

Carl Chelf 915 Keith Lane  
Austin



TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
September 21, 1948

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

Dear Dr. Stenzel:

I want to thank you again for the time you took with me and the help you gave me in Austin last week. I can truthfully say your suggestions were very valuable.

We have been busy with registration but I was able to have a conference with Dr. Hendricks, Dr. Hewatt, and Prof. Winton, and they agreed with your idea of doing my master's thesis on the silicified fauna since it would eventually be expanded into a dissertation. I hate to abandon Pecten as it was a good problem, but my specimens will keep and I can probably do a better job in the light of future knowledge.

Since my change of problem has been approved I have gone right to work on the idea. I am doing an assigned Biology problem in modern coral reefs, and an assigned Geology problem in fossil reefs. I have also started working up a reference file on Rudistids, and will try to find some material on Chama and Echinochama, Dr. Hewatt has several different species of the two genera in his collection.

Prof. Winton will purchase any special equipment I may need and I already have a carboy of HCl on hand. Today, I bought a 12 volt battery case like used by busses, etc., and it will do very well for pretty large pieces of material. I will also have the jeep and transportation expenses furnished.

Another interesting development is that a dentist friend of mine, who is teaching a night Biology class here in the university, knows of a locality near the Sparta community near Belton (where he was raised) that may have silicified specimens. He and a former teacher here (W. T. O'Gara) visited it some years ago. Fortunately, he had some of the material at his home and one piece was not affected by the acid at all and another piece was only affected very spottily. Since the only material I saw was in the museum case, I don't know much about it, so I am sending two pieces to you to examine. He says it was very reef-like in form, a "whole hill" of it. Unfortunately, O'Gara is

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now in Brazil, so I can't get much detailed geological information. This may just be an extension of the Belton rudistid reef, but it is handy having a staff member here familiar with the locality anyway.

I would appreciate it if you would send me the address of Carl Chelf so I can write to him for additional information as to the locality.

Thanks again for your help and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Matthews". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

W. H. Matthews III  
Dept. of Geology

WEM:db