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September 4, 1974

Mr. and Mrs. Don Crabtree
Rt. 1, Box 410
Kimberly, Idaho

Dear Don and Evelyn:

I bet you thought I had forgotten you, but I haven't and just wanted to write and thank you again for your hospitality, and you Don, for all I learned this summer. We had a delightful vacation--I am hooked on Idaho--both desert and mountain. We went through the Sawtooth's and stayed a couple of days at Redfish Lake scouting the area. We were intending to go to British Columbia, but instead shot a lot of our money taking a float trip down the Salmon. There aren't that many wild rivers left and we thought we couldn't pass up the opportunity. Ardith has since become a devoted white water enthusiast and insists upon our taking float trips here--though she will be disappointed I am sure. We then meandered home through Utah (Canyonlands, Arches, Hovenweep) into Mesa Verde and Aztec ruins, ending the trip (four our purposes) at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument--then the Great Plains and flatness. We really didn't want to come home, but all things must pass.

I have had guest/s in our house since the first day after we returned, as five new faculty members have come here, plus an old old friend who is taking up in graduate school again after a long hiatus. So I have been running around--for awhile felt like I should take out a real estate license. But I really appreciated folk's friendliness and concern when we moved here and felt that I should do no less. However no school has started--we are beginning the second week, I have Ardith's schedule pretty well worked out, and I am going to resume scheduled knapping, etc. etc. plus of course my dissertation. I am now in the process of reworking my office into a flint knapping station. Right now it looks like a minor disaster area as I have just moved back in all my books that were at home for studying purposes last spring and all the materials that I brought back from Idaho. As soon as I straighten this out (end of this week) and catch up on my correspondence I should be in business. I am going to call the Reactor this afternoon or tomorrow, Don, and see if we can't get to work on the "Guadalajara" obsidian--if nothing else we can tell if it all comes from the same source, and probably or possibly tie it down to a particular one. I will write further in a couple of weeks to tell you progress on this. If things are not busy it might go right away, but if they are I will have to wait until I can get someone to show me how to prepare the samples myself

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a process I have been meaning to learn but never got around to last year because of exams. I also have to try the man in Geology on the microprobe--if that works out it might also be quick.

I also have back all my slides, and I would say that a lot of them came out well. The first four rolls that I had developed in Twin have no numbers, and there are some sequences that I still have to unscramble. I am afraid that will make a good project for a rainy weekend this fall, but as soon as I have them in order I will most definitely send you them. Would you prefer that I choose and make some duplicates to send you, or would you like to see all the pertinent (not the) personal and friend type shots) and choose for yourself? I believe you said that Earl would have them duplicated, but I wanted to send them as a gift. On the other hand, I think that your choice should be uppermost as to what you might want to keep--and therefore I will leave such decisions up to you--just let me know what you want?

I have not heard about the book or article from Ruthann? Do you have an address for her. Ray is my usual source for such things, and obviously I can't ask him on this one? I need to know whether in fact November is the deadline so I can begin to schedule my time. Also, let me know what you would like in the way of cores and blades from Tula. As I mentioned, I can't give you any know as I am working on them, but when I am through, the Mexican government won't miss a few pieces--they will all just go into some hole in the Museo anyway (this of course will be between you and me). As Bobby got an important article (for him anyway) accepted yesterday (American Journal of Physical Anthropology) on the Peruvian materials from his previous visits, he is feeling more competent to say that we will be able to get a grant for next year. So as it looks now we will spend a couple of months in Mexico--exact project as yet unknown--maybe Tula and if all goes well also some survey in Michoacan--at the other obsidian sources there, and then for 6-9 months in Lima. Engel (the archeologist there) was talking about excavation--he has a burial or cemetery area in danger of being destroyed. I myself would prefer in this case not to dig as the man has a superb assemblage of preceramic (as well as ceramic) well-dated and well dug materials already that I am anxious to get to, but we will have to see. I fully intend to send you a good collection from there also--I don't think you have much coastal Peruvian materials, do you?

Well, I must go now and put my office in order (am just through with putting my house in order). Just wanted to thank you again and let you know I haven't forgotten. Hope to hear from you soon and also to have some information and slides for you in the next couple of weeks to a month.

Sincerely,

Alice

Alice Benfer