

Route 1, Box 210
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

June 16, 1979

Dear Francois and Denise:

My many thanks for all the kindnesses and patiences that you have shown me during these traumatic times. Hopefully I am on the mend and will again be active. I am planning a trip to Pullman to spend a week at their lithic technology school where I will see Dick Daugherty and Phyllis, Jeff Fleniken and others that I look forward to. Please try and excuse me for not answering your letters. You have been so very kind to bear with me and I am more than delighted to receive your copy of the L'Industrie De L'os Dans La Prehistoire and to learn about finding the baton with the embedded flint. At last we are getting some factual information. This is coincidental to a find made here in Idaho and also one by George Frison in Wyoming. Marie Wormington just called me and said that George had found a chest crutch with an antler tip and a cross piece for the chest. I don't know the condition or the details other than it was found in a Folsom site. The other find made in Idaho was by Kelly Murphy who found the calcanium of a bison that was used as a hand percussor with fragments of silicious rock still embedded in the bone much like the find that you made in France.

I had always thought that unless it was a very heavy, long bone that bone couldn't be used as a percussor, but here I find now that aboriginally a bison calcanium of a bison was used as a hand percussor. It also shows signs of silicious material being embedded in it. If you can procure one of these from a cow, I think you will find it a very satisfactory percussor. I understand that you and Denise have written a letter to Ruthann Knudson which will be bound in a book that I will always cherish. I haven't received the book yet, but I look forward to being able to read your letter.

This Spring I was fortunate to be able to go to Belize (British Honduras) and saw so many technologies, artifacts, and huge piles of flint that would boggle your mind. I feel this find will add a great deal to our knowledge of stone technologies. The site is vast---a rough estimate of size is 16 square miles and in places there are piles of special blades, flint pieces, debitage, and tools that are as much as six to seven meters high in some piles.

Some lenses of flakes are several feet deep with all of the flakes and debitage material being detached by the same technique. They sharpen adzes by removing a curved tranchent flake which they call "orange peels" to sharpen their adzes. There are tens of thousands of them. These were no doubt used for shaping sea-going and trade canoes to export the vast quantities of artifacts. There was a tremendous flint tool manufacturing center in combination with a boat building industry. There are axes for felling trees.

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They also made straight blades, but much thicker, and larger than the Grand Pressegeny blades. Some of these were used as they were with no pressure flaking or percussion except making a stem at the bulbar end and they are apparently for export just as they were as spears or knives. The blades are very straight and no pressure work except stems on the proximal end.

There are so many unresolved and undeveloped technologies that it makes you think we have barely started in exploring the world lithic industries. I do hope you will be able to see this site sometime in the future. It is being done by several different universitites. I was with Tom Hester from the University of Texas at San Antonio. He was a very fine archaeologist and had a wonderful field school. I thoroughly enjoyed my experiences there.

I do hope that you have planned to come to the States in the near future and that we will be able to get together again. There are so many things that I want to talk to you about. Gene Titmus and I are still working on more and improved technologies and he has been able to reproduce some magnificent Folsom points as well as continue work on eccentrics. I will close for now and hope to be more prompt in answering in the future. W

With the kindest of personal regards to you and Denise, I remain your friend

Don Crabtree
Doctor of Science

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