

1955, Feb. 23.

Mr. C. C. Pinckney,  
831 North 20th St.  
P. O. Box 2228,  
Birmingham 1, Ala.

Dear Mr. Pinckney:

Your letter of Feb. 3 arrived here just after I returned from my New York trip, and it took me a week to catch up with work here. Then two of my salesmen resigned and things have just been so messy that I haven't had a chance to write you. Don't think that I'm still not vitally interested and appreciative of all you've done.

For many years I have frequently warned people, when I hand them an iron meteorite for inspection, not to drop it on a foot, and I laughed out loud when I read your account of such a thing having actually happened! I learned long ago not to carry or show a very big iron meteorite because of such dangers. Once I was exhibiting one here at the store and when it dropped out of one person's hand it smashed a hole in a piece of our flooring, which happens to be a rather soft gum (tupelo).

I have checked my files (I have several file drawers full) on meteorites and fireballs, and have nothing on anything in the direction of Hope, Arkansas, in the spring of 1948. I think I will check with Dr. Olivier. Do you think the details you have got from Mrs. Chitwood and her broken-toe student is as far as you can go? I still have hopes we can get the name of the donor student and trace this thing.

I was intrigued by your reference to another good lead, and wait with much interest to hear what comes of it. I have written Henderson at the U. S. National about doing the slicing work on the iron you sent, but have not yet had time to get an answer.

I ran up to the little town of Mustang, just west of Oklahoma City, about 10 days ago, on an inspection tour to see a 37 1/2 pound iron which a man had found in the Canadian River bottoms. He was cagey about the precise point of find, but it had something of a slaggy air about it and tested negative for nickel, so I turned it down. Balfour Whitney is having the Univ. of Oklahoma at Norman also test it. I took my chemicals with me and did the test over his kitchen stove in situ; the same chemicals give a positive reaction on the iron you sent.