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Memorandum: Objects for Museum purposes

Russell L. Mahan

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UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIORief Ranger

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

FRUITA, COLORADO

Files

Superintendent Ass't. Sup't.

Chief Clerk

Forem.

August 6, 1952

Memorandum

To:

Coordinating Superintendent, Mesa Verde Verde skull is old

From:

Superintendent, Colorado

Subject: Objects for museum purposes.

Supervisory Ranger Fitch was approached on August 2 by a Mr. A. G. Fritzlen of Appleton, Colorado who has various objects of historic and scientific interest which he wishes to donate to this area for museum display.

During this conversation, Fitch did not learnwhat all Mr. Fritzlen has, but two pieces were mentioned which we feel might be of interest. One is a buffalo skullin which are embedded two flint spear points and the other an elk skull containing an arrow head. Both of these objects are very old, and were found personally by Mr. Fritzlen while on cattle roundups many years ago. He claims to have unearthed the elk skull in the floor of a cave under some four feet of dung and debris.

Fitch questioned Mr. Fritzlen in an effort to determine if any of the points might be Folsom type but apparently Mr. Fritzlen is not familiar with the difference between these and ordinary arrow heads and could not say for sure which kind were in the skulls.

As you know, we do not at present have storage space for this type of material but at some time in the future we may have a museum in which such objects would have a real value.

Mr. Fritzlen is nearly 80 years of age and is quite angious to place this material in the hands of someone who will see that it is properly cared for. We, therefore, are wondering if it might be possible for one of the museum staff from Mesa Verde to visit Mr. Fritzlen to determine what he actually his way its possible value to us.

Russell L. Mahan Superintendent

Linder Pose

Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

August 13, 1952

Memorandum

To:

Superintendent, Golorado National Monument

From:

Superintendent, Mesa Verde

Subject:

Objects for museum purposes.

The objects which Mr. Fritzlen wishes to donate to the Monument, as reported in your memorandum of August 6, sound most interesting and the proposition is certainly worth following up.

There is not one chance in a million that the flint points are of Folsom or some other ancient vintage but that remote possibility should be investigated. Even though they are not ancient the two skulls with the embedded points would have definite display value. Such objects are rare and every effort should be made to get them.

There is a good possibility that Mr. Watson will visit the Monument before or just after Labor Day. However, since Mr. Fitch has already talked with Mr. Fritzlen we would suggest that he make an effort to determine what else is in the collection and encourage Mr. Fritzlen is his desire to contribute it to the Monument. It would be proper to accept objects we do not care for expecially in order to get the two skulls.

You can accept such articles, either as outright donations or as indefinite loans, but the latter condition is not desirable. The only restriction is that we can not guarantee that all objects will be displayed at all times.

We feel it is most desirable for Mr. Fitch to contact Mr. Fritzlen again and make every effort to obtain the specimens. If Mr. Watson comes up he will help in every way possible.

