

THE CHILDRENS CLINIC  
1560 LINE AVENUE  
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

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Mr. Don E. Crabtree  
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Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Thanks for your letter of Sept. 25th and the interest you have in our specimens which M/Sgt. Grady thought to have been heat treated. In accordance with your offer, I am sending materials under separate cover. These include:

(1) a group of artifacts thought possibly to show heat application, including a large drill which seems to show possible heat spalls bifacially in addition to color and texture changes, several graters which include specimens which Sgt. Grady saw, and a denticulated multiple graver which shows possible change on one tip.

(2) a tan chert pebble core from the same site; this is the source of most of the objects at the site and most of the cores are similarly small. This is for your use in any way you wish to conduct experiments on comparable raw material. It is of incidental interest to observe that the natural concave cortex surface was used for a striking platform.

(3) three artifacts about which I would like very much to have your technical opinion. The small cortex uniface is representative of about a dozen tools similar in size and construction, all with a plane face which does not become concave near the tool end as do the numerous "snub-nose" end scrapers from the same site. The tool in question appears to me to be a much better planing tool than a scraping tool; your opinion is welcome, also whether this kind of tool occurs in the PaleoIndian assemblages of which you know. The two larger tools are also representative of a group of 10-12 tools which are variously plano-convex and show, either at the end or around the end and sides, the same kind of minute battering just above the blade edge. I thought at first that these were scraping or planing tools which had been used later as retouch hammers. However, the battering is usually carefully placed just above the margin of the blade and seems to sharpen rather than dull the cutting edge. The question then arises: was this battering a part of the original blade or bevel formation, or was it a resharpening maneuver? I have suspected the latter, but would like your opinion. Several opinions have been expressed by folks from the anthropology departments of universities in this area, including some who are interested in tool technology, so I am going to you for expert opinion. Again, are tools like these two found or common in the assemblages you have seen? All of these objects are from the same site, which has points ranging from Clovis to San Patrice (thought by us to be near Meserve and Dalton in time).

Your opinions would be appreciated and I am grateful for your taking the time to look at these specimens. If at any time you would care to look at some of the San Patrice, which represent the end of the fluted point, concave base, ground edge tradition, let me know.

Very truly yours

*Clarence H. Webb*

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