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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.



DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-3140Q

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26 February 2001

Palynological Laboratories
 Department of Geological Sciences
 Pennsylvania State University

Dear Alfred:

In continuation of my resolution to be a better correspondent, I'll take the last bit of my day to respond to yours of 15 February. Thank you very much for the quick and interesting reply. In this age of e-mail sentences slung at the speed of light, it's nice to get an envelope with friendly correspondence.

Dear "violet" was upgraded to a larger machine, alas. From the practical standpoint, it was necessary. However, I miss the botanical connection. I suppose that I'm to be "Socratic", but it was nice to have a plant-based e-mail address. I would, of course, have chosen a fern, but I don't name the servers.

My Father wasn't driving the diesel when he died. He actually gave it up a little over a year ago on the thought that they didn't need two vehicles any more. He had painful neuropathy in his feet, which curtailed much of his former activity. We were looking forward to him seeing a specialist friend of mine out here (where many new treatments for neuropathy have been developed because it is a common complication of AIDS) while they were visiting this winter, but that was just not to be. Meanwhile, Mom continues to enjoy her visit, although I think she is getting a little homesick. One of her great grandchildren just passed his first birthday and she was unable to attend the party. Mom and I just finished a six-week watercolor class together. I've been painting for a couple of years now, but this was the first time I had made the time to take a class. It was such a blast to do it together. It has been a great gift to share some of these adult things with my parents. Somehow, I was the kid that got to grow up in their minds. As the youngest by a lot of years, I never quite understood how that happened, but some things one just won't be able to explain. Better just to give thanks.

It is most interesting that you ask about the C3/C4 implications of our stable carbon isotope work. The carbon isotope composition of C3 plant tissue is described by

$$\delta^{13}C_p = \delta^{13}C_a - a - (b - a) C_p/C_a$$

Where a is the isotopic fractionation due to the diffusion of $^{13}CO_2$ versus $^{12}CO_2$ through air; and b is the isotopic discrimination imparted during carboxylation by RuBisCO. C_p/C_a is defined as the ratio of intercellular to atmospheric pCO_2 . However, this quantity has never been measured directly and is usually inferred based on how much $\delta^{13}C_p$ differs from $\delta^{13}C_a$. C_p/C_a is generally thought of as some sort of summary term that encompasses the ecophysiological control plants

exert on carbon assimilation by opening and closing stomata. The idea is that under drought stress (or anything that raises water potential), plants will keep their stomata closed as much as possible. Therefore, they have a closed pool of intercellular CO_2 from which to fix carbon. Therefore, as $^{12}\text{CO}_2$ molecules are preferentially grabbed by RuBisCO, the remaining pool of CO_2 is enriched in $^{13}\text{CO}_2$. This is supposed to produce the empirical observation that C3 plants under drought stress have relatively more ^{13}C in their tissues (higher $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ value) than those that are not under stress. In the absence of such stress, stomata are open more and the composition of intercellular CO_2 more closely parallels that of the atmosphere, leading to $\delta^{13}\text{C}_p$ values that more closely reflect $\delta^{13}\text{C}_a$ values. Now, there is no particular reason why a similar process should not happen for C4 plants, except, perhaps, that PEP carboxylase does not discriminate as intensively between the two isotopes, hence the enrichment effect under closed stomata should not be as strong. However, the whole statement ("C4 plants precisely record the isotopic composition of atmospheric CO_2 ") hinges on an empirical observation (Marino & McElroy. 1991. Nature 349:127-131) that discrimination in *Zea mays* reflects only a single-step chemical reaction (slope = 1). In other words, $\text{C}_p/\text{C}_a \approx 1$. I know that this result has been questioned, although not in a peer-reviewed venue. The reviewers of our *Paleobiology* paper would not let us discuss this*. Basically, what we need are some controlled growth-chamber studies to document some of these effects specifically. In our meta analysis, we constrained to published results. By necessity, therefore, these were experiments that were designed to test other hypothesis. I strongly suspect that much of the variation one sees in these data stem directly from that fact alone. Another problem with most of our reviewers was that most had too little statistical background to understand what the meta analysis could and could not do. Therefore, some refused to accept our analysis of error simply because they could see more scatter around the line than they thought should be present given the results of the error analysis. (sigh)

However, loving multiple lines of evidence, my continuing PhD student is working on the origin of grassland problem. She became interested because of the long-standing story of "progressive" horse evolution...progression toward increased cursoriality and hypsodonty. In my classes, I hammer them pretty hard on the point that if they are going to talk about adaptation, they need to demonstrate it using one of the several schema that have been proposed to test hypothesis of adaptation. In other words, function \neq adaptation. Since there is a dearth of palynological data in association with the vertebrate localities documenting a transition to animals with higher-crowned teeth, we set about looking for another paleobotanical indicator. She's ended up working in phytoliths and her preliminary results from Nebraska suggest that grass-dominated ecosystems pre-date the appearance of hypsodonty (and the C4 isotopic signal) by a long time. As it turns out, the paleosols were giving a more accurate picture. Caroline is in Oregon giving this talk to Greg Retallack's geology department right now. She also has a paper coming out in P^3 sometime later in the year. I'll send you a copy.

Interesting that you should mention Doug Nichols. I first presented the carbon isotope work as it applies to stratigraphy at the Midcontinent Paleobotanical Conference in Denver in May 1998. Doug attended that meeting and during the question period after my presentation, he stood up, wagged an accusatory finger at me and said, "What the hell are you doing this for? Everyone knows that palynology does a perfectly good job at locating the K/T boundary. This stuff is a waste of time and money." I replied that I was interested in using pollen and spores to ask community composition and species richness questions around the K/T (we have a manuscript in review now) and that a palynologically-defined boundary would introduce circularity into these arguments. Second, palynology provides little or no resolution within the Hell Creek Formation,

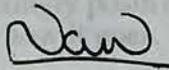
* I've realized in this little foray into isotope geochemistry that the chemists are more closely wed to their dogma than just about any group I've ever met. The story of the review history of that paper is horrific.

where we need to correlate our fossil occurrences. The next best method is measuring # meters below the Hell Creek-Fort Union formational contact, which has little temporal meaning. We had evidence at that time, and more now, that there is significant secular variation in carbon isotope values within the Hell Creek that would allow within-formation correlation. Doug turned red and stormed out of the auditorium. He didn't speak to me for the remainder of the meeting, tried to talk Kirk Johnson out of collaborating with me, and has only resumed cool professional relations after I promised never to look at a palynomorph from North Dakota. I seem to have a real knack for irritating people.

On tree ferns, we originally wanted to call the new tree fern species *Cyathea planada*. This appeared, at first, to agree in gender, so we thought we were okay. However, our resident Latin scholar, John Strother, who is an angiosperm taxonomist, looked over our manuscript and told us that there also had to be orthographic agreement between the "ea" in *Cyathea* and an "ae" in *planadae*. Terminal vowels or something...my Latin is nonexistent. I wasn't a big fan of the change because "*Cyathea planadae*" just doesn't roll off of the tongue well in either English or Español. Alas. I guess that's why I would make a lousy taxonomist. In a review of a paper I co-authored with one of my recent post-docs, an anonymous reviewer accused us of "wonton prostitution of the botanical code". He didn't like our use of the para taxon concept....or much of anything about the paper, come to think about it. However, there is more tree fern work in the February *American Journal of Botany*. I believe we are one of the "featured" articles. That was a bit of a surprise because initially they weren't sure whether tree fern ecology was *significant* enough for *AJB*. It's a solid paper, though, so I'm glad they accepted it.

All the best to you and Betty.

Best wishes,



Nan Crystal Arens
Assistant Professor
Department of Integrative Biology

Curator of Fossil Plants
University of California Museum of Paleontology

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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17 January 2001

Palynological Laboratories
Department of Geological Sciences
Pennsylvania State University

Dear Alfred:

Oh...it's true. I've become a dreadful correspondent. Thank you so much for your letter of 5 January and also for your Christmas greetings. I treasure that photograph of you and Betty in the snows of China. Interestingly, David and I were in China in August for the International Organisation of Palaeobotany meeting in Quingundao. There was no sign of snow and most of the outdoor shots of us featured a great deal of perspiration.

I am still here at Berkeley and hope to have news on my tenure evaluation in a few months. The timing of such an announcement is, of course, subject to the whims of the administration, which can be considerable. The recommendation of the Museum and Department were both embarrassingly positive, but I've not brought in as much grant overhead as some would like, so we'll see how it goes. Overall I'm optimistic.

My work in Colombia, South America, is largely on hold because of the continuing political difficulties. I never required absolute security, but things have gotten a little too wild even for me. I have hopes of going back, but no immediate plans. In the meantime, we've been developing a paleobotany/palynology program in northeastern Montana in the Hell Creek Formation. I've been collaborating with Bill Clemens here at the UCMP, who has studied microvertebrates (that apparently means anything that isn't a non-avian dinosaur...all grammar aside) in the region for about 30 years. Bill has long been skeptical of the notion that everything was rosy until that dreadful day in June, and I am trying to contribute some vegetation structure, composition, and diversity data to evaluate his ideas. As is always the case, the truth seems to be a little more complex than the theories. It's all great fun and the first papers are being submitted as we speak.

As you'll note from the enclosed reprints I've had to take a brief detour into geochemistry as we move forward with the late Cretaceous research. One of the things that has long frustrated me about the K/T boundary studies is that except in those few places where an iridium and shocked mineral anomaly is preserved, the extinction is self-defined palynologically. The palynological definition is fine, but when the boundary thus defined is then used to calculate extinction rates and such, there's an element of circularity that troubles me. Therefore, a colleague and I have been working on a carbon isotope chemostratigraphy. We're probably three years from having a complete reference curve for the Hell Creek Fm. that will allow us to correlate all of our plant and vertebrate localities, which will shed some new light on patterns of change in the latest Cretaceous. It seems to be that there were a lot of interesting things going on that may inform our thinking about the terminal-Cretaceous extinction itself. It's all great fun!

In the lab, my second MS student is finishing this spring. I have one PhD student continuing and hope to admit two more in the fall. I have a post-doc coming in the fall, who will be shared

between myself and our plant physiologist. We also have a lively crop of undergraduates. Managing the group remains a challenge for me. I continue to appreciate what a gift you have in Betty, who worked so closely with you for so many years.

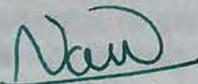
David (my husband) is well, but still working outside paleontology. He has some hope for a collections management job at the UCMP that is due to be searched this spring. Beyond that, he may consider leaving fossils for computer programming, his second vocational love.

In other news, my father was killed in a car accident just before Thanksgiving. My mother has come to stay with us for a few months in the aftermath. She is doing well, but my siblings and I agreed that a change of venue through the winter might be a good idea. Connecticut can be very dreary and a snowy winter can be isolating. We're having fun. I must admit that she has become a very interesting lady. However, this, coupled with my tenure evaluation, made last semester trying.

We just completed another round of the paleobotany course with an enrollment of 18. I really enjoy that class, and had particular fun this year discussing all the new data surrounding the seed plant phylogeny and the demise of the anthophyte hypothesis. Personally, I think there's been too much of a bandwagon effect based on a few molecular trees, but that's me. We are doing a graduate seminar this semester to look more closely at this question and try a total evidence approach to the phylogeny by re-evaluating both the molecular and morphological data, as well as, looking for more data from developmental biology. This seminar sprang directly out of our discussions in the paleobotany course, which is a lot of fun.

I hope that you continue to be well and have patience with my inattention to correspondence. I think of you both often as the materials you contributed enrich our program here daily. However, making the moment to write is commonly a challenge. Speaking of which, it's time to go meet my class (238 students in Principles of Biodiversity) this semester.

Best wishes,



Nan Crystal Arens
Assistant Professor
Department of Integrative Biology

Curator of Fossil Plants
University of California Museum of Paleontology

enclosures

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UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA
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29 January, 1999

Dr. Nan Crystal Arens
Dept. of Integrative Biology
3060 Valley Life Science Bldg.
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Nan:

Haven't heard a word from you (don't you send out reprints, for example?) in an age. Hope all is well, and would love some news. I was thinking of you because a couple of things have popped up that I would send you for your paleobotany teaching if you are still interested in such.

I am enclosing a couple of reprints to bring you up to date in that department.

It has been a difficult six months. I got my walking papers for my office space here last July. I knew this was coming, but didn't think it would happen so fast—I thought I had until the end of the year ('98) according to the contract, but it turned out that they meant the fiscal year. We had an addition put on our home in the country to provide me with a very decent office/ microscopy lab, and with the help of two grandsons I got moved into it in July/August. I also have a cubicle in the Deike Bldg. which I share with Lauren Wright (who is very seldom here). At first they said I could retain the processing lab for the foreseeable future, but that turned out to be 15 Dec. I have the use of a replacement room which will be adequate. Some of my files are being kept at our condo in State College. So, what was a year ago in rooms 435, 435A, 436, and 432 Deike is now located in four different places, the most distant apart of which are 26 miles from each other. It takes some getting used to.

At the moment I am working on a Pennsylvanian/Permian problem in New Mexico. Another project that grew out of Sid Ash's megafossil work.

All the best.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse
Professor Emeritus of Palynology

Date: Mon, 30 Mar 1998 15:29:12 -0800
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: Nan Crystal Arens <nanarens@socrates.berkeley.edu>
Subject: Re: natal greetings

Dear Alfred and Betty:

Many thanks for the birthday wishes. You did indeed get it right!

All is well here but, as you might guess, very busy. I've got three grad students now and a core of five undergraduates working on various research projects. Am also trying to get some writing done. Lots going on and nothing ever gets done as fast as I would like it. I'm teaching two seminar courses this semester, which is a nice break from lecturing. They still take time, though.

I passed my mid-career review this semester. All is well but they always would like to see more of everything. I've been recognized as a generally responsible citizen, which has made for more committee assignments than I would like. However, the mid-career evaluation reinforced that my assignments were a little out of hand for an assistant prof. and so I have some license to say 'no' and have it respected. That's nice.

All else is well. I'm enjoying married life and David is looking for more training-appropriate work in the area. He's working in a bookstore now, which is fine for a transition, but not a career-builder. We'll keep our fingers crossed and our minds open.

Hope all is well with you and yours.

All the best,

Nan

p.s. I just received a grant to create a "virtual laboratory in paleobotany". You can look for many of your materials on the world wide web in September! Who would have imagined?? nca

At 5:22 PM -0500 3/30/98, you wrote:

>Hi, Nan--

>

>It seems to me it's your birthday today. If I got it right, many happy
>returns!

>

>You sure have been quiet lately. I hope that's because of good news, not bad!

>

>We're back in PA for a while, superintending an additon to our home to be
>my home lab/office when they finally kick me out here.

>

>All the best. Alfred.

>Alfred Traverse

>Palynological Laboratories

>Department of Geosciences

>435 Deike Building, PSU

>University Park, PA 16802

>Ph.: 814-863-3419

>Fax: 814-863-7823

Nan Crystal Arens, 09:55 AM 3/3/97 , Re: thanks

1

Date: Mon, 3 Mar 1997 09:55:43 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Re: thanks

Dear Alfred: Thanks for the message. I hope you get through to vdH. I wish a lot of people in Colombia had e-mail. Unfortunately they are way behind in all sorts of academically useful technology. I can't even get a FAX through to my Colombian colleagues RE the Cretaceous so all the manuscripts have to go via snail-mail. This boils down to the fact that they have little or no input in co-authored manuscripts, which is a shame, for them mostly.

Sorry to hear of your disappointing trip to the Big Ten Tournr. Columbus is actually my fiance's home town. I'll be making my first visit this summer some time. I'll make sure to visit Franklin Park...walking distance from their house, I understand.

Busy indeed. Big midterm in Biodiversity this week, and I would rather be working on writing. Alas.

Have a GREAT trip to Italy. All the best. --Nan

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: vdH
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

Hope all goes well for you.

Jansonius and I have been wrestling with some nomenclatural problems that involve the work of van der Hammen. You may recall that he designated modern pollen as the "types" for an array of new generic names. Now a new Dutch Ph. D. is resurrecting some of the genera and says that vdH is in on efforts to straighten out the attending problems. Jan and I would very much like to be in touch with vdH to see if something can't be done to get whatever is done accomplished in a way that will not still further muddy the literature.

Trouble is that neither of us knows how to reach the man. Jan hears from the Dutch grapevine that he has a sort of nature preserve in Colombia and holds court there. It even sounds interesting enough to justify a trip to Colombia!

Question: do you have a viable address for this living legend? Better yet, an e-mail address? Fax?

Gee, I wish I could go for a walk in the UC Botanical Garden this afternoon. Here it is 19 F. Complete snow cover. Etc.

Best. Alfred.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

Nan Crystal Arens, 10:17 AM 10/23/96, Re: various

Date: Tue, 23 Oct 1996 10:17:15

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred)

From: nancrystal@violet.berkeley.edu

Subject: Re: various

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
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435 DEIKE BUILDING
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Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

Dear Alfred

27 September, 1996

Yes, the Miller is a disappointment. It is shaping up to be an active year

Dr. Nan Crystal Arens
Department of Integrative Biology
3060 Valley Life Sci. Bldg.
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Nan:

There still is occasional need for snail mail!

In the recesses of a drawer some more peels turned up, mostly (if not all) peels of coal balls you now have. I thought you could have the pleasure of chucking them, but then you may decide that you can use them for decorating a glass door, or whatnot. They are enclosed.

We leave day after tomorrow for a week or so in the Adirondacks. We'll be back in the office on 9 October.

Which reminds me, I know it's out of your hands, but perhaps somebody could say when the ax will fall on the visiting prof. deal. If it isn't going to happen, we would like to make some other plans for most or all of the winter months. The "Miller" isn't something that I am setting my heart on, but I do need to know, in order to make plans for a longish period of time. This is particularly true, because the project I propose working on requires me to make a couple of preliminary trips to collect materials for the work.

Did I tell you that we bought a condo in S. C.--just one bedroom but nice. Purpose is to have a place to crash when we don't want to fight the mountain and weather. Betty has had a blast furnishing it. It also provides a place where a person like you could stay if he/she has business in Happy Valley.

All the best. I enclose a few reprints that my card on NCA says you haven't received.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

encl.: reprints & peels

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

Date: Tue, 22 Oct 1996 10:17:13 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Re: various

Dear Alfred:

Yes, the Miller is a disappointment. It is shaping up to be an active year next year in general...such that I'm becoming concerned about desk and bench space. I have two possible new students for next year, and three folk are applying for post-docs. In all cases, much depends on funding and all are unlikely to make it, but the place certainly could be hopping.

I think 70 students in paleobotany is something of a record. At the moment we are teaching five lab sections per week with a maximum of 15 students per section. I have two TAs but neither is a paleobotanist (one isn't even a botanist) so I have to attend most of the labs. It's a huge time sink at a moment when I hoped to have more time free for research and writing.

Please give my best to Sarah Fowell. I hope she finds herself out in this neck of the woods again soon. She's a wonderful colleague.

Back to work! All the best. --Nan

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: various

Cc: [redacted]

Bcc:

X-Attachments: [redacted]

Dear Nan: [redacted]

Not getting the Miller is a disappointment, but I must tell you that it's a relief to know one way or the other. We were nearing the point of no return in a number of respects--a trifling example: whether to pot up bulbs for the cold frame for forcing. Now I can go ahead and do it.

You had mentioned a large no. of students for paleobotany before but never 70! Get the attendance sheet notarized--I am sure this is a Guinness sort of record. How can you possibly do labs in paleobot for that many?

Sarah Fowell arrives in a few days for a week. Fundy Bay work. She will be first guest in our new condo (small but nice) that we now have as a SC pied de terre. It's a 7 min. walk from this computer.

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 1996 19:03:39 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Miller fellowship

Dear Alfred: After some further investigation, I have learned that the Miller proposal that we submitted did not "fly" as they say. I'm sorry that this won't work out. It would have been a lot of fun to have you here for a time and to work with you on another project. Best --Nan

I was invited to join a recon trip to check out future research possibilities. It was a multi-lingual group (Italians, Ecuadorians, and two US). It won't be a big focus to be sure, but there's a little project there and it will strengthen collaborations with a geochronist, recently of Georgia Tech, with whom I've been working on the Colombian Cretaceous. This was supposed to have been VCW's role and it turns out there are some interesting results.

Thanks also for the peels and reprints. I'll luck the peels away for future uses. All but one of the reprints I've already read via a Xerox, but reprints are a wonderful courtesy.

Hope you all enjoyed your trip and haven't been bombed by any of the Nor'easters that have been blowing through New England.

Things are really rolling here. Did I tell you that I have 70 students in paleobotany this year? I was expecting 35-40 and so we had to do some significant scrambling at the last moment to accommodate everyone. I'm still in shock! I guess that means the students are enjoying the course, which is nice.

Best to all. --Nan

Nan Crystal Arens, 06:02 PM 10/21/9, Snail Mail

1

Date: Mon, 21 Oct 1996 18:02:44 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Snail Mail

Dear Alfred:

Many thanks for your letter of 27 September. I suspect that it arrived during my recent trip to Ecuador and I've only just excavated it from my desk. I was invited to join a recon trip to check out future research possibilities. It was a multi-lingual group (Italians, Ecuadorians, and two US). It won't be a big focus to be sure, but there's a little project there and it will strengthen collaborations with a geochemist, recently of Georgia Tech, with whom I've been working on the Colombian Cretaceous. This was supposed to have been VCW's role and it turns out there are some interesting results.

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Best to all. --Nan

Received: from localhost (localhost) by pangaea.ems.psu.edu (8.7.1/8.7.1) with i
Date: Wed, 3 Apr 1996 11:57:41 -0500 (EST)
From: Mail Delivery Subsystem <MAILER-DAEMON>
Subject: Returned mail: Host unknown (Name server: violet/berkeley.edu: host not
Message-Id: <199604031657.LAA02067@pangaea.ems.psu.edu>
To: traverse
MIME-Version: 1.0
Auto-Submitted: auto-generated (failure)
Content-Type: multipart/report; report-type=delivery-status;
boundary="LAA02067.828550661/pangaea.ems.psu.edu"

This is a MIME-encapsulated message

--LAA02067.828550661/pangaea.ems.psu.edu

The original message was received at Wed, 3 Apr 1996 11:57:40 -0500 (EST)
from traverse@localhost

----- The following addresses have delivery notifications -----
nanarens@violet/berkeley.edu (unrecoverable error)

----- Transcript of session follows -----
550 nanarens@violet/berkeley.edu... Host unknown (Name server: violet/berkeley.e

--LAA02067.828550661/pangaea.ems.psu.edu
Content-Type: message/delivery-status

Reporting-MTA: dns; pangaea.ems.psu.edu
Arrival-Date: Wed, 3 Apr 1996 11:57:40 -0500 (EST)

Final-Recipient: RFC822; nanarens@violet/berkeley.edu
Action: failed
Status: 5.1.2
Remote-MTA: DNS; violet/berkeley.edu
Last-Attempt-Date: Wed, 3 Apr 1996 11:57:41 -0500 (EST)

--LAA02067.828550661/pangaea.ems.psu.edu
Content-Type: message/rfc822

Return-Path: traverse
Received: (from traverse@localhost) by pangaea.ems.psu.edu (8.7.1/8.7.1) id LAA0
X-NUPop-Charset: English
Date: Wed, 3 Apr 1996 12:02:33 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
Sender: traverse@ems.psu.edu
Reply-To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
Message-Id: <43355.traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet/berkeley.edu
Subject: various

Dear Nan:

Your snail mail letter of 27 March was here on 1 Apr.; not bad.

Your news all very interesting to us.

Accidentally I discovered yesterday that I have another e-mail address:
axt8@psu.edu, in case the one above ever fails. Things sent to "axt"--I
guess the x means no middle initial, but what does the 8 mean?--come right
in the same computer as do the ones to Traverse.....You do know that we also

have e-mail at home, don't you?: alnbet@aol.com.

I'll undoubtedly keep in touch. For one thing, there is the question of some \$ to defray part of driving costs to CA last Dec.-Jan.

Also, and this has suddenly become critical for reasons that are complicated, I urgently need a letter stating something about the value of the materials I gave you--coal balls, slides and all, as PSU had in effect given same to me personally. The problem is that 1995 was a bad year for me vis a vis IRS--in connection with retirement I had all sorts of extra, one-time income, and I also did very well with investments. So, I need the deduction urgently for 1995, not 1996. The gift was arranged in 1995, you took delivery of part of the stuff via DE in May of 1995, and the rest of the shipment began its trip on 16 Dec., 1995, when my helper and I loaded it on the truck and drove to Huntingdon. The trip itself began on 26 Dec., 1995. My CPA thinks there is no question that it will fly as a gift for 1995, but the letter needs to state that, to support the letters I have in the files from you, substantiating that the gift was made and "accepted" in 1995. The actual date of delivery is apparently not critical. But getting this letter from you has suddenly become VERY critical, much more so than the abovementioned travel money. Indeed, I should apply for an extension for filing if you e-mail me back that such a letter cannot be quickly produced. I can get an extension to August.

Back to work. Among other things I must get a couple of lectures ready for Japan. Yesterday I gave a very nice (the kids called it "awesome") demonstration about fossil plants to a grandson's 3rd grade class--we started with washed baby carrots for everybody to get across the basic crispy, cellulose+water nature of most plants, went on to a piece of anthracite for everybody, ended with chunks of Pennsylvanian shale from the Broadtop, full of fossil plants, for them to split and take home. Went fine except for one kid who used his geological hammer to make about a dozen holes in his desktop before I could get it stopped.

We leave for the Orient on 6 May. Cheerio. Alfred.

Alfred Traverse

Palynological Labs.

Deike 435, PSU

University Park, PA 16802

Ph.814-863-3419; Fax 814-863-7823

--LAA02067.828550661/pangaea.ems.psu.edu--

Nan Crystal Arens, 05:13 PM 8/13/96, Dogs on vacation

1

Date: Tue, 13 Aug 1996 17:13:24 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Dogs on vacation

Dear Alfred:

Many thanks for the item on canine guests in hotels. I could not have put it better myself! Although I probably shouldn't say so, I commonly find that most dogs are less mess and less disruptive in public than the majority of small children these days. Consequently, I wouldn't ban either group!

The teaching collection is on its way into drawers this week with the curation in final stages. I'm also beginning the re-write of the lab manual in a hope of getting that and the reader to the printer this week! Wish me luck! I'm now getting psyched for the semester. Confirmed registration for the course is at 42 and climbing. Amazing, no?

All the best. --Nan

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: paleobotany texts
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

No need to answer this one unless it strikes your fancy. I know you're busy.

Thanks again for the footwork on the form.

In the decade that I taught paleobotany every year I tried all sorts of things for textbooks. Taylor and Taylor (and its predecessor, Taylor) and Rothwell and Stewart (and its pred., Stewart) are NO GOOD AT ALL as texts. T & T is factually better than R and S but is in no way written as a text. R and S in addition to being hard for students to follow is full of crap about the telome theory and other baloney. Several years I used Gastaldo's Notes for a Short Course, which can be bought from Univ. of Tenn. and which students actually like. But it was not intended for a text either and is full of blanks. However, with a batch of handouts I prepared it worked pretty well. When I took paleobot. from Thomas at Cambridge we used Walton's old book, and at Harvard we used Arnold's, both of which were tolerably good as student books. The truth is that is NO BOOK out there in English that is now satisfactory. Had I not retired and kept on teaching paleobotany I was seriously intending to produce a book that would be based on my course and would teach paleobotany effectively and accurately without being a reference book. Sort of a "Paleopalynology" for paleobotany.

Best. Alfred.

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: Miller, etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

Just came back from mailroom where I deposited a snail-mail thing to you because I had an enclosure. In it I told you that the returned form has already gone off to the CPA in Tyrone, who is delighted. He is also delighted by the matter that the form communicates, as he was worried stiff that some capital gains we had in '95 would break the bank, and this helps mightily. Thanks, thanks.....

The concept of 45 folks taking paleobotany is MIND BOGGLING! How can can that be? At PSU only required courses ever get numbers like that. Marvellous.

There's no urgency re the Miller. Sometime in September/October it would be good to know if is going to happen because it affects a lot of things. My plan would be to arrive in B. the first week of Jan. and stay until early April.

Sorry about the Bot. Soc. meeting. In the future I would counsel you just to stay home when you don't think you're up to it--I often did that. Better than making an unsatisfactory public appearance. Maybe you should have gone the poster route? Better when one is tired because the basic job is all done ahead of time.

Betty gets home tomorrow. Good thing. The bed needs to be changed, and I can't do that. I do my share of things, but laundry and beds are beyond me. Thank God, I was the last generation of H. undergrads that had maids, and again in Cambridge the same. As a grad student I was proctor in Wigglesworth and was again taken care of in style. The undergrads I was watching had to make their beds, but I didn't. Betty took over as soon as I got my Ph. D., as we were married the same week. And, of course, my rheumatic heart kept me out of the military, where I would have been a disaster. I am sure you don't find this endearing, but perhaps amusing?

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Fri, 9 Aug 1996 09:44:56 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Re: Miller, etc.

Dear Alfred:

I'm glad to have lightened your CPA's heart. As I said, the difficult part was just finding folks. We also got Jere to sign before he officially stepped aside as director during his sabbatical, which vastly simplified things. I can, on occasion, manage to get things done.

Today I'm finishing putting together the reading list for Paleobotany in order to turn in the reader order. We used Stewart & Rothwell last year, but it just didn't fit well with the course that I teach. Moreover, it got bad reviews from the students, who, upon being polled, liked best the readings from the primary and secondary literature that I had prepared, plus something like Taylor & Taylor for reference. Fine with me. There are services here that will take a reading list, do the copyright permissions, and Xerox the papers into a binder for the students, which I think is nice. Therefore...off we go.

Forty-five students in paleobotany also seems a bit outrageous. That limit is set by three 15-person lab sections and I won't offer more labs without another graduate assistant, which is not on the horizon just now. I'm told good enrollments are a positive thing to me, but it just looks like more work. I'm therefore thinking seriously about how to do exams and essays and such because I do like them to write, but I don't want to eat up my entire semester that way. I think it helped that I taught a larger sophomore-junior course last spring and got some "exposure". When it comes to filling requirements, many of our biology majors don't have too much preference in terms of subject matter so it becomes a popularity contest with the faculty. All that really matters is that they learn something in the end.

Well, back to my task at hand. Best to all. --Nan

Date: Thu, 8 Aug 1996 08:35:19 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: Collections, etc.

Dear Alfred:

Thank you for your message of 4 August. I just got back into the office after a whirlwind trip to Seattle for Botanical Society meetings. Paleobotany was disappointing because attendance was low and those there, including myself, were still rather burned out after the IOP meeting in July. Ferns were good but my heart wasn't in the meeting and I gave mediocre talks. Oh well. It happens. I was feeling quite physically ill at the meeting and have decided that my body is just declaring that enough is enough already. So, I've scaled back plans for the next couple of weeks to include a little more time off and a less ambitious schedule in the hope of recovering for the start of classes on the 26th. We have reached enrollment capacity in paleobotany (45) and I'm anticipating a message from my chair asking that I increase capacity. I could do that with a second TA but not without. I may be crazy, but not stupid.

RE specimines: We've successfully matched all numbered specimines (T- or otherwise) with record information. That was quite easy. I also remembered our conversations with regards to "rescued" collections. However, as I said, my knowing/remembering the fact and being believed are two different things. Hence, as in my journalism days, I needed a quote.

I'll see what I can find out about the Miller after the 19th...when the world officially begins again. Right now, the needed folk are on vacation, I understand.

Hope all is well. Best to all. --Nan

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: Collections, etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

Response to yours of 3 Aug. (Being Sat., a day I spent pruning trees, string-trimming, and mowing, among other outdoor activities.)

Yesterday in the mail there was an envelope from U. C. Berkeley, some administrative office, thanking me for the gift and reminding me that I had to file Form xx, and including copies of said form for my convenience. It is, of course, the form which, now completed, you put into the mail on 2 August.

Re the specimens: your mentioning the T-nos. reminds me to note (I may have done so earlier) that some at the beginning of the series may not have the "T," just the number. So, if you have a specimen that has only a number, be sure to look it up to see if it makes sense as a T-no. Unfortunately, some of the miscellaneous acquisitions, like the ones pasted on cardboard, also have just numbers. (By the way, after I got those from biology when they were throwing them out, I realized that for storage such mounting is not a bad idea--they can be stacked without damaging the specimens.)

I mentioned the Miller question only because PSU is now claiming it's Fall, and Winter is the next season, right? We went to Korea/Japan in May, but the plans were well along in Feb., and we bought our tickets in late 1995. Months seem to disappear. If it does happen, I want to visit at least three herbaria to collect material for the project I proposed.

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Sat, 3 Aug 1996 10:11:02 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: IRS etc.

Dear Alfred:

The form went in the mail yesterday so I trust that you'll have it soon. Again, apologies for the delay and thank you for being understanding. Sometimes it's like herding cats. Of course I understood that some of the material in the teaching collection was of uncertain origin and that's just fine. However, that knowledge on my part doesn't guarantee that I will be believed when I say so; consequently, I was obliged to ask the obvious. We've had no trouble with all the materials that had T-numbers. We're at the stage of putting PA-numbers on the specimens, which correspond to localities in our data base. Hence, we're double checking things that were for whatever reason uncertain.

I haven't heard anything further about the Miller but will try to find out something when everyone gets back in early September. For now, off to finish organizing slides for my BSA presentations.

All the best. --Nan

nanarens@violet.ber, 01:27 PM 8/2/96 , IRS etc.

1

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: IRS etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

Good news about the form. Sorry to have made work for you.

Your comment about the mine still didn't tell me what age the coal is and whether there are megafossil plant layers of interest.

Further on the fossils from the teaching collection. It was stressed from the outset that the items that I saved from various trash-heaps were by definition uncertain as to provenance. That is not true of the items from my personal collection, with T- numbers. It is frustrating that many of the things that I saved from the garbage man HAVE numbers, but nobody has any idea whose numbers, or where (if anywhere) there is a sample book.

All the best, and thanks again. I suppose the next time I bother you will be in early Fall, when I inquire when I'll find out if the trip to Berkeley in Jan. is really going to happen.

Cheers. Alfred.

Printed for traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

1

Date: Thu, 1 Aug 1996 16:59:15 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: IRS et al.

Dear Alfred:

The signed IRS form went into the mail this afternoon. You should have it by the end of next week at the latest. Apologies that this has taken so very long, but I'm glad that the outcome has been worth it.

I had a chance to read that article you sent on El Cerrejon. This is indeed the mine where I was working when I was in Colombia two years ago. It's a very very strange place...not only because Guajira may as well be on the moon, but because of the mine as well. The article was correct that they do have an amazing safety record and the very best land reclamation program and water pollution control program that I have ever seen.

Still preparing for BSA.... Cheers! --Nan

Glad to hear that the IRS form arrived and that you are "all over it". Randy Tenney, CPA, in Tyrone will be so pleased.

The teaching collection items enclosed in packet of cardboard were originally collected by Prof. Papp (see in the list: Hill, Overholt, and Papp, which was the last for elementary botany at Harvard when I took it, with Grville Oehl as prof). There is no way to be sure about the provenance of the stuff. I got it because Biology threw it out (literally). HOWEVER, many of the items are OBVIOUSLY Marion Creek notules, and that means their location is not in doubt - Pennsylvania of M. Q. II (more exact locality info in the literature - let me know if you need help). The other items, that are no pieces of shell, are most likely from the plateau region of PA, as Papp is known to have collected in coal mine pits over there. About the genus of Araucarioxylon, I thought I had put in a label giving that name. Beyond reasonable doubt it is from the Glades in or near the PITNP, Gannan Stage of Triassic. I also got this stuff when it was being dumped because not labeled - but there is no real doubt of age and provenance. Don't hesitate to get about other items that don't carry my numbers.

Cheers, Alfred

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: IRS, mostly
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

We are just back in the office after three days of entertaining John, his wife, the Shakespeare prof, daughter Anna (our eldest grandchild at 12) and their two dogs (one is the corgi about whom we corresponded a while back). The dogs sure cut down on what you can do to entertain the associated human guests. I believe that Anna is finally reconciled to the fact that I don't recognize Tia and Tally as my grandchildren.

Glad to hear that Colombia worked out. I have read your two abstracts in AJB and was mightily impressed. van der Hammen only scratched the surface, obviously. You have a clear shot. If you ever lead a field trip THERE, I want to go.

Glad to hear that the IRS form arrived and that you are "all over it." Randy Tarpey, CPA, in Tyrone will be so pleased.

The teaching collection items attached to pieces of cardboard were originally collected by Prof. Popp (as in the text: Hill, Overholt, and Popp, which was the text for elementary botany at Harvard when I took it, with Orville Dahl as prof). There is no way to be sure about the provenance of the stuff. I got it because Biology threw it out (literally). HOWEVER, many of the items are OBVIOUSLY Mazon Creek nodules, and that means their location is not in doubt--Pennsylvanian of M. C., IL (more exact locality info in the literature- let me know if you need help). The other items, that are on pieces of shale, are most likely from the plateau region of PA, as Popp is known to have collected in coal strip pits over there. About the pieces of Araucarioxylon: I thought I had put in a label giving that name. Beyond reasonable doubt it is from the Chinle in or near the PFNP, Carnian Stage of Triassic.. I also got that stuff when it was being dumped because not labelled--but there is no real doubt of age and provenance. Don't hesitate to ask about other items that don't carry my numbers.

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Thu, 1 Aug 1996 11:24:14 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: IRS, mostly

Dear Alfred:

Many thanks for the message. I hope you had an enjoyable time with John and family (plus corgies). Dogs do limit travel and outing options, but some time ago I realized that most of the places that they didn't want my dog, I didn't want to be either. I'll make exceptions, of course, but being an outdoors person does help! Believe it or not, there is actually a substantial book entitled "Dog Lovers Guide to California" that details outing spots and activities all around the state. I've made excellent use of it and Robbie gives it the highest four-bone rating.

I'm glad that you enjoyed the AJB abstracts. Between writing the abstracts and putting together the papers, it has gotten even more interesting. Turns out that Colombia has remained moist since the early Cretaceous, when most of the rest of the tropics was much dryer than today because of the much warmer poles then. As I gave this result at IOP, someone in the audience lept up and said that their climate models for the Cretaceous were predicting a persistent patch of rainforest over Colombia and this and one patch in SE Asia were the only tropical moist forests at that time. I was stunned but it was certainly heartening. The "someone" turned out to be R.A. Spicer (whom I had not yet met) and we're considering doing a review of tropical K vegetation and climate. It is true that van der Hammen really just opened the door. Certainly he's more interested in stratigraphic problems, which is continued in my colleague, Gustavo Sarmiento, who studied with Thomas (who now lives outside of Bogota and is married to a Colombian--he's quite an individual!). Anyway, it's been a huge amount of fun and looks to continue to be productive. I'm going to enjoy writing up the National Geographic progress report because we're going to have exciting things to say, even at the preliminary level. It's funny (and what's most interesting to me about science), I went in expecting to find one thing and it turns out to be completely the opposite, but yet in some ways more interesting because it's completely new and unexpected.

To the mundane: The UCMP portion of your form is filled out and signed. David Lawler (appraiser) is supposed to be in Berkeley today and was to call me to set up a meeting time. I put in a call this morning and will again before I head out to my lunch meeting. I hope that I can catch him today and put this form in the mail to you this afternoon. If that doesn't happen for some reason, I'll let you know. Thanks also for the information on the collection. I surmised as much on the cardboard-backed specimens, but Diane didn't want to believe me. I also guessed correctly about the

Chinle, but again.... The Araucarioxylon was wrapped with some other smaller bits that were clearly labeled so that left little doubt in my mind, but substantial in Diane's. Best always to ask and banish all doubt.

Well, off to tidy up the last of my preparations for BSA and talks. I'm making a "surgical strike" on the meeting: Going up Sunday afternoon, both talks on Monday, returning Tuesday morning. I'm a bit burned out on conferences and travel. Besides, I'll have a good friend here visiting and don't want to be away for too long.

Best to all! --Nan

I received the IRS form and have gathered Jere's signature, will get the needed info from our administrator this afternoon, and have out in a call to David Lorenz (the appraiser). I haven't yet heard back from him, but will keep squeaking until I do. I suspect he's in the field, but he usually doesn't stay away too long. As they say, "I'm all over it!"

We have laughed most of the day about the labeling collection and I did have a couple of questions that you might be able to help with. There are a large number of Permian-age plant compressions (giant ferns, lycopsids of various sizes, sphenocoids etc.) that are glued to segregated cardboard and didn't seem to have any location or time information associated with them. They are also not numbered for the most part unless the numbers are on the piece attached to the cardboard. The lithologies look to be different enough that I wonder if they originate from different localities even. Do you recall where/when they might be from? If not, that's okay, but I thought I would ask. Also, there is some red-polymerized wood that looks like Petrified Forest, AZ or at least Chinle. It also lacked a label that we could find. Might this be the case?

Well, I'm back to mopping up finances from the IDPC field trip, my own travels, and getting ready for BSA (two talks on Monday the 5th!). I hope all is well in Central Pennsylvania. Please give my best to Betty and the rest.

Best wishes, --Nan

Date: Tue, 30 Jul 1996 12:07:36 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Various and sundry

Dear Alfred:

Greetings! I'm back in Berkeley between trips. Colombia was a grand success and I accomplished just about everything that I wanted to get done. I had some doubts about going initially because of the rather tense political/diplomatic situation, but that all seems to be going on at the level of the governments and didn't impact me at all. I roamed around quite freely and with no signs of trouble. The weather at the reserve was also spectacular and it was a much-needed recuperative moment after IOPC and the field trip.

I received the IRS form and have gathered Jere's signature, will get the needed data from our administrator this afternoon, and have put in a call to David Lawler (the appraiser). I haven't yet heard back from him, but will keep squeaking until I do. I suspect he's in the field, but he usually doesn't stay away too long. As they say, "I'm all over it!"

We have finished most of the curation for the teaching collection and I did have a couple of questions that you might be able to help with. There are a large number of Pennsylvanian-age plant compressions (pteridosperm foliage, lycopsids of various ilk, sphenopsids etc.) that are glued to corrugated cardboard and didn't seem to have any location or time information associated with them. They are also not numbered for the most part unless the numbers are on the sides attached to the cardboard. The lithologies look to be different enough that I wonder if they originate from different localities even. Do you recall where/when they might be from. If not, that's okay, but I thought I would ask. Also, there is some red opalized wood that looks like Petrified Forest, AZ or at least Chinle. It also lacked a label that we could find. Might this be the case?

Well, I'm back to mopping up finances from the IOPC field trip, my own travels, and getting ready for BSA (two talks on Monday the 5th!). I hope all is well in Central Pennsylvania. Please give my best to Betty and the rest.

Best wishes, --Nan

Date: Mon, 15 Jul 1996 10:19:51 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: IRS form, etc.

Dear Alfred:

Thanks for the message. As soon as I get the form (which would be when I return from colombia on the 29th) I'll begin getting signatures. As I said, I can't predict when folks will be out of town, but I'll be optimistic and say that I can have it in the mail by the end of that week (2 August). I'll do my very best to make it sooner.

Hope you have fun camping. My youngest nephew was camping with me when we were collecting in Nevada earlier in June. He's 17 so it's not such a bother to anyone. He just hasn't learned about conserving water in the desert yet. Ah, these mesic forest folk.

Robbie stays with friends (his or mine) when I travel to someplace that I can't take him. While at IOP he stayed with one of the grad students and his wife who have a dog friend of Robbie's. While in Colombia he will stay with one of the other students who is looking for a hiking partner for a week or so. While at BSA he'll stay home as I will have a houseguest at that time. That's the last of my travels for a while because I've decided not to go to GSA this year. Frankly, I can't afford it and with the possible TA strike this fall, I may not be able to get away from paleobotany. That's okay, two meeting and three talks a year is probably sufficient.

Take care and best to all. --Nan

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: IRS form, etc.
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

It's Sunday, and I've delivered Betty to her Anglican Catholic museum, whoops, church, and am now back at the lab. Thought I'd use the computer in outer office for e-mail while Betty is at her club, as it keeps her from her project (book ms. based on dissertation) when she's here. Your two messages were the only ones this a. m.

It's clear that Jere and Dave are the persons who need to sign the IRS form. Actually, I noticed a possible glitch that I will call the CPA about tomorrow before mailing the thing to you. He said under "how acquired" "purchase." That isn't true of most it, which was obtained by collecting, manufacturing, or as a gift or simply by "acquiring." I want to be sure it says the right thing. That means that end of the week is the earliest it can reach Berkeley. That's o. k. The actual deadline to get my return for '95 in is 15 August. Of course, it takes a bit of turn around here and in Tyrone, where the CPA is officed, so the sooner the better.

We are taking the latest grandchild who has reached our required threshold of 8 yrs., Jason (Martha's son), camping. We pack up on Wed. evening, and go to Black Moshannon St. Park on Thursday. We return to civilization on Sunday, 21 July.

The article I'm sending you provides no geological info about the coals, but the info is interesting. I wonder if the associated shales don't contain plant megafossils that would be interesting to have a look at.

I had to do in a groundhog last night. He has persisted in tunneling under our TV room and making his spoil pile against the ventilators for the basement, which is not acceptable. Betty and Celia won't speak to me normally for weeks now, as killing any mammal, even a mouse, isn't really conscionable behavior. This guy must have weighed at least 15 pounds. Got fat on our flowerbeds. He is now fertilizing some peony clumps. His grave is temporarily under several large slabs of Oriskany sandstone to prevent the skunks from digging him up. Nature notes from all over.

Who takes care of Robby when you travel?

Best. Alfred.

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: evaluation, etc.

Dear Nan:

It's Saturday, and I would "normally" be working on Alphabet Acres, but I am under the gun to finish the Honduras core project and am in the lab doing that--I just completed slide 53 of the 55 in the core. Unfortunately, I don't think it's going to be much of a story.

It's good to hear that the IOP meeting was so satisfactory. If a person could do everything, I would have liked to have been there, but because of the Korea/Japan devouring of all of May, it just wasn't possible. Congratulations on doing such a good job with all.

Your mentioning of the trip to Colombia reminded me that I have a tearout from one of my magazines about coal mining in Colombia that I am going to send you for comment. What age is the stuff? Fossil plant stories?

I thought that the appraisal business was handled with remarkable aplomb. There is, as it turns out, still one loose end to be tidied up. There is a form from IRS the CPA sent me that needs to be signed and returned to me. I'll get it into the mail yet this afternoon. Well, into the box in the departmental office. That isn't exactly in the mail. So, I need you to do this one last thing for that project. (By the way, I was very glad that hard copy was sent home. No fax to this office. Thanks.)

Back to the scope.

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Sat, 13 Jul 1996 13:51:32 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Re: appraisal

Dear Alfred:

I'm happy to take the initiative on the signatures. Jere should be back during the last week in August when I have returned from Colombia (if I go...). When I have form in hand I'll contact Dave Lawler, the appraiser. I'll snare him when he's next in town. I hope the delay won't be a problem, but I can't imagine a miracle that would get the form to me before Wednesday.

Take care. --Nan

Date: Sat, 13 Jul 1996 13:18:18 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: evaluation, etc.

Dear Alfred:

Good luck on finish the Honduras project. I really dislike deadlines.

I look forward to seeing the Colombia coal article. There is quite a lot of the stuff. Some has been looked at a little early on and some more modern. I can send references if you like. There is Paleocene, Eocene, and some later Cretaceous. I've also seen some earlier Cretaceous coals but they are not of economic interest. I also suspect from looking at the surrounding sediments palynologically that they may be too thermally mature to be nicely productive. One never knows, though. This seems a bit vague. Can you ask a more specific question?

I'll look for the form when I return from Colombia on the 29th. Depending on who needs to sign it and where that person might be, it might take a little tracking, but I'll be "all over it" as they say these days. As it turns out, I was able to head off the FAX to the Geosciences office on my own hunch and because it would be just as quick to send snail mail since you weren't there to receive a FAX anyway. Glad all came out well.

Cheers, Nan

Date: Sat, 13 Jul 1996 11:55:39 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: evaluation

Dear Alfred:

Thanks so much for the message of 2 July. I'm back from the IOP meeting in Santa Barbara and just back from the post-conference field trip that we led to Nevada. I can report that the meeting was absolutely wonderful. My talk was a hit and I made many good contacts and mostly (I think) positive impressions. The field trip was also a success. I think everyone had a good time and aside from two flat tires, all went according to plan and without mishap. It was by brute force that everything worked out; I felt at times like the Little Dutch Boy with my finger in the dike in order to avoid some nasty problem or other. I guess that's typical of leading large field trips and I've learned a lot about how to do it...although I hope not to again soon. Now I'm mopping up from that and trying to get ready to go to Colombia on 17 July. You may have heard that there are some political problems between the US and Colombia just now and so there is some doubt in my mind as to whether I will go. This is an important and necessary trip, but I'm not stupid either. I don't care to get caught in the middle of two nations trying to make a point to each other.

I have a hard copy of the collection appraisal in hand and so I trust that you do too and that it is all in order. I was surprised at the amount too, but I'm happy to be able to benefit you in the process as the collection will enrich our program here tremendously. If there are any loose ends remaining, please let me know. Somehow this seemed like a lot more trouble than it needed to be, but that may be that I'm learning how the process works too.

I'm glad that you had a pleasant trip to NY and I hope that your summer continues to be pleasant. I've still got two more trips ahead of me (Colombia and BSA in Seattle), then back to prepare for the fall semester and paleobotany. We may have big enrollments (45 is the limit unless we open more lab sections). The course was so popular last year and I got good reviews in my spring course, so that we may have still more customers. I guess that's good, but it is a bit daunting to me who was expecting 10-15 students!

I will be having a friend visiting in August and so that will be good for some much-needed relaxation time too. I'm feeling a bit stretched just now, but glad that the biggest hurdle (IOP + Field trip) is behind me.

Please give my best to everyone and take care. I hope to hear from you *soon.*

Nan.

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: evaluation

Dear Nan:

You are really on the ball, which is no surprise!

We got back from NY and VT yesterday, but this is our first day back in the lab.

I would rather that a fax of the evaluation not be sent to the office, as it comes into the main room upstairs and is the subject of perusal and comment before one ever sees it. So, if possible, just hard copy, please. To office or home. However, if the fax has already gone out, don't lose sleep over it. Many of the local gossips are gone for the "holiday week." (The previous is in response to your e-mail of 27 June.)

The amount you mentioned is very startling. I'd say, however, the higher the better--maybe Randy Tarpey, our CPA, can figure out a way to extend it over a couple of years. Wow! Marvellous!

We had a very nice trip. After a week at our place--putting up a new sign, getting all six beds fixed up, working on the railings on the climb down to the lake (87 steps, I think), etc.--we went to Vt. for the 50th anniversary of some dear Canadian cousins. Many other cousins also came, so it was fun. Then to the Catskills for our own 45th. (30 June.)

Hope IOPC goes well. I led a trip to some of the same places, with Harry McGinitie, in 1956. (Or was it 1957?)

Thanks so much for all your help on these pesky dollar matters.

As always, Alfred.

Date: Thu, 27 Jun 1996 14:40:42 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Appraisal

Dear Alfred: I have in hand a draft appraisal for \$91,000. Is this enough or too much? We can certainly adjust down if this figure is too high for your accountant. As I will be away at IOPC next week, I am going to have this appraisal prepared with your home address and such and sent out next week (1 July). If there is a problem, you can communicate with

Dave Lawler
Farwest Geoscience Foundation

Tel. 510-549-9694

FAX. 510-525-6114

And you can agree on an appropriate adjustment. If there is any further problem, please send me a message and I'll try to deal with it between the meeting and when we leave on the post-conference field trip that I am leading.

Hope all is well! Best, --Nan

Date: Thu, 27 Jun 1996 09:57:58 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: Address

Dear Alfred:

After calling to leave a message on your office machine, I realized that you are still in the Adirondacks until 1 July. I'll proceed with "Plan B" then and bring your address from home tomorrow to pass on to the chum doing the appraisal. That, then, should be on it's way on 1 July. I will suggest that he FAX a copy of the letter to you at Geosciences and then put a hard copy in the mail to your home. I hope this will be sufficient. If not, please do let me know.

Thankfully, we can get this wrapped up!

Hope you had a pleasant trip!

Best --Nan

To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
From: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
Subject: thanks
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

Dear Nan:

Just read yours of 14 June. Celia and family have been living with us, and that plus the computer vandalism (we still can't believe it) caper have distracted us bigtime. I now have a new machine, with pentium, CD-ROM, a new kind of backup (Jazzdrive, I think they call it) that works from cartridges, and a bigger, flatter monitor.

Day after tomorrow we have to leave again, this time to take care of our Adirondack property. Be back about first of the month.

Good to know that you have one eye on the evaluation bit. I hope you are heavily involved in the opening of the boxes, as I assumed you would be, and may have put notes that only you would understand here and there.

Cheers. Alfred.

> Just read yours of 14 June. Celia and family have been living with us, and
> that plus the computer vandalism (we still can't believe it) caper have
> distracted us bigtime. I now have a new machine, with pentium, CD-ROM, a
> new kind of backup (Jazzdrive, I think they call it) that works from
> cartridges, and a bigger, flatter monitor.

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> Good to know that you have one eye on the evaluation bit. I hope you are
> heavily involved in the opening of the boxes, as I assumed you would be, and
> may have put notes that only you would understand here and there.

> Cheers. Alfred.

> Alfred Traverse

> Psychological Laboratories

> Department of Geosciences

> 435 Deike Building, PSU

> University Park, PA 16802

> Ph: 814-863-3415

> Fax: 814-863-7523

Date: Wed, 19 Jun 1996 14:11:37 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu (Alfred Traverse)
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: thanks

Dear Alfred:

Congratulations on the new computer and I hope life in general is settling down as best it can. I have returned from my "road trip" and then from a collecting trip to Nevada. All went well but I'm now quite pressed for time in getting ready for the IOP meeting and field trip in July and GSA abstract deadline, which will happen when I'm in the field. All quite crazy.

We're are doing the appraisal toward the end of next week, but I've yet to get an actual time. You will receive the report soon after, I assume. If not, please let me know so that I can keep after it. I will, of course, be actively opening boxes. It's sort of like Christmas.

All is well. Enjoy the Adirondacks. Best wishes --Nan

>Dear Nan:

>

>Just read yours of 14 June. Celia and family have been living with us, and
>that plus the computer vandalism (we still can't believe it) caper have
>distracfted us bigtime. I now have a new machine, with pentium, CD-ROM, a
>new kind of backup (Jazzdrive, I think they call it) that works from
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>heavily involved in the opening of the boxes, as I assumed you would be, and
>may have put notes that only you would understand here and there.

>

>Cheers. Alfred.
>Alfred Traverse
>Palynological Laboratories
>Department of Geosciences
>435 Deike Building, PSU
>University Park, PA 16802
>Ph.: 814-863-3419
>Fax: 814-863-7823

Date: Fri, 14 Jun 1996 14:19:21 -0700

To: traverse@ems.psu.edu

From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)

Subject: I'm back too

Good afternoon!

I've just gotten back into town and am wading through my various messages and mail in an attempt to triage. I've got way too many ducks as you say. However, the time away was refreshing and restorative so at least I've not got the equipment to deal with it all.

Thanks for your letter of 6 June and post card from Japan. I'm delighted that you had a good trip; condolences on the computer. A detailed reply will have to wait until later as I'm pressed for time on other errands for other people.

I was glad to hear that the 1K had arrived. I have sent out an alert on the appraisal. Lipps was supposed to have arranged it for next week, but he never got back to me with specifics, which makes me nervous. I hope he will soon and I'm hoping to have that to you by the end of the month if not sooner. I'll keep at it at highest priority.

Best to all. --Nan

In the stack of mail on return was the check for \$K, plus an anonymous note apologizing for the delay. Thanks for your help with this.

I enclose the next item for which I'd appreciate your assistance. That is the urgent matter of the evaluation. As you can see from the enclosure, our CPA is really on my case about this. Please do whatever you can to get this expedited. I remember that now is about when it was supposed to happen, so I am saying please do whatever you can to get the ball rolling, or to keep it rolling if it gets hung up.

Now back to the computer catalogs. All the best. I heard news of you and Robbie from Sarah P.

Yours very truly...

Alfred Traverse

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

6 June, 1996

Dr. Nan Crystal Arens
Department of Integrative Biology
3060 Valley Life Sci. Bld.
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Nan:

We're back from Japan and Korea. It went very well, including the three lectures, although I'm pretty sure relatively few in the audiences really understood. I had been planning to whip the ideas of the lectures into review papers, but on return when I tried to boot up my computer it burned up--literally, with smoke and smell. Trouble is that there had been trouble with the tape backup and I have lost most of my production since mid-Feb., including the three MSS. Woe. I took the dratted machine to a local computer facility to see if anything could be retrieved from the hard disk. "No....I never saw such a mess."

In the stack of mail on return was the check for 1K, plus an anonymous note apologizing for the delay. Thanks for your help with this.

I enclose the next item for which I'd appreciate your assistance. There is the urgent matter of the evaluation. As you can see from the enclosures, our CPA is really on my case about this. Please do whatever you can to get this expedited. I remember that now is about when it was supposed to happen, so I am saying please do whatever you can to get the ball rolling, or to keep it rolling if it gets hung up.

Now, back to the computer catalogs. All the best. I heard news of you and Robbie from Sarah F.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

encl.

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id TAA01250; Wed, 1 May 1996 19:06:58 -0700
Message-Id: <v0211012fadad9ba049bf@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Wed, 1 May 1996 19:07:58 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Good News
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thanks for the message. I've left myself a note as well and will dig out those slides as soon as we begin unpacking. The room is otherwise occupied at the moment (laying out skeletons of marine mammals for an exhibits committee (I'm chair, you see) project that I want to wrap up before the semester is over and everyone (including myself) takes off.

The UCB bureaucracy is like every other one, I suppose. In this particular case, the woman in question tries to micro-manage everything in a very large domain, which, as you know from experience and as I'm learning, is impossible. Consequently, quite people like myself sometimes fall between the cracks. I'll try not to be so quiet. I've started the every-other-day e-mail regime and this usually helps.

Later.....

I went to teach and came back to find the following message from our financial officer:

Date: 1 May 1996 15:38:05 -0700
From: "Julie Myers" <julie_myers@maillink.berkeley.edu>
Subject: Re: Traverse reimbursement
To: "Nan Crystal Arens" <nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu>

Reply to: RE>Traverse reimbursement

Based on my last revision/statement/justification for purpose of trip (transporting via sending collection/receipts in Elizabeth's name rather than Alfred's, etc). Travel voucher accepted/approved and per accounting, check should be issued Friday, 5/3--ready for pick up Monday, 5/6. I will have it picked up and mailed from US Main PO. Will give you confirmation that it is outta here!

I trust it will be in your hands soon although not as soon as any of us would have liked. I wish that I could offer a reasonable explanation, but I can't. I can only offer a sincere apology. Thanks for your patience. I like to believe that patience is rewarded; perhaps someday Robbie will be able to more actively join the lab.

I'm sorry again to hear that one of your girls is having difficulty. I'll keep you all in my prayers, of course.

As for dogs, unfortunately, there isn't a short-haired sheltie. I'm of the opinion that with respect to coat, one just chooses between short hairs on things or long. If you don't groom a short-haired dog you still have as much shedding, just smaller pieces. If there were no shelties I think I would choose a lab crossed with a small herding dog of some sort. I really

*ans id
2-5-96*

like gentle dogs. I'll think a bit and see if I can come up with a better suggestion.

Must go for now. Do take care and have a pleasant trip. --Nan

Message-Id: <v021101cadac51e8d3949[128.32.100.42]>

Mime-Version: 1.0

Date: Tue, 30 Apr 1996 16:33:15 -0700

To: travers@pan.berkeley.edu

From: nan@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arane)

Subject: Re: slides, etc.

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thanks so much for the message. I've made myself the appropriate reminder and as soon as we get to unpacking the slides I'll pull the palynological ones out and send them back. I'm sorry that the realization came with too little time to get them to you before your departure.

As for the S&K problem: I reminded our financial officer of it toward the end of last week and she mumbled something about there being a hang-up higher up because of something that she (or I) wasn't clear on. Upon receiving your message, I immediately sent her a much more pointed e-mail that we need to get on this immediately. When she's being slow about things I'll arch "squawk" a bit by sending messages every other day until she gets sick of them. In other words, I'll try to wove this along as fast as I possibly can. Apologies for the delay. If it's any consolation (which of course it's not), it took over a year to process the first fifth of my moving expense reimbursement. In the end they reimbursed less than half of my expenses. Chalk it up to a bad chair.

I'm sorry to hear about bad personal news. I hope things improve. Robbie is doing well. He's all filled out now and quite the handsome boy. Having passed his first birthday, his attention span is getting a little longer and his teen-age willfulness is starting to subside so that training is going a little better. As always, though, he's an absolute charmer.

If I can't hear from you again before you leave, have a wonderful and productive trip.

Best wishes, Nan

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id QAA19891; Tue, 30 Apr 1996 16:32:17 -0700
Message-Id: <v0211011cadac51e8d292@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 30 Apr 1996 16:33:15 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: slides, etc.
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thanks so much for the message. I've made myself the appropriate reminder and as soon as we get to unpacking the slides I'll pull the palynological ones out and send them back. I'm sorry that the realization came with too little time to get them to you before your departure.

As for the \$1K problem: I reminded our financial officer of it toward the end of last week and she mumbled something about there being a hang-up higher up because of something that she (or I) wasn't clear on. Upon receiving your message, I immediately sent her a much more pointed e-mail that we need to get on this immediately. When she's being slow about things I'll often "squeak" a bit by sending messages every other day until she gets sick of them. In other words, I'll try to move this along as fast as I possibly can. Apologies for the delay. If it's any consolation (which of course it's not), it took over a year to process the first fifth of my moving expense reimbursement. In the end they reimbursed less than half of my expenses. Chalk it up to a bad chair.

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If I don't hear from you again before you leave, have a wonderful and productive trip.

Best wishes, Nan

Date: Tue, 30 Apr 1996 17:08:54 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: slides, etc.
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

In getting my lectures ready for Korea and Japan I ran into a little problem. Several of my palynology "favorite slides" got included with the paleobotanical 2x2 slide books. We're talking about only a handful of things. Because time is so short, I go with substitutes, but when you get around to it, I'd appreciate it if you would look in "Plant Evolution" and "Fossil Plants" binders for the purely palynological slides. For these lectures the ones I wanted were the ones about Corollina pollen (aka Classopollis), which you will find in with conifers in the fossil plant book, and Chaloner's two presentations of Silurian/Devonian spore changes. These are in the plant evolution binder somewhere. As I say, when you get around to it, and these binders come to light, take a look for the purely palynological slides, which I should have for a while longer. It can't total more than a dozen slides. UC's photo services place would make you copies of the ones you think you'll need. The two I just mentioned are very useful in paleobotany lectures, as well as in palynology.

Now for the "etc." Don't forget about the 1K\$ problem. I really hoped it would be available for use in the forthcoming Korea/Japan trip, but it will be helpful whenever.

We now have less than week before departure. We just had some very bad personal news that would make us cancel if we could do so--but so many people are counting on us that we just can't. Unless the situation gets even 1% worse, in which case we'll have to.

Cheers. Alfred. How's Robbie?

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id LAA16466; Thu, 18 Apr 1996 11:15:27 -0700
Message-Id: <v02110172ad9c36e0240d@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Thu, 18 Apr 1996 11:15:59 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: travel dates
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Too bad about the timing. Perhaps on my return trip in early June, but the timing is much less concrete on that end at this point. Tentatively I'll be passing through your area some time around the 6th or 7th but this is very tentative at this point.

I'll look forward to the letter and all seems set to get the other paper generated in mid-June. In the meantime, best of luck with your travels. Japan sounds exciting and botanically very interesting.

Best to all --Nan

*Don't forget the
\$1K*

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id IAA14849; Wed, 17 Apr 1996 08:22:01 -0700
Message-Id: <v0211014fad9abcc34e3a@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Wed, 17 Apr 1996 08:22:31 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Travels East
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Greetings!

Yesterday evening I did a preliminary plan for my summer and learned that I'll be very very busy! Aside from that, I'm provisionally planning to be in the vicinity of State College on 23 May. Will you all be in town?

Hope your travel preparations are coming along well. Best --Nan

The good-of-gift can be directed to Sara Lippe as Director of the USNP, that would be University of California Museum of Paleontology 1101 Valley Life Sciences Building etc. A very general description along the lines of the examples I mentioned would be sufficient. We don't need an exact count or discussion of what's there, but you should mention hand specimens, slides, transparencies, notes, reprints etc. As for patience, I've found that it helps.

Glad that you had fun with the lady lions. In general I would have to agree that women's sports are just a lot more fun than men's.

Well, I've been writing in bits and snatches on this most of the day, so I won't delay further in getting it off to you. All the best. --Nan

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id PAA27068; Mon, 15 Apr 1996 15:08:35 -0700
Message-Id: <v0211011fad984d57d5fd@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Mon, 15 Apr 1996 15:09:02 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: pesky financial matters
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thanks for the prompt reply. Its not strange at all that I would be working on sunday...that's when I'm not being bombarded with 1,000 other things. Besides, I had been in Chicago giving talks and visiting the Field Museum, and just got back yesterday afternoon (my bag arrived this morning). I had to come in to organize myself for the week.

The deed-of-gift can be directed to Jere Lipps as Director of the UCMP. That would be University of California Museum of Paleontology 1101 Valley Life Sciences Building etc. A very general description along the lines of the examples I mentioned would be sufficient. We don't need an exact count or discussion of what's there, but you should mention hand specemines, slides, transparencies, notes, reprints etc. As for patience, I've found that it helps.

Glad that you had fun with the Lady Lions. In general I would have to agree that women's sports are just a lot more fun than men's.

Well, I've been writing in bits and snatches on this most of the day, so I won't delay further in getting it off to you. All the best. --Nan

Date: Mon, 15 Apr 1996 14:09:00 -0500 (EST) Berkeley 200 [129.32.155.12] by ps
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu> Berkeley 200 [129.32.155.22] by u011
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.)/1.53-960227)
Cc:
BCC:
Subject: pesky financial matters
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

It's good of you to be so patient about all of this. I will get the necessary letter together, but my descriptions are going to be very general. You all have the stuff and should be able to dot some i's and cross some t's, as necessary. Perhaps my general descr. will be enough.

However, there is one small item about your e-mail of 14-IV that requires expansion: to WHOM do I direct said letter?

Impressed that you were working on Sunday--I did some, but we decided to go the Lady Lions annual banquet at the NLI. It started with reception at 11 a. m. and ended at 5 p. m. Whew! And not a dull moment. The coach even handled the difficult matter that her own daughter is on the team with aplomb and good humor. (I remain to be convinced that it was a good idea for Christine to come here.) Women are so much more interesting than men at such affairs. Two of the three seniors wept repeatedly and profusely during their speeches. So human. All of the players expressed emotions freely. It was memorable.

Back to work. Cheerio. Alfred.

If you want to include any other stipulations, that's cool, but these two are required so that the material is legally released to us and we can then get it evaluated and curated. Whew.

Thanks for the ideas on the organic-rich people. I'll let you know how it all comes out. Of course I'm really desperate to have a publication as you are all, but I think that I'll just let it be as it is at all any longer. I don't know particularly why...this whole thing conversation was quite some time ago.

When my schedule for traveling gets to make sense, I'll let you know. It sounds like I may just miss you, but I'll send you an appropriate schedule when I've figured things up a bit and at the least call as I pass through. I would enjoy seeing you all as well.

All the best and I'll be in touch soon! --Alfred

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id PAA23080; Sun, 14 Apr 1996 15:27:45 -0700
Message-Id: <v0211010aad972a37745d@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Sun, 14 Apr 1996 15:28:09 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: eval. and rocks
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thank you for the reply. I think I've finally sorted out the evaluation procedure on this end. It seemed to have become more complicated than it needed to be, but that's commonly the case, it seems. The other thing that we will need from you in order to start the ball rolling is a "deed-of-gift" written on your personal letterhead (because it is a gift from you personally and you will be claiming it as such). This letter needs to say something along the lines of the following:

1. A brief but descriptive statement of what the gift is. It could be something like "n boxes of plant fossils from various localities in North America, plus 2x2 slides, transparencies, notes etc." Or as detailed as you can recall but it's probably not necessary to be overly detailed.
2. A statement that the materials described are a gift to the Regents of the University of California for use in teaching within the U.C. Museum of Paleontology, Department of Integrative Biology on the Berkeley Campus.

If you want to include any other stipulations, that's cool, but these two are required so that the material is legally released to us and we can then get it evaluated and curated. Whew.

Thanks for the ideas on the organic-rich sampls. I'll let you know how it all comes out. Of course I'm really sensitive to overoxidization as are we all, but I think Deb Willard isn't using Schulze's at all any longer. I don't know particularly why....then again, this conversation was quite some time ago.

When my schedule for traveling East is more concrete, I'll let you know. It sounds like I may just miss you, but I'll send you an approximate schedule when I've firmed things up a bit and at the least call as I pass through. I would enjoy seeing you all as well.

All the best and I'll be in touch soon! --Nan

Date: Fri, 12 Apr 1996 14:11:36 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: eval. and rocks
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

July would be fine for the evaluation, and I have no emotional capital involved. In fact, what I think I'll do is subtract 25% from whatever it is and claim only 75% to be sure that I am not claiming what somebody might say didn't belong to me.

Re the samples, it sounds like one of those famous organic-rich samples that bedevil so many of us. It is true, as Deb W. says, that over-oxidation can destroy some good spores. It is also true that without it, many palynofloras are just impossible to study. We find Sarah's straight HNO₃ method quite gentle. But if your spores are not too dark, you would be better advised to try to concentrate them by mostly physical means--screening, "swirling," use of surfactants (detergents) along with both of the above. But it's a tough nut. The Copan samples I'm studying are just FULL of organics, and we've tried everything with little luck. I just have to study more slides than normal. That's because it's a statistical count thing, and the screening, etc., business is NOT quantitative.

Wait a minute. I didn't say we'd be gone all of June, did I? We get back from Japan on 27 May. We don't leave for the Adirondacks until sometime near the middle of June, and we'll only be gone a week. Then we go to Boston about 28 June, for another week. Be sure to phone as you're going through. If we're around, we'd love to have you stop for the night.

All the best. Alfred.

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id TAA16183; Tue, 9 Apr 1996 19:07:10 -0700
Message-Id: <v021101b3ad8ef1da13f5@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 9 Apr 1996 19:07:26 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: \$ etc.
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Thanks for the replies. I apologize for bombarding your e-mail cue, but I did want to honor the urgency of your requests.

If it sounds okay with you, then I think we'll get an evaluation on the fossil collection as soon as possible in June or earliest July. I've yet to line up my graduate student assistant for the summer, so scheduling is still a bit up in the air. We also need to locate someone without a conflict of interest to do the evaluation. Jere has made several suggestions, but none are completely above board. In any even, with this additional time, it will be no problem. I panicked last week because I will be away (seminar at U. of Chicago) Thursday-Sunday and wouldn't be able to sheep-dog this properly if you needed something before the 15th.

Of course I know that you aren't motivated by personal gain. The request is entirely legitimate and reasonable. In fact, we have to do the evaluation anyway in order to process the gift internally and with the University. The key thing is timing. I hope that has been straightened out satisfactorily. I'll talk with Jere again this afternoon and see if he has any additional ideas. I'll pass them on to you if so. Unfortunately, I'm a 1040EZ person and so don't think of these things up front. That's my oversight. I'll also keep after the travel funds. I haven't heard back from the financial officer. If I don't by the end of the day, I'll resend the message....maybe carbon-copy you this time. That should get her attention.

Sorry for being so sketchy about the problematic samples. Friday was a hectic day and not only are my ducks out of line, but I feared that several of them were playing in traffic. The problem children are from a series of localities all in the same general area. They are uppermost Barremian or lowermost Aptian in age. These are important petroleum source rocks and so you can imagine that they not only contain a lot of organic material but that it is in a whole range of chemical alteration states. Palynomorphs are uncommon but not rare and preservation is not bad although they are on the high mid-range of thermal maturity (varies some from site to site depending on how close we were to a fault. We started with a gentle Schulze's oxidization (at room temperature) and when that proved ineffective applied gentle heating (not boiling). I've been admonished by the Willard/Eble crowd that I oxidize too harshly so have tried to back off in general. Interestingly, Sarah thinks I'm very cautious. HmMMM.

Yikes! It's Tuesday evening and I haven't finished this yet.....to continue:

Schulze's leaves the palynomorphs visible but with enough stuff stuck to them that they couldn't be identified with reliability and wouldn't be appropriate for photography. Further treatment with Schulze's took the palynomorphs too far and didn't significantly clean up the other organic gunk. We tried a light rinse with 1% and 5% KOH and one of two things

happened: Everything went away or the sample turned to tar (no kidding). What I'm trying now is to HF a larger sample, make a number of splits and try the other things you suggested. We've already started on bleach and ammonia. We'll add the others. I'll let you know and your ideas are always welcome!

Well, I have a proposal to finish before I leave this evening (deadline was 5 p.m. today but I begged on the argument that the administrator wouldn't DO anything with it until tomorrow morning. Then I've got 80 more exams to grade tonight. I also have to get my talk together...have been invited to give a seminar at U. of Chicago. I leave Thursday. So, how does one survive this and live to retirement?

Sorry to hear that you won't be around in early June when I'll be passing East on I70 to visit family and friends. I'll wave at AlphaBet as I go whizzing by.

All the best --Nan

More updates later and the "regular" news. Best --Nan

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id TAA26806; Thu, 4 Apr 1996 19:16:24 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110183ad8a1f9e643c@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Thu, 4 Apr 1996 19:16:44 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Oh....
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Apologies for flooding your e-mail cue. I do have one more, unrelated question. We're preping the Colombian Cretaceous materials for palynology and have run into a problem on which I could use some advice. "Paleopalynology" advises not to use Schultze's solution or any oxident on things that are already alkali soluble. We've got some things that are and have responded poorly to an effort at gentle Schultzing (no heat) or a 10% KOH wash alone. Nothing happens with nitric acid alone (suggested by Sarah based on her Triassic experience). However, these samples are full of organic junk and one can't see a think left as is. We are harvesting a large organic residue at the moment with the idea of experimenting on a number of splits to see what more we can try. Do you have any suggestions? Many thanks!

More updates later and the "regular" news. Best --Nan

Received: from uclink4.berkeley.edu (uclink4.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.12]) by pa
Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.155.22]) by ucli
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33-960227)
id PAA02998; Thu, 4 Apr 1996 15:06:48 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110177ad89f792fba1@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Thu, 4 Apr 1996 15:07:08 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: various-partly urgent
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Oh dear. I though the travel money was already in the works. I've already sent a follow-up (what the *&! is going on?) note to our financial officer. She is very busy and I'm afraid it's a squeaky wheel sort of situation and, well, I haven't been squeaking very much.

As for the letter. Our original intent was to do a proper evaluation when we unpacked the stuff over the summer. Because of space limitations (my teaching room is in use), we can't begin until the semester is over, which will be too late for you. Off the record, what we can do is if you will give me a number (you're best guess of value) we can probably prepare the needed letter. I am (for expediency's sake) speaking without checking with the Director, so this will be tentative until I can. Would that work? I'll explore on this end and see what we can do.

More later. Best to all. --Nan

X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan: Arens

Your snail mail letter of 27 March was here on 1 Apr.; not bad.

Your news all very interesting to us.

Accidentally I discovered yesterday that I have another e-mail address: axt8@psu.edu, in case the one above ever fails. Things sent to "axt"--I guess the x means no middle initial, but what does the 8 mean?--come right in the same computer as do the ones to Traverse.....You do know that we also have e-mail at home, don't you?: alnbet@aol.com.

I'll undoubtedly keep in touch. For one thing, there is the question of some \$ to defray part of driving costs to CA last Dec.-Jan.

Also, and this has suddenly become critical for reasons that are complicated, I urgently need a letter stating something about the value of the materials I gave you--coal balls, slides and all, as PSU had in effect given same to me personally. The problem is that 1995 was a bad year for me vis a vis IRS--in connection with retirement I had all sorts of extra, one-time income, and I also did very well with investments. So, I need the deduction urgently for 1995, not 1996. The gift was arranged in 1995, you took delivery of part of the stuff via DE in May of 1995, and the rest of the shipment began its trip on 16 Dec., 1995, when my helper and I loaded it on the truck and drove to Huntingdon. The trip itself began on 26 Dec., 1995. My CPA thinks there is no question that it will fly as a gift for 1995, but the letter needs to state that, to support the letters I have in the files from you, substantiating that the gift was made and "accepted" in 1995. The actual date of delivery is apparently not critical. But getting this letter from you has suddenly become VERY critical, much more so than the abovementioned travel money. Indeed, I should apply for an extension for filing if you e-mail me back that such a letter cannot be quickly produced. I can get an extension to August.

Back to work. Among other things I must get a couple of lectures ready for Japan. Yesterday I gave a very nice (the kids called it "awesome") demonstration about fossil plants to a grandson's 3rd grade class--we started with washed baby carrots for everybody to get across the basic crispy, cellulose+water nature of most plants, went on to a piece of anthracite for everybody, ended with chunks of Pennsylvanian shale from the Broadtop, full of fossil plants, for them to split and take home. Went fine except for one kid who used his geological hammer to make about a dozen holes in his desktop before I could get it stopped.

We leave for the Orient on 6 May. Cheerio. Alfred.

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DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-3140

FAX and Voice. 510-643-0879

Additional FAX. 510-643-6264

e-mail. nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu

27 March 1996

Alfred Traverse
Palynological Laboratories
Department of Geosciences
Penn State University

Dear Alfred:

Many thanks for the photograph. Indeed there are still some things for which Mollusc Mail is still easier. Ironically, these days are fading as well because we are in the process of purchasing equipment that would allow me to digitize the photograph and place it on the Net where it could be retrieved by anyone (or just selected some-ones) who cared for it. Crazy. I honestly don't know how I'll keep up on it all.

I'm glad to hear that you had a pleasant trip home. We are in the midst of Spring Break here and I'm enjoying the change of pace. I had hoped to be scientifically productive in the respite from classes, meetings, and the chaos that is my life, but as it turns out I'm mostly catching up on long-put-off paperwork. (sigh) It needed to get done anyway.

I've submitted abstracts to BSA, IOP, and am finishing one to GSA. I have decided not to go to NAPC since the government shut-downs and problems in the USGS required cancellation of our symposium. It's a long trip just to attend. I am planning to be back on the East Coast for a family visit in late May/early June, however. I didn't get East for Christmas and I suppose my family misses me, although I'm not sure why?! It will be a nice break and a good chance to see friends who I do miss.

Colombian Cretaceous material is turning out to be more interesting than I had imagined. I certainly can't complain about a lack of research projects to pursue. Please do keep in touch and enjoy Korea and Japan!

With very best wishes,

Nan Crystal Arens
Assistant Professor
Department of Integrative Biology

Curator of Fossil Plants
University of California Museum of Paleontology

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.berkeley.edu [128.32.106.22]) by psm
Received: from [128.32.106.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33x)
Id: KA423489; Mon, 11 Feb 1996 10:44:23 -0800
Message-Id: <902110103ad4d95967e48(128.32.106.42)>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Sun, 11 Feb 1996 10:44:35 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarong@violet.berkeley.edu
Subject: Re: Alfred and his new
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES
PALYNOLOGICAL LABORATORIES
435 DEIKE BUILDING
UNIVERSITY PARK, PA 16802, USA
Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

Dear Alfred:

15 March, 1996

Dr. Nan C. Arens
Department of Integrative Biology
3060 Valley Life Science Bldg.
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Nan:

There are some things that still require mollusc mail, to whit:
Enclosed is a photo as a souvenir of a fun experience. It would
be better of the subjects, except I wanted to be far enough away
so that the name of your building showed. The svelte appearance
of the young prof contrasted with her aging friends is, however,
well showcased.

The trip to Indianoplace and St. Louis went well--we won the
tourney, and I had a couple of quality days with my sister--the
three of us went to the Missouri Botanical Garden, among other
things. I always get a lot out of that. Betty's last remaining
relative in Indy died the day before we went out there, and we
were able to attend the funeral, etc., without an extra trip.
Very considerate.

Now we're only six weeks away from the trip to Korea and Japan.
I had better get to work on the lectures that I discover I am
expected to present.

Back to the Copan, Honduras, core. Hope all is well with you.

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

encl.:photo

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id KAA23489; Sun, 11 Feb 1996 10:44:22 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110103ad43d95907a4@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Sun, 11 Feb 1996 10:44:35 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: Alfred and his new truck
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

It seems ironic that a non-unique sequence of numbers would somehow be a better identifier than a non-unique sequence of letter. Oh well. I remember when passing out entrance codes for paleobotany last fall, I had the prospective students file by me and my lap-top at which time they were to trade their name for an admission number (computerized system, you know). Well, you would be surprised at how many shocked faces I got when I told little Muffy Doe that I wasn't interested in her student number, but wanted her name, first-name first (because that's realistically what I would learn first). (sigh)

The Central American stuff sounds interesting. I have for a couple of years wanted to do some post-glacial altitudinal transect pollen profiles in the Choco (where La Planada is located) to ask some questions about Ice Age floral extinctions on either side of the Andes and what that means for our understanding of modern biodiversity. However, no one seems to think this is sufficiently interesting to fund, so here we are. Perhaps this is a gamble I'll take after Berkeley decides what to do with me. At the moment, I'm still trying to get the Cretaceous to pay off...in the research gamble department, that is. So far, so good, as I said, the palynological preparations look much better than I would have predicted!

Well, I have a full day of exciting retro-fit requests to write up and equipment orders to compile. BLAH! It's bad enough one has to work all weekend, but I haven't even done anything interesting!

Take care --Nan

GO LADY LIONS!

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id OAA12159; Fri, 9 Feb 1996 14:43:43 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110104ad41688d3cb7@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Fri, 9 Feb 1996 14:43:53 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: proposal, etc.
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

What fortuitous timing! I just met with our financial advisor regarding your re-imburement and she will be ruffing out the numbers over the weekend. If we will need anything more from you, we will know by Monday. She seemed to think it would be okay as is, but will let me know. We do need some additional bits of information:

1. Your social security number
2. Truck license plate number
3. Your home address (which I believe I still have but you could refresh me to make sure).

We're finally rolling!

I'm glad you liked the proposal. Communication skills are always good things, I suppose. The trick about dyslexia is that it doesn't affect whether I'm capable of being articulate; it's more a matter of the mechanics of reading and writing. This is why I flourish in the computer age. With a keyboard and the ability to touch type without looking at the keys, I essentially by-pass all the things that I can't do well. I get really stuck writing on the board in class for example. For the most part students are really understanding, but once in a while I get someone who just can't cope with the occasional backwards letter.

Frankly, I'm not sure where Caradonia is; it's not in my atlas (surprise!). Maybe BC has a Universal Translator like on Star Trek! Yea, that must be it! Oh well.

Have a pleasant weekend. --Nan

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id IAA29814; Wed, 7 Feb 1996 08:40:11 -0800
Message-Id: <v0211010ead3e76d928d5@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Wed, 7 Feb 1996 08:40:16 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: More Miller
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred: Apparently the Miller application is on it's way and well ahead of the Friday Deadline--this is a first for our department. Below is the e-mail correspondence with my chair....FYI. Take care! --Nan

P.S. A bit of botanical trivia: It turns out (much to my surprise) that there has been another "Arens" to publish new taxa under the botanical code. Therefore, I become "N.C. Arens" for such purposes. I spent most of yesterday doing Colombian fern determinations on the collection made by my former student. It was fun and we think we've got yet another undescribed Sphaeropteris tree fern! I still get all excited about such things!

>Date: Wed, 7 Feb 1996 08:33:31 -0700
>Arens to Caldwell

>Thanks Roy.

>
>Actually, the campus has already benefitted in that this is the same
>person who just donated the big teaching collection that will be the
>centerpiece of my course (181/L). However, this doesn't have to do with
>the Miller. I think Traverse and I are both clear on the fact that it's a
>gamble, but it's always worth a try! --Nan

6 February
Caldwell to Arens

>>Nan,
>>
>>You did an excellent job preparing the case for Professor Traverse's
>>nomination for a Miller Visiting Professorship. I wrote what I feel is a
>>strong letter of endorsement and will have the case walked over tomorrow.
>>Miller appointments are somewhat political and very unpredictable, but we
>>can keep our fingers crossed. Thanks for taking the time and effort to do
>>this. I really think that the campus would benefit by his appointment.

>>
>>Roy
>

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id SAA26747; Tue, 6 Feb 1996 18:59:35 -0800
Message-Id: <v0211010bad3db54eb0c9@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 6 Feb 1996 18:59:40 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: Miller, etc.
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

I hate to break it to you but it's been over 70F here for the last two days. It was foggy this morning and overcast for most of the day, but pleasant weather without a coat.

No, don't count chickens on the Miller just yet, but do know that the eggs are laid--an important first step. I'm sure you can always find a good home for your Lady Lions tickets should you find yourself in Foggy California for a month or two.

I still have no reply from our financial officer. She's one of these perpetually stressed people. Frankly, I forgot that I should remind her as I've had my hands rather full "multi-tasking" these first two days of the week. I think that' the new word for having too many ducks to keep in line. Now everyone wants everything YESTERDAY! (sigh) I did have a pleasant day doing fern determinations with the fern expert from the Herbaria. He's working with me on some of my modern fern work in Colombia. These collections were made by my former student, Patricia, this past summer. She promptly abandoned the project after getting her field trip paid for (she was going for other reasons as well). That left several hundred specimens without IDs and I felt bad leaving it all to poor Alan (my colleague). I'm enjoying the change of pace and learning HUGE amounts, so it's time well spent. Better that than writing committee reports and doing retro-fit requests. Blah.

Still no sign of the receipt package, but I'll keep my eyes open and let you know immediately if something else is needed. I hope not.

As we do the unpacking and cataloging of the collection in July/August, I'll be sure to compare closely with the 420 manual that you've included. It will be a good double check. I'll be sure to let you know if I find anything unaccounted for. Reprints are always welcome too! I've hired a work-study helper this semester who is doing a smattering of jobs from some light lab work to filing and organizing my reprint collection. By the end of the semester I'll have it all in files (by first author) and in a data-base which can be searched by any author, year, title, journal, or topic. From then on, maintance will be easier (I hope). I've also been converted to the idea that having such a helper is essential. So much more gets done because there's someone to do the time-consuming things that I don't have the spare hours for. I've found it hard (but essential) to let go of the do-everything-myself mentality of a graduate student/post-doc. I'm learning, slowly.

Well, more paperwork and then I want to go home. Take care and keep warm!

All the best! --Nan

p.s. Doing tree fern identifications appears to have yielded yet another

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id PAA22036; Sat, 3 Feb 1996 15:41:14 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110120ad39946abf11@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Sat, 3 Feb 1996 15:41:42 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Miller Visiting Professorship
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred: I have just finished and will be mailing on Monday a paper copy of the final Miller proposal and cover sheet. The department will be preparing it's letter in the coming week and we are well in line for the deadline. I've alerted the Chair that the proposal is coming and he read and commented on an earlier draft. So....I think we're under control.

I received the letter with milage but not the receipt package yet. I sent an e-mail to our financial officer on Friday asking that we get together to sort this out. I haven't yet gotten a reply, but that's not too unusual for her...she's very busy. I'll keep you up to daye.

Now, on to the next thing on my Weekend list of things to do!

Cheers! --Nan

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Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id IAA16700; Wed, 31 Jan 1996 08:57:24 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110115ad3540d9877e@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Wed, 31 Jan 1996 08:57:43 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: deciduous conifers
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

After food and sleep, the world is indeed much brighter.

Continuing the theme: There are two Metasequoia outside the geology building that were among Chaney's original collections from China. There has been a decision to remove them as part of the seismic retrofit for the building (currently zero-level on code = no survivors in a magnitude 8 quake). They were going to cut them down, but after a vigorous letter-writing campaign, decided to try to "move" them. Sure. Anyway, one of them (probably for soil moisture reasons) always loses it's deciduous twigs before the other. Consequently, last fall I got a phone call from someone in the administrative office in charge of such decisions informing me that there was no need to fret about the tree being taken down because it was clearly already sick. She was quite surprised to learn that it was deciduous! I guess knowledge really does complicate the decision-making process.

Take care --Nan

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Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id OAA00713; Tue, 30 Jan 1996 14:55:29 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110105ad3432770140@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 30 Jan 1996 14:55:47 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Blustery Days
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

I'll keep you up to date on any additional receipt needs. It is my optimistic hope that we can cover everything with that you've already sent. If not, we'll devise the easiest-possible solution.

The rain and a bit of wind have begun here, but it doesn't look too bad so far...then again, the December storm didn't look too bad from this side of the Bay either, but the western parts (San Francisco and Marin) took it hard. There was a great deal of loss at Strybing Arboretum (of which I'm a member) as well. The even sadder bit is that the workers with chain saws who were in "cleaning up" got a bit over-zealous and took down a Metasequoia as well because it looked "dead" (being December and all!). Oh boy!

Be well. --Nan

Date: Tue, 30 Jan 1996 13:11:28 -0500 (EST) Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42] by pang
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu> Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]
Cc: Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]
Bcc: Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]
Subject: various Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit Berkeley, CA [128.32.108.42]

Dear Nan:

Well, we have all restaurant and motel/hotel receipts in a pile at home, so can provide on a moment's notice. Incidentally, one of the slips you're getting in the bunch I sent yesterday is from Gaudin Ford in Las Vegas for nearly \$200. That was for the routine, required 10,000 mile checkup--tire rotation, oil change (14 quarts!), etc. So, it is certainly a claimable cost, unless they intend to allow the 17 cents a mile deal for the whole 6,000 miles of the basic trip.

I was reminded at breakfast about the December storm you all had by getting the newsletter from the Hoyt Arboretum in Oregon, to which we belong. They lost over 50 important trees, including the entire Cotinus collection.

Hang in there. Betty joins in greetings. Alfred.

I remember "pillar sold and snow showers" ever so well! We are heading for another one of our winter storms here. The wind has come up but no rain yet. They claim it won't be quite as bad as the bad one we had in December, but, right. We shall see. I'm hoping it will be sufficient order to do home early (at 5 p.m.) and curl up by my fireplace to read. I've got a lot of reading to do on. I'm also poring over a bunch of manuscript revision that I've been working on. I have a lot of other things and appointments today, so I can't get too much time until after faculty meeting (you may check it out).

Take care and best to Patty. —Nan

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id IAA26742; Tue, 30 Jan 1996 08:19:33 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110101ad33e3f18e69@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Tue, 30 Jan 1996 08:19:52 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: "expense acct."
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred:

Well, don't worry too much. This sort of "paper work" seems to be a big part of my job and a necessary part of getting the material here. Believe me, I spent a whole lot more time writing, revising, and shepherding the grant through in the first place. Comes with the territory, I guess. I also spend a whole lot more time on more trivial things than acquiring materials for my signature course.

There are various options and I'm not sure how per diem might work in this case. I do know that per diem does require detailed receipts, however, so that might not be a preferred option for you. If it would set your mind at ease, I can try to talk to the financial officer this week some time. I just thought it would be more efficient to go to her when I had some of the paper in hand. If motel or meal receipts are needed, it won't really matter too much what they actually look like, as long as they add up to the required amount. Since UC isn't reimbursing the full amount, how you spent your allocation apparently doesn't matter too much to them (eg., if you chose to have a companion with you etc.). Again, this is for accountants and paper pushers, not logical people looking to make sense of things. The grant was written for "shipping or transportation" and based on a quote of \$1,000 to move the stuff. In that sense, you're sort of an independent contractor, but to save all THAT hassel, we are doing it on a reimbursement basis. However, to do that, we have to have little slips of paper that add up to the required amount. There may even be other options that you and I haven't thought of, which is why I'll go talk to the financial officer and we'll sort the whole thing out. I guess my attitude is that I'm not going to be able to understand this, so I'll just do what I can to get the check cut in as reasonable amount of time as possible. I will also try to do my best to do so without requiring hotel/meal receipts.

I remember "bitter cold and snow showers" ever so well! We are bracing for another one of our winter storms here. The wind has come up but no rain yet. They claim it won't be quite as bad as the bad one we had in December, but almost. We shall see. I'm hoping it will be sufficient cause to go home early (= 6 p.m.) and curl up by my fireplace to read. I've got a lot of reading to catch up on. I'm also scrambling to finish a manuscript revision this week (self-imposed deadline) but have a bunch of meetings and appointments today, so won't get too much time until after faculty meeting (you may chuckle at me!).

Take care and best to Betty. --Nan

Date: Mon, 29 Jan 1996 19:23:39 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: "expense acct."
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

I worry that this is taking too much of your time. However, the thousand bucks was a part of the calculation for the trip, and I just have to hope it won't leave a bad taste in your mouth.

Another thought--is a per diem allowance a possible approach? I haven't had such a thing for many years. When I last had one it was \$40 a day. Allowing for inflation since then it would have to be at least \$75 now. At 400 miles a day, which is expectation, the trip is 7.5 days=15 days total. That would yield \$1125.

If they really do demand motel receipts and restaurant receipts (PSU accepts motel/hotel receipts and lets you put in whatever you like for meals) it will get complicated. For example, some of the motels are for days that I don't consider directly connected to the mission of the trip. For another thing, the single rate in the motels would have to be calculated--in most cases it is about 80% of the double rate, but it varies. Meals can be split down the middle, but I didn't charge all meals and didn't expect to have to produce receipts, so have none. However, even if they accepted, say 15 nights in motels @80% it would come to about \$600. If they allowed, say, \$20 a day for meals for me, that plus the motel charges, plus mileage should make up to \$1000 without trouble. Incidentally, I know from the bills that the trip actually cost me, not counting depreciation on a \$32,000 vehicle, about \$3000. I realize that much of that was not directly related to getting from here to B. in the least possible time!

As I write Betty is practicing with State College Choral Society, and I am still opening mail backlog. So far, two folks who wanted to come here for graduate work and two folks who wanted to sing praises of "Paleopalynology" and urge completion of the second edition.

Latest weather report--bitter cold and snow "showers"--it's always too something around here. But no earthquakes! No tornadoes. No hurricanes. Just mildly nasty.

Cheers. Alfred.

Date: Mon, 29 Jan 1996 13:34:38 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: "expense account"
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

This a. m. I sent you a packet of diesel fuel receipts from most of the 23 states we passed through on the trip.

However, I am now not sure I understand what is wanted. The fuel receipts actually support only the vehicle use. It's obviously a 6000 mile trip minimum. That works out to \$0.167 per mile, about half of the current IRS mileage allowance. It seemed to me that someone would agree to 17 cents a mile, and that would take care of the \$1000 (which is all I ever expected). Everybody knows that you can't operate a vehicle on fuel and oil charges. I have kept books for years, and at the moment the actual cost is close to 35 cents per mile--every turn of the wheel brings you closer to the next set of tires, the next brake job, etc.

However, if they want meal and motel slips too, I can provide them. That gets sticky because all of it was for two people. Furthermore, it seems to me unnecessary, as the mileage should take care of it. Please let me know whether I am also supposed to send motel & restaurant slips. I can do it, but I really hope it isn't necessary. For one thing, I consider some of the information personal.

Naturally we appreciate your efforts on our behalf. Best, Alfred.

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id LAA13791; Mon, 29 Jan 1996 11:38:30 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110100ad32c2cd9fca@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Mon, 29 Jan 1996 11:38:48 -0700
To: traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Re: "expense account"
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred: Thanks for the message. As soon as I have the letter and receipts in hand, I'll go chat with the financial officer. Your math is correct in that the UC allocation (actually \$0.25 or \$0.27/mile flat) would more than make up the \$1,000. The problem, as I understand it, is that they can't cut more than $n < \$1000$ on milage for a single trip or single grant source. This is some sort of accounting rule that bears no relation to reality. The point is that we will do our best with milage and then, in all likelihood, will have to add in something else like food and lodging. I'm not sure whether fuel can be submitted beyond milage; my guess would be not. However, before you do more, let me get the straight answer on this end. As you'll recall, the first two go-rounds on this (while you were here) had the financial officer completely confused. I'm sure you know this syndrome well.

Hope you all are recovering from the weather. All is calm here but we are anticipating another bit of a blow tonight and tomorrow. Best --Nan

Date: Sun, 28 Jan 1996 11:28:52 -0500 (EST)
From: "Alfred Traverse" <traverse@ems.psu.edu>
To: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: various matters
X-NUPop-Charset: IBM 8-Bit

Dear Nan:

You are right. There were 87 e-mail messages waiting for me. Many were summarily deleted. I love it that I can thumb my nose at faculty meetings.

The corgi which our granddaughter Anna would insist is another grandchild in Memphis plays with tennis balls, about thirty of them, which are kept in a big basket. She is obviously too smart for her own good, and I would try to rig her up to a treadmill to generate power for some useful purpose. The herding games with up to five tennis balls seem to demand human participation. She needs that to make it interesting. I wonder if a second herd-dog would provide the reaction required.

Whoops, I sent off the mileage letter but didn't include any receipts--I suppose you mean for diesel fuel. I'll send them off tomorrow, though I confess that it seems ridiculous. Only Bruce Cornet would believe that my truck simply materialized in Berkeley. Of course it drove at least 6000 miles and of course it used diesel fuel. But I'll go along with the gag.

A just-graduated student from 423 is working a month for us--processing Triassic samples from New Brunswick, collected by Sarah Fowell from "my" field localities up there. Paul Strother is coming for two weeks next month to process samples from mutually interesting Silurian/Ordovician sections. I am getting phone calls about the archeological project in Honduras--I'm doing a core in connection with why the Mayan agriculture failed or folded. Etc.

Best regards, as ever. Alfred.

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Phone: (814)863-3419; Fax: 814-863-7823
E-Mail: traverse@ems.psu.edu

26 January, 1996

Dr. Nan Crystal Arens
Department of Integrative Biology
3060 Valley Life Science Bldg.
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

Dear Nan:

We've been back two days now, and are beginning to get on top of the major problems that accrued.

On the return trip we visited an old friend in Grass Valley, and saw a little of the remains of the gold mining that characterized that area long ago. Then via Barstow (stopped long enough for a second great Thai meal, a haircut, and laundry) to Shoshone, where we had a delightful day with Lauren Wright. Death Valley is very memorable. The view from Dante's View is very scary for an acrophobe such as I. From there we proceeded to Las Vegas for an interesting day, which left me with the conviction that the whole city should be terminated. Total waste of energy. Produces nothing of value. I did get the 10,000 mile checkup for the truck. Then to Flagstaff and Grand Canyon. A bit of snow encountered. It was 6 F. in Flagstaff the next morning. The diesel started with some coughing. Then to Amarillo via Petrified Forest N. P. Then to Oklahoma City. One more day put us at Memphis for a delightful weekend with our son and family--saw a great exhibit on the plant products of the New World at the zoo, and at the Pink Palace the IMAX show on rain forests. Two more days and we were home. Since we saw you PA has had another disaster--floods. We arrived just as roads were opening up again. Our township was two days completely cut off--all bridges impassable, etc. Glad we weren't here. Alphabet came through fine (that's our place).

So, this is the letter in which I report that the final mileage on the trip odometer, set at Deike Bldg. as we left the area on 26 Dec. 95, was 7880 miles. Road atlases give the mileage from here to Berkeley as 2910, doubled is 5820. We exceeded this by taking the prudent, southern route, rather than I-80 all the way. In Dec.-Jan. that clearly was smart. We also took a few side trips. In any case, at the IRS mileage rate of \$0.30/mile, 5820 mi. would come to \$1746. As I am only expecting (from what you said) \$1000, it would seem to me that no further documentation is required. The trip was made with a 1995 Ford Powerstroke Diesel

F-250 4x4 3/4 ton truck, if that is of interest.

For the moment, that's the news. Don't hesitate to inquire about items in the various boxes that need further clarification. There will undoubtedly be more, which I will send by mail or whatever.

All the best, and hi to Robbie--though he seems to display 0 interest in humans other than you!

Yours very truly,

Alfred Traverse

Received: from violet.berkeley.edu (violet.Berkeley.EDU [128.32.155.22]) by pang
Received: from [128.32.108.42] by violet.berkeley.edu (8.7.1/1.33r)
id JAA06598; Thu, 25 Jan 1996 09:20:30 -0800
Message-Id: <v02110118ad2d5cf9f89d@[128.32.108.42]>
Mime-Version: 1.0
Date: Thu, 25 Jan 1996 09:20:39 -0700
To: Traverse@ems.psu.edu
From: nanarens@violet.berkeley.edu (Nan Crystal Arens)
Subject: Welcome home
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

Dear Alfred: If you've gotten to your e-mail I'll assume that you're making headway at digging out of your post-trip crises. I can always plan on a whole day for e-mail and at least two for snail-mail. (sigh) And I'm not even popular or prominent in the field!

Glad to hear that the crises were not too bad at home.

Robbie has latched on to a grapefruit-sized ball that was Sancho's lately. The new game is to herd it around and then push it under the bed or couch (depending on where I am) so that he can then bark at it in demand that I get it back. It's quite a good game but not conducive to me getting any reading done! I have to get him a new collar, so perhaps I'll loof for a few more balls of that size and see if he invents another herding game.

I'll look forward to the letter with milage and if you can throw in a few original receipts as well, we should probably be able to sort all out soon. I haven't been pestering the financial person = nothing more has happened. I'll get on it right away when I receive your paper.

Happy digging.

All the best, --Nan