

November 29, 1976

Dr. Richard A. Gould  
6109 A Summer Street  
96821

Dear Dick and Betsy:

My many thanks for your sympathy at this time of sorrow, it is only because of friends like you that make things bearable. You and Betsy were much like Evelyn and I, you did everything together, I am so glad we did as one can think back over the good times and delightful experiences we had. One of the highlights is our wonderful trip to Hawaii. You both couldn't have done more. Some day I hope to repay your kindness. Junius has both called and sent such a warm letter of sympathy.

Our last trip together was to Belize in the later part of April. She became ill the day we left. While there I had the good fortune of being able to see the remnants of a remarkable adz manufacturing sequence including the multiple sharpening technique. There literally tens of thousands of sharpening flakes. They were sharpened by removing a single curved transverse flake transversely from one margin to the other and alternating sides as the adz was resharpened. Upon becoming dulled from use the use edge was made uniform by percussion flaking the margin so that the resulting sharpening flake would be of the desired thickness and regularity and at the same time remove all use scars from the ventral side of the adz. None of the adzes bore any evidence of being ground. The technique was also applied to obsidian pressure blades and the miniature sharpening pressure flakes correspond to the adz flakes. In this way a pressure blade could have its tip sharpened many times or until it became too short to hold. I have wondered if you and Pat had observed this technique in Hawaii?

I do hope that you and Betsy can pay me a visit when you go on your sabbatical, it sounds like an exciting adventure and we know it will be most rewarding.

I would like to be able to tell you something about future plans and particularly about meeting with Paul Cleghorn. I must have surgery done in the very near future. It will be abdominal, doing bypasses from the aorta to both femoral arteries. Looks like I will have to make some more obsidian blades, after the chest surgery I'm getting a little tired of this kind of experimental archaeology, looks like there is only one experiment left and that is to remove the still beating heart. Last year I was asked to attend the Washington State field school on lithics in June and if things go well maybe again this year. I will enclose the brochure and Paul may like to attend and we could see each other at that time. Jeff Flenniken is very competent and dedicated, I'm sure that Paul would find it a rewarding experience.

Thanks so much for everything both now and in the past.  
With warmest personal regards,

Don Crabtree

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