

Caracas, Venezuela  
November 9, 1951

Dear Professor-

As yet I have not been to the field. It takes an awfully long time to become settled - the people in this part of the world never seem to be in a hurry - ~~mañana~~ is soon enough. Yankees are the only people who ever get out of a slow walk. There also seems to be a policy in this country which says "always try to stick the Yankee" - so far I have been rather fortunate.

I expect to leave for the state of Barinas , which is South of Lake Maraciabá, about the 1st of December. At this time it looks as though there shall be three geologist on this party - including myself. We will work in this vicinity until about June 1, 1952, when we shall return here to Caracas and write the report. Approximately every 5 weeks, one of us returns or is due for, a vacation here in Caracas. At that time we spend a week here in Caracas - then head back for the field. I am hoping that the company will use aerial photographs for this field work - I think they have them but from what I can gather many of the streams are too small to be accurately located on the photos. I am sure that for part of <sup>a</sup> work<sup>a</sup> plane table will be necessary.

The only bad thing about the starting date is the fact that "junior" is due the middle of December. I am hoping things will work out so that I will be able to be here at that time - although I hesitate to ask favors - especially since I am just starting to work for the company. I feel sure that Mr. Jones realizes my position - and that he will probably offer to let me remain in Caracas at that time. He has visited with us - and knows full well the situation. He is a very ~~understanding~~ and considerate man - although ~~apparently~~ demanding the best from his employees - which is as it should be.

I have been reading up on fossils lately - and trying to learn as many as possible. They claim<sup>\*\*\*</sup> there are not many fossils in the Barinas area - but I wonder?

We are very happy here Dr. Stenzel, my wife and myself. I have felt no homesick yearnings and surprising to me, and fortunate for me, my wife has adapted herself very well. We both are picking up the language fairly rapidly, and have been able to make ourselves understood at all times so far. It is extremely difficult for me to see why anyone would wish to work in the U.S. under existing conditions, when they can come out so much better here - while living under better circumstances. Perhaps some day I shall awaken too late and see the folly of this adventure - at the present - after working in Tyler - I cannot. From what I know of South America and Venezuelan history - it appears to me that this could possibly be the beginning of an Industrial Revolution for Venezuela. When I talk with many of the people who have been here for a number of years and hear them describe the enormous changes which have taken place since the end of World War II; and then look about and see the many new buildings, roads, businesses in Caracas today - I firmly believe in the future of this country. As you know, iron is beginning to take its place now as a Venezuelan export. Well - as you can easily see - I like the country. My best wishes to your wife and your family - and deepest respect for you - es todo para ahora - hasta luego.

Regards,  
Bill

