

TW3  
2403  
Sherman, Texas,  
Sept. 12, 1961

Oscar Monnig,  
29 Chelsea Dr.  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

HOS-2838

Dear Mr. Monnig,

I am the manager of the Twin City Drive In theatre, located very close to half way between Sherman and Denison on Highway 75. Last Saturday night I was in front of the snack bar looking toward the picture screen to the north west. Suddenly it began to get light and almost at once was as light as mid-day. I looked around, then up and saw a brilliant white ball of fire. I would say it looked about like a white hot blazing barrel would appear at 300 yards. In the two or three seconds I saw it I reckoned it was travelling just a few degrees east of due north. When almost directly overhead a smaller piece seemed to shoot forward from the main body and the entire thing was dark in a split second. I looked at my watch, which I had set by WWV before leaving home and it was between 10:05 and 06. If the object was other than directly overhead when it disintegrated it was slightly to the east, but very slightly. I did not hear a boom or roar of any kind, however I went into the snack bar to calm the fears of excited people who came rushing in.

I have watched Echo pass over numerous times this summer and have often watched and estimated the heights of planes from Perrin Air base which we see frequently. I have also seen numerous meteors from the theatre but never one so close as this one. Judging from its brightness and clarity of outline, unless it was one of tremendous size I would say it was in the 15,000 to 20,000 foot level when it broke up. I could be miles wrong but that is the way it appeared.

Yours truly,

*Robt. D. Sparks*

Robt. D. Sparks  
Box 694  
Sherman, Texas.