

late Dec or early
Jan 1967

Hayes phoned from Watahachie
said he was going in service at San Antonio but would
shortly be transferred to NASA somewhere.

He said he found some very peculiar hydrocarbons
in Bells.

1966, Dec. 26.

Dr. John Hayes,
Erico Fermi Institute for Nuclear Studies,
University of Chicago,
5630 Ellis Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Sir:

Dr. Henderson of the U. S. National Museum was here on a visit in November, 1961, when we were still making frequent searches for material from the Bells, Texas, fall of Sept. 9 that year. I invited Ed to go with me on a Saturday, about the middle of the month, as I now recall. We did some searching in what I considered likely spots along the path but to no avail. I then suggested that we go to a certain house which I had not canvassed before, and here when I told my story the lady said they knew nothing about any meteorites, but a young girl standing behind her was more helpful. She said she had found a piece in their driveway, I think the Monday after the fall (Sep. 11) when she came home from school. She picked it up, but decided it was not a meteorite and threw it back down.

We asked her if she knew where it was, and she took us right to the spot, perhaps 100 feet down the drive toward the road we had driven in on--we almost ran over the piece! It was in very poor condition with a long limonitic streak showing on the whiter limestone gravel in the drive. I gathered some of these stained rocks for a souvenir and told Dr. Henderson he could have the meteorite fragments.

I would guess this is what he let Brian Mason have some of, but probably they can tell you if you would inquire directly; you doubtless know that each of them is now at the Smithsonian.

This was the fifth piece found; the date of find was Nov. 18, 1961, and Henderson wrote me Dec. 12 he was accessioning it as 20 grams, 12 grams for the large piece, 8 grams for the magnetic fraction (because of the intimately contained magnetite you can pick up the powder from these with an Alnico perfectly).

Now there is a complication in that Brian Mason also visited me in March of 1962, and on the 4th of that month went with several of us on one of our many week-end searches. I believe there were 4 of us and considerable personal looking yielded nothing until late in the afternoon when we tackled a plowed field that had not been disturbed since the fall; it was much less promising than many grassy or eroded areas where we had been looking, but we tried it in spite of the prevailing clods of black, waxy dirt that were so similar in color to what we were looking for.

Finally Mr. Robert Brown of our party spotted a small powdery heap which we gathered with an Alnico as usual, total 36.0 grams. Mason might have gotten a very small piece of this (these weathered specimens were not entirely powder but had many small fragments in them)--I don't think he did, but if so it was with our blessing and was so little we thought nothing of it--certainly only a small fraction of a gram.

The day before, Mason had been at my home and I had shown him all the other 5 pieces we had. It is not my recollection that he took any of this, but if he did, again I will say it was with my blessing and was certainly very little, not over one or two tenths of a gram. You will have to ask him. It is barely possible he got a very tiny fragment of the original fresh piece.

In general I have not parted with any of the Bells, tho you can understand I have had many requests for some of it and any interested scientific worker who sees it naturally feels he could use some to advantage. I don't recall whether Mason asked for any, but I know I did not give him any substantial amount and he may have received absolutely none.

If you don't belong to The Meteoritical Society I respectfully urge you to join. Roy S. Clarke Jr. at U. S. National is now the Secretary and has the proper application forms.

I may be thru Chicago January 14 on my way to a dry goods convention in New York.

Sincerely,