

Route 1, Box 39
Kimberly, Idaho 83347

Jan. 2, 1971

Professor Thomas E. Lee, Director
Anthropological Association of Canada
1575 Forlan Drive
Ottawa, 5, Ontario, Canada

Dear Professor Lee:

Thank you for your letter of November 23rd giving the report on the Calico Hills Site. I have visited the site three times and was disappointed to have to miss the conference, but my wife's illness did not permit the trip.

It has been several years since I have seen the site and have not had an opportunity to view any of the recently excavated material. The material I did see was very disappointing. I found only three objects and three flakes resembling human endeavor but they also could have been the result of natural solifluction of wet bentonite clays and siliceous breccia in movement from the higher elevation. The applied force of movement and pressures will dislodge projections, reduce margins etc. by detaching flakes. I looked - in vain - for a single accumulation of flakes which would result from modification of natural material. The surface material there is unquestionably man-made and may have considerable age but, unfortunately, the excavated material shows no signs of human workmanship.

Dr. Simpson's excavation and devotion to the work at Mannix are commendable but a technological appraisal did not indicate any repetitive intentional flake removal. If time and space permitted I could go into detail about this conclusion - in brief the pseudo artifacts showed no planned pattern of flake removal, preparation, thinning and no attempt to produce a cutting edge, etc. Based on my long years of replicating aboriginal work from the quarry to the more sophisticated types, I feel the excavated materials from Mannix are naturefacts.

Thank you for the request for the publications. Dr. Swanson is having some of the out-of-print writings reprinted and they should be ready for distribution soon. Thanks, too, for the opportunity to contribute to the Anthropological Journal of Canada. I will have to take a rain check for the time being due to my wife's illness and a backlog of unfinished business. Wish I could have been at Calico to have gone into detail with you on the signs of man-made versus natural tools.

With best wishes,

Don C. Crabtree