

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

PULLMAN, WASHINGTON 99163

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

LABORATORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

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Dear Don:

I am sorry not to have written before this; this hasn't been my year for much correspondence. As Marie may have told you, the early fall was a bit rough in spots, with some very hard decisions to make, but I finally decided to return to school and finish the dissertation. Unfortunately, there didn't seem to be any way to compromise between the thesis and living in Missouri, and Ray and I decided to go our separate ways. In the meantime, I was awarded an NSF doctoral support grant, and consequently have spent the last three months travelling between museums. And what magnificent sites I did behold! I really wish you could have been in Baton Rouge with me, to pour over the original Yuma collection owned by Harold Andersen of the Department of Geology at LSU. I spent 2½ weeks with his material, going over the 96 pieces he had from the Claypool site with my agonizingly slow (but exhaustive!) analysis, and supplemented the work with crawfish bisque in the bayous and a visit to the sites on the Gulf Coast. I also got to the San Jon collection at the Smithsonian, Finley at Philadelphia (oh, and Horner at Smithsonian), Hell Gap at Peabody, and Lime Creek and Scottsbluff at Lincoln. I also came ^{back through Boulder and} saw Joe Ben, and he loaned me the Olsen-Chubbuck ^{material} he had at the museum for a month or so. I now have to finish those few pieces, and the MacHaffie collection (almost done), and then spend a month or so with the couple hundred pieces I still have remaining from Claypool, and I shall have about exhausted the Cody/Firstview collections in North America. What a set of files I have! Now to do something with them.

I'm not sure you realize it, but the most valuable thing I (and, I think, every other student) learned from you this summer was to think like a flint-knapper---to comprehend and intuitively feel what I wanted to do with a piece of stone, and how I could go about getting that thing that was resting inside the rough nodule. I think that is the major impetus behind the Plainview article as I have finally written it up, and I hope I am reflecting your influence to some little degree. There is no way the numbers can tell you everything about a prehistoric technology; I think they are a vital method of quantifying statements of variation, and I want to use them that way, but the puzzle of figuring out a technology requires an individual mind weighing each small clue and trying to figure out how they fit together. If you would, I would appreciate it if you would go over the enclosed article very critically, and mark it up as liberally as you feel necessary, and then return it to me. The article is promised to the Texas Archeological Society Bulletin for the June issue, and should go to the editor in final form by at least mid-February. It is a synthesis of a lot of looking and feeling this past couple of years, finished off by the few weeks listening to you and Guy, and I hope will be the nucleus of the dissertation. It will be nice to finish that. I think I shall also use this Plainview system, perhaps contrasted with the MacHaffie collection, for a paper in Miami Beach in May. That would have two chapters of the thesis out of the way.

I have settled in Pullman relatively permanently, at least until I get the dissertation finished and find a job (hopefully by August), and am enjoying

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having Guy and others around to talk about rocks and the people who made them. I am looking forward to the symposium in March, and hope to see both you and Evelyn then. Marie said that Evelyn was feeling much better, as did Pat and Chris---wonderful. Will you have a chance to take a southern vacation now?

As I said, I would appreciate it if you would be very critical of the enclosed draft, and then would return it to me with comments. Hopefully, I can send you reprints of the finished product within a few months. Sorry I didn't get around to Christmas cards this year, but I do wish the two of you a very promising, fulfilling year in 1972.

Sincerely,
Pittman