

THE DISCOVERY OF THE TISHOMINGO, OKLAHOMA, SIDERITES

By Oscar E. Monnig

The first of the Tishomingo, Oklahoma, siderites was found on January 14, 1965, by Glenn Orr, 14, who literally stumbled over a projecting point of it as he was crossing a granitic pasture while bird hunting. His excavation revealed not one, but two, iron meteorites immediately beneath the surface and in juxtaposition. Unverified weights have been reported as 360 and 214 pounds. Subsequent digging in the "hole" two months later found two smaller pieces of $5\frac{1}{2}$ pounds and 2 pounds, 6 ounces.

A probable fit of the two larger pieces can be made along a concavity where each piece is thinner. The two smaller pieces clearly fit together. There are ways the two pairs could be put together. The case is an interesting one of meteorites which either separated before or immediately upon impact, or have oxidized apart since fall. The overall amount of oxides in the soil immediately surrounding the finds was relatively slight.

A preliminary analysis of crustal material by a nearby college was reported to show a very high nickel content. The smallest piece has been cut and etched and half of it is now on loan to the U. S. National Museum for investigation. Efforts to locate further pieces in the immediate vicinity and in the general neighborhood have been fruitless but are being continued.

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Fort Worth, Texas 76115
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