

Route 1, Box 39

June 12, 1969

83341

Dear Davey:

Thank you for your letter of May 23rd and please excuse the tardy reply. Just not enough hours in the day to keep caught up on correspondence.

Am delighted to learn of your interest in cobble technology. I would love to collaborate with you on this project but just will not have the time this Summer. Am having the flintknapping school for a month - then have work to do at ISU and then Bordes is returning so am going to be on a dead run until October. For the first time in five years I have had to omit the trip to Grasshopper - a field school I really look forward to each year. But it just cannot be helped.

Can I make some suggestions that may help? There appears to be two methods of cleaving cobbles. (1) Use both hands to hold the cobble and strike it vertically against a large anvil stone. Or it may be thrown with great force. This causes the cone to split and the broken sides of the cobble will be minus bulbar scars. (2) Rest the cobble on an anvil, hold with the left hand, and make the fracture with a hammerstone. The striking angle must correspond with the fracture angle of the cone. This will leave a positive bulbar scar on one half of the cobble and a negative scar on the other. A third method would be to place the cobble on an anvil - then use a hard hammerstone and strike in a bi-polar motion to cause fracture. This causes the cone to split and leaves no bulbar scars.

Another suggestion is that you write to Charles Borden who has quite a collection of cobbles from the Fraxier River and has done some research in this field. You might also like to know that the cobble technique appears with the Hohokam people.

We do not anticipate getting to California this year and are sorry, for I would love to talk with you about this. If I can be of any help via the mail, please do not hesitate to write.

Had a lovely session with Tixier at my home and then we drove to Tucson and joined Bordes. We all went to Tempe where we had a fine session with Marie and am hoping to get up to Colorado Spring sometime in October.

Have a nice Summer and hope to see you at one of the meetings.

Sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

Cc. 34. 35