

## The ALLEN, TEXAS, Meteorite

Willie Chandler, P. O. address Allen, Texas, lives about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles W. of there and  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile N., where he owns a 160 A. farm in the Jacob Backus (sp?) Survey. He is a World War veteran, and moved to this place right after the war, presumably 1919. Many years ago it is his recollection that he plowed this rock up, but he mentioned this fact at the very last and was not very positive about it; he has no idea on what part of the farm he found it. What he is sure of is the fact that it has been laying around in various parts of the farm yard for more than 10 years; "maybe as much as 15 or nearly 20". For a good while it lay near the usual pile of junk and cast off materials in the yard. His mother first recalls it under a certain tree, but Willie is sure he had it before he began to leave it under the tree as the usual resting place. Last winter or spring it got thrown into the creek (by children?), and once when he went down the creek to clean out some brush he found it some 300 yards down the creek bed; he brought it back to the farm yard.

This incident seems to have made him resolve to take the object somewhere for identification, and he put it in the back of his car. At first he thought of sending it to A & M, which he attended in 1913, but later he decided to take it to SMU. At Dallas one day he was too busy to stop at the school, tho he had the rock along; later he was in Denton and had more time, which resulted in his taking it to the Chemistry Dept. there.

He had the idea from general reading (recalls no special articles) that it was a meteorite, and had told neighbors so for some years, tho they did not believe him. Dr. Masters, head of the chemistry dept., was in the outside office with an assistant when Chandler came in, and after a brief talk they told Chandler they did not think it was a meteorite. (Masters had been to Meteor Crater in Arizona and had samples of the irons from there, which he was probably relying on entirely.) Dr. J. L. Carrico was in an adjoining office and heard the conversation; he was one of the most interested in my audience at North Texas State Teachers' College about a year ago, and went out immediately. While he was frankly disappointed at the object's weight and was somewhat dubious about its identity, he was sufficiently suspicious to have it left for further checking.

He tried a file on it in a small area and made a single small cut; while he got some metallic appearance, it is doubtful whether it was from the meteorite or from the file! He measured the density and got 3.5 approximately. On one occasion Masters hit it a hard blow with a hammer but the stone is luckily very hard and the blow glanced, resulting in the detachment of only a very small chip, presumably lost. Incidentally, Chandler has once knocked a larger chip off, some  $2 \times 3\frac{1}{2}$  cm., also presumably lost.

Carrico wrote me and I got his letter Saturday, Nov. 12, 1938; he was then at Waco and coming home thru Ft. Worth, and I was able to catch him and talk to him here. I felt sure he had a meteorite and went up to see him the next day, when we went to see Chandler and got the above details.

Chandler's place is at the headwaters of Rowlet Creek, and his house and barn are between two little branches, into one of which the rock was once thrown. He says a soil survey map of the county is available and will show his place accurately. We talked to his neighbor on the south, Johnny Rasor, and his (Rasor's) brother, who farms still farther south. Two other neighbors were also present; one has a place towards the east.

Chandler does not want to part with title to the meteorite, but is willing to let us have it rather indefinitely. I have it here now for photography and description, etc., but will probably go back thru the region of find with it some Sunday and later get local publicity in McKinney and Dallas or more likely Denton. For the time being it will probably be left on display in Denton. Chandler agrees to give us first chance at it in case he is approached by some one else who wants to buy.

Carrico weighed the object at about 3lbs. 2 oz., while I get 1408.4 gm. This is equivalent to 3 lbs. 1 3/4 oz. It is a practically complete individual except for old breaks as mentioned above and on a few corners. It is remarkably well preserved, especially considering the vicissitudes of fortune it has encountered. The most surprising feature is that the dominant tone of the exterior color is a dark gray; while there is a general tendency to rusting, it is sufficiently confined to scattered spots and small areas to make the outstanding color gray instead of brown.

While the gray tone would lead one to infer a lesser age than the story obtained indicates, several faces and portions of faces (presumably the lower parts of the rocks as it lay in the soil) are mildly covered to heavily spotted with travertine. This is more in keeping with the story of the rock's age and would indicate an even longer period in the soil before it was found than one would expect from other appearances.

In shape the stone is roughly confined within the outlines of a right triangular prism. The natural base is somewhat concave the central portions being a centimeter or more below the corners of the triangle, which project downwards as "legs" a la tripod. One corner projects laterally about 2 cm. This base and the lower third of an adjoining side <sup>A</sup> are covered with relatively uniform and small pits (1 cm. or less in diameter and only a few mm. deep); it is suggestive of the region to the rear in the last stages of <sup>milky</sup> flight. These pittings are apparently rusted rather heavily but are mostly covered and concealed by the thickest and whitest of the travertine, which, however, probably nowhere attains a thickness over 1 mm.

The side <sup>A</sup> which has similar pittings and travertine on its lower portion has a quite different looking upper half or more: it is dark and smoothly rounded. This condition extends around to an adjoining side face <sup>B</sup>, which is perfectly smooth and flat except for a general convex curvature that is gentle.