

3726 Colquitt
Houston 6, Texas
July 22, 1957

Dr. Norman D. Newell
The American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York 24, New York

Dear Norman:

Your letter of May 1, 1957, came long ago, but I never felt strong enough until recently to answer all the mail which had accumulated during my illness. You probably have heard that I had a rather severe heart attack on February 7, which nearly did away with me. Were it not for the unusual circumstance that this attack came while my electrocardiogram was being recorded in the physician's examination room, I probably would not have survived. So expert medical help was right there to assist me in the first critical minutes. I am now well along in recovering and even work for about 6½ hours a day; eventually I hope to do even minor field work.

The heart attack was the direct result of the unbelievable situation at the University of Houston. People who are acquainted only with average or normal universities can simply not understand the situation that exists there. In the past nine years the geology department there has had three convulsions, two of these long before my time. The person who was involved in all three as three as one of the main agitators was that Chinese Dr. Fan (Ph.D. Iowa). He may now finally have reached his goal, that is, to become and remain chairman. One characteristic recurrent feature of these convulsions has been that each one took place when the chairman of the department was wither very ill and in the hospital or out of town. I was at the G.S.A. convention in Minneapolis at the time. Similar changes have taken place recently in other departments too; the chairman of the Speech Department went to Mexico for two weeks and on returning found himself replaced.

In the Geology Department two of the men who were so vociferous in November and said then they would not stay unless a change in chairmanship is made left the university anyhow although their demands were met; Sutherland is going to the University of Oklahoma and Carman to some obscure place in Brazil. You can draw your w

your own conclusions from that sort of action. Altogether five of the eight staff members in geology resigned several months after Fan took over. I understand he has found three new staff members who are, I suppose, not quite familiar with the place; one of them is Jules DuBar from Southern Illinois, one of Ray Moore's pupils. I can not help but feel sorry for him, he probably did not make enough inquiries before accepting.

Shell Oil Company, Technical Services Division, has created a very fine place for me, and I have started work there already. My daughters still go to college here in Houston, one to Baylor Medical School, so I did not want to leave Houston. At Shell I am doing Cenozoic stratigraphy and paleontology; the materials available to me are very extensive and fine, chiefly continuously cored shallow core holes. Also my own fossil collections come in handy now. It's nice to be at a place where equipment is not a scarcity; that is a feeling I never was permitted to have before.

I am very glad you liked my latest publication; it took a great deal of intense work to clear up the genera and species which were described by G. D. Harris and other oldtimers so that one could be certain of the new species. The genus Pachecoa is an example. It was created offhandedly and then abandoned or forgotten even by its own author.

I am grateful to you for having pointed out some of the bobbles that inevitably will creep in. Particularly, I am sorry to have overlooked that such terms as Ameodontida were not previously published in print. These oversights are bad, and please let me assure you they were entirely unintentional. Perhaps a notice in the Journal of Paleontology pointing out the facts of the case and giving an apology is indicated. Please let me know how you would feel about such a notice.

The uniform endings of superfamilies are best regarded as trial balloons. Perhaps they will not meet with approval, perhaps they will. Having advocated uniform endings of this kind in an article in print, I could not very well neglect to use them when the occasion arose. You are right in not regarding these as important.

I hope I have not bored you with all these remarks.

Warmest regards

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel