

June 21, 1993 letter from Austin to Brown



# INSTITUTE for CREATION RESEARCH

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June 21, 1993

Walter Brown  
Center for Scientific Creation  
5612 N. 20th Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Walt:

This letter is a follow up to our phone call of June 21.

You say in your letter of June 18 that you began to lecture on the breached dam explanation for Grand Canyon the year before the fifth edition of your book *In the Beginning* (copyright August 1989) was published. This is an interesting statement as the following observations indicate.

Enclosed is the April 1989 version of the *ICR Grand Canyon Field Study Tour Guidebook* (copyright 1988), the text of which is a reprint of the April 1988 *Grand Canyon Field Study Tour Guidebook*. That text was written in November 1987 and the book printed in February 1988. It contains clear language describing the theory of a breached dam. These publications would appear to prove that I am the first creationist to propose the breached dam theory for the origin of Grand Canyon.

When did I first begin to lecture on the breached dam theory for Grand Canyon? I believe it was in 1983 after I saw the startling resemblance between the breached dam on the North Fork of the Toutle River and Grand Canyon. Please see my publication "Rapid Erosion at Mount St. Helens" in the 1984 issue of *Origins*. There is a description of the "Little Grand Canyon" at Mount St. Helens. A copy of the paper is enclosed.

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Who was the first creationist to propose that a large post-Flood lake existed in southeastern Utah? I was working with Dr. Ed Holyrod (Arvada, Colorado) to do the terrain analysis which led to the plotting of the lake shown in illustration on page 54 of the 1989 *Grand Canyon Guidebook* (published in February 1989). As best as I can remember this plotting was done in 1987, but I would need to check my archives of correspondence. I am uncertain when the first hand sketch was made of the figure which was later redrawn to appear on page 54. There had to be a significant period of time between the hand drawing and the finished figure. Our artist at ICR is very slow at finalizing my sketches. It would appear that I preceded you by two years on recognition of the lake in southeastern Utah. The only problem was that I did not give the lake a name. When you printed the fifth edition of *In the Beginning* (August 1989), I saw the name "Grand Lake". Thus, you got priority on the name. Later editions of the *ICR Grand Canyon Guidebook* have a footnote acknowledging that you provided the name.

I can understand why some people say that you plagiarized my work. We came to the same conclusion, but my conclusion preceded yours by two years. I believed that we came up with the theory independently. I am not saying that there is any plagiarism here. It is the appearance that leads people to say this.

In your June 18 letter you wrote, "If your explanation for the Grand Canyon was published independent of and before mine, I will quickly apologize to you, ask your forgiveness, and correct the matter." Could you provide the acknowledgement and apology in writing? Henry Morris and Emmett Williams will want to know. People in future years will probably want to know. Let's set the record straight.

Sincerely in Christ,



Steven A. Austin  
Chairman, Geology Department

cc. Henry Morris  
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