

Miss Emma Lou Davis
933 Bluegrass Lane
Los Angeles, California 90049

June 14, 1964

Dr. Earl Swanson;
Idaho State University;
Anthropology Department;
Pocatello;
Idaho.

Dear Earl;

Claude suggested that I try to make contact with Donald Crabtree through you, since he now has a semi-official niche on the Museum staff. I need very much to show him some of the big, basalt bifaces we have been collecting on sites along a fault scarp, northeast Panamint Valley. I believe that his knowledge of stone knapping will give him far greater insight into how these things are made than most of the rest of us possess: I in particular.

I need to have him go through the processes by which he thinks they are made, so that I can better understand the objectives in the heads of the long-lost Indians who flaked out these simple objects. So far, I have made some progress on my own and with suggestions from friends. We find that all this early Desert Culture stuff is evidently made by means of a cylinder hammer. I get pretty good results with an antler beam.

Our complex includes some basally thinned objects which might be dignified as "proto-points", or at least Leakey was of that opinion. Wormington, however, averred that "Louis Leakey has FLIPPED"...so the experts disagree. The main corpus of the collection is an unbroken series of bifaces, some over 20 cm. in length, thinned knives similar to those found in later caches, very large and crude borers. A small percentage are unifaces...generalized, all-purpose tools. This material seems to have at least some connection with "Lake Mojave" remains (whatever Lake Mojave really is!).

Now, I have control of a considerable mass (almost 2000 artifacts), flakes and sites. I'm applying for a fellowship, a postdoctoral of any sort I can get, and intend to devote next year to finishing the necessary field work and writing an illustrated, publishable report. It is essential that I get a chance to do some work with Crabtree. He's the maestro, according to all who have watched him. I know he is very busy and also has a bad heart, so I don't want to impose or burden him unnecessarily. Therefore, could YOU arrange for me a session or two, strictly at his convenience?

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Emma Lou Davis
932 Bluegrass Lane
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I could either get together with him by making a long detour to Pocatello late in June (on my way over to Mesa Verde to work with our editor) or else on the way back, about the 10th of July, or, if it would be better for Crabtree, I could roll my camper up there in the fall. Would you see what can be done about this? Claude can tell you what our Panamint artifacts look like. I believe this stuff is very important and may eventually provide clues to an earlier, and culturally simpler, peopling of the Americas than has been thought by many (who get mesmerized by blades and fluted points).

I would appreciate it greatly if you could reply to the above address, if you can get any commitments before June 26 (I leave for Mesa Verde the 28). After that, reply to:

Wetherill Mesa Laboratory
Mesa Verde National Park
Colorado.

Thanks for your trouble, and with all best wishes,

sincerely,

Emma Lou Davis