

November 22, 1966

Mr. S. M. Herrick
c/o U. S. Geological Survey
19 Hunter Street, S. W., Room 416
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Steve:

The large oysters from the Clinchfield quarry are all the same species, namely Crassostrea gigantissima (Finch, 1823). This species has been found in the lower part of the Jackson Group from Georgia to the Rio Grande. It is quite near to C. virginica (Gmelin, 1791) our living east coast oyster, and may be its ancestor. It should be an indicator of brackish and shallow water.

The oyster from Griffin Landing may be same species or may be a species originally described from the Gosport Sand at Claiborne Bluff, namely Striostrea alabamiensis (Lea, 1833). However, I would not want to make a definite identification without copious material from Griffin Landing.

Crassostrea gigantissima is found in Brazos County, Texas, in the Caddell Formation, lower part of Jackson Group. I would assume the basal sand at Clinchfield is part of the Jackson Group and not of the Gosport Sand. If Gosport Sand equivalents are present, they would probably be beneath the basal sand at Clinchfield.

The oyster chapter for the Treatise is taking shape and should be ready early next year. Will I be glad!

Your fossils are being returned to you by parcel post. There is no storage room here to keep any of that material.

Best wishes and success in your interesting work.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:lh

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