

December 30, 1959

P. O. Box 481
Houston 1, Texas

Dr. Carey Cronelis
Geology Department
Rice Institute
Houston, Texas

Dear Dr. Cronelis:

Mr. Joe Scates wrote me recently that he has applied for admission as a graduate student at Rice Institute. I have known Joe since the fall of 1956, when he entered the University of Houston as a graduate student and assistant, and have kept up with his progress since then.

Joe has always been a diligent person of good working habits and so has made good progress during his student days and is apparently doing very well with the Humble Oil and Refining Company. His understanding of the problems in geology and of the methods used was very good. He has a good mind. His field work in southern Brazos County on the Jackson Group that was intended as a Master's thesis was very well done and showed he was capable of doing independent research. Comparing him with the many other graduate students I have supervised, he would rank above the average. I believe his grades at the University of Houston in no way reflect his capabilities or performance. Joe is one of the innocent victims of a deplorable situation at that university.

Joe has demonstrated good ethics and a reliable, decent character, even under rather difficult conditions. He is a thoroughly good person and I believe he will reflect credit on your institution.

My best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:nro

Mr. Joe Scates has been known to me since Fall 1956, when he became a graduate student and assistant at the University of Houston. He was a student in my classes and did his graduate work under my supervision. On the basis of my recommendation he was placed on the staff of the Humble Oil and Refining Company, at a time when openings already were scarce. I knew him well as a student and have kept up with his later progress. He has amply justified my estimate of his ability by his later work with the Humble Oil & Refining Company.

During his work as a graduate student he has shown great diligence and energy and had a good understanding of the problems and methods involved in his work. His thesis work is a creditable work for one so young and fully acceptable on the basis of performance and ability. His working habits have been very good and his personal behavior has been excellent, even under the so trying conditions existing at the University of Houston. I am convinced the grades he received at that place do not in any way reflect his real ability and performance.

He is qualified to carry on advanced study and research and has already demonstrated the beginnings of a successful career in geology. I believe he will be a credit to your institution. Comparing him with a long line of former graduate students of mine at Texas A&M College and the University of Texas he shows up well, certainly above the mean of that line.

He has my warm recommendation.