

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

EASTON, PA.

DEPARTMENT OF
GEOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY

Oct. 12, 1952

Dear Miss Gilpin,

I am a long time in writing and am sorry. I am sending you tomorrow 3 books on geology that I hope very much you will enjoy reading. I suggest the biographical one first - easiest to read, and the best way to learn about any science is to follow the slow progress of knowledge about it in the minds of the men who most advanced it. I suggest the Grand Canyon book next, and the textbook last. I think the best way to read any textbook is to read bits of it now and then when you feel so inclined. Otherwise, it can be pretty deadly. But I don't think you will find Down To Earth so bad.

Keep these books as long as you want. Main thing is for you to enjoy reading them and to derive real benefit from them. I do hope they may make you feel closer to an understanding of geology - you already have a "feel" for it.

I have talked to some geological friends about the idea, and they sounded really enthusiastic. I have thought about it a lot, and hope you have not forgotten it and will not lose your interest in trying it with me. I explain it to myself this way: geology has a tremendous story to tell; but for it to reach the layman in simple and humanly tangible terms, it needs to be translated into some medium having a great, natural appeal to the average person. Most of all, ^{people} they need to be reached emotionally. The beauty of a superlative photograph, combined with its accurate factual presentation, represents to me the perfect, and perhaps the only, medium that might prove successful. And the few lines to go with each photograph must possess the same combination of beauty and authentic fact to fill in the rest of the narrative.

I hope we can do something with this idea!
P.S. Thanks to you and Miss [unclear] for the very delicious lunch you gave me and the very enjoyable visit. Sincerely, Arthur Montgomery