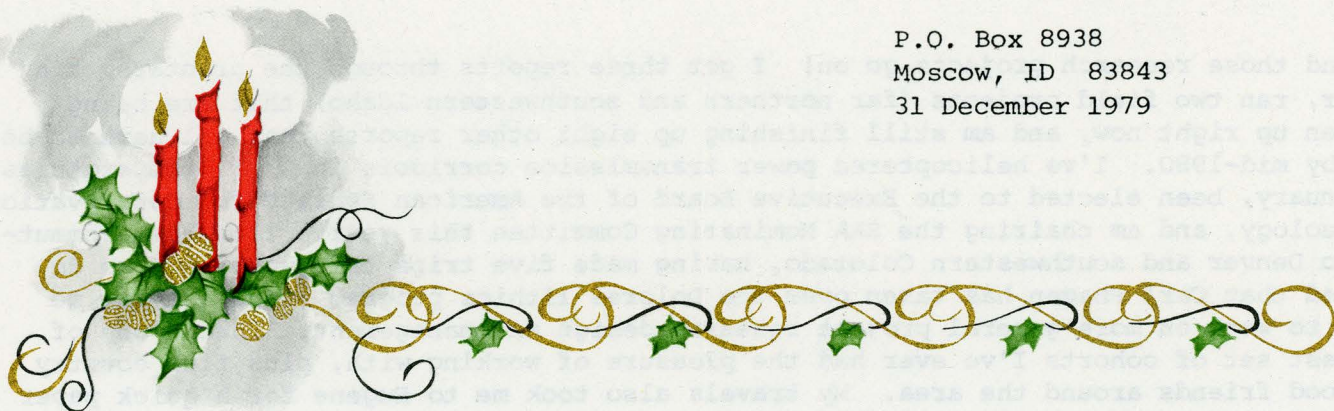


P.O. Box 8938
Moscow, ID 83843
31 December 1979



Dear Don:

Holiday greetings! It's that time of the year again when I sit here and think about what I've accomplished this past year, weep a bit about my losses and rejoice in the benefits--and lay it all on you as a way of wishing you the best of 1980 and the new decade. I hope you've had a good past year when it's all balanced out, and that you have a warm and pleasant holiday season with caring folks around you. And that if possible you aren't six feet deep in snow!

I'm still sitting here in Moscow, working away on research reports and juggling graduate students and travel and the usual requirements of an academic lifeway. I was promoted to associate research professor this past year, and my college has just approved my tenure request and sent it up the ladder, so things are pretty stable. I've now had two full years in my nice big house and enjoy it more each time I return to it--in the summer it's pretty with roses, pansies, young trees, green lawn, and fruit and vegetable gardens, and in the winter it's a snug retreat. I managed to get enough zucchini that I almost used up the 99 recipes in that little book I picked up somewhere, and my newly planted raspberries gave me breakfast treats right up to the first hard frost (in November this year!). The garage door opener, which I consider one of my status symbols, isn't as cooperative as I would like; I have a problem with low clearance and hence haven't gotten my symbol functioning yet (which casts a slight on its status value). I did get the small refrigerator in my office (ostensibly to keep project film fresh), next to the easy chair and reading lamp in the "library" alcove, so some symbols are on display. But I still work as many hours, and seem to have as many demands as I did when I was a striving junior faculty member, so there doesn't seem to be much difference with the onset of stability. Maybe that will come with the age 40 life-crisis soon?

More than anything else, for me 1979 has been the year of political apprenticeship. In March I was asked to represent the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) in Washington DC meetings with U. S. Department of Interior officials, and while there I had a week to lobby for the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (which was signed by the President in October). I also have been spending time with Senators Frank Church's and Jim McClure's staff people, and both Senators asked me to draft language that might be included in the Central Idaho Wilderness Act to protect the cultural resources there [2.2 million acres in central Idaho]. I did, with the help of other archaeologists around the area, and the staff folks did some cutting and pasting, and in it went--and the bill passed the Senate last month, and may even make it through the House this year. It's a lesson to know you can work within, and affect, the system, and I am enjoying the various Congressional people I have met this past year. I was recently appointed as Legislative Policy Coordinator for SAA for the coming year, to help draft statements on national cultural resource management policy, and am looking forward to working that in and amongst the research projects.



And those research projects go on! I got three reports through the printers this summer, ran two field projects (far northern and southwestern Idaho) that are being written up right now, and am still finishing up eight other reports that all have to be done by mid-1980. I've helicoptered power transmission corridors in 0° F. temperatures in January, been elected to the Executive Board of the American Society for Conservation Archaeology, and am chairing the SAA Nominating Committee this year. I've been commuting to Denver and southwestern Colorado, having made five trips this year, and am delighted that Carl Phagan has taken over the Dolores lithics program there leaving me freer to work on more general project research design and management. That's one of the best set of cohorts I've ever had the pleasure of working with, plus fine country and good friends around the area. My travels also took me to Eugene for a quick paper at the Northwest Anthropological Conference, and then to Vancouver in late April for the annual SAA meetings. I was privileged to serve as organizer and then host for Don Crabtree's award of an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Idaho in May, and then headed up to Red Lodge, Montana, where I represented the Coordinating Council of National Archaeological Societies in a discussion of regional archaeological problems. I also got back up into that Absaroka country in July, when I helped review the archaeological evaluation of a little prehistoric site on West Rosebud Lake, just off the northern edge of Yellowstone National Park. I took a working vacation in October, one that was busy but in the long run thoroughly relaxing and enjoyable, when I went down to Dolores for a work week and then to Tucson where I gave a departmental seminar at the University of Arizona, caught up with Australian friends who were visiting there this fall, and had a chance to wander in the desert and enjoy the 90° F. heat. And even get in some fly-fishing along the North Fork of the South Platte west of Denver on the way, and take a superb late afternoon drive from Dolores up to Telluride through brilliant aspens, have a fine dinner and wine at the Powderhouse, and go back over the pass with a full moon highlighting the trees again. Rough way to earn a living, isn't it?

So it was that kind of year--politics and lots of Colorado, many good friends around who now stretch over so many years, and a lot of good archaeology getting done in the field and lab. It had its bad times, especially when young Tommy Lesser died and I lost one of my most important people, but I guess it all evens out (and you can't do much but accept it anyway). I enjoyed showing off home and countryside to those of you who got this direction, and liked seeing new condominiums and projects elsewhere. I have a great plot for next year: to get all my report commitments done by July 1980 and then take off most of the next year to write a book on lithic studies before starting new projects. But keep Dolores, the politics, and a few other side-lines going of course (Paleo-Designs continues to hobble along, though without a lot of attention this past year). And get some sewing done, and more fishing, and help the ERA along when I can! Hope you had a good 1979, that the '80s do well by you, and that I see you somewhere along the line.

I'm off to Washington & Colorado
again -- be good!

Ruthann

SEASON'S
GREETINGS

Wishing you the very best
during the holidays and all year.

This is late, but still heartfelt - thank you for
all your sharing this year, and for your continued
support - I hope you have a fine '80 +
that I really do get to see you -

Love,
Pethann



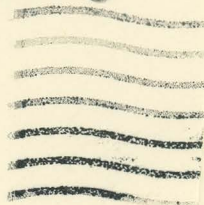
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