

craftsman....

## DON CRABTREE

Don Crabtree was born June 8, 1912, at Heyburn, Idaho. He currently resides in Kimberley, Idaho and has been a Research Associate connected with the Laboratory of Anthropology, Department of Sociology/Anthropology, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, since 1976. He attended a semester at Long Beach College, California and in the late 1930s was supervisor of the vertebrate and invertebrate laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley. He also worked in the anthropology lab with Alfred Kroeber and E. W. Gifford at that time. Following a flintworking demonstration at a meeting of the American Association of Museums in Ohio in 1941, he was employed at the Ohio State Lithic Lab with H. Holmes Ellis and Henry Shetrone. He was also advisor in lithic studies at the University of Pennsylvania and the Smithsonian Museum. During World War II, Crabtree was coordinating engineer with Bethlehem Steel in California. Between 1952 and 1962 he was County Supervisor with the USDA in Twin Falls, ID.

In 1962 he opened the First Conference of Western Archeologists on Problems of Point Typology with a flintworking demonstration at the Idaho State Museum. This was his first major breakthrough into professional acceptance and was soon followed by his participation, with François Bordes and Jacques Tixier, at Les Eyzies Conference on Lithic Technology in France, where he received international fame. His 7 films and writings followed soon thereafter.

Between 1964 and 1975, Crabtree was Research Associate in Lithic Technology at the Idaho State Museum in Pocatello and was supported by NSF funds via Earl Swanson.

Don Crabtree is a member of 8 scientific organizations and has been the subject of innumerable articles. Among his most recent are full page features in the Twin Falls (ID) Times-News (27 March 1977 and 21 Feb. 1978) and a visual chapter in The New World, by Bray, Swanson, and Farrington (1975). He has published papers, mostly on replicative flintworking, in American Antiquity (1939, 1968), Current Anthropology (1969), Science (1970, 1968--with E. L. Davis), Curator (with Richard Gould, 1970), Tebiwa (1964, with Robert Butler, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1972, 1973, 1974, and with François Bordes in 1969). His popular textbook, An Introduction to Flintworking (ISU Museum) came out in 1972. He also has chapters in Swanson's Lithic Technology: Making and Using Stone Tools (1975) and Raymond and others' Primitive Art and Technology (1975).

Besides a spot in NBC's film, The First Americans (1969), Crabtree is featured in seven 21 to 28 minute films: Shadow of Man (1968, ISU Museum), Alchemy of Time, Ancient Projectile Points, The Flintworker, The Hunter's Edge (all 1969 and available from U/C Extension Media Center, Burbank, CA 94720), and Blades and Pressure Flaking (1969, U. of California, Berkely. This film won best in anthro/arch at the 1970 American Film Festival).

In addition, Crabtree has lectured and given demonstrations around the world: Canada, The University of Bordeaux, the National Museum of Denmark, the British Museum, and universities throughout the United States. James Michener got Crabtree to edit three chapters of his bestseller Centennial. As François Bordes so aptly puts it, "If this Crabtree has lived 40,000 years ago, he could have taught ancient man a thing or two about toolmaking" (Times-News, 27 March 1977:C-10).

REPLICAS BY DON CRABTREE  
The Dean of American Flintknappers

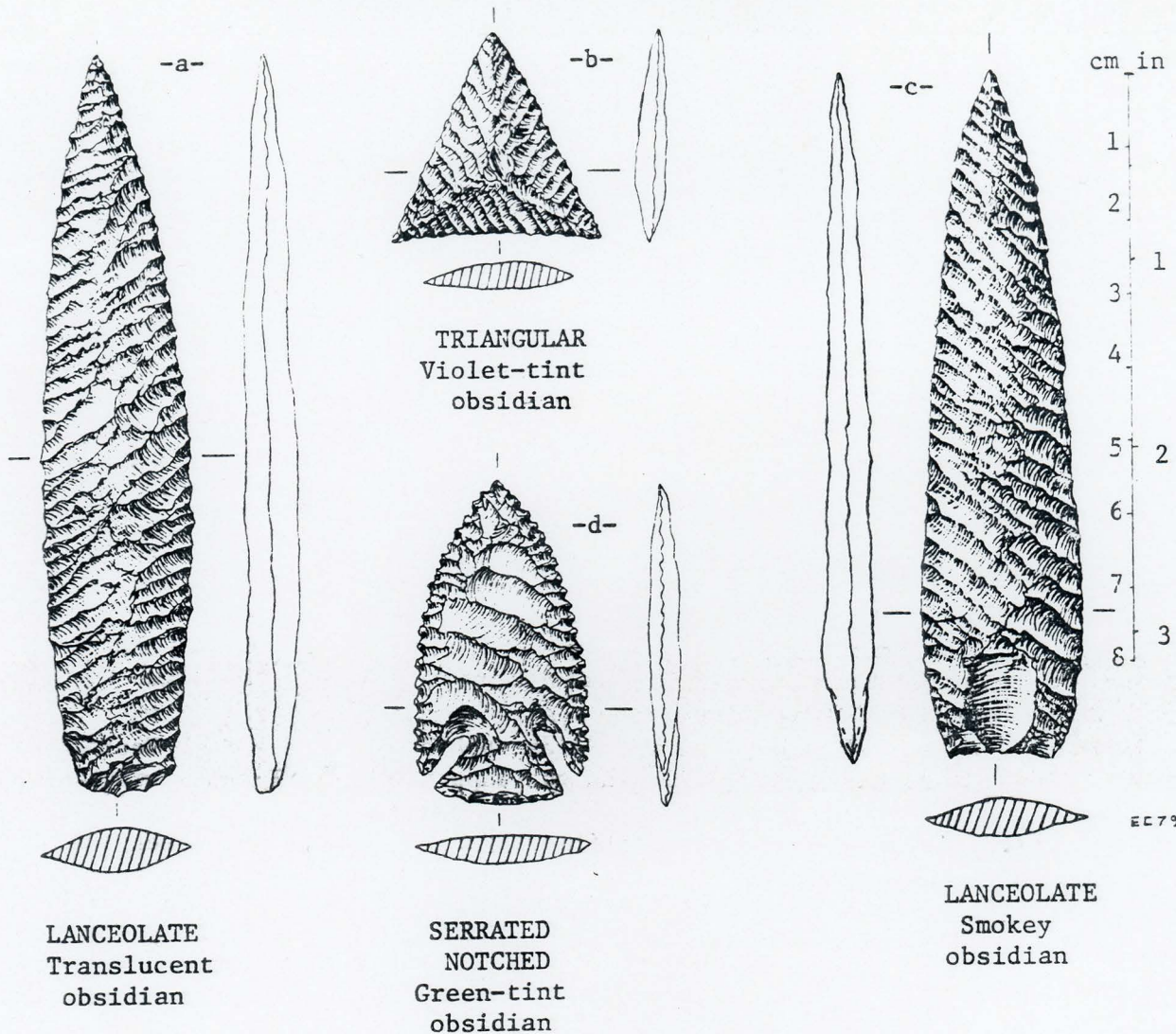


Fig. 1

A Personal View

Don Crabtree is a remarkable human being, a skilled and thoughtful craftsman and a scholar in the truest sense of the word, and I am privileged to know him as my teacher and friend. As the preceding brief outline of his career indicates, he is a self-directed person who has spent a lifetime asking questions and looking for new information. I believe him to be a better anthropologist than many who have advanced degrees in that field--his constant search for the patterns of human behavior that go with making and using stone tools, when coupled with his considerable expertise in flintknapping, has led to important contributions to world archaeology. Don has been nominated for an honorary degree from the University of Idaho, and in supporting that nomination François Bordes of the Université de Bordeaux recently wrote:

Besides his theoretical work, which has been sadly underestimated for too long, he had a direct effect on the comprehension of the problems raised by archaeological finds, by teaching many archaeologists how to work stone. This

Co. 24.3.1.2