

April 9, 1949

Mr. Lloyd W. Staples
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Mr. Staples:

The abstracts of the papers to be given by the Cordilleran Section have just arrived here, and your paper was noted with considerable interest. The pseudomorphs similar to those you describe are known from Texas fossil wood and were described by F. A. Burt, *Capsular silica*, *Am. Mineralogist*, vol. 14, no. 6, pp. 222-226, 1929. In this paper Burt states that the cubes are replacements after pyrite probably, but when he was writing the paper he thought of halite. If my memory is right, I talked him out of the halite idea because I could not see how halite got there in the first place, that is, underground in the presence of groundwater.

Similar pseudomorphs after a cubical mineral on fossil wood are on exhibit in the British Museum. They are from Transylvania and are explained as pseudomorphs after fluorite.

The question that interests me is: Are the Texas pseudomorphic cubes after halite, pyrite, or fluorite? It ought to be possible to find out. Would you be interested in seeing some Texas material?

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel
Geologist

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