

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

June 16, 1946

Dr. H. B. Stenzel, Geologist
The University of Texas,
Bureau of Economic Geology,
University Station, Box B,
Austin 12, Texas.

Dear Doctor Stenzel:

Thank you so much for your letter of June 10th, just forwarded from New York.

Doctor Simpson very kindly called my attention to this beaver material, soon after your New York visit in January. The press of work there before returning to Lincoln at the end of January, and a heavy teaching-research load this past semester, have prevented me from contacting you or Doctor Turner concerning these specimens before now. I had read your several papers and another one by Hesse even before Doctor Simpson spoke of the material to me, and I consider these discoveries in the Texas Coastal Plain to be of paramount importance in correlating the continental and marine sections in this country as well as with Europe. I would deem it a great privilege to be allowed to study the beaver specimens from Burkeville and adjacent localities, and to include a report on this material in the general revision of the fossil castoroid rodents (beavers) which I am now finishing.

There are some rather interesting tie-ins between the Gulf-and-Florida Coastal Plain sequence and the Nebraska-Wyoming continental sections already possible in the Middle-Upper Pliocene on the basis of the beavers, and the *Anebelodon fricki* specimen of your Texas collection. The Burkeville specimens should enable a fairly close correlation for the Upper Miocene, while the specimens described by Wood (which I have studied at the American Museum) may correlate as he suggested with our Middle Miocene. Several of the genera of beavers known to have a very limited vertical range in this country also occur in central and southern Europe (south Germany and south France) where the continental and marine sediments inter-tongue.

The ^{skull of the} excellent sketch which you enclosed of the "*Amblycastor* XI" from Burkeville, was probably identified as "*Amblycastor*" by Hesse on the basis of its rather large size. This genus may be synonymous with *Anchitheriomys* described by Roger in 1898 from south Germany, and readily distinguished from other beavers by its brachyodont teeth and grooved incisors. We now have several stages in its development here in Nebraska as well as in Germany, and it has been recognized from the Gobi (Tung Gur) and the Caucasus as well (but under the name of "*Amblycastor*"). It would be impossible to say from the sketch whether the Burkeville specimen was indeed "*Amblycastor*" or whether it is in the line of development of the true beavers. I will look forward to examining it and any other beaver and associated rodent specimens which may aid in making closer correlations.

Assuring you of my keen interest in your Burkeville problem and specimens, and thanking you once again for the loan of these specimens, I remain,
(Copy to Dr. Simpson).

Sincerely yours, J.M. Stout
T. M. Stout.