

January 5, 1965

AIR MAIL

Mr. Al H. Hammel
515 Lacewood
Dallas 24, Texas

Dear Mr. Hammel:

Your letter of recent date and the two packages of fossils were most welcome. Please accept my thanks for them and your altruistic effort to help in my work. The fossils turned out to be rather important to my studies. For this reason, it would be good if you could collect some more at the same localities.

The Grayson Marl locality yielded the following species:

- 1) Texigryphaea roemeri Marcon, 1862, (also known as Gryphaea graysonana, Stanton, 1947).
- 2) Exogyra drakei Cragin, 1893.

The Woodbine locality yielded the following species:

- 1) Exogyra columbella Meek, 1876, (one clump of 4 left valves).
- 2) Ostrea soleniscus Meek, 1871.
- 3) Ostrea subradiata Cragin, 1893.

The Texigryphaea roemeri you collected is important, because the specimens show large and small attachment areas at their beaks and can be arranged in a sequence showing how the size of the attachment area affects the growth pattern of the oyster. I could use some more of such specimens, because I plan to illustrate the whole series. Could you go back to the same Grayson Marl locality and pick up as many oysters there as you can without preference for any particular shape or size, please?

The Exogyra columbella turned out to be a surprise to me. Before seeing the specimens I had not been aware of the fact it is free of any attachment and shows the prodissoconch unmarred by attachment. For this reason, I would like to have more material of this species. Do you have Dr. L. W. Stephenson's U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper on the Woodbine? He has good illustrations of Exogyra columbella.

Stephenson also described a Gryphaea wratheri from the Austin Chalk of a cut on Gaston Avenue (U. S. Highway 67), just northeast of the intersection of West Shore Drive, 0.7 mile west of the dam of White Rock Reservoir, Dallas County. Is this place still accessible? These oysters may be useful if undamaged specimens can be collected.

From all this you can see that you are making a real contribution to scientific work and your efforts are being appreciated. I am enclosing a check for \$2.00 to cover your postage.

Wishing you a successful year in 1965.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:sb

cc: Dr. Bob H. Slaughter

Enclosure

check for \$ 2.00

SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY
Exploration and Production Research Division