

1970 Feb. 15

Mrs. Grace A. Eichling,
Bristow High School
Bristow, Oklahoma. 74010

Dear Mrs. Eichling:

I presume you have long since read in the Tulsa paper or others that the fireball of Jan. 3 did result in a meteorite fall. I tried to get some local publicity in the Tahlequah and Muskogee papers and phoned some people in that region, urging every one to be on the lookout for meteorites, but it was not feasible for me to make the prompt field trip that should have followed. I had a cold and knew I had to go to New York on business the following Saturday, and with a considerable snow falling on that region a day or two afterwards it was not very inviting to go!

I also knew that a network of cameras sponsored by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (a Harvard group) would possibly catch this fireball and enable them to run it down more precisely. This happened and one of their men found a 22 pound piece in a road 2 miles NE of Lost City the Friday after the fall! I had predicted it would be within 5 to 10 miles of a key witness I had, a state trooper 3 miles west of Tahlequah, and I think the point of find was about 7 miles from him! I really expected it to be somewhat farther east. Another small piece of 9 3/4 oz. was found about 1/2 mile to the northeast of the first.

I was able to be in Washington in connection with my New York trip and saw the meteorite less than a week after they got it there. It has been cut into a number of pieces for some experiments, somewhat to my distress.

I hope you and your son will indoctrinate your pupils to be on the lookout for any possible meteorites (not from this fall, but old ones); they are everywhere in limited numbers and if people get sufficiently interested, old ones do turn up from time to time! Thanks again for your interest in helping me.

Sincerely,