

1963, May 17

Mr. Walter Houston,
36 Lawn Avenue,
Middletown, Conn.

My Dear Professor:

At long last Mr. Elvin R. Phipps, proprietor of your Belle Plain, Kansas, stone has answered some letters I wrote about a year ago! He refers to it as having been identified by you as an iron meteorite, but I sure it was a chondritic stone. He gives the weight as 58.5 lbs., and I think you had mentioned 52 pounds or 24 kg. so this must be the same object.

You once wrote he hoped for \$1,000, but I started off with an offer of \$3 a pound; I can always go up. I would like to know if you ever made him an offer, or whether you think he is or has been in touch with any one else on the matter.

He says that he has since found another similar meteorite and would be interested in selling either or both as he feels they should be in a museum somewhere. "The other meteorite, which has not been analyzed, appears to be similar to the first. It is somewhat heavier than the first."

Did you ever visit the locality or do any canvassing among adjoining farmowners? I thought I might within the next month or so if it looks like I can get together with him on price. By the way, Phipps is now at 943 Lakeview, Emporia, Kan.

I have a tale of an alleged dated and witnessed fall from 1900 from Hiawatha, Kan., but several elements of the story are wrong (ground scorched, hot when dug up, does not respond to a magnet), so this might not be worth even investigating. I am asking the owner for a sample chip.

Elston and Roach of U. S. Geolog. Surv. came here last Nov. to get a few sample rocks from my suspected baby astroblemes at Hico, Texas, and Wilbarger County, Texas, but their thermoluminescence apparatus at Haver is out of whack; I was supposed to get a prelim. report in 3 weeks and have nothing in 5 months!

OEM