

February 26, 1962

Dr. A. Myra Keen
School of Mineral Sciences
Stanford University
Stanford University, California

Dear Dr. Keen:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 6, 1962. If conditions permit, I shall be glad to meet with your students. However, I hesitate to make a definite commitment so far ahead; there are too many uncertainties to overcome.

No doubt, you received Norman Newell's 2-page letter of February 5 and his enclosed review of the classification of the Bivalvia. This letter raises several questions, of which I would like to discuss only one at this time. It is the question of superfamly endings; shall it be -oidea or -acea or -iceae? Anyone who has tried to teach paleontology to young students is aware of the difficulties confronting the teacher and the students. Students are generally repelled by the great amount of memory work involved. Anything that would reduce memory work should be welcome. It is my opinion that the ending -iceae is more helpful than the other endings, because it falls into an easily remembered series of -iceae (superfamily), -idae (family), and -inae (subfamily). The ending iceae is also correct Latin (or Greek). I hope you will see your way clear to write Newell in favor of iceae.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:ed

Shell Development Company
Exploration & Production Research Division