

April 1, 1970

Mr. R.W. Sherwood
P.O. Box 1169
Washington University
St. Louis, Mo. 63130

Dear Mr. Sherwood:

Your letter of March 24 has been received and I am glad to note that you intend to investigate the Coccolithophoridae of the Weches Formation. I have spent many hours mapping this formation in east Texas and collecting fossils from it. In many places it is well exposed and very rich in fossils.

The question for you to resolve is where to sample the Weches formation and how to proceed with it. I don't think the section at Smithville, measured and published by me and sampled by Dan Feray, is the right choice for your work. First, the marine part of it is rather thin and, therefore probably does not have the full coccolithophorid flora obtainable elsewhere - wherever the marine section is thicker, fuller, and better developed. One would prefer a fuller section for your work.

Secondly, if you use samples somebody else has collected you immediately subconsciously classify yourself as a third-rate investigator. People who will read your dissertation will classify you subconsciously or consciously as third rate, unable to select and collect your own material. In my opinion you would wish to create in your dissertation the image of a vigorous enterprizing young man and that can't be done by using someone else's samples.

Mr. R.W. Sherwood

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I know innumerable excellent fresh, unweathered Weches sections that are about 50 feet thick and just waiting to be investigated. One of the best is on the Trinity River at Hurricane Shoals. At the Smithville locality the Cubitostrea liskonensis Zone is missing; at Hurricane Shoals it is present and richly fossiliferous.. Please read the Guide Book of 9th field trip Mississippi Geol. Soc., Sept. 1952, p. 15.

I propose that Professor Harold L. Levin persuade your university to set aside an appropriate consulting fee and that we two, you and I (and Prof. Levin if he is interested), go to east Texas this summer and select, measure, and sample one or several Weches sections. You and Professor Levin could learn a great deal about the Gulf Coastal Plain, the Clasborne Group, and stratigraphic methods in two or more weeks of work. It is an opportunity that will not exist for many more years -- after all I am 70 years old.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,

H.B. Stenzel
Consulting Professor
of Geology

HBS:bv