

Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

April 15, 1977

Mr. Bruce Bradley
P.O. Box 17330
Tucson, Arizona 85710

Dear Bruce:

I am most impressed by your letter of April 9th outlining the purpose and intent of your experiments and explaining your approach to experimental archaeology. The research and interpretation is equally as important as one's skill in replication. Also, I like your idea of recording information on the material, tools used, and the techniques involved in artifact replication.

I can not overemphasize the importance of experimental archaeology in the interpretation of the prehistory of man - since 99.5% of all human history is represented by the modification of non-perishable lithic materials. Even ceramics are late-comers when one thinks in terms of two million years. So we must resort to lithic technology to more fully understand and recognize the subtle differences in the techniques practiced by man in time and space. I heartily encourage you to continue your work in experimental archaeology and to examine collections at universities and museums as well as give demonstrations to better inform students about the technological characteristics which are often more important than form. Also, the manufacturing debris will show stages and provide diagnostic traits. By your open-minded approach, interest and skillful endeavors, you are qualified to pursue the much needed research in the field of experimental archaeology.

Please keep the specimens - they were just to illustrate styles of flaking. I shall keep yours until I see you. We plan to hold the field school in July and if you would like to come to Idaho the last week in July we would be pleased to have you. There will be a small but select group of graduate students camping at Durkees Lake near Shoshone Falls - about two miles from my home. If you have any new material, please bring it. Food and expenses are shared by the participants. I think that you would enjoy the session.

Best regards,

Don E. Crabtree

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