20 Pound Meteor Fragment Hurtles Onto Atoka Farm

A fragment believed to have come from a meteor exploding high in the sky over southeastern Oklahoma early Monday night was recovered Tuesday on the Kye Holden farm, three miles northwest of Atoka.

The meteorite, said to weigh about 20 pounds, fell only a few feet away from Frank Morris, Atoka farmer, who marked the spot and then returned Tuesday morning to dig it from the ground.

Morris told Highway Patrol Lieut. C. T. Raley of McAlester and Sheriff Arthur Johnson of Atoka county that he was returning from a hunting trip near his home when he heard the screaming approach of the meteor.

It burst with an explosion like thunder high in the sky, he said, and he watched the fragment hurtled down and buried itself in the ground only a few feet from where he was standing.

Morris said the explosion came with a blinding flash and sparks flew in all directions like Roman candles. A long cloud of smoke remained stationary in the sky for a considerable time following the explosion, the Atoka farmer said, but finally evaporated.

He then marked the spot and returned Tuesday morning. Morris said the meteorite was buried about 20 inches in the ground and had left an 18 inch crater.

Raley said a small fragment of the meteorite was broken off and given to the Antlers highschool and that the reainder was being sent to Oklahoma City university. The fragment was black outside with a sliver color inside, the patrolman said.

Officers over a wide area were alerted Monday night when scores of citizens from Miami, Okla., to as far westward as Clinton, and in many cities in southeastern Okla-

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20 Pound—

homa reported the mysterious flash of light.

At least two highway troopers, Andy Birdwell and Howard Hill, spent most of the night conducting a hunt in the Atoka area in the belief an airplane had exploded in the sky.

One of the best eye-witnesses accounts of the exploding meteor was furnished by C. R. Galloway, manager of an airport at McAlester. Galloway said he was flying at 7 p. m. at a point north of McAlester when he said the blinding flash of the explosion, followed by a sound like thunder.

Persons at Antlers, 34 miles east of Atoka, reported windows were rattled by the blast.

Watchers in McAlester reported the meteor flashed through the sky like a rocket, speeding toward the western horizon. A small streak of smoke trailed the object. A minor explosion like a magnesium powder flash occurred, leaving a heavier, misty smoke in place of the thin streak. Then it burst apart like a Roman candle and only the spiral of smoke remained visible in the sky.

Oscar Monnig Goes Where Meteor Found

Oscar E. Monnig, local astronomer, left today for Atoka, Okla., where a farmer, Frank Marsh, dug up a meteor fragment which he saw fall Monday night.

The Fort Worther talked by phone with Mr. Marsh last night and learned that the fragment, weighing about 20 pounds, buried itself aboutt 18 inches in the soil. Other pieces of the meteor will be sought in the same place, Mr. Monnig said.

Persons who saw the meteor's fire trail from Fort Worth gave Mr. Monnig information which led him to believe the meteor fell near Lehigh, Okla. Atoka is 10 miles from Lehigh.

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unty. Elsewhere $1.50 a Year.

Fragment of Meteor Found Near Atoka

ATOKA, Sept. 19—A 20 pound fragment found on the Kye Holden farm three miles northwest of here was believed today to have come from a meteor exploding high over southeastern Oklahoma Monday night.

The meteorite fell a few feet from Frank Morris, Atoka farmer, who returned yesterday to dig it up. He said it was buried 20 inches in the ground. A small fragment was broken off and given to the Antlers high school and the remainder was being sent to Oklahoma City university.

Morris reported finding the meteorite after scores of southeastern Oklahoma residents saw a mysterious flash of light and heard an explosion. Officers were alerted for fear an airplane had exploded in flight.

Reports of the flash came from as far as Clinton and as far north as Miami. Residents of Antlers, 4 miles east, said windows were rattled by the explosion.

What Happened? ... Meteor ... Atomic Excitement!

(By AN OBSERVER ... who didn't see it)

What seemed to be the end of a quiet and peaceful sunshiny day suddenly burst into a night of atomic excitement for Antlers residents Monday evening when a mysterious explosion was seen, heard and felt throughout this section. Just what happened? Well no one has been able to figure it out as yet. Maybe you can furnish some light on the subject. Anyway, we're not a meteorologist nor an "atom-izer" and haven't found anyone who can relate the same story as his neighbor regarding the alleged explosion.

The Antlers American telephone rang all day Tuesday by a hundred or more curious inquiries wanting to know what happened. Even the journalism class of the high school were at their wits end for a story. After an extensive survey we find that it is the general opinion that the "explosion" was a meteor. However, some supposedly eyewitnesses claim that it was a "buzz bomb" or a plane crash, but investigations reveal no evidence of the latter.

Dixon Sumpter, a discharged war veteran who has witnessed many different kinds of bombs and explosions, was an eye-witness of the whole incident. He reports that he saw an object, similar to a ball of fire, flying through the air at a very high altitude. The object exploded in mid-air and burst into several smaller balls of fire. Even though the sun was hardly set the whole sky was lighted, then in less than five minutes a great thunder was heard. Windows and buildings throughout an area of 50 mile radius rattled and shook from the concussion. Sumpter said it looked like some of the robot bombs he had seen in Europe, but his guess is that it was a meteor.

Another eye-witness who lives near the Paul Stewart ranch, about 30 miles northeast of Antlers, said he saw the object pass over going in a westerly direction. He said it was a streak of fire with a tail of white smoke and made a hissing sound which attracted his attention. He saw it explode, and Tuesday brought in a picture of the atomic explosion taken from a magazine which he says is identical. One person reported that he saw the words "Antlers" written by the white smoke which hung on in the sky for some 20 minutes after the explosion. However a man from our rival city to the south says he saw the letters "Hugo."

Sheriff Bill Gardner is reported to have sent out his chief deputy Coy Rosenthal who chased the intruding element to the Atoka county line.

A farm woman from Joslin Valley, in town Tuesday said she was out behind the house a little after 7 o'clock when the thing passed over. She said she first heard a hissing sound then looked up to see a big flash of light which was followed by a rumbling noise like an explosion.

Alvin Morris took a searching party out as far as Farris late Monday night and interviewed a farmer who was four miles north of Farris at the time of the explosion. He said it seemed almost overhead but a little north and west. Alvin's searching party ended with a search for a jack when his tire "exploded".

So, until further evidence is produced, we shall be satisfied to let it pass as a meteor . . . And if the world comes to an end Friday, as predicted in Los Angeles, we shall be ready to call it "thirty".

Antlers American, Antlers, Ok.