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February 2, 1975

Dear Don:

Are you going to conduct your laboratory training program in lithics this coming summer? Marie has suggested that I come to Idaho to study with you. My Ph.D. proposal has to do with an analysis of the so-called Tolchaco Complex along the Little Colorado River which Krieger included in his original list of possible "pre-projectile point" sites.

Basically, the study is in two parts. First, I shall need to distinguish natural fracture from that which may be man-made. To do this I want to leach Shinnarump conglomerates out of the matrix (these deposits are Tertiary and are the source of the Tolchaco gravels exposed on the terraces of Moenkopi sandstone along the Little Colorado) and quantify in some way the kinds of fractures naturally produced. I shall then try to locate good river-transported and re-deposited gravels (pre-man) and study the effects of riverine activity on the gravels. The second part of the study is, of course, to study the remaining material, i.e., that which cannot be ruled out as possibly natural. This should narrow the sample considerably.

Since I know nothing about lithic replicative techniques, I am in the dark on this second phase of the study. Marie is a member of my committee and has urged me to get an adequate background in this aspect of my study before I write the second part of my dissertation.

I remember the cold shoulder you got from the department at Tempe when I was Marie's teaching assistant. I am getting the same treatment from the staff there since I left and returned to Colorado. We have been through a series of political power plays, etc. which would make the McCarthy Hearings look like Ted Mack's Amateur Hour! At one point I received a notice from the department announcing that I was no longer a graduate student in the Ph.D. program. This arrived in Rifle, Colorado where I had been for months doing an archaeological survey of the Oil Shale lease area. Dr. Turner helped me straighten that out by suggesting to the people responsible that it is not their place to dismiss a candidate. Only the Dean of the Graduate College has that power. They retreated. I think Dr. Schoenwetter was part of the plot, but I am not sure. Thank God, I had an Assistant Dean, Dr. Turner, on my Committee.

Marie was in a state of shock; you know how excited she can get. Now things are calm and I am writing my proposal again. I had done a preliminary study of Tolchaco when I had a grant at the Museum of Northern Arizona in 1971. At any rate, my comprehensives are behind me (1973). All I need to do is get this proposal accepted and obtain some assurance from the Museum of Northern Arizona that the Navajos will let me surface collect sites using strict controls, that is, sampling techniques.

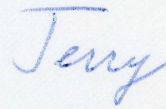
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If all goes well, I should have my proposal approved by the end of February. I should then be able to start with some introductory chapters for the dissertation. Perhaps, if you run your school in the summer, I might apply for a fellowship.

Please let me know what you think. I need to get together with Marie as soon as she returns from Australia (about the 7th of February) and iron out the kinks in my proposal before sending it to the rest of my committee. I should have heard back from the Museum of Northern Arizona by that time too. Maybe I can get through this maze yet...

Best regards to you and your wife. I hope this finds you both well.

Sincerely,



Gerald A. Bair

Best address is:

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