Dear Don:

Just feel like writing you, Don, nothing of importance, just feel that way. And to express my hope and assurance that all is well with you after the operations - Marie said you had come through beautifully. Good news to me and your other friends.

Remember the fine "evallois flake tool you sent me to use on wood?

And that I couldn't bear to use such a beautful thing that way, and that I dulled the edge and made q bola out of it? Well, I was never satisfied with the bola tips, which were very plain. So the past few nights and Sunday I ve made a pair esepcially for the flake, Elaborate ones, with ball trim, ball trim

and a hemisphere on the bottom, with an obisidan, gold—sheen—bulle\* obsidian cabochon set in it. Looks very good, and almost — but not quite—measures up to the artistry you displayed in the flake tool. Thank you, sir. It means a lot to me.

How long does it take for the pain of loss to ease? You have eight months more experience than I. After three months, it seems as keen as ever, more so, in fact. And I find myself grieving at the oddest moments, triggered by a sound, a motion, an odor, or a context. Nothing to do but tough it out, but its hard, isn't it, Don? And her poodle died two weeks ago, too.

Well, anyway. My men are buying the backhoes and going into business for themselves, after a year of renting them from me and learning some of the ropes. That leaves the concrete business to dispose of, and I have a mighty good man, who wants it, and who I hope will and can take it this winter. Combination of time payents and SS should enable me to concentrate on archeological writing, and maybe even some field travelling. Hope so.

Dom, best of it all to you - and I hope you'll be coming down. If you can stand a boar's nest, you have a warm elcome, bed and beans here whenever. As you ought to know without being told.

Suerte, amigo,

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AND

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Lette

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