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Oct. 15, 1975

Professor Lorena Mirambell
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Departamento de Prehistoria
Moneda 16
Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico

Thank you for your letter of Oct. 6th and, yes, I certainly do remember you and the kindness you extended to me during my visit to the institute. I am also very much aware of your work with Denise and Francois Bordes and your many contributions to the profession. I agree with you that the material from the Tlapacoya site is very difficult to analyze, for I found it hard to differentiate between nature facts and man-made tools. However, there are subtle signs that a flintknapper can usually discern.

In answer to your request to spend some time here studying materials and techniques, I regret that I can not work with you at this time. In the past month I have undergone three major surgeries and am still unable to get back to my flintknapping. My doctor informs me that it will take at least another month before I regain my strength and allow the scar tissue to heal to alleviate the pain. Also, I am no longer associated with Idaho State University. I am sure you know that Dr. Earl Swanson died on Easter Sunday and after that things began to go to pot at the university. As a result, I did not renew my grant and am no longer associated with the institute other than as a research associate.

However, I do have plans to work with Washington State University at Pullman, Washington when my health permits. They now have a fine young man there in charge of the lithic lab - Mr. Jeff Flenniken. He is a former attendant of our summer field school and a brilliant flintknapper and typeologist. Also he has all the facilities at Pullman that we did not have at I.S.U. I am sure he would consider it an honor to work with you on your project. If you do decide to visit him at Pullman, I would hope to be in better health and able to fly up to W.S.U. and work with you and Jeff. Or, perhaps you and Jeff could arrange to drive down here for a few days. Jeff is every bit as good a flintknapper as yours truly and I do not hesitate to recommend that you work with him.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jeff - who has told me by telephone that he would welcome your visit - and am sure you will hear from him soon.

Please give my regards to Jose Lorenzo and I will hope that time will permit me to work with such a fine technologist as you.

Yours sincerely,

Don E. Crabtree

cc-Jeff Flenniken

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