

# CHEROKEE HIGH SCHOOL

Canton, Georgia

JIM H. JORDAN, Principal



July 20, 1964

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
Shell Development Company  
Exploration and Production Research Division  
Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

I noted with interest your articles (Science; July 10, 1964) and (Science; October 11, 1963) with regard to the composition of Oyster Shells. We have two species of clams living in our area, one a lake dweller and the other found in streams. The lake dweller has a thin fragile shell while the stream dweller has a thick sturdy shell. I would assume that the stream dwellers would have shells of aragonite because it would afford the organism more protection from the movement of gravel along the stream bed. However, our water is low in calcium and slightly acid and this would lead one to think that perhaps the shells of the lake dwellers might be composed of calcite in addition to aragonite.

I would appreciate your advising me of methods other than X-ray diffraction which might be used to differentiate between aragonite and calcite in the shells of mollusks.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Brooke".

John F. Brooke  
Biology Teacher