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Dear Don and Evelyn:

It was so good to talk to you the other morning! You sounded busy and enthusiastic in general, which must mean that both of you are feeling well and the field school went well. I had hoped to get down there while everyone was out under the cottonwoods, but that just wasn't possible. But I will get down there in September, I'm sure.

Where to start? Even after a nice long phone conversation, there are dozens of things to talk about. First of all, I am happy that you are comfortable with the idea of a festschrift volume; I wouldn't do it otherwise. I have had written or verbal commitments of participation of 18 people to date, plus myself and Earl, so I think the volume will indeed be a reality within another year. I will write to Earl and Bill Woodcock (Academic Press) this week and bring them up to date, and then will get a couple-page editorial style sheet out to all the respondents by the end of the month. Since I have guaranteed stability here in Moscow for the next year, it will make many things easier. I am looking forward to the project, and consider it a privilege to be able to organize and edit such a project. We'll do our best for you, believe me.

I haven't said much about my summer project, since I was thinking about other things while I was in Ohio, but I know you would be interested in it. Last winter I was tending bar and waiting tables for lack of more permanent employment, and Rick Sprague allowed me to use office space and mailing services here at Idaho. In late November I was pretty disturbed about the state of my finances and future, and he asked if I would spend a couple months working for Idaho, trying to help Al Bowers finish up a Park Service report on the Anton Rygh site. Bowers excavated the AR site in 1957-1959, as a salvage project in the Middle Missouri area (the site is 10 mi north of Mobridge, SD), and had never finished the report. He is retired and in his mid-70's now, and hadn't looked at the material for years. Since I have a background in Plains archeology, particularly in the village cultures (my MA thesis on Cambria ceramic typology), Rick knew he had finally found a way to get some help for Bowers and possibly get the report finished and the delinquent contract off the rolls. The site is a huge (6 square blocks?) village occupied intermittently, sometimes for long periods, between about 1400 and 1750 AD, and the collection includes some 40-45,000 artifacts. What a mess! I spent a month on it last winter and then told Rick that it would take at least 3-4 more months, minimally, to get an acceptable report out. He found some university funds to pay me through the early spring, until I left to go to Ohio, and then the Park Service is paying my salary for the summer. I think we are finally going to have the report finished and filed by the end of the year, and the collection transferred back to Lincoln. Most of the artifacts are pot sherds, needless to say, but there are also some 8-9,000 lithic artifacts. I am most concerned with the latter, because (a) I like rocks, (b) no one on the Middle Missouri has really spent much time with them in the past, and (c) Bowers had done nothing with them except catalogue them (the ceramics had been calssified). So, I worked up a very

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brief attribute analysis form and had a student help me go through about 650 pieces of debitage from the collection (most of the debitage was left in the field), and we were able to get some quantifications coded for computer work. I know you're not terribly enthusiastic about quantitative analysis, ~~but~~^{and} neither am I if it is the only kind of work done---but it also is a help in demonstrating the impressions one gets from working with individual specimens. Anyway, I did get platform measurements, angles, flake sizes, frequency of utilization and/or retouch, and materials quantified for the sample, and have some good information to play with in the next couple weeks. And then I went to South Dakota, and looked for quarry sources, and found out I had to do a lot of rethinking about the collection! I think this funky little project will turn out fairly valuable, and a good contribution to Plains archeology in general if I can get the lithic written up separately. I have been going through the geological references, and previous unpublished manuscripts relating to archeological lithics sources, and then went through a couple other collections from the same vicinity. Most of the material is a very fossiliferous (plant remains) granular Tongue River Silicified Sediment, probably an orthoquartzite, that is very tough and very irregular. The rest is a lustrous, coffee-to-taffy colored chalcedony with some opaque whitish-yellow inclusions, and looks identical to Knife River Flint from North Dakota (quarries about 150-200 miles away). There are some other odd things, of course, including some obvious petrified wood slabs and the plate chalcedony knives, but it is a very homogeneous selection. Stan Ahler, working on the Walth Bay collection from about 20 miles downriver from Anton Rygh (site is contemporary with AR) postulates that much of the material is from the Black Hills region or western North Dakota, and hence was imported. When I was in South Dakota in June (on my way back from Ohio) I got the Highway Department to direct me to some of their gravel quarries, and then walked some farm fields and parks on my way west to the breaks of the Little Missouri. I have never seen so much petrified wood in all my life, with logs in the Petrified Park in Lemmon, SD, that are up to 12' long, 2' diameter! The structureless lumps of chalcedony within such large units are also big, big enough for some large blocky cores, and the colors are predominately the same as the Knife River Flint! I found plenty of sizable chunks of the wood, the Tongue River material, and occasional quartzites in the Grand River gravels, and the river flows into the Missouri just 5 miles south of the Anton Rygh site. I also found plenty of quartzites on the eroded fields and hilltops of the western part of the Grand River drainage. When I came back and looked through the archeological assemblage with my new information, and visual familiarity with the field specimens, I discovered that almost all my "Knife River Flint" had noticeable wood structure! Consequently, I have a relatively unstylized, very unspecialized lithic assemblage made of materials that almost all could have come from river gravels within a dozen miles of the archeological site---good information. Anyway, when I get the report finished I'll send you a copy; it's good experience to work with such different materials from a different time period, after the Paleo-Indian material. I hope to have the report ready for the typist by the end of this month, so we have it to the Park Service by the end of this year.

Once Anton Rygh is finished, the Red Smoke material is next. I now have the official word from the NSF that they funded my project at the full amount requested, and I'm sending along a copy of the proposal. I can hardly believe it yet---something I've wanted to do for three years, and it's just waiting for me now! I had a letter from Carl the other day and he is ready to go on it, and I think he, Mott Davis, and perhaps Jonathan Davis will meet me in southwestern Nebraska in late September to find quarries for raw material. We have just acquired an X-ray spectrometer here on campus, and I hope it might help us tie down information on quarry locations. The

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dominant^{material} is Republican River Jasper, that rather grainy but tough, reddish-yellow to orange material that I brought to the field school in '71. I am getting more and more concerned with understanding the physical properties of different lithic materials, and the relationship of those properties to the knapper's choices of production and technique. Hopefully, the Red Smoke project will allow me to try out some of the new techniques as part of a comprehensive analytical package. I sure would like to try and have this ready for publication by the end of next summer, certainly in clean first draft form. I think the monograph will probably be published by the University of Nebraska State Museum, since they are going to try and revitalize their Bulletin series and it would be most appropriate. It sure will be a busy year.

Did you say Rob Bonnicksen had written to you about the Calgary Symposium? I am putting together a paper on "Behavioral Interpretations from Archeological Stone Tool Assemblages," generally on the concepts and methods of anthropological analysis (using Paleo-Indian and Plains materials), and have to have the paper written by October 1. Carl said that he thought he would also give a paper, and of course Rob. Have you seen Bonnicksen's dissertation? He is sending me a copy to read, when the library at Edmonton has it available; I'm looking forward to seeing it. There sure is a lot of work being done lately!

Lucy Lewis-Johnson is flying out the last week of August and we're going down to Glass Buttes and get a truck load of obsidian---for her, me, Phagan, and maybe a few extra chunks. Carl is going to Texas about the same time and is going to try and get some Edwards Plateau cherts, and we can trade that around. I'd like to have a variety of materials available so I get some familiarity with materials other than obsidian. My new house has a good side yard for flint-knapping, so I may get my hand back in again. I sure do need some practice!

See how gabby I am! I'd better quit and get back to work on the Rygh material. Again, I did enjoy the phone call, and I'll let you know what my September schedule will be. My home telephone is 882-4806, and I should be moved by the 10th (certainly by the 15th!). My parents are coming out about the 20th with the rest of my books and some furniture (which has been in storage for 4 years), and I'll have a real house again. I will enjoy that! I have jars just waiting to be filled with new jam, and lots of new bread recipes to be tried out, plus furniture to be reupholstered and plants to be divided. Have a good late summer, and I'll see you next month.

Chao,

Duthann