

C. C. PINCKNEY

3470 Old Altamont Road
Birmingham 5, Alabama

Dec. 27, 1954

Dear Mr. Monnig;

I was certainly pleased with your enthusiastic letter about the meteorite. I had hoped that you would want it and since you do, we will call it yours though Mrs Chitwood still has a say.

I told Mrs Chitwood I would keep the iron in my possession and send a slice off for sampling. Since I can not slice it the only thing I see to do is to send the entire piece to the Monnig "Laboratory" for positive identification.

It is now locked in a display cabinet in the Library, and if the librarian has returned from his holiday I will get it to-morrow and express it to you as soon as I can get it properly boxed.

I think Mrs. Chitwood would accept and cash a check for \$75.00 if you are satisfied with that title. However I have a feeling she would not want the original owners to know she had profitably disposed of it without them getting in on a share. Interest in meteorites here is strictly pecuniary. \$5,000.00 dropping out of the sky into ones lap is something even the author of Cinderella couldnt think up. Unfortunately the papers have for notoriety, played up the values. One fellow showed up with what I took to be an old ball from a large roller bearing, and a newspaper clipping saying meteorites were bringing from \$100.00 to 200.00 per pound.

If you do not want to slice it I dont think the school cares anything about the meteorite as such. In my anxiety to make it easy for it to be taken from the school, I suggested that a slice showing the lines would be much more interesting and instructive than in its present form. I also presented the school with several pieces of rose quartz, tiger-eye, bloodstone and other colorful agates which created much more interest and excitement around the premises than the meteorite did. So I dont think Boaz will miss much not having meteorites. Or any small substitute slice would be equally effective.

Suppose you send me two checks (certified or cashiers to add to the formality) made out jointly to me and Mrs. H.O. Chitwood, one for \$75.00 and one for 25.00. I will try

C. C. PINCKNEY

Sheet 2

her out on the 75.00 and hold the 25.00 in reserve to go th the original finder if and when he is located and the complete story of the fall obtained. Your checks will give a sort of finality to the transaction where it will be useless for her to raise the ante, whereas if I used mine there would be nothing to limit the amount it could be made out for.

I finally conacted Jeffries on the suspected Jasper fall, he says he has given up hope that its a meteorite, as it is non magnetic and is conglomerate. He didnt bring a sample, says he knew it was useless as it was "all kinds of rocks mixed up".

Sylacauga is still in the papers, but no new finds and no cash transactions yet. Am afraid the lawyers with suits and counter suits have muddied the waters beyond amicable or scientific settlement.

With seasons greetings, Sincerely

P.S. Mrs. Pinckney reminds me since writing this of my \$10.00 a pound value discussed with Mrs. Chitwood, who also told her "she wanted enough out of this to get a new hot water heater". so