

# Ft. Worth Business Man Pushes Hunt For Meteor Bits In Area

A Fort Worth department store executive who has spent weeks trailing the meteorite that flashed into this North Texas region eight weeks ago was back this weekend still tirelessly searching for fragments.

An amateur meteorologist for a quarter of a century, Oscar E. Monnig, vice president of Monnig's in Fort Worth, has tracked to this immediate section the meteor that electrified much of the Southwest the night of Sept. 9.

Monnig visited the Denison Herald Saturday to appeal to the public for help in finding even tiny fragments of the meteorite.

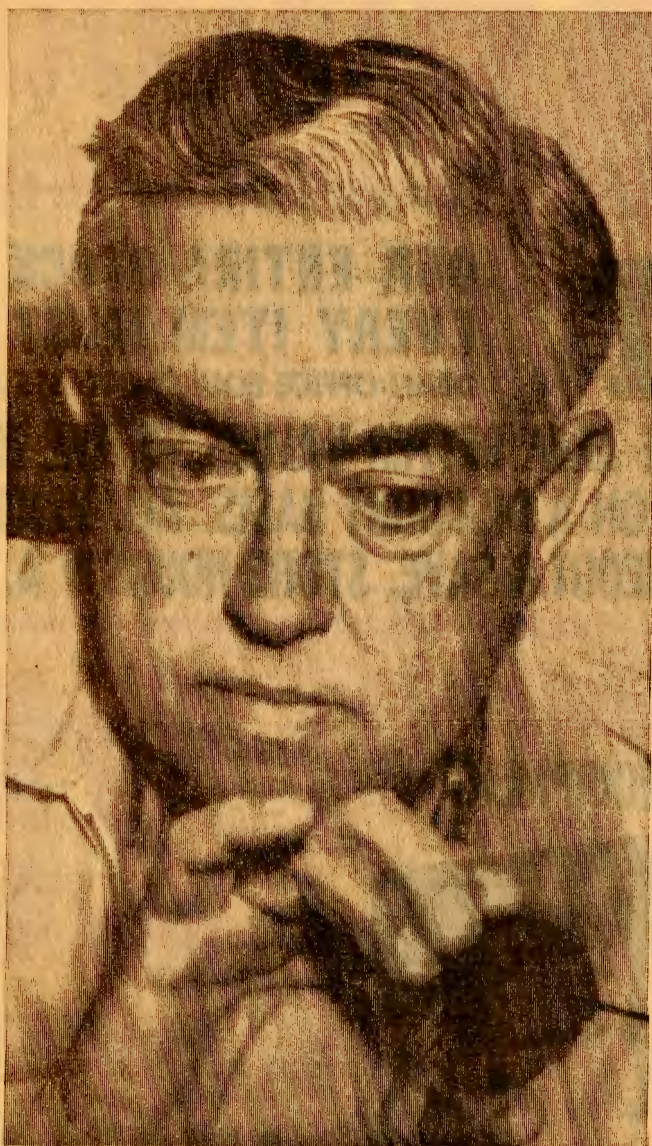
He reported that three fragments had been found in the area west and southwest of Bells, including one that hit a house on the Washburn farm.

Another was found on the Rattlesnake Creek Ranch, owned by Ben Blackburn of Denison. A Bonham science teacher, Walter White, found the third one southwest of Bells.

## AUTHENTIC PIECES

"While pieces of material found elsewhere have been reported as fragments of the Sept. 9 meteorite," Monnig told the Herald, "I am convinced that these three pieces are the only traces recovered thus far."

Monnig believes that the dying meteorite spewed a trail between Denison and Carpenters Bluff, possibly ending close to Red River or not very far into Bryan County.



**METEORITE FRAGMENT**—Oscar Monnig, Fort Worth department store executive, has spent many days prowling this area searching for fragments of the meteorite that dazzled a wide Southwestern section Sept. 9. Here he displays a tiny particle that hit a house on the Washburn farm west of Bells.

He admits that nobody can be too sure, but he has spent every weekend since Sept. 9, except one, scouring through this area and interviewing everybody he could locate who had any knowledge of the celestial spectacle.

Surprising enough, Monnig expects to find only very tiny fragments of the visitor from outer space. The largest piece he has recovered, the one hitting the house near Bells, is about the size and very similar in appearance to molded lumps of charcoal used in backyard barbecues.

## SURFACE MELTED

He explains that the crust of a particle melts in the plunge through the atmosphere and flows evenly over the surface, giving it the molded effect of a charcoal lump.

The fragments are very delicate and may crumble under the little black mounds upon striking the ground or under the beating of hard rains. Tiny flecks of white can be seen along broken edges.

Monnig appealed especially to persons living between Denison and Carpenters Bluff to keep a sharp eye peeled for fragments. He also urged that any resident of that area who saw the meteorite falling notify him at Fort Worth. He will visit them later for interviews.

The jet black particles scattered by the Sept. 9 meteor will be showing some rust spots by now, which can be a further clew in identifying them.

While Monnig might be dubbed a meteorite buff, there's nothing amateurish about his technique in

tracking fragments. It is both scientific and determined. He is equipped with a U. S. Geodetic Survey topographical map of this area on which he has noted the scores of homes he already has visited in trying to pin down a very rare and fantastic object.