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29 Chelsea Drive

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1961, Sept. 22

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

Fireball of Sep/9, 1961

Dear Dr. Henderson:

The specimens you heard about in the above matter are at Bonham, Texas, not Barnham. I do have some word that some of the pieces were found on a Brannun or Branham farm north of that town, so there is a confusion of names.

I have had the name of the Mr. Walter White you mention but have not seen him because all my preliminary conclusions placed the path well to the west of Bonham (by 10 or 15 miles) and I could not conceive of there being any meteorites from this fall there.

I realize I could be wrong, and the adopted path is tending to shift towards Bonham so I will try to see him and the samples this week-end.

A man brought by two types of material yesterday which he said he had obtained from White, but they were definitely not meteorites. One was very porous and light slag or cinders; one was a solid black and brown rock with no trace of metallic iron and no crust, looking very suspiciously like an artificial tile or brick material. He said White had another type of material that was metallic, found on a doctor's lawn the morning after (not there the night before, as usual), which he would not give him any part of, but it didn't sound like a meteorite to me.

I appreciate your repeated offers to come help, but if you will take no offense I would rather not have the complication of the U. S. National or Smithsonian Astrophysical injected. I gave up to you completely on Harleton, and I'd like to work this one out myself.

Sincerely,

Meteor Crater Still Is Sought

The meteor that flashed the sky Saturday night probably is in some field or pasture between Sherman and Bonham, Oscar Monnig, local astronomer, said today.

A day of field investigation yesterday placed the site of its fall as near Bells, with White-wright and Bonham close seconds. Mr. Monnig will return to that area later this week to check further.

The meteor, which probably fell in one-to-five and even 10-pound chunks, traveled at 15 to 20-miles a second, he estimated. That is two to three times as fast as a satellite is shot. It certainly broke up because some fox hunters out near Mellissa heard a series of pops after the big boom.

Rule of the thumb way to tell where it fell is the length of time between the flash of light and the sonic boom. The less time, the closer the place of fall.

Mr. Monnig still needs observations from people in the area between Bonham and Sherman to help locate the place the meteor fell.

Ex-Senator Sick

PROVIDENCE, R. I. (UPI) Theodore Francis Green, 93, the oldest man to serve in the U. S. Senate, was reported in poor condition at Jane Brown Hospital today with a heart ailment. Green, who served in the Senate from 1936 until his retirement last year, was in an oxygen tent.