



Office of the Director

El Paso Centennial Museum

THE MUSEUM OF
The University of Texas at El Paso
EL PASO, TEXAS 79902

22 May 1968

Mr. Don E. Crabtree
c/o Idaho State University Museum
Pocatello, Idaho

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

The Pecos Conference for Southwestern Archaeologists will be held in El Paso-Ciudad Juarez this year on 23-24 August and will have the usual program of field reports and a symposium. The symposium will depart from the usual syntheses and reviews of old problems and will attempt to present some of the newer ideas being tested in the Southwest and elsewhere. The tentative title of the symposium is Current Trends in Archaeological Theory and Method.

I mentioned this to you briefly in Santa Fe but am writing in greater detail now because I believe you are one of the few persons who can help us out of the box our new theory has gotten us into. We assume that people learn to chip stone tools, make pottery, etc., from those around them who already know how--children usually learn from the adults around them, their parents or other close kinsmen. And further we assume that boys learn to make the things that men make and that girls learn to make the things that women make. As you know Hill and Longacre have been relatively successful in showing that the potters, presumably women, in a certain prehistoric village made pottery and decorated it in ways much more similar to one another than to pottery made by the potters in a nearby contemporaneous village. This observation allowed them to suggest that the women of their village were closely related, perhaps members of a single lineage or clan. If this is so then the husbands of these women should be from one or a number of other lineages or clans since it is almost always considered incestuous to marry lineage or clan mates.

This is where our problem comes up because we have no way of estimating whether or not the men were closely related. From what I have read of your work however I suspect that you can recognize differences in stone technology which the average

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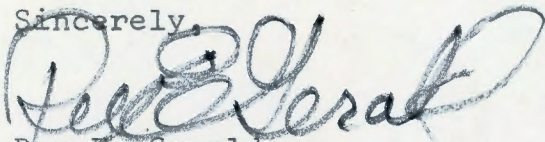
Mr. Don E. Crabtree

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archaeologist would completely overlook. For example, we need to learn to distinguish Herrell points made by Antelope Clan men from Herrell points made by Sage Clan men.

The entire conference would enjoy hearing you discuss any topic you would care to talk about I am sure. If you have any thoughts on the problem mentioned above I would appreciate hearing them privately or in a paper.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rex E. Gerald". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Rex E. Gerald
Pecos Conference
Program Chairman

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