

February 18, 1978

Dear Larry,

It was a great treat to have you pay me a visit here in Kimberly. Gene also enjoyed visiting with you. He has had much experience in fracturing rocks so to me his comments were most valuable.

I hope this brief enclosure will be of some aid. I only wish that I could have been more positive in the comments. There were, however, a few questions that you may fill in regarding the size of the gravels and the position of the flake in relation to the skull.

Also something I am not entirely sure of, but feel that flints derived from limestone have a greater tendency to etch than other varieties of chaledonies that come from formations that are not carbonates. They seem to withstand time without surface deterioration.

Larry, please edit this paper and do with it as you will and make any additions or subtractions that you care to. I only wish that your stay would not have been so brief. We didn't even get to go to the shop, and I would have like to have shown you a number of sites in the near vicinity. Remember, you are always welcome and any time that you can, make arrangements to come and stay longer. Your visit was much too brief!

With kindest personal regards to you and Wanda,

Don

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POSSIBLE ARTIFACT FROM MAMMOTH SITE  
Hot Springs, South Dakota

A flake of fossiliferous yellowish flint found by Doctor Larry Agenbroad associated with the skull of a mammoth may provide a clue to the contemporaneous existence of man. Considerable force was necessary to detach the flake from the parent piece of glassy material. When freshly detached the flake had a useful, sharp cutting edge. One margin of the flake is unmodified and naturally backed, providing comfort for the user of a flake knife. This edge is not chipped or abraded indicating little or no movement by natural causes. The opposite margin has short bifacial chipping, slightly dulled, but would still serve as a good cutting edge. The proximal end of the flake has no existing platform to identify the mode of detachment. There appears to be a slight concavity which might be interpreted as a flake scar on the bulbar or ventral side of the flake which eliminates any platform detail. A blow by the excavating implement fractured the distal end of the flake. If the unintentional fracture had not occurred, it would have been very difficult to have identified the material as one that lends itself to being material suitable for the making of an artifact.

It is most unfortunate that geological conditions and the nature of the limestone-derived flintlike material was subjected to a surface deterioration which eradicated much of the diagnostic detail of the flake scars. The flake may invoke controversy at this time, but it provides the incentive to closely examine the deposit for artifactual evidence of man's association with these Pleistocene mammals.

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