

interrupting the horizontal pattern and creating wavy depressed lines. This feature constituted ~~proof~~ positive that the track was a genuine fossil and not hand carved. Great care was exercised in ~~making this the~~ carrying out this procedure, for an error could break the track ~~with~~ ^{resulting in a} loss of its saleability, and sales meant survival. He said many tracks had been ruined by people who didn't understand the ~~process~~ details of the quarrying process.

In 1934 they cut out what was probably their largest specimen. The remaining pothole is oval shaped and measures 48" x 58". Interestingly, this single block contained both a dinosaur track and a giant sized man track only 8 or 10 ~~inches~~ ^{inches} apart. This combination has been called impossible by some who insist that man trailed the dinosaur by an evolutionary gap of some 70 million years. Yet one must remember that ~~the~~ Jim & Cain (Ryals) were in this business to survive the depression which meant that a saleable track had to be a good one. They selected only the best from among many. Again if a track was not sharp and distinct and readily identifiable as a dinosaur or man track it would have no commercial value. The reliability of their descriptions is further enhanced by ~~their~~ the details they give of the heel and toe markings. The only difference between the fossil man tracks and fresh barefoot tracks made in soft earth was the outlandish size of the fossils. Some were 16 to 18 inches long with a stride averaging ~~some~~ about 5 feet. To imply that they couldn't tell a man track when they saw one ~~it~~ would be an insult.