

**Columbia University**  
**in the City of New York**

[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY

April 30, 1946

Dr. H. B. Stenzel  
University of Texas  
Bureau of Economic Geology  
University Station, Box B  
Austin, Texas

Dear Doctor Stenzel:

Following your instructions, I passed word around concerning the unusual opportunity of going with you on a trip along the coast of the Gulf and Atlantic states, studying megafaunas. Only one man was interested, Mr. Irving Grossman. I understand that he has been in touch with you and wishes me to write in support of his application.

Mr. Grossman is not primarily a paleontologist and has so far not indicated to me that he has intentions of becoming a paleontologist. He has not specialized yet, but is thinking rather vaguely of stratigraphy in connection with petroleum geology and possibly teaching.

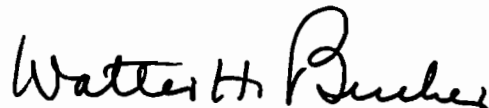
It would be unfair to you if I did not say frankly that Mr. Grossman would not be my first choice, apart from the fact that he may not put to good use in the future what he will learn with you, not being a paleontologist. We shall not let him go beyond the M.A. in this department. His general educational background and his native ability are such that he will have to go farther in his future development than we can foresee at present in order to become a creative scientist.

I am painfully aware of the hurtful tone of the preceding sentences which are bound to make Mr. Grossman appear at first sight in a worse light than he deserves. He has good qualities. He is tenacious in his efforts and very willing to work. In all work in which results can be obtained by faithful work, his grades are high, say "A-" or "B+" on the average, but when intellectual initiative and self-criticism are involved, he falls behind others.

His steady determination and desire to make good will probably make him a very useful assistant for precisely the work you have in mind. He has a real love for fossils and was the only man in my field course last year who was always collecting and shipping specimens. It may well be that a year spent with you may mean a turning point in his career. The petroleum industry needs men willing to do the steady, humble work of mere faunal identification. If you cannot find a man eager to make full use of the chances you are offering him, you will probably find Mr. Grossman useful.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,



Walter H. Bucher

WHB/mjt