

1979, June 25

Dr. Arthur J. Ehlmann,
T.C.U. Geology Dept.,
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Dr. Ehlmann:

You will recall that you have in your possession a stony meteorite from Allen, Texas, which I took care to tell you was not really my property as I had never concluded a deal with the finder.

Mr. Willie Chandler, the owner, is now in a nursing home at Irving, Texas. The address is on Sowers (?) Road. This information was given to me a few weeks ago by his niece, Mrs. Doris C. Morgan, of 1221 Fair Oaks, Irving, Texas, 75060, phone 253-7007.

Mr. Chandler had lost each of two wives and I think has no other relatives than sisters and/or nephews. In the event of his death they may claim the meteorite. If I'm still around I'll help you negotiate with them for it.

The meteorite is a good fairly fresh specimen and worthy both of study and preservation in scientific circles. I had a very checkered career and I am anxious to see it preserved for science and not returned to the relatives merely as a funny rock Uncle Willie once found!

I think he found it about 1923; I have a very complete file on it. I very narrowly escaped being thrown away when some children visited him and threw it into a creek, where he again found it! He tried to take it to SMU for identification but the geologists were all gone on summer trips or vacation. Then he took it to North Texas State and the geography professor there turned it down as a meteorite because it was not an iron (like Canyon Diablo). A chemistry professor in the adjoining room heard the turn-down, and went out in the hall to accost Willie and retain the object for a check. Dr. J. L. Carrico had heard me mention the relatively high density of stony meteorites in a speech I made, and he checked the stone and found it to have a density of about 3.6. When he phoned me I knew we had meteorite, but I was never about to get title when I talked to Willie, and even had to return it to him once for several years.

Sincerely,