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29 December 1970

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
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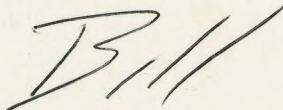
Dear Don:

To-day I received in the mail the box containing your letter, the beautiful point, and the blades and core! I can't express to you how pleased I am to have these. I must compliment you on your technical skill as well as your artistic ability. The point is a real work of art. You suggested that I might use the core in an attempt to replicate the blades. As my dear departed grandfather used to say, "Not on your tin type!" The core, the blades, and the point will occupy a prominent place in my "cabinet". They will all demonstrate that in this age of industrialization at least some talented people have not lost (or have regained) the skills of our ancestors. Thank you so very much.

You have, unwittingly, done me another favor. We have lived here in Wiesbaden for 2½ years and I have been threatening to visit Idar Oberstein since the day of our arrival. It is only a few hour's drive from here, but something has always come up at the last minute to force a cancellation of plans. Now I will go there, and I will make every effort to learn the details of heat treating of siliceous rocks for you. I have had some contact with the German craftsmen in other fields and occasionally find them to be rather close mouthed about some of their trade secrets, but I will at least make the effort. I don't think that I will be able to make it to Idar Oberstein until sometime in February, but I'll let you know what I find out promptly after the visit.

I think I have told you that I will be returning to the States in April 1971. I learned to-day that my request for an assignment in the Southwest has received favorable consideration. I do not as yet know exactly where I am going, but perhaps it will be within easy driving distance of Kimberly, Idaho - I certainly hope so.

Sincerely,



W. K. Douglas
Col. USAF, MC

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