

1955, January 19

Dear Mr. Pinciney:

The meteorite arrived safely last Thursday; I was just leaving for an evening lecture on the subject at a teachers' college at Denton, Texas, some 35 miles from here, so I just took the box along and opened it before the audience, telling them the whole story. It made an interesting incident.

I have vainly hoped for an opportunity to grind a little spot on it and examine it for Widmanstätten figures, and perhaps even test it for nickel, but I don't seem to get around to that. I am 99% sure it is a meteorite, and authorize you to go ahead and try to make the best deal you can with Mrs. Chitwood.

It certainly does not seem like a fresh fall or anything like one. I can find no sure signs of any flow lines in the crust, and the degree of oxidation makes it look quite old. You needn't say anything about this to Mrs. Chitwood as I have no doubt she is quite sincere in her story. I do being to doubt the story of the little boy that his father actually found what practically amounts to a witnessed fall, but we can check all that in due time.

I have to leave for New York Friday the 21st, and will not be home till January 31st. If you desire to get in touch with me while I am gone, address me c/o Essex House, 160 Central Park South, New York 19, N. Y. I thought once of taking the meteorite with me and running down to Washington with it, but fearing I won't have the time suppose I'll just wait till I return to send it to Henderson at the U. S. National Museum.

I read the later notes in "Life" (letters column) on the Sylacauga fall. Have you yet heard of any one coming in there and actively canvassing the neighborhood?

Yours sincerely,