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1970 Jan 4.

The Muskogee Phoenix  
Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Gentlemen:

The detonating fireball over Oklahoma last night, Jan. 3 at 8.21 p.m., quite possibly yielded meteorites. This cannot be predicted, but we do urge you to ask people to be on the lookout for them.

Any found would be picked up by accident and singly, but interest of people is a great factor here. We cannot pin point the precise location, but it would seem from a telephone survey and some newspaper articles that the region near Tahlequah is the most promising.

I talked to Mr. Don Fields, the state highway trooper who was 3 miles west of Tahlequah, and he is a key witness. The sub-final point of the terminal light was almost overhead for him, a little to the north he said. The object was going eastwards in general. I would guess meteorite may have fallen from 5 to 10 miles from him, say generally a little north of Tahlequah, but I don't want to tie myself down to that region as I could easily be somewhat in error. I understand Fryor saw it to the south.

The fact that the fireball "went out" is merely an indication that the atmospheric resistance has slowed its cosmic speed to a point where evaporation and melting no longer occurred. Maybe the object had all been turned into gas and dust, but if anything was left, it came on down as one or more meteorites--probably a number of stones, as these things often break and fall relatively easily from a height of 5 to 15 miles.

The enclosed circular will give details. The best guess would be that the rocks would be black crusted. If any one finds a possible meteorite I would appreciate a phone call.

Sincerely,

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