

answered

Austin, Texas,
May 28, 1957,
Box 918,

Mr. H. B. Stenzel,
Houston, Texas.

My dear Dr. Stenzel:

Thank you ever so much for your wonderful letter. I was particularly pleased with the knowledge that you are improving and that there is a real probability that you will be getting in the field again before too long. It was most fortunate that your trouble came under the circumstances you described. I have thought about you a great deal since hearing about it sometime ago and hoped to hear that you were on the mend. So many of my friends have had similar difficulties in the past two years and some are in better condition than ever inasmuch as they now know about how much effort to put out and have gotten over the stigma attached to a short rest period during the day. Edison was shameless about short rests during the day.

Had I known you were working on the Midway, I would have taken a few photographs of the Buckner quarry northeast of Terrell. The exposures are the best and freshest that I know of. I have sent you a small box containing the crab material. I am sorry I did not take the time to collect more of it or look for better specimens but how would I know you were still interested in old crabs? Should I get around to any other Tehuacana limestones soon, I will make a section or so. I have some other pieces of the fossiliferous stone from the Buckner quarry as well as a good piece of the oolitic limestone. Of course I have examined the oolites under 10x but can't determine anything concerning them. Will send the additional material. Examine it and dispose of it if it is of no use lithologically or from standpoint of contained casts.

Also sent a small box of the recent gastropods from New Braunfels. I hardly knew whether I should send some of the large land snails that have recently invaded Austin or not. My specimens are preserved in strong brine solution. I could send a few as they now ship tropical fish over the country: put them in water and pour into a polyethylene bag, close it with a rubber band, drop bag into a small ice cream container and ship. These large snails are particularly abundant in east Austin now but Redfield has recently been finding them in his neighborhood in west Austin.

Thank goodness for the distinguished professorship status. It will please me in view of the years you spent in Austin in the shadow of The University of Texas and hardly a member of the faculty knew you were over at the Bureau so long as the faculty was dominated with 'locally trained' people. Of course, in later years when you taught in the Department, there were many stories circulating about your broad experience in so many fields, but this came as the faculty began to gain more and more men from eastern and northern schools. Of course, I don't suppose many people told you how sorry they were that you were leaving but I hated to see you go in view of the continuing need for stratigraphic and paleontologic studies. A great deal has not been done in that respect since you left. Of interest to me is the vacuum in such fields down here at present. John Brand wanted to describe my Edwards material so I turned it all over to him last year. I don't think he has time to work on it or has changed his mind. I might bundle up a series of the material for display if such material is needed by your department. But forgetting Cretaceous material for the time being, I hope to send you some Tertiary material occasionally. However, I often wanted to go to the Glen Rose locality near Bandera from which you had crinoids and I believe some crab material in order to go over the site with a fine-toothed comb for any other new things. I don't think I ever knew exactly its location.

By the way, the Smithville site has been so grown up in recent years that it is hard to believe that a good exposure was once there. The recent floods might have exposed some good material. Just think, there might be some shells at the site lying half-exposed that are a foot long! Think I'll stop by there the next time I'm through just to see.

Should I get to Houston soon, I would like to see you and have a long chat with you. Thanks for the good news.

Your friend,

Carl
Carl

Carl Chelf