

Oct. 18, 1966

Dear Jacques:

Please pardon my long delay in writing to a very good friend, but this has been a busy, busy Summer for me, as I know it has been for you. In addition to trying to write the handbook on flintworking, and doing the film, I have had to do some traveling. Made a circle tour in July to the Field Museum School at Vernon, Ariz., then to Cibicu, Ariz to the Grasshopper site of the Univ. of Ariz., then to Cynthia's Anasazi site out of Albuquerque and then to Marie's site at Greeley, Colorado. Had a wonderful visit with all your friends and saw much material. Had an interesting experience at the Grasshopper field school. About 11 o'clock at night a large bear came to camp and parked himself just outside of my cabin. Wouldn't leave. So Dr. Longacre, Camp director, got the Apache cattleman to shoot the bear, which was something to see, for he did it on the run, in the dark, over rough terrain, and with a small rifle. Got him the first shot. The bear are numerous there and this man has killed and skinned over three hundred of them. So, next morning, Longacre and I propositioned him to skin the bear with stone tools. It was obvious that he thought we were a couple of nuts, but decided to humor us. Made a backed blade similar to the Magdalenian ones and also a prismatic blade, both of obsidian. He first used the obsidian backed blade and, with very little pressure, cut through hair, hide and almost into the body cavity. He was certainly a surprised and pleased man with the stone tools. Said they saved him at least an hour and a half in skinning time. He is now ordering stone tools from me for future jobs. Also, after the skinning, we could see very little in the way of functional scars on the tools used and little or no dulling of the edge. Am sending you a slide of the poor dead bear and the tools used. Thought you might enjoy this and perhaps want to do an experiment of your own.

Just returned from a tour of the Univ. of Washington at Seattle, then the Univ. of Victoria in Victoria Canada and then to Univ. of British Columbia with Dr. Borden and swung back by way of Pullman to visit with Dougherty and Alan Smith. I really saw some interesting material on this trip. Had to do a demonstration at the Univ. of B.C. Had no tool kit, but improvised with some deer horn and a couple of tent stakes for the vise and we had a good demonstration including taking off some micro blades similar to the arctic ones.

I hope you will be patient with me on the Capsien core. I am working on it in the little time I have and am coming along well, but am not, as yet, satisfied with the results. Do be patient and I will have it for you soon. Just got a letter from Francois including a picture of some of his pressure work and I am truly amazed. He is doing extremely fine work and in such a short time. He really has the feel and love for it.

Evelyn is transcribing the tapes from Les Eyzies and our home has been filled with the voices of all the attendants of the conference. It is so good to review them, for the second time around I have learned more than I did the first. Unfortunately, we did not get your coverage on tape. Bouvier must have failed to turn up the sound on the recording machines and we have four tapes with no sound, unfortunately one of them was a coverage on your material which I was so anxious to review again. Swanson is now arranging with NSF to get a little fund to publish the tapes and you will receive your copy as soon as this is done. Am still working on the Egyptian technique. Am using hand-held pressure and getting closer all the time to a replica. I think I am close but can't find the time to complete the full artifact. Do hope you are finding time to do some pressure work, as your last specimens were really excellent. I am sending you a copy of Tebiwa covering my article on the Lindenmeier Folsom. Hope you agree with the techniques, for your criticism is most valued. Compared to your beautiful publications, my writing is very childlike, but I am sure you will overlook this, for I never professed to be adept at writing. Sincere regards to you and your family,

Your friend,

Cell. 11.2.24