

*Write him on Dept*

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 29 Chelsea Drive

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1961, Oct. 20

Dear Walter:

It's always good to get a letter from the professor. Marcus Aurelius?—I've been reading him; see column enclosed. Seneca I never got around to; maybe I shall in my dotage.

The "Sherman thing" has matured into the Bells, Texas, meteorite of Sept. 9th, 1961, which makes two falls in Texas within 125 miles of each other in 102 days! The one they have at H. C. O. in part is the Harleton, Texas, meteorite of May 30. I stepped aside and let Henderson buy it for himself (USNat) and the various interested scientists, tho it hurt my heart to give up all claim to such a beautiful fresh stone when I got there first and could have outbid them. However, in the end I understood they paid very dearly for it.

The Harleton was near Marshall, Texas; the Bells is near Sherman. Bells is a carbonaceous chondrite, and history is repeating itself, since it is quite similar to our first find of a fresh fall, the Crescent, Okla. of Aug. 19, 1936, which closely resembled Mighel, Russia. These stones are jet dull black inside and out, with a thin, lacy crust; the interior has little white specks of a mineral whose identity I do not know. They are quite attracted by an Alnico magnet.

Besides the first piece described in attached circular, we were led to the spot of fall of a second piece last Sunday. It was a mess of tiny fragments in an area hardly 5 inches in diameter, totalling probably less than an ounce; it had hit on hard, disintegrating limestone of the Austin chalk formation, and either broke on impact or subsequently shelled to pieces in three rains it has undergone. It is now beginning to rust.

A boy at Mesquite took a 1/300 sec. snapshot of this object in flight, near or at the final burst. I have his permission to use it in "Sky and Telescope", and hope to ham up an article soon. The meteor was a gorgeous thing in the sky by all accounts, but I fear all pieces are tiny to small, and recoveries are going to be most difficult. Nininger phoned and volunteered both his services and those of his son-in-law Huss, but I warded them off and told Henderson to keep out. I want this one to myself even if I mess it up.

Sincerely,