

Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83341
May 13, 1970

Dear Francois:

You old roadrunner you! All over the U.S. and not one stop in Kimberly. Oh, how I could have used your advice - but you were like a ghost. We could find where you had been but not where you were. Heard from Pfeiffer that you had been there, so immediately called to try and locate you. He was away, but talked with his wife who said you had just left for France - so gave up. We are really sorry and disappointed that you did not come to see us, but I guess we were like ships that pass in the night. From what I hear, it appears that we were both in California at the same time and oh how I would have loved a visit with you. We were in Burbank for one month making the knapping films and now I am told that you - at the same time - were in Los Diablos. We would have loved your expert advice on reviewing the films. I do hope that this does not mean you have forgotten your old rock-knocking buddy. Pfeiffer says you will be at Montreal this Fall and I do hope you will plan a visit to Kimberly at that time. He suggests that we both sneak up there to see you but time and money is always a problem and I think we can offer you more peace and quiet and experiments here.

I just love your new book and it was being widely praised at the meetings in Mexico. We enjoyed the meetings although it was much too hot and too much smog. But Mexico is an exciting place and so full of archaeology. We had a nice visit with Lorenzo both at the meetings and in his office. We were all - Lorenzo, Swanson and myself - wishing that you were there. He is really sorry that you do not visit his country and I wonder why we can't make it a point to have a joint meeting there and take advantage of their many obsidian deposits. It would be fun. Jose also took us to his site at Tlapacoya and he is doing some very fine work there. This is a very methodical man who really knows his business. He has a 22,000 date on the site and believe it has great prospects. But the material is very difficult to analyze. I really think only you can do it. The rock is not elastic, is quite soft, but leaves a good cutting edge. But I could find no compression rings on bulbous features and was unable to determine anything. Jose says it is very difficult to define and knows he has a real problem. I think really only you could determine the techniques. I did find several blade-like pieces and four worked pieces of obsidian plus one flake and some pieces of basalt which were foreign to the site. Continued work should prove interesting as the association is with pleistocene animal remains.

We saw so many of your friends at the meetings and so many of your students - among them John and Meg Fritz who are on cloud nine expecting the little bladelet maker. Also visited with Lorena who reflects the expert training of Bordes, and Longacre and all the western crowd of Bordes fans.

Swanson talked with Leiban - N.S.F. man - while we were in Mexico about the Cromagnon project. However, Swanson is head of the department so he does not discuss details with me and so all I know is that it is still in the mill and it looks like Leiban will give the go ahead for the project. Apparently you and Jacques have been corresponding with Swanson about this but I have not seen the plans as yet. Sounds like fun though.

The papers given at Mexico were not all that good but my field student of last summer, Barbara Purdy of the University of Florida delivered a very fine and detailed paper on the thermal alteration of Florida chert. I was very proud of her. Will have another summer school starting June 14th to July 12th with students from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Washington and Ohio. Hope I had a good bunch this year. All of those who attended last year are now making great strides in lithics and will return next year as teachers.

Please give our regards to Denise and your family and now that I have found time to write, please grab a minute and write to your old buddy.

Your friend,

Don