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1970 Feb. 15

Mr. Brad Scheer  
Police and Fire Commissioner,  
City Hall, Tulsa, Okla. 74103

Dear Sir:

Thank you for helping me with my inquiries about the fireball of Jan. 3 which you witnessed. I was not able to make a field trip on this as I should have, since I had to go to New York on business within a week. I found your letter of Jan. 13 on my return.

Meanwhile, as you know, a Harvard group with the aid of photographs taken by a set-up of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, had men in the field within a few days and one of them found a 22 pound piece on the Friday after the fall. Since then a piece of nearly 10 oz. has been picked up. As you also probably know, they were a couple of miles NE of Lost City.

Thanks again for your attention. If you ever hear of any other meteorites (not from this fall) I am always interested. People occasionally find old ones as heavy, unusual isolated rocks.

Yours sincerely,



# Meteorite Is Traced to Asteroid Belt

By WALTER SULLIVAN

For what is believed to be only the second time in the history of astronomical observations, it has been possible, from a quick succession of photographs, to determine the orbit of a meteorite.

The results show that, as with an earlier meteorite fall that was photographed by Czech astronomers in 1959, the meteorite came from the asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Thus, the belief that many meteorites are fragments of asteroids has been further strengthened.

The newly determined orbit has been made public by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, which operates the Prairie Network of sky-watching cameras with the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass.

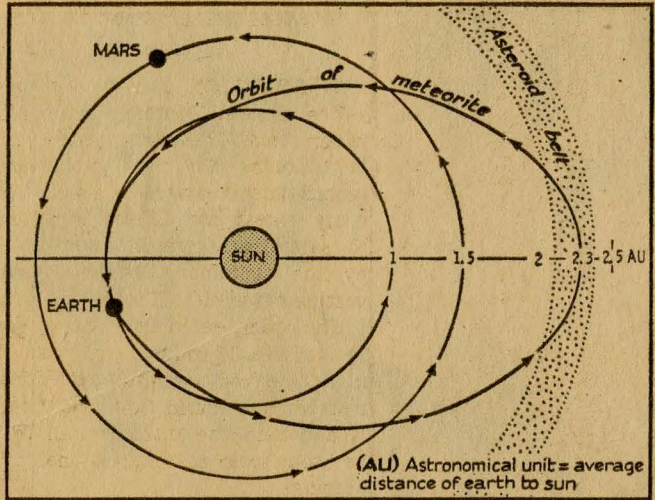
Cameras at two stations of this network recorded the fiery streak left by a meteorite that plunged across four states Jan. 3. Trajectory calculations, based on photographs taken from two angles, made it possible for the Smithsonian observatory to estimate the impact point in Oklahoma.

## Half Mile Away

A search was started and on Jan. 9 a 21.6-pound meteorite was found only a half mile from the estimated point of impact. The meteorite, an iron-rich form known as a bronzite chondrite, is being studied at the Batelle Memorial Institute in Richland, Wash.

Richard Halpain, a farmer near Tulsa, Okla., who was looking for a missing calf last Saturday found a small rock that seemed to be charred. The 10-ounce rock proved to be a fragment of the same meteorites. Last night it was on its way to Fichland by air express.

Fast shipment is essential



The New York Times

Jan. 21, 1970

because of the importance of recording short-lived forms of radioactivity in meteorites. These are induced by various forms of radiation in space, providing clues to conditions in the solar system.

A five-man team from the Smithsonian observatory is still searching for more fragments of the meteorite in the vicinity of Lost City, Okla., near Tulsa, according to The Associated Press.

It is believed that the meteor-

ite weighed about a ton when it plunged into the earth's atmosphere and broke up in a spectacular fireball. The larger fragment is now smoothly rounded.

The Prairie Network of automatic camera stations was set up in 1964 across seven middle Western states in the hope of recording such meteorite falls. It was designed to make possible rapid meteorite recoveries, but few fireballs were observed until last Jan. 3.