

Cp 8-33

425 E. 79 St.
New York, N.Y. 10021
May 20, 1974

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Route 1, Box 210
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

Thank you for your comments and for the otherwise very informative letter of April 24.

When I sent you the remarks on flaking felsite, I should have included a clarifying statement. The remarks, as you know, were based on just a minimal amount of experimentation and, therefore, must be very tentative, preliminary observations. I thought it better to write them down than to just state them orally to Dave Sanger. This way my observations can be implemented, corrected, etc., by myself and others more easily. (Perhaps in a number of years I will have enough data on felsite to work out a publication.)

In your letter you refer to my working with John Speth. I should mention that I have not really cooperated with him in any research - I only gave him some comments on two recent papers that he is publishing. I think his experiments will be useful for improving our understanding of some of the mechanical problems involved in flaking. I suggested to him that some knapping experience would be useful for him.

I finally met Bruce Bradley - at the Washington Meeting - and saw him in action. Now I understand why you and others have been talking about him often!

I am hoping to have a very busy and extremely pleasant summer: It will be wonderful to do research on lithic technology (full-time!). I hope to study many papers on fracture mechanics and to do a lot of flaking. I will attempt to look at some problems (related to debitage) quantitatively. I do believe that quantification in at least some flaking experiments is very important. I hope that it can eventually decrease the amount of subjectivity in my observations, and that it will permit other experimenters to verify, disprove or modify some of my statements more easily.

For about two weeks in the middle of the summer, I expect to be at an excavation in Illinois with Prof. Howard Winters (of New York University).

I wish you (and all the participants) the best of luck for the 1974 Flintworking School. I will be thinking about Dierkes Lake and your teaching as I will "continue" with the 1973 Flintworking School this summer in New York.

Best wishes to you and Evelyn for a pleasant summer,

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