

June 16, 1980

Dr. Don E. Crabtree  
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Dear Don:

Not only was I surprised at seeing my brief note printed in Flintknapper's Exchange, Vol. 3, No. 1, but I was even more surprised when I received your letter of May 10 thanking me! I want you to know that I do indeed appreciate your letter. I was surprised because I had been planning to write you concerning the Ohio State Museum Lithics Lab. So, I am writing you a little sooner than I had originally planned.

First, I think I should backtrack here a bit and introduce myself. My name is Paul Graham and I am currently one of two staff archaeologists here at the Ohio Department of Transportation in Columbus. This is a position I have held since getting my B.A. in Anthropology from Ohio State University in 1978. As an undergraduate I became very interested in lithic analysis, raw material identification, and utilization of these resources in the Eastern Woodlands, especially the Ohio Valley.

During the last quarter of my senior year I managed to talk Carl Phagan into teaching me some basics of experimental lithic technology. Since that time I have pursued lithic technology pretty much on my own, reading as much as I could and bashing rocks as much as possible. Well, now I'm at the point where I think I'm finally getting a handle on the processes and integrating the technological end with my other interests I mentioned above. I have found an immense amount of help from your writings, Flenniken's, Bonnicksen's, the FE, Lithic Technology, and numerous others. Phagan also had a nice little library on the subject and kindly let me Xerox what I wanted. The more I become involved in archaeology and lithic technology it never ceases to amaze me that more people don't experiment. I know it has helped me quite a bit in interpreting the archaeological record.

A friend of mine at the Ohio Historical Center has from time to time been pulling things out of storage which were in the Lithics Lab. Since he and I are interested in the same things, i.e. lithic technology, etc., we were often discussing last year the possibility of starting the Lab up again under our direction since we seemed to be the only ones interested in it. However, the project never got off the ground because we were both so busy with our respective jobs. As he is now (his name is John DeWert by the way) moving to Chapel Hill, North Carolina to attend school, I approached the Ohio Historical Society with the idea of my getting a Senior Research Associate position and working on the Lab material and related subjects by myself. They okayed this and told me to submit a proposal. This was when I was planning on writing you, later this summer when I got set up there. Now, however, I have received a

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grant from the Federal Highway Administration to attend the University of South Carolina for one year at the Masters level studying in a new Public Service Archaeology program which was made available to people like me who work for transportation departments. So, I will have to postpone working with the Lab material until next year.

One of the people I will be working with at USC is Albert Goodyear, who I have been told studied lithic technology with Carl Phagan under you. I plan to bend his ear on the subject as much as possible, particularly on Paleo-Indian technology. Do you have any new thoughts on this by the way? If so, I would be definitely interested in hearing anything. I was working late last year on a project I was going to submit to FE but had to shelve it and I have not had time to get back to it yet. I was working on replicating and then utilizing on bone those little gravers (burins or whatever) that crop up in Paleo and Archaic assemblages. You see them often on broken projectile points. I got a technique down pretty well I thought: I'd use my pressure flaker (copper tipped), give a flick of my wrist, and pop the little spalls up and away from me. Seemed to work pretty well. When I utilized them though (on deer vertebrae), I noticed that identical spalls would pop off right by the ones I made with the flaker. Though I did not greatly magnify the spalls, I felt that I could not tell the two results apart. Of course this needs more work but I'm curious if any of it makes sense to you or if you have any comments? Seems to me that the gravers with the classic little spalls one beside the other could be produced by taking off just one spall originally because the others seem to follow the pattern right down the line.

What I was going to ask you before I took off on that last tangent was if you could fill me in on any aspects of the old Lithic Lab? What was your involvement and feelings about it? I am interested in anything and everything you can tell me. I guess I'd like to know what other people thought about it and what kind of feedback or commentary you all got on the work being done there, too. I realize that this is a rather broad question but I reckon I've got to start somewhere. Any information would be appreciated on this as well as any comments on my idea to start up the Lab again. Like I said, I don't know when I'll get to it for sure but I thought I'd ask you first about it.

A friend of mine recently spent a week up at Bonnicksen's house at a lithic technology workshop with a bunch of French Canadians from Montreal and McGill Universities. My buddy is going to work with Bonnicksen this summer. It did make me feel good though (and a bit jealous I might add) because I got him interested in technology last year when he worked for us.

Well, I guess I've taken up enough of your time by now. Once again, thanks for the return note and thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



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