

702A Hibbard St.  
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514  
30. August, 1974

Mr. Don Crabtree  
Route 1, Box 210  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don,

Sorry I haven't written you in so long. I've been rather busy working in the field and with the books in school. I'm enclosing a publication I got from a friend who went to Washington. I would appreciate it if you would give it to Bill the next time you see him. He wrote me last Spring and asked if I would pick up any free publications there were to be had at the conference. I haven't been able to reply until now due to the fact that I've been so busy. Tell him that there were no free handouts to be had - especially concerning lithics, however, I was able to pick up this report from Dick Regensberg who is a good friend of Gardner, the author. I'm routing the publication through to you because I thought you would be interested in it. It is really quite an interesting site, being the only Paleo stratified Clovis living floor that I know of to have yet been found in the eastern U. S.. It is even more interesting due to the fact that the Thunderbird site is a quarry site and shows the tools in the Clovis complex in their various stages of manufacture. Anyway tell Bill that I deeply apologize

CC-1-3-65.1

not writing for so long.

I've continued my stone working with good results. After working in Carolina slate for a great length of time with a hammerstone I have been able to do practically nothing. I have switched to a caribou billet and the results have been nothing short of amazing. I use the billet now for primary thinning in conjunction with a hammerstone for shorter secondary flaking and platform preparation. (An abrader simply wears out on this tenacious stone.) I simply couldn't believe that a billet can accomplish what the toughest quartz hammerstone could not - considering how tenacious the "Carolina Slate" is. The flakes removed by the billet are extremely thin and rapidly expanding. It is easy to manufacture a biface which is very thin, the stone's toughness sustaining what obsidian or even chert could never sustain. I've also done some work in thermally altering the stone. The results have been exactly what you theorized. After alteration the stone works noticeably better. It takes about 1000 degrees before any change takes place but in no case, no matter which variety of slate it is, can you tell the change visually. There is no color change or change in luster. In fact, I'm going to have to do some petrographic analysis, thin sections and heat the rock under strict controls before I can prove anything.

I've also been working in prismatic pressure blades and have been able to detach 8 inch blades from core cut out on a rock saw. I've also found that almost any core that is percussion flaked will suffice as a core for prismatic

pressure blades. ( As long as there are no hinges or steps in it). The blades become more even-sided and regular as they continued to be pressed off the core. The core itself, of course becomes more evenly polyhedral as the process continues. I guess you knew this already but it was new to me. I just couldn't believe that continually pressing off blades would evolve the blades themselves. I'm enclosing a photograph of blades which were successively removed. The blades were removed right to left from the bottom row up. The blade on the far right of the bottom row being first while the blade on the far left of the top row was last. Anyway, this is what I've been doing. You know, Don, just looking at this photo you can see quite a few typologies that MesoAmerican archaeologists have used when typing blades both temporally and spacially. I think therefore that the technique of their manufacture should be taken into mind whenever a typology is formulated - as it is in other forms of stone tools (or is suppose to be.)

As of late I've become extremely interested in the antecedents to Clovis. It would seem to me that Clovis is the result of a coalescence of Old World techniques or; that is to say, tool traditions - namely Aurignacoid and Levallois combined. I know Mueller-Beck believes Clovis comes from Aurignacoid and Wilmsen believes it to come from the Levallois of Kogruk and British Mountain, but I can't see the Clovis complex with its widely varied techniques developing from a single tool tradition - not as quickly as Clovis did develop.

I would sure like your opinion on this as well as your own views.

I'm enclosing an order form for Dr. Coe's formative cultures. I thought maybe Bill would like to order a copy.

Also I'm enclosing two stamped and addressed envelopes<sup>o</sup> to the University of Tennessee and The University of Utah. Don, I would greatly appreciate it if you would write recommendations for me to these institutions. I would certainly like to attend Utah however Tennessee offers the chance of a stipend - which, you know the economy being what it is - is very important. I would really appreciate your references in this matter as I value your word in my name above all others.

Well, my last semester here starts tomorrow, so I guess I should end here. I hope both you and Evy are in good health and doing well. Give my best and my love to Evy and take care of yourself, Don.

Your loyal and devoted student,

