

April 25, 1962

*no answer so far
June 11, 1962*

Dr. R. H. Tedford
Department of Geology
University of California
Riverside, California

Dear Dr. Tedford:

Dr. Stirton told me recently that you were at one time located at California Institute of Technology and are familiar with the vertebrate collections that were housed there. Many years ago, Curt Hesse discovered some tubular fragments of teeth in the Miocene of Burkeville, Texas. Hesse, Earl Turner, and I were then working on the description of this interesting place and we later published our findings. These teeth fragments were identified by Hesse as parts of the teeth of Desmostylus, a sea cow found only in the Miocene of the northern Pacific circumference. Unfortunately Curt Hesse was a very sick man at that time already and did not live to finish his work. After Hesse's death, I obtained these teeth fragments from Texas A & M College, where they had been deposited and sent them to Chester Stock for study. Chester too died before he could study them. Now Stirton thinks that possibly these fragments are not pieces of Desmostylus but fragments of accessory high-conical cusps of a mastodon. I have been back at Burkeville several times to collect more material, but these pieces are so rare that no additional material can be found, except possibly by washing down several hundred pounds of the matrix from the enclosing bed.

The question is have you seen this material and do you have any clues as to its whereabouts? Any information you may have will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:cd

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