

27 Vassar Street,
Garden City, N. J.

July 13, 1952

Dr. H. B. Stenzel,
Bureau of Economic Geology,
Austin, Texas

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

You will recall my visit to your office last December, when you mentioned your interest in the Vincentown formation of New Jersey, and showed me some of the fossils which you had from that horizon. Yesterday, Mr. M. K. Jacobson, whom I believe you know, and I visited the locality, and obtained a few samples of the marl as shown on the enclosed section. I have marked the location on the enclosed map, and I will appreciate it if you will return the map when it has served your purpose.

I was rather disappointed in not seeing any large or complete fossils, as illustrated in a Report on the Cretaceous Paleontology of New Jersey, Vol. IV, 1907, a copy of which I happen to have. I do not have the text - only the plates. About the only recognizable fossil I could find was Serpula rotula (Morton).

Exposures were very poor, being covered with vegetation, mostly poison ivy. Jacobson and I crossed the creek and endeavored to locate the old pits in the woods on the south side, but the only depressed areas we could find seemed to be pretty well filled in with siliceous sands washed in by the creek. Fragments of bryozoans occurred on the slopes of the depressed areas, but we found no marl exposures. A number of the old test holes were seen along the edges of the fields on the north side, and small boulders made up of indurated marl were common on the surface. I was surprised to find several acres of Opuntia in the area of the old pits on the south side, and did not realize that cactus grew so far north, but upon arriving home was able to find that two species grow along the coast as far north as Nantucket.

Jacobson found a few land snails, and later we stopped in Burlington, in the neighborhood where W. G. Binney used to live, and found numerous specimens of Cepaea nemoralis and Triodopsis fosteri, both of which were colonized there by Binney.

I have to be in Texas City on business on August 4, and later will visit my Mother in San Antonio. If I have the opportunity, I will deliver the marl samples to you in Austin. If not, I will mail them to you from San Antonio sometime in August. I certainly hope that you find something here of interest, because the samples don't look very promising to me. Incidentally, what is the stratigraphic equivalent of this formation in Texas? I presume the age is Tertiary, but why was it included in the report on Cretaceous fossils?

I would like to ask you about a gastropod which I collected a few years back at Moseley's Ferry on the Brazos, which I have sketched. Can you tell me what it is?

Perhaps I will have a chance to visit Vincentown at a better season, and I'll see if I can find some better material.

Sincerely yours,


Jack McLellan