

Route 1, Box 39

Nov. 18, 1969

83341

Dr. Clarence H. Webb
The Childrens Clinic
560 Line Avenue
Shreveport, La. 71101

Dear Dr. Webb:

Thank you for your specimens and your letter of October 5th. Sorry to be so tardy replying, but have been on location doing a series of four lithic technology films for Idaho State University. I must return tomorrow for further work so have not had time to heat treat the specimens you sent. Am sorry that my tight schedule will not permit a complete reply to your letter but will give you what information I can after a hurried examination.

(1) The texture and color change are obviously due to intentional heating to improve the quality of the material; the color change is incidental. After thermal alteration, the exterior surface does not show a change and it is necessary to remove a flake and expose the interior surface to determine if alteration has occurred. If the treatment is successful, the material will be more vitreous, making it more receptive to percussion and pressure ; allowing greater control of the flaking; and leaving a sharper edge on flakes and artifacts. The denticulated multiple graver was made from a thinning flake derived from a large bifacial implement which had been altered by the thermal treatment.

(3) The three artifacts (commonly called scrapers) do, indeed, appear to be planning tools and have certain characteristics in common with hafted planning tools known historically in Australia. I think the term "scraper" is misused often due to lack of knowledge of the technique. A scraper has a fine cutting edge and certainly were used in a more versatile way than just scraping. To quote Francois Bordes in regard to scrapers being manufactured for the sole purpose of scraping - "After all, just how much scraping can you Americans do". With the exception of the pebble tool with the plano side, the other two planning tools appear to be exhausted and unsuitable for resharpening. The gray one shows recent flakes removed from one margin. It looks very much like someone has hit the flat side with a metal hammer - for there are small cone truncation scars on the surface which I feel a stone or antler percussor would not produce. Small erailure flakes are still adhering to the negative flake scars on the margin. Peculiar.

You may be interested to know that denticulated graters were found at the Lindenmeier Folsom site made in much the same manner as the specimen you sent.

I am enclosing a parcel of heated jasper with some graver points. The material is from the same source.

Best regards,

Don E. Crabtree

encl.

Ce 11.6.14