

July 16, 1968

Dear Francois:

Please accept my apologies for being so slow in answering your most interesting letter and for the wonderful book. I have been away from home and saw many of your very good friends. Went to the Univ. of Ariz. then to the Grasshopper site, then to Marie's dig at Kersey. Then back home for a week and then went to Burns, Oregon to do the quarry film. I am really tired out now and don't see how you get so many things done. Wish I had your system. Thanks again for taking your valuable time to do the paper for Tebiwa. Swanson has it for editing, but is on vacation now, but he is thrilled with the paper.

I am enjoying Stella Henderson, the miners, and the prostitutes. It is a great book. But, by far, the most important thing is your new book, "The Old Stone Age", truly the most wonderful gift I have ever received. IT IS GREAT/ The best ever published. I feel sure that it will be "required" reading for all students on this side of the pond. It cannot help but be a financial success, for everyone I tell about it immediately jots down the publisher's name and plans to order several copies. One of our local doctors is asking our town book store to order copies to sell here. When Denise has her Modern Prehistory translated, the Universities of the world will look to the Bordes for any information on the Prehistory of the Old World. I do hope that this successful publication will relieve you of some of the pressures and that you both will have a little more time for yourselves and your lovely family.

Soon, I shall be sending you some obsidian which you will love. It is a "Peacock" obsidian from Central Mexico that has the color of Peacock feathers - you will know when you see it. The pieces are small but worthwhile and, as I get time, I am sawing some for you. You will really enjoy working this stone. Am planning to send some to Tixier, also.

Received the nice postcard from you and the Binfords - and the picture showed our hotel in Bordeaux. I know you are enjoying the delightful Binfords and am sure the Summer will go entirely too fast. The card brought back memories of the happy time in France and I do hope we can come back some day. We are sure saving our pennies with this in mind.

Your remarks about the computer are "classic" and should be stamped on each and every machine manufactured. - which brings us back to Wilmsen. Dr. Emil Haury of the Univ. of Arizona wrote to him and told him of some of my criticisms of his thesis. Wilmsen replied that he would spend a week with you in September which would give him a good beginning in knapping. Any time spent with you will be invaluable to him and I am sure that he will find that this knapping is something one does not learn in a week. He is really a nice young man with a lot on the ball and I know you will impress on him the importance of the variables in knapping and not to judge everything on platforms. He might even delete such sentences as "The amount of percussion force is probably also important". I hope between us that we can help this lad, for he is very bright and has a real interest in lithics, but just needs a greater understanding. I will see him in Washington in October and will also do my bit.

I think we got a nice short film of quarrying and preliminary preparation of materials at the Burns, Oregon site. We went to Glass Butte, but it looked like the city dump yard, due to the rockhounds gathering material and leaving their camping garbage behind - so we did all the film work at Burns, which, fortunately, has not been discovered by the "hounds" yet. We found two quarry sites and I got several lumps of obsidian - one weighing 350# - so when, and if you come next Spring we can really make a giant tool. Evelyn hunted artifacts for us and got about 60 pounds of handaxes, blades, lance points and one core. They really were working there. I do hope when you return that you will be able to visit this site before it, too, is ruined. Evelyn found this report on the Leakey site which she thought might be of interest to you. I am so sorry

C. 2. 1. 62. 1

that Clark Howell declared firmly that those horrible lumps of rocks were "man made" for I just do not feel that they are. You, like myself, found some questionable flakes but I still feel that statistically in a mud flow fan of that size that this is very possible. I believe they plan a symposium sometime this year and maybe something can be resolved at that time.

I have just finished the paper on the "edge ground" cobble tech. and will send you a copy as soon as I get the drawings made. I really want you to try this for you are so much better and so much more accurate than I am at percussion. It really produces a beautiful blade and gives a definite pattern to the hammerstone. Will send it as soon as I can.

We are still hoping that you will be able to come to Arizona next year. Marie is planning to have a conference at Tempe and it would be so great and so necessary to have you there. She is also planning to bring in two other flintknappers which I am sure you will want to meet.

Have a nice Summer and give our best to Denise and the family and the "lucky" Binford's.

Bien amicalement,
Yours very truly,

Don E. Crabtree

CE. 2. 1. 6. 2. 2