

1967, Sept. 19

Mr. Elvin Phipps,
1018 West 4th St.,
El Dorado, Kansas.

Dear Mr. Phipps:

I am wondering if you are still at this address, and if so, whether there would be any possibility of our getting together this fall and going down to the region of the Belle Plaine finds.

What interests me greatly is that in correspondence with the State Geological Survey at Lawrence it develops that there definitely was a third stone of 52½ pounds found in the SW¼ of the SW¼ of the NW¼ of Sec. 31, Township 31 S, Range 2 E. in Sumner County. With good maps of the region I finally got, these three stones line up almost exactly and are so nearly in line as to present a remarkable picture. Pretty clearly when this old meteorite it was coming in on a low angle and one wonders how many other pieces might be along this line or extensions of it.

I doubt if the Kansas geologists have done anything more about it, but I would like to go in there and talk to the people farming this region thru which this line runs. It would take a day or two of canvassing. I figure you are familiar with the neighborhood and maybe even the people, and could be a great help to me. Are these places farmed by owners or tenants?

I thought I could come to Wichita by train or plane some Saturday. If you could meet me and go with me Saturday and Sunday I think we could do a pretty good job, as the geological survey maps indicate that this area, like most farming regions, now has very few houses or inhabitants. On this occasion I would want to do only visiting and talking. If things looked favorable, we could consider going back in later with a metal detector, which I think might work on these stones--but this is real labor, to cover any amount of territory by walking over it in narrow strips at a time!

I would gladly pay your car expenses and any other reasonable sum you would charge, or I could rent a car if you don't have one. Let me hear from you in a tentative way.