

Tuesday night the 24th, 1953

Dear Doc,

Had been meaning to write you for some time, and the mention of your name as the giver of a paper at the AAPG convention in Houston spurred me on.

Am afraid that I'm not going to be able to make this convention, although I'd definitely planned to do so. I was sent back to the Jackson division only to find that I was slated to do field work in the Warrior Basin, permanent assignment to the field party beginning in early January. I'm slated for 6-8 months up here, working with Stanley Day, a long time field man imported from California to head the party. As our item is set up, we only need to map 2500 square miles before we're through, so it may take a little time.

As you probably know, we're working in the Pottsville beds, in the dissected Cumberland Plateau region. The topography gives us many beds in some areas, few beds in larger areas. And the erratic nature of the sands, shales, slates, coals, and siltstones doesn't help much in mapping. They tell us that there are a few limestone members, and some fossil zones, but we've as yet to find them. Have been doing some plane-table work--with yours truly on the board--and I managed to tie a 7 mile traverse within 3 feet vertically just yesterday, which I thought fair after a year's layoff. We are using photos for our horizontal control.

During December, spent most of my time contacting men about information on the Basin. Met several whom you know. Phil LaMoreaux, Louis Conant, John Ivey, and Miss Winnie McGlammery. They all asked about you when they found out that I was from the U. of Texas. I met John Ivey last summer in south rn Alabama, when I was catching samples on a shot-hole rig, and he certainly is a nice fellow, with the USGS Ground Water outfit, under Phil LaMoreaux. Louis Conant and I had a very interesting talk on plant ecology of the Tertiary, and he told me how he mapped the Winona in one area by the presence or absence of cotton rust in the farmers' fields. Also told me that he met an Indian who gave him the meaning of "Tallahatta." Means white rock. The things you pick up in this game.

Have met only one other UT man lately, the head man of Carter for the Jackson Division, Riser Everett. Carter has a 2-man field party up here, has been here for about 8 months, planning a well in the near future. As usual, we're playing catch-up in the area, which is keeping us rather busy, making me very happy. That state will reign until I meet some women.

That makes for a graceful entry into a new paragraph. The situation here is wonderful for a single man. One of my next-door neighbors told me that there were 23 old maids and grass widows in my immediate neighborhood, that I'd either have to lock my door or turn on the porch light at night.

However, at the moment, my spare time is spent staining and varnishing and waxing some woodwork I'm doing, a combination table-record cabinet. You wouldn't have thought it, would you?

Can think of only one thing to end this perfect example of inanity.

Do you, Doctor H.B. Stenzel, know the difference between a hen and a mailbox? If not, the answer is at the bottom of the page.

As always,

Charles Porter

If not, a helluva rooster you'd make!