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Professor Don Crabtree,
Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Thank you for your wonderful letter listing the papers on flintknapping. I immediately read the articles at the U.C. Archeology Dept. library, and have written Dr. Swanson in an effort to secure reprints for my files. I hope that copies are still available. In addition, I have covered the pertinent articles in a bibliography for Archeology 129, supplied me by Dr. Clark of the same department.

I had been attempting to learn the art of flintknapping by trial and error based on vague descriptions I had heard in the past. The net result was the complete destruction of all obsidian given me by my rockhound friends. Your letter the articles, and the movie brought me out of the jungle and started me on productive paths. To date I have some very recognizable arrow heads and points.

I quickly recognized the vast differences in the various pieces of obsidian I had tried to work. At the California Dept. of Mines and Geology, I made the acquaintance of Mr. Charles Chesterman, department specialist in this field. He located the major outdroppings of obsidian throughout the state on the quadrangle maps, and although most of them are now under snow, I am planning field trips for next spring and summer. (Incidentally, I completed a minor in geology in college, and I am putting this to good use again.)

Among the items brought to my attention, was a department article entitled: "Mines & Quarries of the California Indians" by Robert Heiser and Adam Treganza. It mentions there that the various tribes made long journeys to secure obsidian that had especially good working characteristics for various tools. All this has sparked a desire to make a project of collecting samples from various deposits here and in Oregon, and attempting to correlate the chemical and physical characteristics with the workability for production of projectiles and tools. Your paper on the heat treatment of materials opens the vistas immeasurably.

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I had heard stories that the Indians used to bury obsidian under their campfires, but details as to length of treatment, *temperature,* time, etc were lacking as in all rumors. Now I see the correlations.

I am greatly impressed by the brief biography in the last paragraph of your letter. Even with my limited experience I can sense your incomparable persistence that enabled you to decipher so many of the flintknapping techniques. THAT is truly pulling yourself up by your bootstraps! I can proudly report that after reading the available papers that I can see many things in chipped artifacts that completely escaped me heretofore. I never thought I could develop an interest in archeology!

I intend to follow the developments in this field, and if you can suggest any means by which I can arrange to secure reprints of future articles relating to flintknapping as they are released, I will appreciate the suggestions.

I am anticipating a very interesting and exciting new hobby! Many, many thanks.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Betts

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