

254 Dillon
Houston, 17, Texas
30 August 1953

Dr. H.B. Stenzel
Bureau of Economic Geology
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

Please forgive me if this letter gets a little rambling for there are several points I want to discuss with you. I was sorry to miss ^{you} in June when I was fortunate enough to spend part of two days in the Bureau and "Off Campus". With the acquisition of a microscope I have become interested again in micropaleontology. I've collected surface samples from Kta and Kna outcrops on Onion Creek and the Manor road in Travis County, and Kna from the Corsicana Clay Pit, and some upper Midway from Foggy Head Creek, and Corsicana Reservoir.

I am enclosing a simple plat of a road cut on the Richland-Streetman Highway 75. I do not have a Bureau number for this locality and would appreciate it if you would check your location file and send me a number. *Should I send you a sample?*

Now I have four good samples from upper Midway (Wills Point) and have picked fauna slides from each. I have recognized just about 100 species from these samples. For the identification I am of course using U.T. Bull. 2644, but recently have received a copy of USGS Prof. Paper 232 which is Cushman's compilation. Frankly, Dr. Stenzel, I am more "at sea" with Cushman than I thought possible. A detailed inspection of this publication reveals many "slips" or lapses which are of graver concern than clerical errors that are likely to be found in any publication.

One such incidence is the case of *Ammodiscus* cf. *A. cretaceus* (Reuss) vs *Ammodiscus incertus* (D'Orbigny). Cushman in Prof. Paper 232 writes, "Specimens were found only at station 42 (HJP's sta. 23) and may possibly be reworked from Upper Cretaceous deposits. One of the specimens is figured. The forms figured by Mrs. Plummer as '*Ammodiscus incertus* (d'Orbigny) (Texas Univ. Bull. 2644, p. 63-----) are probably the same as the forms here referred to *A. cf. A. cretaceus*."

Mrs. Plummer's distribution chart lists *Ammodiscus incertus* as being Very Common at her stations 9, 10, 17; and Common at stations 11, 12, 28, 50. I have found them common at station 23, which is Cushman's station 40. My question is-- does he list in his list of occurrences found at the foot of

each species' description only the occurrences he and his staff have personally checked?

His list of localities are confusing because he lists Wills Point formation, Wills Point formation-Mexia member, Kincaid formation, and finally Midway Group in which he lumps everything from Littig member through Kerens member. This is hard to understand because Cushman has long been recognized as the "Big Chief Splitter" of micropaleontology. I am not being disrespectful.

Now that I've started working with Midway Foraminifera, I am a little concerned with the question "So what?". Do you have any research problems on this line that need to be worked on? I want to register for a graduate course in Micropaleontology at Univ. of Houston this fall, but my experience with U of H is that they prefer being told, "I want to work on such and such a problem" rather than being asked, "What shall I do?"

What do you know about faunal changes in downdip Midway? Would it be worthwhile to try to describe samples from wells drilled through the Midway? Or should I just mark my recent work up to experience and try to describe samples from some lower Gulf Coast well that probably didn't get out of the Miocene at 14,000 feet? I need some advice..... and I like Midway. (could that be because I was born and raised on the Kerens member?).

I do hope you will forgive this informal discussion. Do you get to Houston very often and would it be possible for me to talk with you sometime? I doubt that I will get to Austin soon, perhaps during the Christmas holidays.

Say hello to my Bureau friends and if you have time, share this with Josephine and Dr. Lonsdale if you think they would be interested.

Sincerely,

Gene Ross Kellough