

February 19, 1951

Mr. Verner Jones, Exploration Manager
Secony-Vasuum Oil Company of Venezuela
Apartado No. 216
Caracas, Venezuela

Dear Mr. Jones:

Thank you for your letter of February 8, 1951, concerning Bill Sharp. Bill has been my student since February 1950 and is doing his Master's thesis under my direction. He is doing an excellent job of his thesis work, and I am quite proud of the progress he has made. He has used his imagination well, has successfully tried every possible approach to his work, has done excellent field work for the area he is working in. It is an area of obscure stratigraphy and structure in the Wilcox group of the Texas Coastal Plain. The area is quite difficult but he has been able to work out structure and stratigraphy. I am convinced that he has done a good job on it. He is a good field geologist and can handle the obscure Tertiary of the Coastal Plain quite well. I am very pleased with the way he has used several different approaches to the problems and integrated surface and subsurface information.

You mention in your letter his previous low grades. These were acquired shortly before and shortly after his war service. He simply did not have the drive then that he has now, and he has plenty of it now. I do not believe these grades reflect anything serious except the condition of the times.

Now as to your specific questions. (1) He is temperamentally well suited. I have not seen him loose his temper or get impatient. He has good even behavior. (2) He is well liked by his costudents and by older persons. (3) He has been tactful in all his work with me and thoroughly cooperative. (4) Whether he is a leader or not I cannot judge, but I do not see anything that would keep him from being one. (5) He has nearly finished work on his Master's thesis. I do not believe he intends to go on with a Ph. D. I believe he would be capable to obtain a Ph. D. if need be. (6) As far as one can judge now he probably has the making of a good executive. He is thoroughly responsible, he has guts and drive.

In short, I think very highly of him and recommend him highly.

Very truly yours,

H. B. SPENZEL
Professor of Geology

HBS:ejd