

Brian Mason + Clarke on Dec 2/11/69 on
way to El Paso + Pared. Elliot King already
there. Chondrite with black groundmass, hopefully
carbonaceous. Natives have found pieces + are selling
them in the street of town at high prices.

1969, Feb. 10

Mr. Guillermo Asunsolo, Editor,
Chihuahua, Mexico

Dear Sir:

I am sorry I do not have a better address, but I take your name from a newspaper report here regarding the fireball of February 8th. I would like to hear anything more you have to report about it. What was the time?

I agree with the idea that the noise heard was not that of an object hitting the ground, but instead was the atmospheric "shock wave" which the body sets up as it goes thru the air at a faster rate than sound. The actual meteorite probably "went out" as a lighted object when it was still several miles up in the air, perhaps as much as 5 or 10 miles.

Then pieces may have fallen to the ground, and there may be many of them instead of just one. These objects often break due to the pressure of the air on them, and the pieces may be anything from as big as a tiny pebble up to pieces as big as a hand or a head. Most fresh stones have a black crust when they first fall, but a very few are known which are actually light colored on the outside (due to a lack of metallic iron, which colors the crust black in most cases.). Some are solid iron. Most are heavy for their size, but a rare type called a "carbonaceous chondrite" is rather light, though still solid. They are never porous or full of bubble holes.

Ask the people in the suspected area of fall to be on the lookout for any rocks that look unusual to them. If they find anything suspicious, urge them to report it to you or send in a small sample.

Yours sincerely,