

C-9-0062/p1
PAMUNKEY RESEARCH CENTER
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KING WILLIAM, VA. 23086

Don Crabtree
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Kimberly, ID
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10 Dec 78

Dear Don:

It was great to hear from you the other day. I have worked up a list of 27 questions I would like to ask. Most of these are tailor-made for a very unique man, but some are standard. I would like, in these interviews, to ask technical questions as well as theoretical, not just to reach a variety of readers, but because I think they should be asked. You know, the kinds of things you wonder about another knapper when you first meet to help you "size him up". Also to serve as models, perhaps, of the kinds of things I think are important for the less experienced knappers to start thinking about. I look upon the interview as a means of establishing attitudes and, via the illustrations as well as the text, as a means of offering models of replication standard that other knappers can shoot for.

It is plain to me that no one man will ever be able to "replicate" Don Crabtree, that no one person can equal him in all the things he has attempted. This in itself is a good thing, I think, for it will get other knappers concentrating on particular skills and technologies and this concentration, in turn, can go a long way toward opening new doors to knowledge. When one spreads one's self too thin, unless he is a rare master, he will cover a lot of distance but perhaps miss all the boats. Concentrating on particular facets-- this has been the history of science all along.

I would like to illustrate whatever of your works you would like to have represent you. I received from you on May 28, 1977, 10 items, 9 of yours and one of Titmus's. You sent an obsidian pressure blade, 5 lanceolate pressure points, all but one (the one on the cover of FE) were flaked upper rt to lower left. You also sent 2 notched points and a triangular point. All were beyond words. (I said at the time that I wanted to send you something comparable in return. I have tried and tried, but have not come close to producing something comparable for you. Yet.)

I will be glad to illustrate these. (And these will be representing you in the large display on Lithic Tech that I am putting together for the Pamunkey Indian Museum-- along with the work of Bordes, Tixier, Bradley, Flenniken, Bonnicksen, D.C. Waldorf, Solly, and others. We hope to be a repository of contemporary knapper's work.) But if you would like to have other of your works-- Folsom, etc.-- in there, send them on down.

Also, in the interview, there is no limit to how much you want to say on these subjects. And as # 27 shows, you are free to bring in any other topic you wish to discuss. This issue will be devoted largely to you so take all the time you wish. (And be sure to send us the bill, or better yet, reverse the charges. There is no reason for you to foot this bill.)

What I really would like to do for you is to allow you the opportunity to give the kind of interview you may have always wished to give but couldn't because of limited audience interest. You will have

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a captive audience of flintknappers so go to it. We will also be reaching some who may not have yet heard of you--some of the better commercial knappers (like Rinehart) and some of the ~~area-~~ Southern England cobble knappers who square up flint nodules for building blocks. And who never thought of making stone tools. (That's another whole school of rockknappers, along with the grave stone knappers. So much yet to know.)

Let's make the taped conversation Dec 27, 28, or 29, after 8PM here

A merry Christmas to you from Linda and I,

Errett
Errett Callahan

PS-Tixier sends you his very best.

PPS- Do you mind if I tape all our phone conversations in the future? I hate to have any of your words missed for future posterity. I meant to ask you this the other day.

I will be glad to illustrate these. (And these will be representing you in the large display on Lithic Tech that I am putting together for the Pamunkey Indian Museum-- along with the work of Borde, Tixier, Bradley, Flenniken, Bonnichsen, D.C. Waldorf, Solly, and others. We hope to be a repository of contemporary knapper's work.) But if you would like to have other of your works-- Polson, etc.-- in there, send them on down.

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Don Crabtree Interview format
Flintknappers' Exchange
(Subject to change)

EC

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- 1.-With all of the modern surgical methods at your disposal, why in the world did you decide to have your surgery done with stone tools?
- 2.-Would you care to discuss the extent and nature of the surgery you have had done with stone tools?
- 3.-Could you tell us about your very beginnings in flintknapping-- where, when, how?
- 4.-What were your aims and objectives in the beginning and how have they changed in the intervening ___ years?
- 5.-How much lithic material do you go thru in a year?
- 6.-What lithic material have you spent the most time on and what other materials do you prefer?
- 7.-How do you locate, quarry, and process your lithic material?
- 8.-Do you feel that the working of obsidian has much carry-over to the working of the tougher lithic materials like quartzite, rhyolite, felsite, or unheated cherts?
- 9.-Could you discuss the evolution of your stone tool making kit?
- 10-How many finished stone tools do you reckon you have made and where do they end up?
- 11-What catalog system do you use to keep track of the tools you have made?
- 12-What, to you, have been the most challenging stone tools to replicate?
- 13-Where could one go to see examples of your work?(Now and in the future [Don't forget the Pamunkey Indian Museum] .)
- 14-How many demonstrations do you reckon you have given in flintknapping over the years?
- 15-How many individuals have studied under you and what kinds of things have they gone on to do?

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16-What work did you do at the lithic lab at the Ohio State Museum with Holmes Ellis in the early 1940's?

17-Have you come up with any new fluting techniques since your 1966 paper on Lindenmeier Folsom replication? *Cumberland*

18-How did you stumble into billet flaking? *Sharon Watson 1939*

19-How would you differentiate between replication and simulation?

20-What kind of information do you think we should be obtaining from the study of flake scars on stone tools?

21-Do you see much difference, on a subtle level perhaps, between the flake scars made by experienced modern knappers on a given type of stone tool, and, if so, could this tell us anything about different individuals in the past?

22- In what subtle ways do you think the flake scars produced by copper & iron pressure flakers are different from those produced by antler tines?

23-To what extent do you feel we can really understand the attributes of a stone tool without going out and using it functionally?

24-What are some contributions that you feel the non-academic knapper could offer to make flintknapping seem of more relevance to the professional archeologist--or, put another way, of what real value is flintknapping to science?

25-What are some ways in which the professional world might do more to sponsor the talents of commercial knappers so as to give them a viable alternative to the underground market?

26-What are your main complaints and suggestions as to the direction the field of lithic technology has taken and should take? *Calcium Oxide* *casts taken E. Leventhal*

27-What other topics have we omitted that you would like to get on the record?

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