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ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO
AMARILLO, TEXAS

P.O. Box 909
Lubbock Texas

9-20-45

Dear Oscar:

Am sure you have already seen and heard about this but just in case you hadn't thought I would send it to you.

Have been seeing a lot of falling stars as the lay man would say out here in the last 10 days. Seems more than usual. Probably no more than usual but just seems so.

Give your Dad my regards and same goes for my Pap too

Best Regards
D. J. [Signature]

State Sees Fiery Comet

McALESTER (U.P.) — A fiery object believed to be a meteor, flashed across Eastern Oklahoma between 7 and 8 p. m. last night causing considerable excitement.

The ball of fire was reported sighted from distant points such as McAlester, Hugo, Antlers, McCurtain County, Ada, Tulsa and Vinita.

Highway patrol lieutenant C. T. Raley says it was first thought that an airplane had caught fire and exploded, but no report of such an accident has been reported today.

Residents at Antlers say windows in homes there were rattled by the explosion. Several McAlester citizens who claimed to have seen the mysterious ball of fire say it trailed sparks, then suddenly exploded in a great puff of smoke.

Tulsa newspaper offices were deluged by calls from anxious citizens seeking information.

Raley expresses belief it was a meteor since it had been seen in such distant places.

100 lbs. of waste paper will make 200 containers for blood plasma. So start saving now. It will help save a boy's life!



Find Meteor Fragment Tuesday Near Atoka

Small fragments of what is believed to have been a meteor which sprinkled down over Atoka county early Monday evening amidst heavy rumblings and elongated clouds of streaming smoke were recovered Tuesday morning by Frank Marsh, county farmer, and public officers on the Guy Holden farm two miles north of Boggy creek.

The heavy rumblings, resembling distant thunder, were heard over a large area and residents of McAlester, Antlers, Wapanucka, and Coalgate called Sheriff L. O. McBride inquiring the cause through Monday night.

Another fragment of the meteor was reported at Stringtown where a colored citizen was scared silly by the impact of a fast-moving object near his feet.

The fragment recovered by the group Tuesday, was dug from a two-foot hole where Marsh, in a squirrel hunting trip, saw it fall. He marked the spot and notified officers. Arthur Johnson, city police chief, Joe Hurt, FBI man from McAlester, and a penitentiary convict on hand for digging purposes, unearthed a four-pound object resembling burned meteor.

Investigators from the Bureau of Public Safety in Oklahoma City are being sent to Atoka county to investigate the phenomenon.

Wide divergance on the time, place, method, and general details of the occurence were evident from all sources with the only sure fact he is donating to Atoka highschool for future reference.
—Atoka Indian Citizen.

Blazing Meteorite Almost Hits Farmer; He Digs It Up

McALESTER, Okla., Sept. 19. (U.P.) — Twenty pounds of weird interplanetary substance blamed for a spectacular meteor explosion in eastern Oklahoma skies early Monday night was packed for shipment to Oklahoma City University scientists today.

The meteorite was dug from a deep hole by Frank Morris, Atoka, Okla., farmer, who said the flashing thing hit the earth only a few feet from him. He marked the spot where it fell three miles north of Atoka and returned there yesterday to excavate it.

Residents over the eastern half of Oklahoma saw a streak of fire across the sky early Monday night and an explosion. Most of them thought it was an airplane in trouble, and a few believed they were seeing their first P-80 jet-propelled fighter in night flight.

Morris told state highway patrolmen he was returning from a hunting trip Monday night when the zooming scream of the meteorite nearly deafened him. An instant later, he said, he saw the fiery fragment bury itself in the earth a few feet from his path.

9-19-1945

Monnig Is Seeking Route of Meteor

Oscar Monnig, 1010 Morningside, astronomer, is trying to track down a meteor seen streaking across the sky at 7:30 p. m. Monday.

C. J. Davis of 700 E. Arlington is the only Fort Worth resident reported to have seen the "fire ball" which inscribed an arc across the northeastern heavens.

Miss Eleanor Stark of 3317 Ave. H saw the spectacle while she was 10 miles north of Mount Pleasant. From her point of view the meteor was falling in the northwest skies.

By cutting tangents from the two reports, Monnig estimates that the meteor ended its flight about 30 miles north of Durant, Okla.

It Seems That Oklahoma Got The Meteorites.

The strange falling object which Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Witt of Mount Ida and Mrs. A. W. Biorseth of Hope reported to the Gazette that they had seen about sundown on September 17 had raised hope that another meteorite would be found in Arkansas. But now we know that Oklahoma has gained at least two meteorites from this fall.

The visible path of this unusually bright meteor or "fireball" was seen from points in Texas, and at the time of the fall explosions were heard in Fannin county, Texas, and in Atoka county, Oklahoma. Near the town of Atoka two meteorites have been found, and one of them fell within 60 feet of a man. Oscar E. Monnig of Fort Worth, who is a member of the Texas Observers, an amateur astronomers' group, informs the Gazette that he went to Atoka and examined the meteorites. He believes that others fell and that they probably will be recovered. Although the small meteor is usually consumed before it reaches the earth, the large "fireball" does not ordinarily burn up completely, and fragments of iron with nickel drop to the ground.

The Texas Observers organization at Fort Worth has established a collection of meteorites which is being used for scientific study. This group has our best wishes, but we hope that an exhibit of meteorites can be built up in Arkansas.

IT NARROWLY MISSED FARMER

Oscar Monnig Goes to Oklahoma To Inspect Where Meteor Fell

Oscar E. Monnig, Fort Worth astronomer, left Thursday morning for Atoka, Okla., to investigate the fall of a large meteor near there early Monday night.

The crash of a fragment of the exploding "fire ball" into the earth narrowly missed an Atoka farmer, Frank Marsh, who was returning from a hunting trip. The chunk of hot matter buried itself in the ground a few feet from his path. He marked the spot, returned there Tuesday and excavated it.

Monnig, who went on the trail of the meteor late Monday after reports had reached him that the blaze of light in the skies was seen over a wide area, calculated from two rough observations the point of fall and missed it less than 10 miles.

C. J. Davis, 700 E. Arlington, was able to give Monnig a directional "fix" in the northeast by reference

to a tree and a house. Monnig shot the angle with a transit.

The second observation came from Mrs. Eleanor Stark, 3317 Ave. H, who marked the meteor down from her viewpoint about 10 miles north of Mount Pleasant. She noted its "end point" in the northwest and, as darkness had not yet fallen, related it to landmarks. She remained there until dark and noted that her landmarks were under the handle of the Big Dipper constellation. Having attended Monnig's lectures on astronomy, she communicated her findings to him.

Monnig charted his two "fix" lines, which intersected near Lehigh, Okla., within 10 miles from the spot at which Marsh found the fragment. The wide angle afforded by the "fix" lines gave less effect to errors of observation than if the angle had been narrower.

Monnig talked by phone with Marsh Wednesday night, learned that he still had the fragment. Marsh said it buried itself about 18 inches deep in the ground and that it weighed about 20 pounds. News dispatches from Oklahoma said it would be sent to Oklahoma City University but Monnig indicated he would attempt to retrieve it or find other fragments in the vicinity.

The meteor may have weighed several hundred pounds when it entered the friction of the earth's atmosphere to become hot and incandescent. It may have weighed 100 pounds when it disintegrated under pressure. The noise almost deafened Marsh. Such bodies move in orbits in interplanetary space and only become visible when they enter the earth's atmosphere at terrific velocity.

Meteorite Falls In Eastern Oklahoma

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"I didn't know that half the state would be wondering what had happened or I would have called the sheriff right then," Morris said. "Instead, I went home to bed and tried to forget my narrow escape. I didn't think people would believe my story anyhow."

The charred metal-like chunk was said to be heavier than lead. One fragment was given to Atoka High school for an exhibit.

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