

January 23, 1943

Pvt. Joseph T. Gregory, U.S. Army
7th Photo Intelligence Det.
MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida

Dear Joe :

I just heard that you are at Tampa, Florida, and thought you might want to hear the newest developments. Turner has been accepted as lieutenant in the Navy and has left or is leaving A. & M. right now. I do not know where he is going. Heese is still there but expects to teach meteorology possibly. Perhaps while you are in Florida you will be interested in seeing some of the Florida Tertiary around Tampa. There is the Tampa limestone, which at one time was well exposed on Ballast Point. There the fossils were silicified and were of excellent preservation. However, it is said that this place is now built over and collecting cannot be done any more. I am enclosing a little list of localities where you might find exposures in the vicinity. If you do happen to collect anything I would appreciate having a little of it (always thinking of myself).

Cordially yours,

H. B. Stenzel, Geologist

HBS :MJC
Enc.

"The attention of naturalists was early attracted to the excellently preserved fossils found along the northwest shore of Tampa Bay, especially at Ballast Point. The shells, which were deposited in a limestone matrix, have been replaced by pure silica, and converted into pseudomorphs that preserve in a remarkable manner the original shape and delicate sculpture of the shells. This change in composition appears to be due to the exposure of the fossil-bearing limestone to surface waters charged with silica in solution. Fossils exposed on the surfaces that are exposed between tides, in the cliffs along stream channels, or in crevices in the rock are most affected by this type of replacement; those in more deeply buried limestones and in rock from newly opened quarries are less completely replaced. Fossils that have not been silicified [silicified] are ~~preserved~~ preserved as external or internal molds."

"...Material thrown out in constructing a road near the new quarantine station at Gadsden Point, about 4 miles south of Ballast Point..."

Compare: State of Florida, Department of Conservation, Geological Bulletin No. 15, "Mollusks of the Tampa and Suwannee Limestones of Florida," by W.C. Mansfield, 1937.

(Florida Geological Survey is at Tallahassee; Martin Building, I think.)