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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.

Okersfield, Calif.
June 28, 1962

Dear Al:

Thanks for the information on mounting photos. Following your instructions we mounted some and it really is just what you said, neat and quick. Wish we had had this dope about two months ago, we made up a complete new book of type pictures for Art, just finished about a week before we received your letter but of course we never seem to get finished there are always pictures of new types to mount in the books so we'll use it from now on (that is when we get the paper).

We are doing a rushing business in pollen work as Chris no doubt told you, Alaska is our big concern. For the most part the Tertiary up there is non-marine, hence no forams so palynology has the field all to itself and we are managing to give them considerable help correlating from outcrops to wells and well to well even using ditch samples.

Art has a project going in the ~~Utah~~ Uinta Basin, Utah, Cretaceous and Tertiary sediments so the pollen is new for him but he is making good progress. Wally helps me with the Alaska work and also keeps the forams people here in California on the straight and narrow with their Cretaceous and T. Tertiary correlations. We trained a girl (a former microfossilologist) this spring and she is ~~not~~ working full time on Alaska. We are very happy with her work, she is doing a very fine job. We have a big project, on which we've done some preliminary work, on the Alaskan North Slope (Cretaceous & T. Tertiary mainly) but so far haven't had time to really get started on it. If Shell hits oil in these wells ^{in S. Alaska} that are going now we'll probably have to hire some more help if

we ~~to~~ are to even finish the north slope work.

The lab man just brought in some more samples,
so back to work.

Remember me to your wife and say how is
that boy of yours doing? I'll bet he keeps the teachers
busy trying stay up with him. What a fine, bright mind.
I still remember how surprised I was to find him reasoning
and conversing more intelligently than a good many adults
I know. How old was he then 6 or 7? Don't let him
get bogged down Al.

Best regards,

John Browning



SHELL OIL COMPANY

Jan. 11

Dear Al:

I've made reservations for 21st to 24th at the Lafayette Hotel for you here in Long Beach.

Since you are arriving in Los Angeles at 4:15 p. m.

George Kuffel suggested that as soon as you arrive you take a taxi out to the Shell Building at 1008 West 6th Street, go up and call on him and he will bring you down to Long Beach. His office is 515. I don't know whether you remember him but he says that he has met you and will be happy to bring you to Long Beach since he commutes to Los Angeles from Long Beach every day a distance of approximately 30 miles. No one envies them but there several ^{shell} people who live in Long Beach and work in L. A. George is one of the senior Geologists on the Area Staff and one of his jobs is being sort of an Area supervisor for the pollen program, as such he is my immediate boss.

If your train gets you into L. A. late say ~~after~~ about 5:00 P.M. ^{or later,} you had better call the Shell office and make sure George is there. He said that he is usually there until after 5 o'clock but if you can't raise anyone at the Shell Building give me a call my phone # is Garfield 9-2218, and I'll buzz up and get you. If that happens we could have dinner in L. A. before coming back to Long Beach.

Max looking forward to your visit.

Sincerely,

John Browning



SHELL OIL COMPANY
2080 Obispo Street
Long Beach 4, Calif.

Jan. 2, 1957

Dear Al:

It was nice to hear from you. We will be glad to have you come out to Long Beach, the 21st of this month will be fine but as far as that goes any date convenient for you around the latter part of this month or the first part of February would be all right with us at least that's the way it appears now for we have nothing planned that will take any of us away from the office during the time mentioned.

We had a Christmas Card from Bert Van Raadsloven but with no return address so couldn't send him greetings, please do ^{so} for us. What is ^{his} address? I was on vacation over Christmas, just got back to the office today. My sister and family were down from Oregon. Had a great time taking them out to Disneyland and around, but both my wife and I are glad to be back to work. My regards to your wife and family. Will be looking forward to seeing you.

John

John L. Browning

2080 Obispo Street
Long Beach, Calif
April 24, 1956

Dear Al:

Meant to write soon after I returned from Houston but couldn't seem to get at it. I'm surely in your debt for your having arranged for me to meet Dr. Iversen as well as to meet and talk with you. I enjoyed our small conference immensely and at the same time picked up the answers to a number of questions that had been troubling us here in Long Beach. So it was a quite successful meeting and thank you again.

Has Van Radshaover arrived yet? Perhaps both of you can visit us in Long Beach when you return from the National Pollen Conference. Incidentally I won't be attending the meeting. It seems that I'm going to make a trip to Alaska in the near future to collect a section through the Jurassic up there or at least go up there and show the field geologists what kind of samples to collect, also I'll have to take a run over to Nevada soon for the same reason. No dates have been set for these trips but either one of them may take place when the National Pollen Conference gets under way so I felt that I'd better not press for the trip back to Oberlin.

We hired another pollen worker the 15th of this month. His name is Wallace Malowick and he attended University of Massachusetts where he worked under R. R. Wilson. For the past four years he worked for Standard of Calif., that is California Research at La Habra (about 20 miles from Long Beach) doing pollen and spore work. He resigned over there when they decided cut their pollen research down to one man and wanted to take Mally out of pollen work altogether. We hired him as soon as he

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applied with us. He is fine and will help us much.

I had a letter from Otto Kuehl. He told me about everything that led up to his resigning from Shell. He was somewhat bitter about the whole thing and I can't say that I blame him. When they first asked him to go to Houston they told him it would be for only a year or year and a half and he said he would go, then he found out it would be for 3 to 6 years possibly longer and he refused to go. So they threatened to fire him for breach of contract thinking that would bring him around but they evidently didn't know Otto very well. He got a statement from a doctor saying it would be detrimental to the health and welfare of his children to move them from Holland. They come back with the statement that they didn't have any work in Holland for him but Otto had witnesses to state that the head of the research at The Hague had said that the only people needed in Holland were pollen people. He was meeting them at every turn and was ready to take the case into court when he was offered a position with The Holland Ecological Survey which he accepted thus ending the whole thing.

Have you heard from Jane Gray lately? I wrote to her when I returned from Houston, told her about meeting you and Dr. Iversen but haven't had an answer. Why I asked about her is because she is listed on the program for the G. S. A. meeting at Reno to give a pollen paper but it states that she is from the University of Washington so we are trying to decide just where she is since we have had no word that she left Berkeley.

Has your wife had her baby yet? I hope everything is coming along fine for both of you. I enjoyed meeting your wife very much as she is really a fine person. It was a pleasure to meet your children also, such a remarkable little boy, I'd like to hear about his progress from time to time.

I'll be looking forward to seeing you again,
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation