



Idaho State University
POCATELLO, IDAHO
83201

Museum

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Don E. Crabtree
Route I, Box 210
Kimberly, ID 83341

Dear Don:

Lucille reminded me after her conversation with you yesterday that you'd not heard the results of my December trip to Twin Falls.

As you know, the site of the Schrank's crusher operation is about 10 miles west of Bliss. Their pit is on the top of the hill immediately to the north of where the interstate highway now ends, and is perhaps as much as a quarter mile from the highway. From what I could tell, the gravels appear to be Bonneville Overflow; lenses, foreset bedding and imbricated pebbles clearly show the main flow was toward the west with minor meandering and cut-fill channeling northeast-southwest. The specimen about which you called us, a proboscidean humerus, had been encountered about 8 feet below the upper surface of the gravel (don't know how much overburden had been removed before the gravel was encountered), lying horizontally with its long axis at right angles to the direction of flow. (Sediments showed a small eddy had been present downstream from the bone.) Most of the specimen had been removed by the power equipment and only a small part of the distal articular surface remained in the bank. While I worked on that last piece, Mr. Schrank scouted the rest of the pit looking for things of interest. One item, possibly charcoal, was found and collected, but no more bone. I've not yet had a chance to get the "maybe charcoal" under a microscope, so can't say anything positive about it. Highly weathered and altered basalt fragments are scattered throughout the gravel deposit, and its entirely possible the "maybe charcoal" may be such a fragment.

Though broken, I think it will be possible to reconstruct the proboscidean humerus and get some measurements. We're fortunate, and Schrank's personnel are to be congratulated on their recognition and quick action to save the material. (Mr. Schrank gave me some items their workers salvaged from another operation also.)

An item of additional interest: The field personnel had noted and set aside some concretionary materials containing invertebrates, both pelecypods and gastropods. Dr. Yancey (in Geology) and I looked at them briefly and he noted some, at least, are extinct species. Final determination will take a bit longer, of course.

Enough for the moment. My best to both you and Evelyn.

Sincerely,

David Fortsch

DF:mj

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