

Umiat, Alaska

Aug. 24, 1952

The following taken from a letter from Dan Livingston, dated Aug 13, 1952 "Dear Jim, Hows the mammalogy at Schrader? From the looks of the lab here its been good, quantitatively anyway, elsewhere this year.

They say that you are aiming to head for the White Hills after having leaving your present camp-site. If being weathered in has not changed your plans, I wonder if you would do something for me while you are there?

The White Hills is famous for its Pleistocene (or earlier) wood, which allegedly litters the tundra and bushes from every cut bank. I doubt that it is really very plentiful, but nevertheless some is found thereabouts. If you should run across some, I wonder if you could bring some of it back?

We managed to get a 1.5 meter core from Chandler this time, but still no peat for carbon dating. This probably means that the glaciation which formed the lake post-dates the warming which permitted forest to grow on the North Slope, but there may possibly be some forest advances reflected in the pollen of Chandler which could be correlated with White Hills forestation.

In any case, it would be very good to have enough North Slope wood for  $C^{14}$  dating. It should tie in with the dates for the Fairbanks permafrost unconformity.

It takes about 8 grams of carbon for any sort of a count at all, and a duplicate sample is highly desirable. Wood, when dry, is about  $1/3$  carbon, so if you should run across a log, and it is convenient to bring back a piece, you'd know about how much to bring.

Any information about the relation of a wood sample to the surrounding geological features, especially glacial ones, would, of course, be extremely valuable.

I know how hard you work in the field, and how much every hour counts, so please don't go out of your way to look for wood or anything like that, but if you should happen to be camped in the middle of a late-Pleistocene spruce forest, and are wondering whether anyone could use a piece of it, by all means bring some of it in.

Don't use any preservation on the wood, of course.