

L. H. WENTZ ESTATE  
PONCA CITY, OKLA.

M. P. LONG AND T. W. PRENTICE  
EXECUTORS

530 TEXAS OFFICE  
632 MILAM BLDG.  
SAN ANTONIO 6, TEXAS

June 10, 1955

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
Chairman, Geology Department  
University of Houston  
Cullen Boulevard  
Houston 4, Texas

Dear Henryk:

I was delighted to have a letter from you today. I cannot think of a teaching position harder to fill satisfactorily than that dealing with the geological side of geophysics. Following is my appraisal of Nugent. I have had only casual contacts with him, consisting of several short conversations. Friends who have been more closely associated with him have told me that he is a man of more than average ability. I had good reports on his work in photo interpretation during the war and have a general opinion that he is one of the brighter of the group of young men in the profession. I must say that during each of my contacts with him he irritated me personally, I think only because it did not seem proper to me for a young man to know as much as he presumed to know. This reaction does not happen to me very often and I cannot account for the irritation satisfactorily. Whatever quality of his may have caused it is probably one of those which wear off with maturity. (If the trouble is with me, I am afraid maturity will not have a chance to help much.) I do not feel that this would detract from his ability as a teacher, but I have a hunch that he might at times be hard on the nerves as a colleague.

I do not believe I have ever met Milton Dobrin. When I was working up the seminar schedule year before last, he was recommended to me as a young man who could probably fill the lecture assignment on geophysics very satisfactorily. I made some inquiries among some of the company men and all of the reports were most favorable. Altho I finally selected Roy Lay because of his SEG presidency, Dobrin seemed to me to be an equally good prospect for that exacting assignment.

Recalling our conversation in New York, I would like to suggest that you contact Olin Bell of the Humble as a man who might like to work with you in much the same way that I do at Austin. Olin will retire from the Humble in about a year and one-half and expects to remain in Houston to do some research and writing. A connection with your department might be as helpful to him as he would be to you. He is one of the finest men I have ever known, is an unusually experienced and capable geologist and has a fine military record. His work with Humble in recruiting young geologists has been outstanding, principally because of his deep interest in young men and the many years of informal effort which he

put in helping work out their employment problems before being assigned to that job officially. He would be worth a million dollars to your University, that is an intangible million dollars worth of morals, good will and inspiration.

Following the outstanding success of the professor exchange which I worked out this last year between Texas and Missouri, Sam and I are going to try to expand it into a round robin deal with several universities. The initial experiment was a swap of DeFord for Keller for about a week. According to all reports which I have had, both men, as well as the two departments, derived great benefit from the visits, and the university authorities were greatly pleased. The cost was very modest, being covered by \$200 contributions made to each institution by Ward Kelley and me. I am now trying to get one of the major companies to finance the deal next year for about a dozen geological departments, each of which would make one such exchange during the year with a designated institution. If I can get the money, Sam will take the lead in working out the exchanges. If you are interested in the project let me know and I will give you more details regarding the plan.

With affectionate regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



Ed. W. Owen  
530 Milam Building  
San Antonio 5, Texas

EWO:tl