

Route 1, Bcx 210
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Sept. 9, 1974

Mr. Jeff Flenniken
Arkansas Archaeological Survey
University of Arkansas Museum
Fayetteville, Ark. 72701

Dear Jeff:

Thanks for your letter of August 23rd which was received when I was much in need of such a letter. Evelyn and I were just reviewing the students who have attended the school over the past years and had just decided that you were the one and only person who could carry on this work and would do so inventively and successfully. All others have seemed to entraped themselves with getting a phd or doing field work and laundry lists on sites.

As you well know we are badly in need of a lithic lab in this country not only for lithic technology and analysis but also for typeology. The only lab - to my knowledge - is at W.S.U. under the guidance of Guy Muto. His history for the past two years in this lab has been very unproductive and he given only token cosmetic contributions to the lithic industries. He seems to be moreinvolved with jealously guarding his position as administrator of the lab by not giving out any information on the manufacture of tools and fracture analysis of stone than he does with making a major contribution to the profession. Guy knows only two or three basic techniques and does not do these well and, as you probably know, I have refused to work with him in the future. So this leaves the burden of laboratory and research work squarly up to you and I certainly recommend you as the one person who has the knowledge, skill, enthusiasm and endurance to persist in resolving the many techniques of prehistoric man. I am seriously considering retiring next year from the profession and do not want to do this until I feel I have someone to carry on the work. Further, if your institution will back you in setting up this lab I will be more than willing to work with you and would consider it an honor to be considered as an associate so I could visit the lab periodically and help out in any way I could.

We have barely scratched the surface of lithic technology and there is much ;yet to do in resolving techniques which have world distribution and parallels and to record the diverse approaches and subtle differences employed to accomplish similar techniques. I hope you will consider a library of lithic materials and a corresponding graph of response to thermal treatment in all stages including the point of breakdown. Record all heats, color changes etc and, hopefully, this will aid in dating surface finds of aboriginal materials which were intentionaly altered. I feel that actual dates will be possible by using thermoluminescence or crystalline reversions to the original textures. Too, analysis of trace elements to pinpoint sources will ultimately be a major important contribution. For, as you know, materials were widely distributed from their origin through transportation and trading. There is no limit to the possinilities of analysis of isotrophic rock fractures and their subsequent relation to aboriginal techniques. We also need to do much work on functional studies and prove or disprove some of the Saminov theories.

Sept 11 1962

Flenniken - #2

I would certainly give my enthusiastic support and help to the establishment of a lithic lab at your institution and to the researching of materials, techniques, functions and innumerable allied approaches including certain mechanical approaches under controlled laboratory experiments.

I hope you will show this letter to your superiors and tell them of my support for this project and desire to be of assistance. We have reached a critical point in the field of lithics and now only a lab such as you describe can change theory to fact. I wish you every success in organizing a permanent lithic technology laboratory and hope you will feel free to call on ~~me~~ if, at any time, I can be of help.

Another plus for the geographic location of this lab is the fact that you not only have the knowledge and skills but are close to the source of novaculite and can obtain the help and wisdom of Dan Morse who is a giant in this field.

My fondest hope are that Josh will one day wear his father's moccasins.

With kindest personal regards,

Don E. Crabtree

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