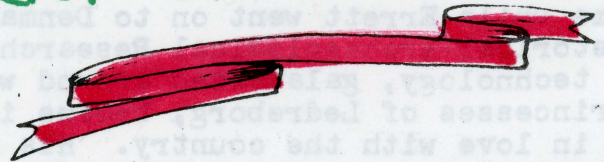




# MERRY CHRISTMAS

Errett Callahan & Linda Abbey  
Rt. 1, Box 210-A  
Pamunkey Indian Reservation  
King William, Va. 23086  
Christmas 1979

Dear  
friends  
DOW



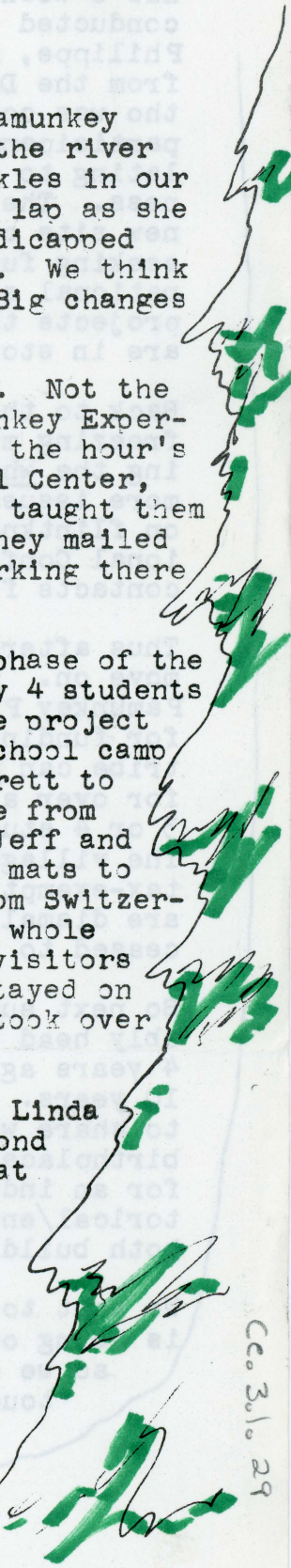
We sit in our little 40 year old cottage on the shore of the Pamunkey River deep in Indian territory. The wind blows fiercely over the river and thru the cracks in our windows and door. A wood fire crackles in our old Ashley wood stove. Three little kitties play over Linda's lap as she reads. Mao, the mother, sits under the stove, Pishi, our handicapped cat, on the arm of the couch, flipping her tail at the kitties. We think back over the year gone by. Look ahead to the year to come. Big changes are in store.

Last spring Errett created the Pamunkey Indian Museum on paper. Not the building but what went inside it. And conducted weekend "Pamunkey Experiences" at the village. Booked solid all spring. Linda drove the hour's drive to Richmond each day to work at the Henrico Developmental Center, a center for severely handicapped adults (aged 21 to 62). She taught them work skills so they could better fit into society. In fact, they mailed out several issues of Flintknappers' Exchange. She enjoyed working there until September.

During the summer, Errett directed the 5th and possibly final phase of the Pamunkey Project. Still without funding since 1977, again only 4 students could be assembled. But it was the best field school since the project began here. Jeff Kalin from Connecticut, directed the field school camp and took over the whole project when tribal pressure forced Errett to spend all his time on the museum. Selina from London, Michelle from University of Virginia, and Kasey from William and Mary, with Jeff and some volunteers, made hundreds of feet of cattail and cornstalk mats to cover the two remaining houses. Volunteers included Annick from Switzerland, Dana from Mississippi, Ninon from Charlottesville, and a whole anthropology class from Germanna Community College. And we had visitors from around the world. All but one of the field school team stayed on after the session was over, right up to September. Then Jeff took over the village and museum while we went to Europe.

We spent 10 days traveling around Holland in early September. Linda was between jobs, having just signed a contract with the Richmond School System to teach truly severely handicapped adolescents at Hickory Hill School. Even tho her new job pays more and she works 9 months instead of 12, it is physically and mentally tiring. She is enjoying the challenge tho and the extra help from a grant staff trying to generalize skills thruout the home and community. This grant is directed by Janet Hill who just so happens to have been with Errett on the Old Rag Project in 1972.

Tim, who is 12 and getting into Scouting, and starting the 7th grade, joined us for the trip. We visited the de Haas' at Zwolle and Utrecht and joined them for a day at their Stone Age site in the Polder. We visited Gale Roberts



CC. 3.1. 29

and family by the Hague. Then took off into the countryside. We traveled by train to Arnham, rented bikes at the station, and cycled for 2 days thru the Hoge Veluwe Forest, spotting deer, elk, boar, elves, and hobbits behind nearly every tree.

Then Linda and Tim flew back home while Errett went on to Denmark. During his 6 week stay at the Lejre Historical-Archaeological Research Center, he conducted 4 workshops in lithic technology, galavanted around with Prince Philippe, met the 7 beautiful princesses of Ledreborg, became inseparable from the Danish flint, and fell in love with the country. His main thing tho was conducting an International Seminar on flintworking at Lejre. 12 participants from 6 nations gathered to work on some mutual problems relating to flintknapping, archeology, education, and environmental awareness. The results were so encouraging that Lejre is setting up a whole new site complex for a prehistoric settlement and research area. And seeking funding to get Errett over there next year to conduct more international seminars. And--if all goes well--to serve as consultant on lithic projects thruout Europe thru the Council of Europe. Again, big changes are in store.

Back to the U.S. of A. A winter of cutting wood, chinking cracks, facing freezing mornings, writing up reports on Denmark, learning Danish, writing the whole dissertation on Pamunkey, finishing the museum, putting out more issues of Flintknappers' Exchange, hoping for feedback on his thesis on flintknapping which AENA published in September, going to the International Conference on Experimental Archeology in London in late March, making contacts for the new life.

Thus after 5 years with Pamunkey, 3 here on the reservation, it is time to move on. Errett has put several thousand from his own pocket into the Pamunkey Project and volunteered all his time since 1977. The only avenue for funding that has not been exhausted is non-profit status. Only the tribe can pursue that, by their decree, and they have been sitting on it for over a year. The Project now faces endless unfunded years with only 3 or 4 students breaking their backs to make the Pamunkey dream come true. The village disintegrates at a faster rate than it can be built. Without tax-exemption and a fund-raiser, the prospects of further field schools are dismal. One individual can not lift up a nation alone. We have ceased to grow. It is time to move on.

So next summer what? If there is no field school, the 3 of us will probably head west. Errett had been promising Linda this since we first met 4 years ago. Since at that time he had been going west every summer for 10 years. But the field school caught on and we couldn't go. He'd like to share with them the Grand Canyon, Partridge Creek, and Riverside, Tim's birthplace, and Yellowstone. Then August 15 the 2 of us move to Denmark for an indefinite time. Linda may be starting up a pilot project in historical/environmental interpretation for the handicapped at Lejre. And both building a future together.

We want to stay in touch with our friends in an age when staying in touch is going out of style. We're trying to get this note out early enough so we can hear from you in return. Because we want our keeping in touch to be mutual and lasting.

Errett  
and  
Linda

