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August 15, 1973

Dr. William J. Mayer-Oakes
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P.O. Box 4549
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Dear Bill:

Sorry I missed your call and was late receiving your letter. Have been with Larry Agenbroad at the Hudson-Meng site where I not only had the chance to view the bison bones in association with finely worked stone tools but also the added bonus of a visit with Wormington, Shutler and Haynes. The site looks like a ten year project if it is completely excavated.

We had hoped that you would find the time to visit our field school this year and would have welcomed your presence. I had a fine group of students who surprised me with their ability to learn so quickly. Outstanding were Jeff Flemmiken of Iowa State University and Are Tsirk of New York University. I am enclosing herewith their respective reports on the field school and think you will find them of interest. Perhaps you might want to incorporate some of Tsirk's remarks in your Scientific American article. Tsirk is Estonian and a fine technologist who is going to give Spaeth and Mueller-Beck a run for their money. You might wish to contact him and his address is 425 E. 79th St., New York, N.Y. 10021. I was amused and complimented by his remarks in a personal letter to me saying "Evaluating my stone tools before and after the school I now classify those done before the school as B.C. - before Crabtree and those done after the school as A.D. - After Don. It is rewarding to think I have helped someone so eager to learn.

Bill you have written a fine article and I am honored to be included. I can only suggest a minor change on Page 9, first paragraph. Following is a suggested rewrite.

"Don why are you moving your fingers under the biface like that?" "Why, that is to 'feel' the surface on the blind side - I control the dimension of the proposed flake by the surface conformation, and it is important in controlling the width and length of the flake. A flat or plane surface allows the flake to expand while a ridge will restrict the expansion and cause the flake to be narrow. At the same time I also use the tips of my fingers as position indicators so I know where to aim the next blow as well as provide alignment of the blow with the next guiding ridge. Also, the supporting fingers dampen the blow and prevent breakage from shock".

It is, indeed, an honor to be asked again to appear at the Texas Archaeological Society meeting. I shall always remember the red carpet treatment from James Word and the society. Regretfully I must decline the invitation and opportunity. Previous commitments will not allow time for a visit to Texas. I send my profound thanks to Mr. Word and the members of the society for this consideration.

Again, thanks for including me in your article and still hope you can pay us another visit in Idaho. Much luck with your fine paper.

Your friend,

Don E. Crabtree

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