

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho

Sept. 25, 1965

Dr. Fred Wendorf
Department of Anthropology
Southern Methodist University
Dallas, Texas 75222

Dear Dr. Wendorf:

Thank you for your letter of September 17th and your kind invitation to give a demonstration of flint working at your University. I am most happy to accept this invitation and feel honored to be given this opportunity.

I shall plan to arrive in Dallas on Nov. 4th, however, I will have to write to you further regarding an exact date as the airlines here advise me that all schedules will be changed the latter part of October and they can give me no definite information until after the 15th of October. I will be looking forward to spending a day reviewing the African material. I am sure that an opportunity to see some of the material from Texas and Africa will be most useful to me in helping to write my handbook on flintworking techniques which is under the supervision of Dr. Earl Swanson of I.S.U. and sponsored by NSF.

To answer some of your questions regarding my background - I have been interested in flintworking since I was a small boy, but really started to try and replicate the techniques when I was about twelve. What little I have accomplished, I have done without help and, therefore, I have had a phylogeny of steps and stages that were, no doubt, experienced by the aboriginies.

I worked for Dr. Charles Camp and Dr. R.H. Stirton at the University of California at Berkeley in Paleo and, while there, was encouraged by Dr. Kroeber and Dr. Gifford to keep notes on the work which I have done. While working there, I had an opportunity to study Ishi's work. In 1940, Dr. H.C. Shetrone asked me to visit the Ohio State Museum and the Lithic Laboratories and resolve some experiments in stone working.

Did demonstrations at the first Typeology Conference of Western Archaeologists on problems of point typeology - also at the conferences at University of Oregon, Washington State University, University of Alberta at Edmonton and Calgary, Reed College and gave demonstrations and lectures at University of London, National Museum of Denmark, Museum of Natural History and Human Paleontology, Paris, Museum of Natural History, Denver and at the University of California at Berkeley I lectured to the students and made a knapping film with Dr. Francois Bordes. Each year I try to visit as many digs as I can and give a demonstration and have done so at Hell Gap, Mannix, Cottonwood, Birch Creek, etc.

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Dr. Fred Wendorf

I attended the conference held in Les Eyzies, France in November, 1964 which was very important to me in that I was able to work with and learn from Dr. Francois Bordes and improve my percussion technique. Also, while there, I had the good fortune to be able to study and review the many collections brought there by the delegates.

Please thank Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore for their kind invitation to stay at their home. However, I think it will be more convenient for me if I can stay on campus or near the University, as I would like to spend as much time as I can with your staff and students and reviewing materials. I would, however, like very much to meet the Gilmores and to have an opportunity to thank them personally for this kind offer.

As soon as I can get a definite schedule on arrival, I will write to you again, which should be after the 10th of October. However, I will plan to be in Dallas on the 4th.

Am enclosing the only picture I have of myself at work. This was taken at Birch Creek during a demonstration. It is not too good and, if I should find another and better picture, I will send it to you for the board.

Thanking you again for your kind invitation and looking forward to visiting and working with you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Don E. Crabtree

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