

F. Stearns MacNeil

May 14, 1957

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June 2.

Dear Henryk:

I was surprised and most sorry to hear that you had a heart attack in February. News seems to trickle into Denver very slowly and some of it never. Take care of yourself and you may live to be a hundred yet, but I agree with you, - you shouldn't think of retaining a trouble-shooting job like the one at Houston. There are too many things you can and should do in a leisurely fashion and lots of good opportunities for you to do them.

You probably have not heard that I am moving to our office at Menlo Park, Calif., in the late summer or fall. The move has been cooking for some time, but I have just recently made up my mind. I am working on Alaskan Tertiary fossils most of the time now, and I feel I ought to be near the Alaskan Branch headquarters and have easy access to the large collections of west coast fossils at Stanford, the U. of Cal, and the California Academy.

I have all of the Tertiary fossils the Survey has ever collected to work up, most of it never touched except for preliminary lists made by Dall. I really have enough work to do for the rest of my life on that alone. However, I still feel that I should finish the Oligocene mollusks that I started before the war.

Henryk, in connection with the Oligocene, I am wondering if either you or Vokes would be interested in doing the pelecypods. I want to do the gastropods, especially since I have them about a third done, but this big Alaskan assignment makes it extremely doubtful if I will ever do the bivalves. If you think you would like to, or would have time to I would be most happy to turn them over to you. If not, and you see Vokes in the future, would you mind sounding him out on them? I can arrange to lend you or him all of the large collection I have, which is unquestionably the best collection of Oligocene fossils in existence, and I can arrange to have the report published as a U. S. G. S Professional Paper to accompany the gastropod paper.

Right now I am working on a large monograph of Neptunea. The Alaskan collection contains many new types, and I think I can demonstrate the evolution and relationships of the very bewildering number of Quaternary and Recent species. The whole key is in our Alaskan collection, since that seems to have been the point of origin for them.

Oh yes, I am planning to be married again this summer - before going to California.

I sent off the paper on the fossil gastropods of Okinawa. It was my biggest job. Over a thousand pages of manuscript and 19 plates covering 333 species. However, the Oligocene gastropods will also be about that size.

Sincerely,

Stearns