

June 14, 1969

Mr. Don Crabtree  
Route 1, Box 39  
Kimberly, Idaho 83341

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

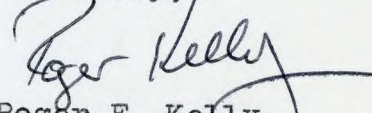
Under separate cover I am sending a few small nodules of obsidian from the Flagstaff, Arizona area which I mentioned to you while you visited Tucson and the Department of Anthropology a couple of months ago. Perhaps you may find them useful for comparative work or study. They are from a "cinder cone" called Government Mountain, some 16.5 miles northeast of Williams, Arizona and about 17 miles northwest of Flagstaff, about half-way between the larger Sitgreaves and Kendrick Mountains which appear on some Arizona state roadmaps. Around the base of Government Mountain and on its slopes a vast quantity of nodule obsidian may be found and it is probably the largest exposure in the San Francisco Mountain Volcanic field although about 8 or 9 other sources are known.

As you may see on one or two of the pieces, flakes have been struck in testing a nodule and while I have not worked with pieces from this locality (nor has any other non-Indian I think), it seems to be at least fair if one gets a nodule without phenocrysts or flow structure lines. I plan to work some of it this summer as I suspect Government Mountain may account for much of the worked obsidian found archaeologically in Flagstaff area sites.

There has been little work on chemical composition, refraction, or actual working with obsidian from known sources in this region although there are hundreds of flakes and artifacts in the collections of the Museum of Northern Arizona from nearby excavated sites. An interesting technological study to nibble away at!

My best to Douglas Bucy and his wife Carla when you next see them. He and I worked under Joe Ben Wheat during the summer of 1960. Hope these specimens may be useful to you.

Sincerely,

  
Roger E. Kelly  
822½ N. Forgeus Ave.  
Tucson, Arizona  
85716

PS: The enclosed clipping was from a Denver newspaper - old wives' tales don't die quickly do they.

Ce.6.1.39