

"Instruments"

1970, Nov. 3

Mr. Leland R. Johnson,
1118 Inverness Drive,
Wichita, Kansas. 67218

Dear Sir:

Forgive my long silence but there is a reason! The trip I took was to get my wife's mind off some impending surgery; that has now taken place and she is home recovering, but I am still not entirely back on an even keel as to leisure and side interests like astronomy.

I think the reported analysis of Belle Plaine by the men you mention expressed in a technical form that have been misleading what was in the meteorite. I heard some adverse criticism of the analysis expressed quietly and confidentially at a meeting of scientists I attended. I will try to look up my file and the paper by Gillerman and Hill, but I seriously doubt if there was 20% of metallic nickel-iron in the meteorite; 5 or 10% would be nearer in the ballpark for a stony meteorite.

Even this smaller amount is generally scattered and in such small particles or inclusions that I have always wondered there would be enough cross-section to activate the average detector. However, my knowledge of electronics is practically nil and my experience has been only a little with an old Hedden (tube type) detector of the kind used so successfully in the Kiowa County, Kansas (Brenham) field.

I'll try to respond to you further and answer some of your other suggestions before too long, but just cannot promise. I am active in our dry goods business here and it doesn't leave me the spare time I'd like to have.

Sincerely,

Orin D. Manning