



Idaho State University
POCATELLO, IDAHO
83201
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Museum

Dear Don,

Since the flintknapping school, the summer seems to have gone so fast. The trip to Glass Buttes was very successful. With myself and a crew of three, we were able to do the work in a little over a week. On the top of the ridge where the heavy concentrations of flakes are, one square (one m. by one m.) was collected all the way down to where the flakes stopped. This was about 80 - 90 cms. Every piece of stone was saved from this pit--even the ones which were pretty obviously unworked or naturefacts. Then, in an adjacent one meter square pit I collected flakes selectively in 10 cm. levels. I tried to pick out those which were fairly representative of the total sample. Of all the flakes I examined, very few could be considered blades, I think. I was also looking for possible cores, but found none in either pit or anywhere on the surface. With all those starch fractures so common at this site, I wonder why some of them would not have made good cores, as some of them are so symmetrical they would require minimal preparation. Anyway, I was also keeping an eye out for small pressure flakes, and again I don't think they were present. We did find quite a number of biface fragments, mostly from surface collecting, but one or two were excavated. One specimen is nearly whole. I talked with a pothunter camped near our spot who showed me what he'd picked up in the week--at least 4 dozen biface fragments and several whole pieces. He also had an obsidian point, pressure flaked, but wouldn't say exactly where it came from. It was the smoky black kind, with no red or brown to it.

On the lee side of the ridge at the base of those basalt cliffs we sunk four one meter square pits, looking mostly for datable charcoal. We found none, but in two of the pits we did find what looks like Mazama ash, at about 50 - 60 cms. In these two pits, no chips lay underneath the ash layer. I'll send the ash samples out for positive identification.

Neither the BLM nor the USGS have topographic maps of the Glass Buttes area. I got only a very rough, small scaled one which doesn't show much. However, the lady in the BLM office in Portland gave me the address of a branch of the Dept. of Agric. which is supposed to have aerial photos of this region. I wrote them this morning so should hear in a week or so.

The question now is where should I go next. I have those two boxes of collections from Battle Mt. and Spanish Diggings, but I don't know whether I should try to make this some kind of a comparative study, taking quarry sites from a wide spread of the West or if I should try to limit it to only the reconstruction of what sorts of manufacturing methods were going on at Glass Buttes. I have also talked to Ruthann, and she has the material from a quarry site in Montana.

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Museum Do you recall Al Waibel, the geologist who visited the flint-knapping camp during July? He gave me the name of an archaeologist who did a thesis on a quarry 4.5 miles south of Reily, which is about 26 miles east of the Glass Buttes turnoff. I have written to this John Atherton (at University of Portland now) requesting his thesis, but have not heard from him yet.

If it's convenient for you and Evelyn, I'd like to show you the things I brought back from G.B. sometime soon. If you're going to be coming through Pocatello sometime in the next few weeks that would be good, or if not I can bring some of the things to Twin and see what you think about them. I just feel that I've gotten to the point where I need some help and guidance. I'll call you during the latter part of next week to try to arrange something.

Meanwhile I am keeping busy with trying to get the glossary ready for press. Guy left a list of terms which still need illustrations, so I'm working on some line drawings now. I'm also ready to start reading or helping in any way with your papers. I'll be in touch with you next week. Hope you both are feeling well.

Chris