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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Craters of the Moon National Monument
Arco, Idaho

Refer to:
N - 22

June 9, 1956

Mr. Edmund Schulman
Assoc. Prof. of Dendrocronology
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona.

Dear Sir:

We received your letter of May 28 with a great deal of interest. It has been estimated in the past that the Triple Twist Tree was in the vicinity of 400 to 500 years old. Because of this estimate, the ages of some of the lava flows had been given as quite recent. As you can see, your work casts a new light on the story of Craters of the Moon.

It is hoped that further work of this nature along with more research geology can be done in this area. We would appreciate knowing whether you or your staff are planning any other field trips into southern Idaho whence other studies can be made in the Monument. In lieu of such field trips, can you furnish instructions for the taking of core samples and the selection of sample trees?

During Mr. Furguson's visit, a number of core samples were taken from other locations within the Monument. In view of the information of your letter, we are now quite interested in the results of these borings.

This summer we are beginning the construction of a Visitor Center building which will house the story of the area in museum exhibits. Because of the significance of the tree ring story in aiding in dating of the flows, we wish to know if the core samples taken from the Triple Twist Tree can be returned for exhibit purposes. Due to the condition of the tree, it is questionable whether more samples should be taken from it for the present.

Sincerely yours,

Everett W. Bright
Superintendent.

N-22

University of Arizona

TUCSON

LABORATORY OF TREE-RING RESEARCH

July 31, 1956

Mr. Everett W. Bright, Superintendent
Craters of the Moon Nat. Monument
Arco, Idaho

Dear Mr. Bright:

If my scheduled field trip is not modified I may be at Craters of the Moon about August 15-18. Perhaps it will be possible at that time to discuss in some detail with you the evidence in the collection of cores we have from the Monument and also to get some supplementary material.

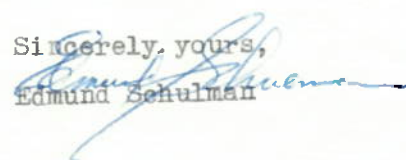
The report which I mentioned in my letter of May 28 will not now be available for distribution until at least mid-September and I trust you will continue to hold the note on the triple-twist tree until publication.

Only one other tree in the collection of cores in hand shows substantial age, of the order of 1,000 years. It is by no means unlikely that other trees in this age class will be found in the Monument.

The analysis of our extensive climatic sequences in the long-lived pines sampled in various areas during recent years is a laborious and time-consuming process; it will be several years before this analysis is completed on the material in hand. However, preliminary dating work of sufficient accuracy may often be completed quickly, and I hope it will be possible to add to our picture of the ages of trees in various areas of the Monument during or shortly after my planned visit.

The problem of final disposition of the cores from the "triple-twist tree", awaiting analysis, may perhaps be held over till I see you. Normally, the material which backs up published scientific data is retained at the Laboratory; we have now a very extensive collection from almost all of the national parks and monuments of the West which contain drouth conifers.

Sincerely yours,


Edmund Schulman