

Route 1, Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho  
Jan. 7, 1969

Mr. Ed Barry  
Gem Center, U.S.A.  
4100 Alameda Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79905

Dear Ed:

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It has been a long time since I have written to you and, if I haven't done so as yet, I want to acknowledge receipt of the core. It is now at Idaho State University and I just talked with Dr. Swanson and he says he will return it to you soon. Ed, I don't believe it is an aboriginal core. The fractures appear to be natural for the breaks do not have the characteristics of a man-made blade scar. In the profession, we call this type of natural break a "starch fracture". I am enclosing a recent publication on the cores of Mexico which may explain my reason for this decision. However, in the bags of Peacock obsidian I ordered from you, I did find a piece of aboriginally worked obsidian from which three successive elongated flaked had been detached. There was also a bipointed and unifacially flaked artifact. I will try and have these dated by the hydration method but, at the present time, the University here does not have the facilities for this type of dating. Plan to send some material to Ed Lanning of Columbia University who will do the hydration dating. Will keep you in touch with the progress.

I just returned from a long trip to the East Coast for study and lectures and when I returned home, NBC News called and asked me to get up to the Marmes Rock shelter in western Washington to do some flint-knapping scenes for the forthcoming special "The First American", depicting mans movements from Siberia to the Southern tip of South America. It is scheduled to be on the air sometime in March and think you will be interested in seeing this one. The weather in Washington was pretty bad so came down with a good case of the flu and it has been a long session. Hope to be back on my feet real soon.

I would be most interested to know of your trip to Central America and do hope that it was both profitable and enjoyable. While in New York I saw some fabulous material from Panama - gold and emerald - collected in the twenties by a friend of mine, Gordon Eckholm. Soulds like great country.

The American Museum has asked me to make a representative tool collection for an exhibit to show the stone tools used by man for the last two million years. I will advise them of the Peacock obsidian for we will need plenty of material. However, we also need good flint and some of the best comes from Texas and I do hope that you have some of this material. The color is unimportant but the texture is very critical. It should be waxy, vitreous or glassy. If you have any of this type of flintlike stone would you give me a price on 1000 lb. lots and also on the mine run obsidian. I will then submit this to the Museum. In the meantime, if you would like to send a piece or two of obsidian I will make you a polyhedral core and a bifacially flaked knife or lance point. For the core, I need

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a piece about five inches long by three or four inches square - preferably with the flow structure running with the long axis. Material for the lance point may be of any dimension depending on the size of the desired artifact.

We have had a very full year with the prospects of a full schedule for 1969, so we plan to leave in about ten days for Mexico for a much needed rest. We will try for the State of Colima, as I have not seen Manzanillo as yet. Wonder if you ever found out the location of the peacock obsidian mine. Would love to know and when we are there visit the site. Not for the purpose of bringing out material, for it is not allowed at the border, but for the satisfaction of seeing if this was, indeed, a quarry or workshop site. If you have any further information on this would certainly appreciate hearing from you before we go and will let you know the results.

Wishing you a prosperous and happy New Year,

Sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree

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