

I N D U S T R I O N I C S

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MU 3-6817

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1118 INVERNESS DRIVE
WICHITA, KANSAS 67218

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
29 Chelsea Drive
Fort Worth, Texas
76134

Dear Mr. Monnig:

Your good letter of 4 October states that you expect to be gone until about 19 October. This should be waiting for you on your return.

Your suggestion of trying my detector on the fragment from the Belle Plaine III recovery is excellent. The larger mass is not available, but a slice is with Mr. Lawrence Curfman, local attorney on whose farm the recovery was made.

To my dismay, the detector did not give a positive signal to Mr. Curfman's slice, although Gillerman and Hill reported about 28% metallic material in about 72% silicates. I had assumed our detector would respond to that amount of metal.

What is puzzling about the detector is that we dug a hole in a "buffalo wallow" and obtained a strong signal that increased with depth but did not find anything at three and half feet, a distance normally beyond the detector's range. I sampled the soil and recovered less than a gram of finely dispersed magnetic particles in about 130 cubic inches of fairly wet clay that was a mixture of fine sand and some black soil. An atomic absorption spectral analysis by Mr. Eldon Means made for the presence of nickel was negative.

One of the members of our astronomy group, Mr. Rod Anderson, student in the geology department at Wichita State University, is hoping to work with their extensive meteorite collection, would like to join the search at Belle Plaine. I plan to compare our detector with the one at WSU and also try ours on several of their specimens.

I did have correspondence several years ago with Mr. Walter Hill at Kansas University seve but a recent attempt disclosed that he is gone from K.U. I will see if Mr. Gillerman is there.

I will be delighted to have you come with me to the Belle Plaine site. I have not checked the fields or owners where your specimens were found, but will try to do so before you come if we can coordinate our calendars. I will look forward to talking to you and the chance to tell you about my hope for starting a systematic meteorite search.

You may be interested to see a copy of a letter to Dr. Ninnenger last May, but to which he has not responded.

Leland R. Johnson