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Kimberly, Idaho
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Sept 9, 1968

Miss Bonnie Buchanan
N B C News
Room 468
30 Rockefeller
New York, N.Y.
10020

Dear Miss Buchanan:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation of Sept. 5th, I am sending you, under separate cover, some of my recent writings on the flintknapping techniques of primitive man. This fall, American Antiquity will publish my description of the making of Polyhedral blades and cores; Current Anthropology will have a description of the artifacts found at Wilson Butte Cave, Idaho; and "Tebiwa" will include a joint article by myself and Bordes on the making of Corbiac blades and cores as well as an article on the Edge-ground Cobble Technique. If you are interested, at that time, I shall be glad to send you reprints.

I am delighted to learn of the proposed special - the First American. This will be a major contribution to the American public who has become increasingly interested in the occupation of the New World - both on an amateur and professional level. In all parts of the country, amateur Archaeological Societies are being founded and the members are doing some beautiful supervised excavation work to uncover the age of man on this continent.

I believe that any sort of coverage of the First American should include the manufacture of stone tools, for until man learned to make weapons, he was little more than a scavenger. There is nothing in the literature on the making of stone tools or defining the various techniques and this is the purpose of my work at Idaho State University - to record by film and writing the "how" and "why" of stone tool manufacture. Even professional archaeologists have little or no knowledge of the conversion of a lump of lithic material into the finished functional tool. You may be interested to know that some stone tools can be made sharper than the modern razor. The polyhedral blade of Mexico and Meso-America, for instance, were used not only for human sacrifice, but also for shaving the beard of the Spaniard, for brain surgery and Caesarean section.

You may also be interested to know that in 1967 when I was at the Univ. of Arizona field school we killed and skinned a large black bear with nothing but stone tools. Films were taken of this operation and, if you are interested, you could contact Dr. William Longacre, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, who has the film and also the manuscript defining the various tools and their functional scars.

Also, if you do decide to come West to do some photography work on the stone tool industry, you may like to know that this Spring both Dr. Francois Bordes, University of Bordeaux, France and Dr. Jacques Tixier, National Museum, Paris, France will be at my home in Kimberly for study and exchange of flintknapping ideas. I have worked with both of these men since 1962 exchanging knapping techniques - for they were skilled in the Old World percussion type tools whereas I had concentrated mainly on the refined pressure flaking of this

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hemisphere. Via mail and by their coming to Kimberly, they are now becoming very skilled in the New World pressure techniques whereas I have learned much of their percussion blades and flakes. Dr. Bordes will be here in the Spring, but has given no definite date as yet. Dr. Tixier will be here either in March or April. It occurs to me that it might be well to photograph these men doing the Old World techniques for comparison with the more refined work of the New World.

I am enclosing copy of a "K.L.I.X" radio broadcast program and also a brief explanation of my background.

If I can help in any way to show the making of stone tools and weapons please do not hesitate to ask, for I feel this would be a real contribution to what I have spent my life teaching. I do most of my experiments here at my home in Kimberly where I have a large shop and two acres of ground for stockpiling raw material and for flintknapping. Here, also, I have representative early man projectile point types for study and illustration.

For your information, there is good air service from Salt Lake to Twin Falls, Idaho via Air West and the airport is just a short distance from my home.

If our budget permits, we will fly from Harvard to New York sometime in October and would be glad to contact you at that time to help in any way that I can.

Yours very truly,

Don E. Crabtree
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