1954, Dec. 22.

Dear Mr. Pinckney:

When I answered your letter the other day, I did comment on other features of it, because I was so intrigued by the news concerning the iron from Boaz.

I appreciated the further clippings on the general course of events concerning the Sylacauga fall. I am sure the houseowner has the prior claim under all established law, but probably they will ultimately work out some amicable sort of compromise and split the sales proceeds. It was more interesting to me to read of the finding of the seond stone, but you can read thru the lines that it is probably headed for the U. S. National Museum (Smithsonian). I feel sure, as the article says, that a number of other fragments fell, and if you can keep in touch with it or get your car in on some future find, maybe we can yet jointly manage to get a fragment of this fall for our respective collections. More will show up for some months, especially if the people in that region are properly contacted and alerted. There may evan by larger pieces.

In the case of the Leedey, Oklahoma, fall, which Nininger and I worked jointly, the first piece found was about a pound. Before we got thruy we turned up pieces ranging from ½ ounces to 45 pounds (this last not buried, only flush with the ground) over a line over 10 miles long! These were in a very straight line, no find deviating more that ½ mile from a straight line that could be drawn on a map.

Now, it is interesting that the Sylacauga second piece was found to the NE of the first whereas if the meteor had been coming from the SE on a low inclination, we would have expected the second piece to lie towards the NW. It probably shows the finds will be in an elliptical area instead of a straight line. Did you ever hear of Nininger, La Paz or anyone coming in and actually working the territory, going from house to house and talking to the inhabitants to ask them to watch for meteorites?

I also am interested in your other lead 12 miles beyond Jasper. Of course you know your local surficial geology as to iron ore fvar better thannI would, and I am sure it is quite a

factors to be reckoned with. In the East Texas iron ore region, there are so many "dark, heavy" rocks--various types of iron ore--that not a single old meteorite, either iron or stone, has ever been found. Even in the Cretaceous limestone regions of central and west Texas, hunks of hematite that apparently isolated itself during the process of lime formation, are very frequently turned in to me as suspected meteorites!

The fact that these people allude to this object as a "rock" I wouldn't take too seriously. Going back to the Sylacauga fall, it is quite amusing if not distressing how badly it is classified in several of the notes I've seen on it. The original pronouncement that it was a "sulphide meteorite" was not incorrect in the sense that it contained sulphides, which are quite common if not almost universal in meteorites, both iron and stony, but "sulphide meteorite" is certainly no recognized type and not a significant classification. "Time" magazine actually went off on the tangent that the object was an iron! From the photo's and descriptions I am reasonably sure it is a fairly standard type of chondrite, probably what used to be called a "gray chondrite", altho under modern classifications the authorites who study such things would be more precise.

I certainly hope you have a fine Christmas--all of you.

Sincerely,