

XXXXXXXXXXXXX 29 Chelsea Drive

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1961, Oct. 3.

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
U. S. National Museum,
Washington 25, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The only fragment of the Bells, Grayson County, Texas, meteorite so far retrieved is a small stone, essentially complete, weighing less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces. It hit the roof of a house at lat. $33^{\circ} 36.2'$ N., long. $96^{\circ} 28.0'$ west, about 3 miles west and a little south of Bells.

The fireball was traveling northwards, bearing a little to the west, and passed almost directly over the towns of White-wright and Bells near its end. We tentatively place the terminal explosive flare just north of Bells, and explain the piece found as a "kick-back" from the final burst into "thousands of pieces". It bounced some 40 feet off the roof towards a SE direction, and we infer it came from the NE.

Hitting the roof broke one edge off the piece, and we found two small fragments of this breakage material in the grass under the point on the roof where a composition shingle showed about a one inch break.

The meteorite is a carbonaceous chondrite, similar to Crescent, Oklahoma. The piece we have was picked up the next morning and is perfectly uncontaminated, with no grains on it. The fall was Sep. 9th, 1961, near 10.08 p.m. On about the 12-13 rains from Hurricane Carla drenched the region, and presumably every other piece found will have gone thru one or more rains.

I have spent 8 days working around or under the fireball, and Messrs. Morse or Brown have been with me three of those days. We have visited over 70 householders, talked at the schools of Bells and Savoy, and I am sending out 400 circulars like the enclosed.

It is distressing to find no more, and we will continue every effort, working next north of the end point (we have already been there in part) on the gamble for a big piece.

Like Crescent, which resembles Mighei, this meteorite has a few scattered specks of a white mineral in it but is essentially all black. What is the white mineral?