

May 1, 1969

Mr. Bob H. Slaughter,
Shuler Museum of Paleontology
Southern Methodist University,
Dallas, Texas. 75222

Dear Bob Slaughter:

Your letter of April 11 has been received, and I well remember your visit in Houston. We should have gotten together in Dallas at the AAPG meeting.

The locality I recommended to you years ago is near Burkeville in East Texas. It has been described by Stenzel, H. B., Turner, F. E., and Hesse, C. J., 1944, Brackish and non-marine Miocene in southern Texas: Am. Assoc. Petroleum Geologists Bull., v. 28, no. 7, p. 977-1011, illustr. This article will make it easy for you to visit the place and to see what in the way of materials you can expect finding there.

The fossil beaver (*Amblycastor*) skull which Curt Hesse found there was turned over by me to a vertebrate paleontologist by the name of Stout. He said he was studying rodents in particular. He never returned the specimen to me nor did he ever write me a letter. I have a rather low opinion of him, as a consequence, I now have a second specimen of the same beaver.

Curt Hesse found fragments of a tooth in the oyster bed. He recognized them as belonging to the Miocene sea cow *Dampstiles*. If you could substantiate his discovery that would be a major contribution.

There is a second paper on the Burkeville localities, Floyd, D. N., Miller, T. H., & Berry, W. B. N., 1958, Miocene paleoecology in the Burkeville area, Newton County, Texas: Gulf Coast Association Geol. Soc., Trans., v. 8, p. 157-161, 1 fig. This paper is a monument to dishonesty and arrogance. The authors wrote it by copying the Stenzel, Turner, and Hesse paper merely changing the sentences.

I hope you have good luck at Burkeville and let me know what you find out.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel
Visiting Professor
of Geology

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