

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX 29 Chelsea Drive

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1961, Nov. 21

Mr. Walter Houston,
356 Washington St.,
Middletown, Conn.

Dear Walter:

I am come to the end of the rope on the Belle Plaine because I cannot trace Phipps. Manhattan Jr. High doesn't answer about him. The County School Supt. at Wichita said that office didn't employ him and referred me to the City Board of Education at 428 S. Broadway in Wichita. They replied promptly they didn't employ him.

So——can you furnish initials, first name, or something else about Phipps? And could you give me some individual at Manhattan who might take an interest and help me trace?

Mrs. Roberts at Green, Kansas, doesn't answer. I may try phoning her.

Henderson of U. S. Nat. was thru here and stayed three days. No doubt there is a gradual build-up by which they hope to take over our collection some day, and I'm not for it at all simply because it is federal.

His immediate objective may have been to talk me out of some of the Bells fall, but he didn't really try. I took him up there one day and we retrieved one tiny piece of perhaps 15 grams total that a girl had found and thrown away because she decided it was not a meteorite! I let him have this but it isn't much, since it was badly rusted in part and a whitish mineral had begun to effloresce on the bottom (magnesium sulphate, perhaps, according to a recent article by Anders). This type of object is supposed to run about the usual 10% of metallic iron, I understand, but I find our fall is highly susceptible to a magnet. The literature would indicate it must contain much magnetite.

I personally found my first meteorite, a nicely oriented Bells specimen of less than 1 ounce, several weeks ago. A total of 5 running to about 9 ounces, is now known. That is slow work!

Comet Seki I had to miss at its best on account of clouds I'd like to have seen it when it was fast and big!

OEM