

July 14, 1953

Mr. Neville M. Curtis, Jr.
478 Marine Street
La Jolla, California

Dear Mr. Curtis:

Thank you for your letter of July 9. The paleoecology of the Weches exposures at Smithville, based on foraminifera, has been studied by Dan E. Feray, and the results are incorporated in his doctoral thesis (Univ. Wisconsin 1948). Although not yet printed in a journal or elsewhere it is available for inspection at the University of Wisconsin.

The Weches section at Smithville has been published by me in field trip guide books (Geol. Soc. America 1940; Houston Geol. Soc. 1953). It is no longer completely exposed and samples can be had only from a few beds. Feray worked under Mrs. Plummer's and my supervision and collected samples when all the beds were accessible. In that respect at least, his work can not be surpassed readily. In addition, he collected at localities north of Smithville, which are probably not known to anyone except Feray and myself. I have plans of getting his work published, possibly in the near future. In all, I believe, his work is very good and needs no further check or revision.

Taking all this into account I believe your choice of a thesis on this subject may not be a good one. There are innumerable similar problems available in the Coastal Plain Eocene, and I would be very glad to help you in any one of them. So if it can be done it might be advisable to switch over to another place and formation.

Please give my best regards to your wife. I suppose she knows that Dr. Keumerer has been fired but still runs the place until his successor is chosen.

Sincerely,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:mh
cc to Mr. Dan Feray