

Jan. 5, 1971

Dear Francois and Denise:

We were so glad to get your nice letter and know that you got home safely. We hope that both of you are in good health - do take care of yourselves for you are both so valuable to the profession. You both have so much knowledge to give and will have to live to a hundred in order to get it all down on paper. I envy you your joint skills in writing for you can do in five minutes what it takes me weeks to sweat out. Finished the dictionary article but could not condense it to 5000 words so don't know if they will accept it or not. How can one possible describe lithic technology in that few words. Again I want to say thanks for the wonderful books you have given me in the past which I continually use as references.

Your last trip and visit here was much too short and the illness and school interfered with our time together. I wanted you to teach me about the pressure flaking of the unifaces and would have liked to see how you use the antler billet. Your technique is so different than mine. I watch you but you are just too fast for good observation. What we need is a series of high speed movies of your work. I do hope you will be able to come to the States next year and that we can have some more time together. I have been doing a little pressure work at the shop in the evenings and this last week I have been making blades by striking a soft hammerstone with the core and getting some interesting results. Flat flakes with minute or no platforms - much like the small blades from Proveny Point which have been a mystery to me for so long. However, I need long practice before I reach any definite conclusions.

Our weather here is cold - 6°F. but no snow. The spray from Shoshone Falls is freezing in the air and it looks from their kitchen window to be 10 thousand feet in the air. Last night I heard that the storms in the middle West are the worst in 30 years and that with the exception of Russia the weather is bad in Europe. Hope yours is still good.

Evelyn is holding her own and is due for another chemotherapy shot Thursday - something we do not look forward to. Each shot seems to make her so ill and it takes days to recover. I am, indeed, fortunate to have a girl with so much endurance and courage.

Hope you and your family had a happy holiday and that you are catching up on your work better than I am. Am now trying to write the cone paper which is also difficult for me and have had many requests to write again on thermal treatment. Oh, if there was just more time and I was more fluent with words.

Regards to your entire family and hope to see you again this year.

Your friends,

Don and Evelyn