

1 May 1970

Dr. Harvey Nininger  
Sedona, Arizona

Dear Dr. Nininger:

I was very interested in the newspaper report of your speculation on the cause of the fuel cell explosion on Appolo 13. In addition to interest in the Apollo series, I have had a long standing curiosity about meteorites and have probably borrowed your book "Out of the Sky" from the local library, paying enough overdue fines to buy my own copy, though I suspect it is out of print.

I was impressed by your extensive treatment of meteorites and ingenious methods for recovering meteoritic material. I tried your suggestion of sifting deposits at downspouts with a magnet as well as residue in roof gutters. A large number of particles stuck to the magnet, many of which were easily identified as flakes of rust from the gutter. Many other small grains were not easily identified and I felt may have been particles of the mineral surface from the asphalt shingles. I regretted I did not have a wood shingled roof.

After reading your book, I located Mr. Stockwell in Hutchinson and talked to him about his searching technique. I noticed a large map of Kansas on which he had located recovery sites, nearly all in the western part of the state. He had an explanation for this with which I am sure you are familiar.

Assuming the density of falls more or less uniform throughout the world, why should we not be able to recover as many in the eastern part of the state? (Incidentally, I wonder if the Gulf of Mexico is the remains of a primordial impact? I asked the National Geographic Society but did not get any takers of the idea.)

Your account of excavating a "buffalo wallow" near Haviland leads me to think wallows may be prime suspected locations of falls. I began inquiring of farmers and ranchers if they knew of such places. As I began formulating a plan for a systematic investigation beginning in the Flint Hills Region, it occurred to me that I may be retracing steps you took many years ago. The question of this letter is to ask if you made a systematic survey of wallows in the Flint Hills, or elsewhere and if so, what were your results?

I will greatly appreciate whatever response you can give to this inquiry.

Sincerely,