

Obituaries

Archaeologist Donald Crabtree

Donald Crabtree of Kimberly, noted archaeologist who received an honorary degree from the University of Idaho in 1979, died Nov. 16 in Magic Valley Hospital in Twin Falls after a brief illness.

Crabtree, a pioneer in lithic technology (stone tool and instrument manufacture) was born in Heyburn, Idaho, in 1912. He was a resident of Kimberly at the time of his death.

As a flintknapper — an artisan skilled in making flaked stone tools — he made great contributions to Idaho archaeology, and his research in stone tool manufacture helped establish lithic research as a new subfield in archaeological analysis.

His book, *An Introduction to Flintworking*, is a standard in the field. In Idaho, he has conducted research and published reports on archaeological deposits along the

Oregon Trail, Wilson Butte Cave and on other aspects of Idaho archaeology.

A non-salaried research associate with the UI Laboratory of Anthropology for many years, he regularly provided assistance to UI graduate students and staff working on problems in Idaho prehistory and stone tool technology. A Crabtree Lithic Collection has been established in the UI library to commemorate his contributions.

Among the many positions he held, he was county supervisor in the Twin Falls area for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From 1964 to 1975 he was a research associate in lithic technology at Idaho State University, and in 1969 became director of the ISU flintworking schools, formerly held in Twin Falls during the summer.

In addition to publishing many articles and papers, he has been the focus of three films and collaborated with author James Michener on three chapters of Michener's book *Centennial*.

He was a member of numerous professional and academic societies.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. E.E. Crabtree, and two sisters, Virginia Hack and Helen Anderson, all of Twin Falls.

87-24-11-3