



sonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass.

**EXPERTS AT** the observatory will analyze the elements of the stone to determine if it is a meteorite. A meteorite is composed mostly of rock, iron and nickel, but it has some other elements in lesser amounts.

You can learn more about shooting stars by attending one of the lecture-shows at the Dallas Health and Science Museum's Planetarium in Fair Park, or by reading any of the many books on astronomy available at the museum.

## Iceland Chief Tours

EUEBEC (AP) — Iceland's President Asgeir Asgeirsson, in Canada for a 16-day visit, toured the St. Lawrence River island of Orleans today. The president and his wife arrived Monday.

Bangkok, Thailand, has two television stations.

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**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This column is prepared by the staff of the Dallas Health and Science Museum.

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The bright and mysterious light which flashed over Texas last Sunday night was not an ordinary meteor but an exploding meteor or "bolide," reports T. E. Cramer of the Texas Astronomical Society.

"A bolide is a super-meteor that explodes near the end of its path, low in the atmosphere," Mr. Cramer says.

"Any meteor that is bright enough to be seen in the daytime is usually called a fireball," he adds. "In fact, any shooting star, or meteor, that ranges in brightness from that of Jupiter or Venus to something many times larger and brighter than the full moon is generally classified as a fireball."

**THE PHENOMENON** is termed simply a meteor if its brightness ranges from the lower limit of naked-eye visibility up to that of Jupiter or Venus, according to the TAS expert.

This is the way Mr. Cramer describes his viewing of the super-meteor that thousands saw about 10:10 p.m. Sunday:

"I was outside but not looking skyward. Suddenly I

thought the sun had arisen. Then seconds later I saw the explosion in the north, looking just like a fireworks display on the Fourth of July. It was a very exciting thing to see."

Meteors are pieces of stone or iron that whirl around the sun in space. On an average, they are no bigger than a few grains of sand, but some are immense and weigh tons.

**MORE THAN** 100 million meteors bombard the earth every day, and were it not for our surrounding blanket of air, they would pepper the ground in a ceaseless barrage. As it is, these meteors are vaporized or burned to a fine ash by heat that results from friction with the air. We see them only for a brief instant when the heat has vaporized their surfaces.

We see only a few meteors—perhaps a half dozen in an ordinary night of star-gazing. The millions of others fall on uninhabited areas or fall during the daytime.

If all of the fragments of a meteor do not burn up in the earth's atmosphere, they fall to the ground, Mr. Cramer says. Persons who find suspicious stones that appear to be meteorites should report the finding to an astronomical society or, better yet, to the Smith-

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# ARMY PLANS TO USE CARGO ROCKETS SOON

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. Army of the future will provide swift special delivery for important cargo by firing it in the nose of a ballistic missile.

It will use nuclear powered drones and gliders for surveillance and other missions too dangerous for men to undertake.

It will employ supersonic transports, inflatable aircraft and submersible vessels that can travel under water at speeds up to 115 miles an hour.

This was a part of the picture drawn for the Association of the U.S. Army, which concludes its annual meeting today, by Maj. Gen. Louis W. Truman, deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and training in the Continental Army Command.