

7 July '87

Jim & Holly,

How goes it at Taylor? Sorry it's taken me so long to write since your letter, Jim, but I was in the midst of dissertation gyrations. Yes, it looks like there's a chance I'll get done soon. In fact, I thought my defense was going to be 2 weeks ago, but then Oz had to have back surgery. Now he can't sit down and has to do all his work on his back or standing up and it's not going so fast. With a little luck, I'll get everything back from him at the end of the week and be able to re-schedule for sometime around the end of the month.

Jim, those observations you and Schlegel made on the lion-sheep incident may deserve a note somewhere. There are so few observations on big cat predatory behavior (and prey behavior) that stuff like that needs to get out. The interesting things are that the herd closed ranks and that they moved back toward the lion after the chase. When I saw the IF&G helicopter chasing a herd of sheep last winter the herd got into a real tight group and ran like a single unit across the talus. Lots has been written about prey advantages in grouping behavior. But why they would move back toward the lion is really interesting to speculate on. Just putting down your description of the incident would be important, I think.

Sorry to hear about the end of Monty. I think some important information came out of the deal. An accumulation of experiences like that will give the state more to go on in the future. I think the fact that he made it back to Taylor so fast is interesting. Was he immobilized for the whole trip to Goat Cr? What was the minimum number of days it took him to get back?

Gary was around this weekend - one of the few times this summer - so we invited Kerry over. He was here for a day and we had a big dinner at our place last night. Needless to say, a good time was had by all. Kerry seems to be doing fine. I think Gary's getting a little frustrated with his helper and how slow the data comes in, but he was in good spirits.

Well, I hope everything is going as planned this summer and the interns are working out well. I haven't heard from Tony lately, but Greg was through last week and said he seems to be liking the work. Obviously, time and money have kept me from getting in there so far. Barring a miracle, the Big Creek project is dead in the water and we won't be in there next winter. I'll write up what we have after the dissertation is done. I'm applying for jobs and have got my eye on everything that looks promising right now.

It looks like MG and I will be flying in there just for the day on the 27th of July with a National Geographic News Service person. Should we bring our hay forks?

Time to get back to it. Hope all is well with you two.

*Amraco,
Stewart*