

7 November 1975



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Dear Don and Evelyn:

Is it true that you are going to be up in Pullman for a week during the end of this month? I really do hope so! I do both because it means that you really are feeling better, and because I might get a chance to see you. How long are you going to be here? Is there any way I can get you over to dinner with a few other people? Nothing big, believe me, but maybe with the Flennikens and Pat Green? I would very much like to have you visit, if you could.

As my postcard indicated, I had a good time working with the Nicaraguan collections when I was in Baton Rouge, even if I wasn't tremendously turned on by Baton Rouge this trip. The material from El Bosque is certainly not obviously humanly modified---the edges have flake scars, they are not immediately local, but it will take a lot more excavation and presentation of contextual data before any good judgment can be made about the "artifacts" themselves. But they certainly shouldn't be written off right away. I spent most of my time with the Monkey Point, a collection from a shell mound site on the Atlantic Coast with associated dates of about 5000-7500 BP. I illustrated 30 pieces, and it was good experience. The assemblage is one of the most pragmatic I've ever seen, with practically no stylized tools in the lot. Most of the pieces are secondary decortication flakes from small river-worn cobbles, sometimes with retouch but more frequently with simple edge damage. There are a lot of platform remnants and ventral surfaces around, and everything I saw looked like hard hammerstone percussion over the entire site and period. I hope it can all get into print soon so that I get some visibility and perhaps more contracts.

Has Marie told you about my changing personal situation? I talked with her when I was in Boulder in October and I thought she might. Anyway, I have been spending time with Deward Walker (cultural anthropologist, Nez Perce specialist, formerly at WSU and UI and now at the University of Colorado) and we are hoping to get married next year sometime. Didn't think I'd ever do that again, but I'm pretty excited about this. I am working half-time this year, and will stay here until I have some commitments completed here and Deward finishes up some stuff in Boulder---but am commuting to Colorado for a couple of weeks out of every month or so. I'll be acquiring a couple of stepchildren and a huge house in the mountains, but with a housekeeper I should be able to maintain my professional commitments without too much hassle. I'm really excited about the man, the new family, and being back in Colorado again, though I am sad to be leaving things here just when I was beginning to build. I'm not sure what I'll do job-wise in Boulder for a while, probably work on short-term contracts for the Park Service in Denver, perhaps do some contract work through the University of Colorado, and keep up with the Paleo-Designs. I talked to Payson quite a bit when I was in Boulder in October, and am excited about being back in touch with him---lots of things that could be done. I also saw Joe Ben, and talked to Marie, and things look good all over. Now to be patient while I am still here in Moscow, get some good work done here, and begin to build at the other end.

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I have this crazy idea, especially this early in the game. Deward's house in Boulder (or, outside of Boulder) is a converted gold mill on the side of Logan Mountain, and would be a terrific place for a gathering. A sort of western American Burg-Wartenstein? Anyway, if I do get moved in there next fall or early winter, what would you think of the idea of organizing a small lithic workshop for sometime in the spring or early summer of '76, if people are interested? There is plenty room for camping out, or sleeping in the loft, and plenty of room for debitage and discussion---and Denver is pretty accessible by private or public transportation? I think Sollberger would be interested, and Callahan, and I'm sure others. Anyway, I don't want to talk about it too much because it's all dependent on my eventual move to Boulder, but I'd be interested in your reaction. If we had enough time to think about it, I might be able to find some money for tape recorders, video tapes, and the like.

Are you going to be in Pullman long enough this trip that you and I could spend a several-hours session working on your biographical data? I am working on the festschrift vigorously again, talking to publishers and money and editing manuscripts, and would like to get a draft started on the ~~history~~ biographical outline. If you could manage some free time for that (in addition to dinner!) I would appreciate it.

The snow is blowing, and it really does look like winter out there! I'm looking forward to your visit; drive carefully.

Chou,

*Callahan*