Peach Springs route and reached Walapai about two in the afternoon. We rang the telephone, and the agent at Supai (the name of the Indian town) said that we could come down if we had all our own supplies of food and bedding. He would send an Indian with horses up for us the next day, and they should reach us about noon.

We lay down by the tin barn, and the wind blew all night. The tin rattled, and the sand, dry leaves, and small sticks—perhaps even bugs—fell on our faces and in our ears until morning. It was cold—April 6—and we didn't sleep much, but morning came with its warm sunshine, and about noon we saw an Indian winding his way up the side of the mountain toward us, leading our horses. We packed hurriedly and followed our guide down the four-thousand-foot ledge

into Hava Supai Canyon and the Indian agency headquarters.

We were in the land of the "Sky Blue Waters," where a fine stream of blue-tinted water about two feet deep and twenty feet across bubbles up from a gravel-bedded canyon and makes Indian Valley a beautiful paradise for about three miles. The water is laden with lime and mineral like that of Yellowstone Park, and it forms its own ponds and waterfalls of travatine.

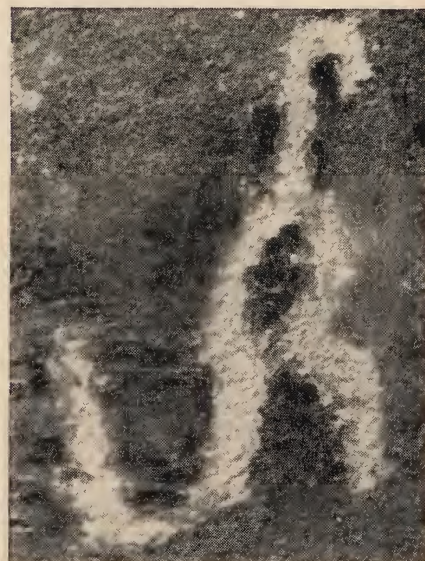
The Indians have lived here for hundreds of years. The first white man known to have visited this valley was Padre Garcia, who was taken alone by Walapai Indians to this enchanted land in 1776.

The object of our trip was to find the Indian drawings, called *petroglyphs*. Where they have not been exposed to the elements, thousands of Indian drawings and paintings in Utah and Arizona have endured to this day because they

(Concluded on page 239)



The above petroglyph was photographed along the Colorado River below Moab, Utah



This drawing of what is apparently a dinosaur is eleven inches high. The tail is about nine inches long.

"THE MOVING FINGER WRITES"

(Concluded from page 195)

were pecked into the surface of rocks.

On one of the walls of Hava Supai Canyon we found a petroglyph of a man and a prehistoric animal. It is well known that elephants, camels, horses, and mastodons were here in comparatively recent times and that dinosaurs roamed this continent evidently at the time our great coal deposits were being laid down by vegetation, but the belief that man lived contemporaneously with these animals, or some of them, is not so well established and accepted.

The writer photographed some of these petroglyphs and will present them herewith. One, that of an elephant or tapir-like animal and a man, is very old, quite crude, but

has been accepted by some of the best scientists. The elephant is but seven and one-half inches high and ten inches long, not including its trunk. It is well known that the La Brea tar pits of Los Angeles have produced many excellent skeletons of prehistoric elephants.

Near this elephant picture is one of a dinosaur. This picture is sharp in outline and more definite in form than that of the elephant. It is a little larger, being eleven inches high, and the tail is about nine inches. There are many evidences that dinosaurs and prehistoric animals have lived in Utah and Arizona. Our coal mines have produced a great many footprints, some of which are in our museums. There are some very fine footprints in the sand rock near Tuba City, about

one hundred miles due east of Hava Supai.

Another petroglyph of one of the elephant family is found about three and one-half miles down the Colorado River below Moab, Utah, pecked onto a sandstone ledge. This one is called a mastodon; it is about fourteen inches high and forty-two inches long. The workmanship is very old and well defined.

Our conclusion is that man and the prehistoric animals must have lived at the same time, for man could not make a picture of an elephant or a mastodon if he had not seen one, and while the Indian drawings are crude, they are usually accurate enough to identify the object which they wished to portray.

Missionaries Who Left for Field February 1

MISSIONARIES ENTERING THE MISSIONARY HOME JANUARY 23, AND DEPARTING FEBRUARY 1, 1950

Reading from left to right, first row: David S. Smith, Revo A. Rowley, Kenneth Adams, Bernard D. Beckstrom, Morcile Roberts, Don B. Colton, director; Lo Nez Moses, Betty N. Newey, Elma M. Walker, Pearl Koyle, Susan B. Walsh.

Second row: Leah Anderson, Ronald Butler, Douglas Byington, Grant Davis, Kile Bigelow, D. Douglas Cozzens, Alda M. Grover, Josephine Litchfield, Zelma Dahl, Frederick Matthews Zoug, Kenneth Wayne Garner, Darrell Webb Bickmore.

Third row: Doris Lewis, Sterling B. Fockrell, Mark J. Wignoll, Ivon R. Huntsman, Herman R. Rogers, Seth N. Owens, M. G. Leavitt, I. M. Jones, G. Stephen Leid, Vincent A. Birch, Dennis H. Atkin, Clarice Kendall.

Fourth row: Daryl Price Perrenoud, Errol Johnson, Sam D. Astle, Jockman G. Poulson, Ira L. Holley, Rex L. Smith, Betty H. Wood, Don Tregaskis, Leon Storrs, Ruth Quinton, Hazel Fawns, Rachel Marshall, Morris W. Heiner.

Fifth row: Lowell Allred, Denton H. Coleman, Dale G. Kilburn, Leonard D. Carlson, H. Glen Poulson, Ira H. Todd, Joseph Hebdon, Jack Pope, Donna Rogers, Verna Grover, Rex O. Borney.

Sixth row: Bryon Kent Carter, Clifton D. Higgins, Wayne Peterson, Poul R. Green, Thydies O. Hansen, Grant C. Meldrum, Harold E. Cardwell, Lois Larsen, Clinton John Hunt, Wesley Dale Connell, Eric W. Lindbloom, Gerald L. Wight, David L. Bollantyne.

Seventh row: Joseph Johnson, Chester R. Kunzler, Elmer C. Nilsson, R. J. Sabin, Ivon L. Carbine, William S. Tanner, Robert Sumbot, Jean Snader, Shirley Griffith, Hildo V. Touchstone, William D. Shelton, A. Moynard Ware, Arthur G. Gerber.

Eighth row: Korma Read, Robert Reidhead, Robert J. Telford, W. J. Casper, Dellis Casper, W. D. Eager, Cherril Cooper, John Rex Shepherd, Don W. McEntire, Vern L. Morble.

Ninth row: Floro Christiansen, David Barclay, Gordon Anderson, Richard Capps, Arthur K. Bullock, Pearl E. N. Bullock, Grant Belnap, Colvin L. Hatch,

Clark Mortenson, Claude L. Duncon, Porley Pratt Robison, Carl G. Randell.

Tenth row: Charles Barrett, John Wilcox, Dean Cutler, Carl Joy Larson, William Ross Stevens, Keith S. Warren, J. Gordon Wiser, Reed Clayton.

Eleventh row: Ross Shelton, J. F. Shumway, J. E. Torman, Richard Hedman, Keith Tenney, Ronald K. Gygi, H. Hal Visick, Gerald G. Steorts.

Twelfth row: Ivon A. Carling, Jack Wotterson, Elmer Bowen, J. Kenneth Flygare, Jr., Boyd R. Lusk, Herald Grant Heaton, Marcus M. Holmgren, Eugene H. Pusey, Uriel Swenson, Melvin R. Day.

Thirteenth row: Raymond Parkinson, William S. Horlacher, Ralph B. Sperry, Jr., Jed Dee McFerson, LaGrand Mouritzen, Elmer David Reynolds, Bruce Morgon, Richard Noorlander.

Fourteenth row: Vern W. Clark, Gorth H. Lloyd, Martin F. Pond, Halvey Griffin, James Thomos, Gene Edwards, Harley Jensen.

Fifteenth Row: Joy W. Merrill, Glen Hardy White, George Vain Snyder, Sterling Lee Purser, Ross Seth Bryce.

