

Don Crabtree  
Museum Director  
Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

My name is Doug Lindsey and I am a graduate student at the California State University at Sacramento. I'm doing my grad work on the Warner Mountain Obsidians using the non-destructive neutron trace element analysis. I'm also what you might call the resident flint knapper for the Archaeology classes.

I have been flaking on my own for the last four years and have become fairly proficient at producing well made projectile points, knives and the like. Yet there is one process that has eluded me for far to long and I felt that if I were to ever overcome the problem then I had better write the man who knows the score. So sir, I turn to you for some aide in this perplexing problem that I have. It entails the process of parallel flaking. I'm not sure what it is that I am doing wrong but the flake spalls that I get do not range the whole width of the blank.

Personally I think it is because of the method in which I hold the blank in my hand but then mayby not. My theory is that when pressure is applied to the edge of the blank, the lines of force are not able to travel the width of the blade, because they are absorbed by the palm of my hand or the leather pad which I use to keep from getting cut. I feel though the process is similar to that which is employed in the production of the nipple for the removal of the channel flake on the Folsom points, or at least some form of similar preliminary steps. If I am on the right track then fine, and I hope you will be able to explain what it is that I am doing wrong along these lines. If on the otherhand there is an entirely different process then I would be highly appreciative of your time in correcting me and allowing me the chance to carry on the study of Lithic production. Both for my own pleasure and for the benifit of the students in archaeology here at our school.

For quite some time now I have been an ardent admirer of you and your endeavors. I've seen several of your films through the University of California at Berkley and have read through several of your writings. I must admit I am duely impressed with you and your work. During the last three years I have wanted to correspond with you but was never able to bring myself to doing so for fear that I would never hear a reply from you. I suppose this fear rested in the fact that I felt you would think I was just some crank or pot-hunter or whatever went through my mind. Perhaps it was just the fact that I was not a professional at the time and feared for this. At anyrate I've overcome this childish attitude and hope that in the future we can become friends through our interest in the techniques man used in his range for survival. I hope too, that we can correspond more as time goes on. One last area of appreciation to you, and that is your summer 'Flint Knapping' school, it surely is a needed area in the analysis of the

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evolution of man. I hope that soon, I too, will be able to take advantage of the program and of your valuable knowledge in this realm.

Most Greatfully Yours

*Douglas J. Lindsey*  
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