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Box 210, Route 1
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Dear John:

Thank you for the kind words and a most interesting letter. I am glad to learn of your interest in blade technologies, there are so many that resolving the combinations of all of techniques is indeed a formidable undertaking. I am sorry that I haven't been able to examine sufficient populations of the stages of core preparation and platform rejuvenation. Hopefully a visit to the Papalhuapa site would provide clues to the sequence. I have made numerous experiments on the removal of core platforms, a number have been successful but not the replication of the Heizer severed cores, they have a slight hackleling around the perimeter yet with no compression rings????? Sections of these large cores would make beautiful preforms for ear plugs. Unfortunately in the collection there were no proximal core ends. The Capsian cores from North Africa had tablets removed after each sequence of blade removal. There still remain so many unresolved techniques, it is indeed a challenge to resolve them and a sense of thrill and excitement when you do. My best results in pressure core preforming is the Lena River method of making a large thick truncated biface and using the lateral margins for the initial blade removal. The Sherataki technique was to make a large thick biface with a 90 degree top and then remove a large burin spall from one margin using the burin surface as the platform part. I find that now there is no such thing as an Mesoamerican core is a great range of form and size, platform preparation, size of platforms, termination of blades and so on. Irwin Rovner and Alice Benefer have both done considerable work on blade analysis from the Yucatan and Mexico.

There are so many undescribed and unresolved stone working techniques in your vicinity from a recent trip to Belize I saw many things of great interest. I hope to be able to visit the area again, Comitan is not far from Belize. It is unfortunate that we didn't get together while you were in Idaho, I have two cousins who you might have known in Burley Les Morgan and Bill Morgan, one had a hardware and the other was in the seed business. I will cut this letter short as I am still convalescing from Aortia and bilateral femoral surgery, by the way they used obsidian blades with much success. I'm beginning to think this experimental archaeology is going too far.

With best regards ,

Don Crabtree

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