

November 28, 1955

Dr. Edgar Bowles  
Dept. of Geology  
The American University  
Massachusetts & Nebraska Aves. N. W.  
Washington 16, D. C.

Dear Edgar:

It's fine to hear from you again. I see from the questionnaire you are wrestling with the problem of night classes on the master's level. Good luck to you, but you will wish you never started that plan. My experience is no student and no professor is at peak mental efficiency after 5:00 PM. There is no such thing as a wide-awake graduate group or a wide-awake experienced professor at night, and don't let anyone tell you differently. I have had graduate classes composed of successful young petroleum geologists, employed by successful oil companies, sit there like so many sacks of cement in my night classes. No man can work eight hours to make a living and then put out brilliantly at night. Let no educator tell you differently.

There is no substitute for a master's thesis done imprudently by the student, preferably based on geologic field work--where no one is around to help the student. I would never hire a geologist whose master's degree was obtained without a thesis. I understand L. S. U. still does this sort of thing, but secretly is not proud of it. As long as I am here there will be no master's without a thesis.

I am very well satisfied with my present position. It is a challenge such as I never had in my life. For the first time I am in a position to influence geological education profoundly; it is something I have been after all these years--but there was never much I could do in past positions.

Earl Turner comes to see me regularly once a year. Most of his time is spent in the Rockies on field geology. He is still the same fine person; does not seem to age.

Best wishes and success.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:lcb