



ARIZONA STATE MUSEUM

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

Mr. Don Crabtree
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

31 Mar 67

Dear Don,

Thank Evelyn for the nice letter of some time ago. Joyce will get around to answering it soon. She is a classic bad letter writer. If you send the coat down we would like to photograph it at least. I doubt if it could be displayed - the display people have their hands full with work they should have done a long time ago. We have a few of the coats of the style of that in the photo I sent. We do not have, nor have we seen ones, like yours.

Enclosed is a tracing of a Clovis fluted point found near here. I am sending the tracing so I might get a few comments on the point from you if you have the time.

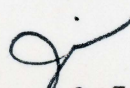
The broken point looks like a burin spall scar. Also, a nearly parallel sided flake which terminates in a step fracture seems to have originated from the tip end of the point. Would you say that the break was due to the point hitting something? If so, the tip broke off and at the same time a flake came off. What kind of break or force would produce a flat, burin spall like scar?

The secondary flaking or retouch produced parallel sided flakes of varying lengths and with concave ends (see drawing). The resultant cutting edge has a sinuous look to it. Could this be the result of percussion flaking using an antler (or something comparable) rather than pressure?

If you have time and my drawing and comments make sense, I would appreciate any interpretation you might care to pass along.

We surely enjoyed having you both here. Hope to see you at Grasshopper.

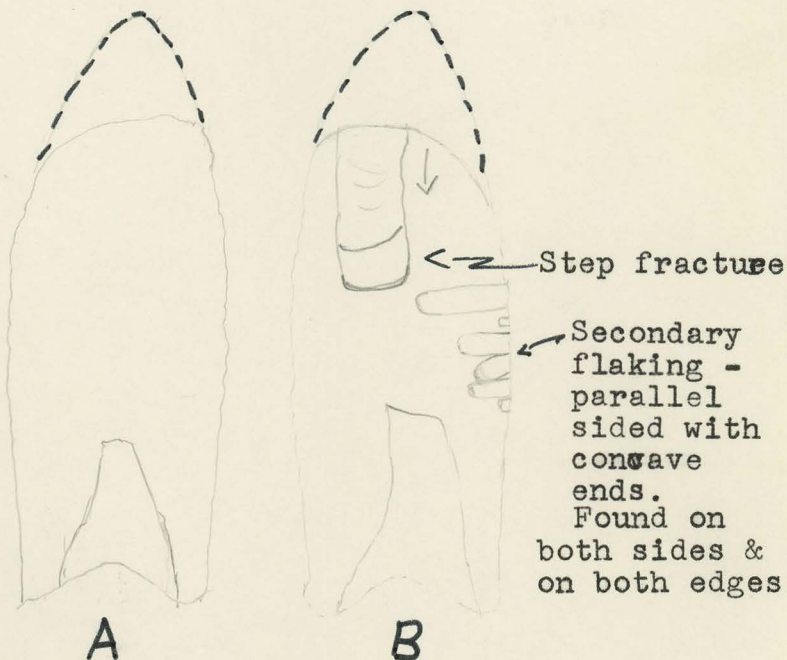
Our best to you both,


Jim and Joyce

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Broken length 66 mm. original length Ca. 78-80 mm.
Max. width 29 mm.

Tip broken off
Break looks like a burin spall scar



Clovis point found near Tucson, Arizona
Both flutes end in hinge fractures

Cell. 2. 10. 2

Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

April 19, 1967

Dr. Jim Ayres
Arizona State Museum
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721

Dear Jim:

So good to hear from you and Joyce and thanks for the drawing of the Clovis fluted point. Evelyn has some books for Joyce and we plan to deliver them at Grasshopper. We were delighted to hear from Bill Longacre today asking us to come. This is one of our favorite spots and certainly an education for me. Just one consideration - he must furnish another bear.

About the Clovis point found near Tucson. I cannot tell without examining the flake scar if it is a purposely made burin break. However, if you will examine the compression rings on the break, they will tell you at what point and in which direction the force that caused the break was applied. If the compression rings start radiating from the lateral margins, then a burin blow would be indicated. If they start on the face opposite that of the face bearing the parallel-sided flake, then the indications are that the tip of the point was broken accidentally and probably due to its striking some object. The lunate break at the tip is typical of striking an object at an angle less than a right angle. As the tip struck, the force was also transmitted to the opposite side of the artifact causing the flake to be removed from the face near the tip. The secondary retouch was probably done by pressure to remove the ridges left by the percussion preforming. Percussion work leaves pronounced ridges on either side of each bulb of percussion which permits the worker to make parallel flakes without them being regularly spaced. Such a technique is quite typical of the Clovis.

We will be sending you the Navajo coat in the next week and will be happy to know what you think of it. We know nothing of it other than we bought it 25 years ago in one of these shops where they buy junk and sell antiques. However, it was part of a collection I purchased which included some very fine baskets which would seem to indicate a discriminating collector.

Will be looking forward to seeing you both at Grasshopper.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree