

In the hindsight afforded by the 1980 Mount St. Helens volcanic episode, geologists have been looking with new eyes at an old question: what event or events were responsible for the "dimpled hills" that make up the land area surrounding California's Mount Shasta? Piecing together the Mount St. Helens story and applying the information to the geologic evidence found around Mount Shasta, five USGS scientists have concluded that the Shasta Valley represents the largest known landslide of the past 2 million years, according to an article by Richard A. Kerr in the April 20, 1984 issue of *Science*.

A recent study by Lee Siebert of the Smithsonian Institution found that only half a dozen of the world's more than 75 identified debris avalanche deposits are known to exceed the 2.8-cubic kilometer volume of the St. Helens event. "But the Shasta deposit's volume is a mammoth 26 cubic kilometers," Kerr writes, "and covers at least 450 square kilometers . . . The horseshoe shaped scar that the avalanche presumably left on the mountain had healed in the approximately 300,000 years since the slide, but the deposit itself closely resembled those at St. Helens and other volcanoes." Siebert's article, in press, will appear in the *Journal of Volcanic Geothermal Research*. The five USGS scientists who "discovered" the Shasta landslide, are D.R. Crandell, C.D. Miller, H.X. Glicken, R.L. Christiansen, and C.G. Newhall, and their article appears in *Geology*, 12, 143, 1984.