

1965, March 25

Mr. Elvin R. Phipps,  
1018 West Fourth St.,  
El Dorado, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Phipps:

I appreciated the letter from Mrs. Phipps, who indicates you are ready to part with the second meteorite found near Belle Plaine.

On the basis of the 60 pounds you said was its approximate weight, I can send you the check for \$180.00 in advance or upon receipt of the stone, as you wish.

It would be quite all right to have the Eureka Transfer and Storage man pack and ship this by express collect or prepaid, as we did before. Even if these meteorites seem hard, they are often veined on the interior and can crack and break along such line of weakness if not well packed with some protection. Ask the man to pack it accordingly--but he should know, from his experience with the other one.

I have thought of you more than once during this hard, reluctant winter, which I hope we shall soon be rid of. It is not nearly as bad here, but we yearn for spring.

I had a most interesting experience a few weeks ago when I heard of a boy in Oklahoma, near Tishomingo, who was out bird hunting and tripped over the point of a meteorite projecting from the soil in uncultivated, granite country. He had dug out two iron meteorites allegedly of 360 and 214 pounds, right next to each other and apparently one just at or before impact. I've made two trips to the site to get full facts and photographs and had them dig more thoroughly, with the results that two more pieces of 6 and 2½ pounds were found nearby in the hole. Ordinarily the irons are quite tough and do not break in falling, but this seems to have been something of a butterfly shape with a thin middle hinge that either broke or gradually rusted away.

Sincerely,