

139 Vinsant Street
Brooks AFB
San Antonio, Texas 78235
19 April 1971

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Don:

When you wrote to me last December and sent the beautiful obsidian blades and core you asked that I try to visit Idar Oberstein before I left Germany. Well, I really tried, but I never made it. I-O is one of the places I really wanted to visit, but just never made it. There are many other places that I missed during the three years we have spent in Germany. Three years is just not enough time to see all of Europe, especially if one has a regular job to do as well.

I did get to talk to one old artisan who no longer does actual bench work, but is now in the sales end. I asked him about heat treatment, and he said that in former times heat treatment was used to change the color of agate, but now days this is accomplished by dyeing. He could not remember times or temperatures used. This meager bit of information comes from only one man, and it is certainly possible that people more intimately concerned with the fabrication side of the house could have told me more.

In spite of the address on the letter head, I am still in Germany, but we will leave for the States on the 29th of this month, so time is short. I am being assigned to Brooks AFB, in San Antonio. It is an assignment I have wanted for many, many years, so you can only imagine how elated I am. The only thing wrong with it is that I will not travel through Idaho to get to San Antonio. Perhaps I can meet you at some later time when one or the other of us passes through the other's home. I hope so.

The glass stein which accompanies this letter is one of the prettiest available here. Most of the steins are gaudy ceramic affairs, but this is functional and (I think) attractive too. Even if you are not a beer drinker, you can use it to hold your favorite cold beverage. Perhaps the pewter lid will keep the stray chips and flakes out of your drink.

Sincerely,

Bill

W. K. Douglas
Col USAF, MC