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Kimberly, Idaho 83341  
Oct. 12, 1967

Dr. W.N. Irving, Head  
Western Canada Section  
Archaeology Division  
National Museum of Canada  
Ottawa, 4, Canada

Dear Bill:

Just received your letter of Oct. 3rd and was so very glad to hear from you. I will be delighted to examine the Eskimo flakers and shall attempt to make replicas, as I am sure their design and development would have many advantages over the use of a simple file handle.

Francois Bordes has been with me for fifteen days and just left for Pullman - then to Berkeley - then to Los Angeles to pass his opinion on the Mannix site near Yermo, Calif. During his visit we had a great time experimenting with various phases of stone working. It was simply great to be able to work with some one with such a profound interest. However, the days went too fast and it made one aware of the need for years of additional experiments. We worked mainly on blade making and bifacial artifacts, using a variety of tools and methods - including direct percussion and a number of indirect percussion techniques.

I am more than interested in your finds in the Yukon. You must have had a very interesting Summer. I just missed Rob Bonnichsen and the Bryans when they were here three weeks ago so did not get to discuss Rob's experiments in the manufacture of bone tools. It has been some time since I talked with him and offered to make stone tools to use in forming bone, but understand he will be here November 1st to work with me for the coming year. If there is any information I can pass on to you - will send the notes.

George Miller at Idaho State University has found some very exciting finds in the asphalt pits of Rancho La Brea. Not one, but many bones which has been incised by parallel deep grooves and the holes in the long bones of extinct animals, including the Smilidon. He has also made a study of the bone breaks made by large carnivores in the Zoo for comparison. I just sent him a collection of stone tools so he can experiment in replicating the markings. The cuts generally have one edge at right angles with the opposite edge of the cut at a low angle. I have told him of your find and he is most anxious to get in touch with you. Like you, he is moving cautiously, as his dates are in the neighborhood of thirty thousand years. Bordes examined these bones and could not think of anything in nature that would duplicate such markings. So far, I cannot come up with any explanation other than they were made by man, for intact sabers of the extinct cat cannot be properly tilted to replicate such a mark. Miller has casts of some of the bones and he may send them for your inspection. I would be most interested in your opinion.

Again, thanks for sending the specimens which I should receive soon.

Very sincerely yours,

Don E. Crabtree

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