



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

September 29, 1967

Ing. Guillermo P. Salas
Instituto de Geologia
Ciudad Universitaria
Mexico 20, D. F.
Mexico

Dear Ing. Salas:

I have the unpleasant task to inform you that Jose Luis Lorenzo has again become hostile toward the Valsequillo Project. You will recall that, in March 1966, Lorenzo required that Juan Armenta and Mario Pichardo could not collect fossil vertebrates in the Valsequillo region, and he further insisted that our collecting of vertebrate fossils could be done only with his permission. Lorenzo's requirements hampered our work in Pleistocene paleontology.

Now, by a manuscript submitted to the Society for American Archaeology for publication in American Antiquity, Lorenzo makes the fantastic allegation that artifacts recovered in 1962-1966 by Cynthia Irwin-Williams and Armenta from the Valsequillo Gravels were "planted" by local workmen. To support his charge, Lorenzo has obtained notarized statements from three of the workmen. We understand that Lorenzo will also seek to publish his allegation in a Mexican journal, probably the Boletin of the Instituto Nacional de Antropologia e Historia.

Lorenzo's manuscript and the statements by the workmen are full of inconsistencies, inaccuracies, and lies, which are easily refuted by verifiable field records. Cynthia Irwin-Williams has prepared a detailed reply that she hopes to publish simultaneously with Lorenzo's allegation, both in Mexico and the United States. If you wish, I can send you a copy of her response.

Lorenzo's behavior in this affair borders on paranoia. I write to you about his peculiar (not to say, unprofessional) activity so that you can be on guard in future official matters in which he has a part. I regret, wholeheartedly, that the present deplorable situation makes this necessary.

I turn now to a pleasant matter. Supplemental funds are available to continue work on geologic aspects of the Valsequillo Project. This means that Virginia Steen-McIntyre will continue petrographic study of the volcanic deposits and I will be able to write a geologic report this winter. To prepare the geologic map, I still need the planimetric base map described in my letter to you of May 11, 1967. Because it is desirable to compile the geologic map before completing a final draft of the report, I hope that the planimetric base will be available soon. Please let Dr. de Cserna know about my need and that my schedule for completion of the report is unchanged.

Sincerely yours,

Harold E. Malde
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