

Route 1, Box 210  
Kimberly, ID 83341

May 14, 1980

Charles O. Bechtol, M.D.  
1300 North Vermont Ave., Suite 601  
Los Angeles, California 90027

Dear Doctor Bechtol:

Unfortunately I wasn't able to make contact with you personally by your business telephone (213 666 1742). If you would like to send me your telephone number where you can be reached other than during working hours, I would be glad to call you. By the way, my number is 208 733 3275.

I am delighted to know of your interest in stoneworking. I have a number of publications that are handled by Idaho State University, Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology, Pocatello, Idaho 83201. There is one in particular that you may be interested in and this is entitled Replication of Ho Ho Kam Points. It is one of the only publications that details some of the pressure techniques.

Too, it is interesting to me to know of your interest in the work of Ishi, the last remaining Yana Indian. I had the good fortune of being able to see the results of Ishi's artistry. I was working for the University of California in the Museum of Paleontology in 1939 and the Museum of Anthropology was just across the plaza from where I was located. At that time I made the acquaintance of Doctor Krober and Doctor Gifford and they gave me first-hand information on much of Ishi's work while he was at the Museum of Anthropology. I was encouraged at that time by Doctors Krober and Gifford to continue on with my experimentation in stone tool making, and I am still working at trying to resolve many elusive techniques.

You mentioned a publication written up in the Archives of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 13, Number 2. This is one publication that I am not familiar with, but I will certainly try to find copies for us. It should be most interesting. At this time I cannot give you information regarding this particular volume. However, very little was observed in the actual flaking done by Ishi. Most of the work that Saxton Pope did was regarding penetration of arrows and their manufacture. Unfortunately, there was very little described about his techniques and the actual flake removal. Most of the description was about Ishi's tools.

In your profession I feel that you may find the use of obsidian knives for surgery of interest. They are approximately ten thousand times sharper than the best scalpel. As you know, broken glass is used for the microtome blades in making very thin tissue sections. I feel this has great possibilities for micro surgery, cosmetic surgery, and the promotion of rapid healing.

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We may discuss these particular topics at a later time. I would look forward to a visit from you. If I can provide you with any information from my past experiments, I would be happy to do so.

Thanking you for your interest,

Don Crabtree, D. Sc.  
Research Associate in Prehistoric  
Technology

DC:wt

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