



THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10024

August 9, 1968

Mr. Donald Crabtree
Route 1
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

Have been very tardy in thanking you for the demonstration at the Jurgen's site and for letting me play with the obsidian. The enclosed snapshot does not do the injury justice. Should have zoomed in closer.

The accompanying flake is from the Calico Hills site. While there is no position data it is so much like others from the excavation that I suspect that it must be from within the fan deposit where the rest of the dirt and stone on the dump came from. Until someone demonstrates that such breakage does occur in nature, I would accept some of the things found as artificially broken. At the same time I am puzzled by the general absence of striking area platforms at the tops of the flakes. As I remember them most are like the enclosed flake with the impact point on a thin edge. At your convenience can you look over some of your trash heap flakes to see if you can find comparable pieces with such thin top edges. If not, can you duplicate it and tell me how it happens. Sometime may I have the flake back.

Yesterday I saw three pieces of obsidian ready to be thrown out. While not large enough to be of any real use to you, they are from the island of Lou, southeast of Great Admiralty Island in the Pacific and seem to be somewhat different in texture so am sending them along. The natives there broke this material into long, pointed pieces and used them for spear points without any further working.

With all best wishes to you both,

Sincerely,

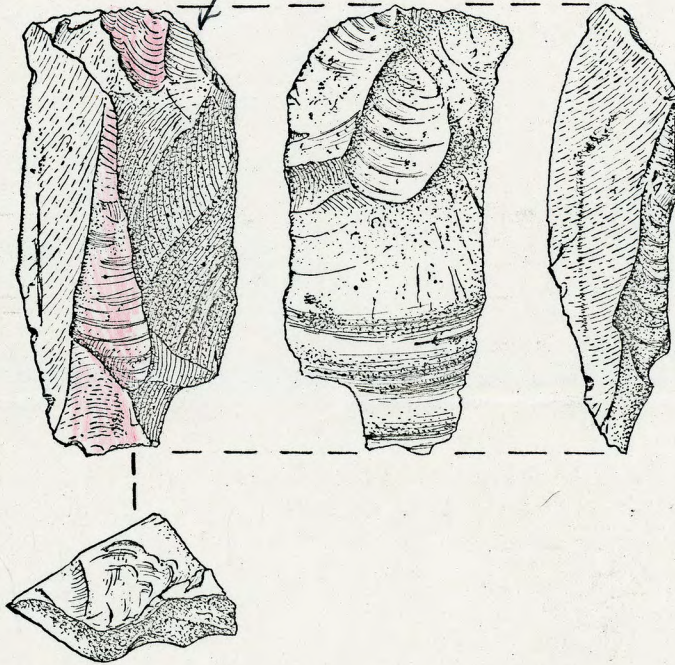
Junius B. Bird

JBB:gc
Encl.

Ce1.5.14.1

Scale = 1/1

Note fracture which could
leave another non-patinated flake
scar



Chalcedony flake found June 28, 1968 midway down the outer sloping surface of the dump directly in front of the entrance of the main Calico Hills excavation. All facets retain traces of the caliche-like matrix and the surface, except for ~~two~~ facets, has a milky patination hue. In form and details, particularly in the area of the impact which created the flake, it closely resembles other ancient flakes from the site. I am inclined to think it is anciently rather than recently formed.

~~Flake scar lacking patination tone~~

ce.1.5.14.2

Do not return.