

1961, September 12

Station KRYS,
Corpus Christi, Texas.

Gentlemen:

Some one from your station phoned me about 4.40 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 to transmit a report on a fireball that had been seen in the heavens the night before, Saturday Sep. 9 about 10.08 p.m.

I was quite sleepy and my notes may be confused, but I think it was a Mr. Tom Dyess or Dykes who talked to me, and that he was reporting the observation of a Mr. Jim Ernest of 4830 Ingram (Corpus Christi?).

fireball from
It seems Mr. Ingram had seen the/Falfurrias and felt sure he knew a spot right near the road where it had landed. While I greatly appreciate this offer to be of help in locating a possible meteorite, I am positive the object did not fall any ways near that region.

A quick survey of the path of the fireball by phone the night it fell showed it was moving about northwards over Texas east of Dallas, and more detailed work and a trip the next day definitely showed it went out over a point neat Sherman, Texas.

It is quite common in such cases for a fireball, which is generally about 50 miles high when it starts, to be visible over a radius of some 300 miles. Then from great distances the earth's curvature cuts off the last part of the apparent path, and the fireball seems to go to the horizon. Then is a strong illusion about such objects causing people to feel they are very nearby when actually they are many miles distant, and that is doubtless what occurred in this case.

I am sure the hurricane damage has dwarfed everything else for you people by now any way, but I do thank you.