

For dates in the Julian (Old Style) calendar the formula is

$$(Y + 4C + L + M + D + 5)/7 = Q + E/7,$$

in which the various symbols have the same meanings as above.

Examples:	Oct. 12, 1492	Feb. 11, 1732	July 4, 1920
$Y =$	1492	1732	1920
$4C =$	56	68	76
$L =$	23	7	5
$M =$	0	3	6
$D =$	12	11	4
	5	5	5
	7)1588	7)1826	7)2016
	226 $\frac{6}{7}$	260 $\frac{6}{7}$	288 $\frac{6}{7}$
$R =$	6 = Fri.	6 = Fri.	0 = Sat.

W. J. SPILLMAN

#### ORIGIN OF THE SUPPOSED HUMAN FOOTPRINTS OF CARSON CITY, NEVADA

DURING the summer of 1919 the writer found occasion to visit Carson City, Nevada, and, through courtesy of members of the prison staff at the Nevada State Penitentiary, was enabled to examine a number of specimens of fossil mammals collected in the prison yard during past quarrying operations for building stone. In the material preserved in the collections were fragments of a skull and a cervical vertebra belonging to a ground sloth. Warden R. B. Henrichs, of the Nevada prison, was kind enough to loan the remains recovered during the excavations to the department of paleontology, University of California, and further study indicates that the ground sloth specimens pertain to an individual of the genus *Mylodon*.

Many years ago the discovery of footprints, bearing a superficial resemblance to imprints made by a human foot, in a shale stratum exposed in the yard of the penitentiary at Carson City, gave rise to the view that the existence of primeval man in Nevada was definitely established—a view that has taken a particularly tenacious hold. The possibility that the footprints were in reality those of a ground sloth, presumably of a form related to the South American *Mylodon*, was, however, ad-

vocated by Joseph Le Conte,<sup>1</sup> O. C. Marsh<sup>2</sup> and others. In 1917, the writer<sup>3</sup> contrasted the outline of the so-called human footprints with that of a complete hind foot of *Mylodon harlani* reconstructed from remains of this species secured in the asphalt deposits at Rancho La Brea. The great resemblance which the articulated foot bore to the impressions, both in outline and in size, seemed certain proof that the latter were left by *Mylodon*.

The actual occurrence of osseous remains of *Mylodon* in the Pleistocene deposits at Carson City, Nevada, removes still farther the possibility that the Carson footprints are to be attributed to a member of the Hominidæ and materially substantiates the suggestions of Le Conte and Marsh. Further, the presence of material referable to a mylodont sloth gives a high degree of probability to the contention that the footprints were made by *Mylodon* rather than by some other quadruped.

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#### SCIENTIFIC PHOTOGRAPHY

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain is holding its sixty-fifth annual exhibition in September and October of this year. This is the most representative exhibition of photographic work in the world, and the section sent by American scientific men heretofore has sufficiently demonstrated the place held by this country in applied photography. It is very desirable that American scientific photography should be equally well represented in 1920, and, in order to enable this to be done with as little difficulty as possible, I have arranged to collect and forward American work intended for the scientific section.

This work should consist of prints showing the use of photography for scientific purposes and its application to spectroscopy, astronomy,

<sup>1</sup> Le Conte, J., *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.*, 10 pp., August 27, 1882.

<sup>2</sup> Marsh, O. C., *Amer. Jour. Sci.*, Ser. 3, Vol. 26, pp. 139-140, 1883.

<sup>3</sup> Stock, C., *Univ. Calif. Publ. Bull. Dept. Geol.*, Vol. 10, pp. 284-285, 1917.