

Houston Texas
Sept. 30, 1961

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig

Received your letter this A.M. and am glad of your confirmation that the fireball area has been, to a degree, determined.

I sort of believe that what information I could give would only bear out other information which you already have, however I will give it for what it may be worth in the ~~interest~~ hope that what I saw might be a clue to something else than ^{few} just a small meteorites, by that, I mean the large red ball I and my daughter observed after the flash.

After the near daylight brightening of the northwestern and north-northwestern skies here, it took about a second and a half or two seconds for us to adjust our vision to normal darkness and then is when we noticed

a red glowing ball descending straight down (apparently) this red ball appeared to be half the size of the moon, it was perfectly spherical and was red like a sunset in a dust or smoke condition on the horizon on a clear day.

This red ball was visible approximately 2 seconds, I use the One-thousand-one One-thousand two^{etc} method of counting seconds mentally, I use it quite often and am quite accurate. Then the red ball went out of sight behind a forest of trees about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away. While it was falling it remained the same intensity of brightness and hue, no sparks or bits were coming off of it and it fell at a speed of a parachutist near ground observed from a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or so if that will give you an idea of speed of descent, of course I realize that the distance I was from this object greatly affects relative appearance and speed, what astounds me is the

fact that this object appeared to be half the size of the moon, it is beyond my ability to imagine how tremendously large this object must be to be seen from here. I may also add this note of importance or interest whichever ever the case may be, it was very cloudy that night, Hurricane Carlo was some distance out at sea due south of Galveston at that time and the clouds were rolling thick and fast here going in a westerly direction, how far inland from here they were I do not know, but why I could see the red ball at that distance I do not for sure know, even if infra red rays do have a penetrating effect.

do you suppose that what I saw is ~~the~~ in the same vicinity or could I have ^{seen} something else much closer to here?

times coincide, I saw the object about 10:10 P.M., called the newspaper about 10:13 P.M., was the first to call and called back later to see if anyone else reported the flash, plenty had seen the flash, no one saw the red ball, that is why I became interested in reporting my sighting to responsible authorities.

I know the spot spot at which I sat and can exactly line up the path of descent with other nearby objects, but I have no instruments to get an accurate reading on it. I have observed the location of the north star and through interpolation I estimate that it fell about three degrees north of north-northwest from me and I live in northeast Houston, however I ~~realize~~ realize that at such a distance this can be only of little value as far as accuracy goes. I would like to know if any one saw the bird

of red ball which I described and also if due to cloudy condition as I have described is it possible to see an object as far away as I saw this one, I presume it must have ~~to~~ come down closer to Ft. Worth than Houston.

If I can be of further help I will be glad to do so. I would be most interested to answer to the two questions above, one going back to the previous page.

Sincerely

O. A. Hawson
7414 Laura Kaype
Houston 28, Texas