

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE

HAVRE

September 20, 1965

Mr. Donald Crabtree c/o Idaho State University Museum Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

For the past two years, the Milk River Archaeological Society has been cooperating with the U.S. Geological Survey in testing the archaeological utility of the obsidian hydration dating procedure. As you know there are many unknowns involved. As background for a consideration of early exchanges of obsidian among moving peoples, we are interested in obtaining information on the occurrence of obsidian. Our research thus far has identified pitifully few obsidian exposures north of the Yellowstone Park quarries.

Thinking that perhaps the Idaho area might have been the source for at least some of the obsidian that was transported into the plains, we wonder if you could share your knowledge of obsidian occurrence in Idaho with us. Our inquiries have reached into all adjacent states thus far and we would like to extend our understanding further west. Should this be a boundless request, we would appreciate reference to pertinent published data.

Barney Reeves, University of Alberta at Calgary, has been working on a related problem and I understand that he has contacted you also. Any help or observations you might like to offer from your fund of experience would be greatly appreciated. Quotable comments of a critical nature, relating to little known variables that may also affect the outcomes of hydration dating, are especially of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Leslie B. Davis, Pres.

Montana Archaeological Society

Northern Montana College

LBD/scb