

Dec. 14, 1954

Dear Henryk:

Can't quite tear loose from Houston. Have many fond memories of the place, so I guess that's why I keep paying dues to the H. S. S.

This is lovely country. We are in old orchard country. To date can't complain of the weather. 40 miles from S. H., but the weather contrast is amazing. While we get fog now & then, it is nothing like San Francisco.

The office is about 10 mis. from house. Make it in about 25 minutes now but suppose it will take longer and longer as intervening areas build up.

If I spot your location correctly you have quite a journey yourself.

You may well be proud of your girls. I am happy they will still be with you awhile.

I hear nice things about the department. You must be an administrator. Good you can flunk so high a percentage. State colleges (not U. Calif.) are held to 20% I hear.

Do I understand you head out Ph.D's? Will pay \$5⁰⁰ for one. Stock wanted me to struggle for one at Caltech. Asked him "What the Hell good will it do me?" Anyway I could never honestly pass French or German. Guess I'll have to try & get favors and get an honorary degree.

Carrey there in early fall and expressed interest in U.H.

His Cloud has been here about a week. Left today. I like the little man.

I dare say Slim & Mark are getting old, as am I. I think twice before going to an evening meeting. Went into L.A. for about 2 A.A.P.C. night meetings a year. Did try to make S.E.P.M. out of a sense of loyalty.

Go to Thalmann's seminar. Rather enjoy the effervescent Swiss. Has four good graduate students. One Gap, one Austrian, 2 Americans. Church & Rungo also. Am getting some notions of the microbes I know nothing about. Muller runs one in afternoon but I haven't tried to make it.

S. Peninsular S.S. is in process of organization. Stanford & U.S. S.S. will be nucleus. Perhaps M.C. & some of the S. H. oil geologists will join in. Think they will start on a once a month schedule. Hope it stays that way. A.A.P.C. in S. H. too far away, thank goodness.

Hope Ray has recovered his health. If he grooves he should go for.

Helma smothered him and collapsed a lung early in November. Probably carrying dirt into back yard. Didn't see M.C. for several weeks. Ray showed it. Tried a week resting at home with

no results. So to hospital. A week there with no results. So they punctured body cavity with hollow needle and put on pressure pump. This did the trick. Brought her home Saturday. Have hopes she'll be O.K. in three weeks. She can move around but must take it easy.

Fortunately her mother can feed w. Gordon's I managed watching but can't say we liked it. The mother about 75 but in good shape.

I imagine Slim, Macky, Bork would accept an invitation to talk to your classes. As to Serrett, I don't know. He is a super introvert.

The situation at Coltech was ideal. They didn't know I existed. Here I am catching and shall catch odd jobs. At the moment I am picking out from the Santa Ana Mts. Compared to Gulf Coast it is sorry. Also have to work up some Eocene from the same spot. Will try to run them together. This will not be detailed like the Lodo, which must wait. Putting for a Prof. Paper on the Santa Anas.

However, I am being treated no worse than the P. & S. paleontologists. So I can't legitimately complain.

They have laid out a six year plan for me

that will take sixty to do up brown. Seems I am
to work up the Cret. in the No. Sacramento Valley
and also the San Joaquin Valley. Each of these
sections is around 25,000 feet, so just the
mechanics is overwhelming. This job should
last as long as I do.

Wish I could make P. G. Would like to see
Minsky's, not that it would make much difference
at this stage of life.

Low Price, Olin Bell, Ellison, Alexander,
Fish and Mack at the S.P.C. I still like Texas,
if not Texas.

I hope you and the girls have a fine
Autumn Season.

As ever,
Merle