

Walter Lefe Spring

Star Route  
Sidney, Texas  
9-20-45

Mr. Oscar Manning  
1010 Morningside Dr.  
Ft. Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Manning, Last Monday evening about 7:30, I observed the meteor of which you requested information in today's Star Telegram.

The meteor was a vivid white and appeared to be about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the size of the full moon. It began about  $15^\circ$  above the horizon something like  $10$  or  $12$  degrees north of east and fell at an angle of  $45^\circ$  toward the north describing an arc. It apparently disappeared just above the horizon. I live 12 miles N.W. of Comanche.

Near the last of July just before dark I saw a brilliant violet blue fireball, much larger than the above, fall a little to the north west. It lit up the countryside almost as bright as day. Did you observe this? I saw nothing of it in the Star Telegram.

I am a boy 13 years old and am very much interested in astronomy.

Yours very truly  
Mark Twain Carroll

### 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.

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 "fireball" 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.

# Find Meteor Fragment Tuesday Near Atoka

Small fragments of what 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 Guv Holden farm two miles north of Boggy creek.

The heavy rumblings, resembling distant thunder, were heard over a large area and residents of McAlester, Ardler, Wapanucka and Coalgate called Sheriff L. C. 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 two-foot hole where Marsh, in 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 divergence on the time, place, method, and general details of the occurrence were evident from all sources with the only sure fact he is donating to Atoka high school for future reference.—Atoka Indian Citizen.

## 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.

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McALESTER, Okla., Sept. 19. 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.

## 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.

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OFFICIAL



# The INDIAN CITIZEN

CONSOLIDATION OF THE INDIAN CITIZEN, ATOKA DEMOCRAT, ATOKA NEWS

Indian Citizen Estb. April 30, 1885.  
Vol. 60. No. 21.

ATOKA, OKLAHOMA, THURS

## FALLING METEOR FRAGMENT FOUND NORTH OF ATOKA

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## The Ruth Class Monthly Meeting

The Ruth Class of the First Baptist Church had their monthly business and social meeting Tuesday evening September 11th. They were entertained with a "covered dish luncheon in the beautiful gardes of Mrs. Wylie Keith's. Long tables extended out into the garden with long flowing white covers and vases of roses and zinnias. Needless to say the ladies enjoyed the good food and the "chat-

## Jap Surrender Envoys



MANILA — Soundphoto — Jap surrender delegation arrives at airport by Maj. General Charles A. Willoughby, right, G. 2. officer. Picture was taken just after the 16-man Jap delegation arrived at Nichols

## Millican Hits Good B'ow for Discharge

Louis Millican of Atoka was discharged honorably from the navy last week and is at home figuring to make Atoka county a 30 year man after spending 45 months with the ball bottom pants boys.

Millican figures out to be one of the county's high point men with 174 points the way the army figures, 47½ by the navy system and 37 when they give no-quarter point for a month of sea duty.

Riding the destroyer Brinkely as a motor machinist, Millican completed two tours of combat duty after boarding his ship at Pearl Harbor in February of 1942.

## Atoka Baptist Ass'n. To Meet at Tushka, September 25th.

### Morning Session

- 9:30—Song Service—L. E. Stewart.
- 9:40—Devotional—G. R. Naylor.
- 10:00—Reading of Church Letters and seating of messengers.
- 10:30—Report on Associational Missions.—Frank Riggs.
- 10:45—Report on Home Missions—H. H. Henry.
- 11:00—Report on Foreign Missions—Mrs. W. J. Nail.
- 11:15—Report on Sunday Schools—Raymond Fox.
- 11:25—Report on B. T. U.—Mrs. H.