

TISHOMINGO NOTES FROM THE FILES

Found on land belonging to Mr. John Whiteley, Rte. 2, Tishomingo, OK
Finder was a neighbor boy Glenn Harris (or Harris Glenn) Orr, son of R. C. Orr, who, on January 14, 1965, stumbled over a part projecting from the ground while bird hunting. He came back later and began digging around the mass. The ground there is a gravelly soil on top of granite.

Seems there were 5 pieces found in the same hole:

360 lbs (163.4kg)

214 lbs (97kg)

Underneath the big ones were:

5.5 lbs (2.5kg)

2.375 lbs (1.1kg)

1 lb (0.45kg)

The closeness of the pieces indicates all were part of one piece originally although there was very little surface weathering on the irons. The 2.5 and the 1.1kg pieces fit nicely together. The others not obviously.

The 1.1kg was cut in half and each half polished and etched at the American Meteorite Lab (letter of 3/25/65 from Glenn Huss).

On May 11, 1965, OEM offered R. C. Orr a dollar a pound for the big irons.

On July 18, 1965, suggested OEM might be willing to give \$2/lb.

On October 28, 1965, a letter from Ed Henderson states "The Tishomingo Oklahoma, iron you let me carry away weighs 360 grams".

A later copy of a letter to Henderson indicates that the 360g piece was from the same piece as the one Glenn Huss polished and etched.

On November 6, 1965, in a letter to Henderson, OEM states that he is "expressing" to Henderson, the 5lb 6oz piece, which was brought to Dallas by Glenn Orr's mother after OEM requested it for study.

A letter from Henderson on December 27, 1965, states the "second and larger" Tishomingo arrived and they have done "a great deal" of work on it (this piece still belonged to Orr not OEM).

In a copy of a January 11, 1966, letter to Henderson, OEM asks why the Smithsonian folks are still not convinced that this is a meteorite.

On March 7, 1966, OEM tells Henderson to be sure to send the "5 1/2 lb" piece back to keep Faith with the Orr's. The Shipping Invoice from

the Smithsonian shows it was shipped back to OEM on March 4. OEM took the piece back to the Orr's on March 26.

Henderson wrote to OEM dated October 20, 1966, "We are accessioning 313.1 grams of the Tishomingo as a gift from you". OEM wrote to Henderson on October 21 "I must ask you to retract any action you have taken to accession the little piece of Tishomingo iron as a gift. You are under a missapprehension as I never intended to give it to the Smithsonian and never so indicated".

On November 25, 1966, a letter from George Switzer to OEM states "On behalf of the U. S. National Museum I wish to thank you for the specimens of the Tishomingo, Johnston county, Oklahoma, meteorite which you sent to the Division of Meteorites".

On November 27, OEM wrote Henderson "Now I have a letter from Mr. George Switzer under date of Nov. 25th, thanking me (for) a gift of Tishomingo meteorite. Unless you refer to the few grams which you detached for your examinations, you had better correct this. I am sorry this business of my donating a piece got started. It keeps me busy writing letters".

Telegram dated Dec. 6, 1966 to OEM from Henderson: "ACCESSION OF THE TISHOMINGO IRON HAS BEEN CANCELLED LETTER FOLLOWS"

On Dec. 20, 1966, Henderson wrote OEM attempts to explain how the mix-up occurred on accession, states "It seems I have a built in device for getting into difficulties". It was press for time, etc.

On January 26, a letter to OEM from R. S. Cowan, Director, Museum of Natural History, states the accession has been cancelled. It further states "At present your specimen is being displayed in the Meteorite Hall, and we would be very grateful if you would be willing to make a formal loan to us so that we may continue to display this unique meteorite".

On Feb. 14, 1967, OEM replied to cowan "you may consider it is on formal loan as requested"

On Sept. 21, 1967 OEM writes to Orr and Whiteley that he still wants to buy the irons (obviously they still hold them).

On Jan. 24, 1968, OEM wrote to Henderson that OEM had got the 5 1/2 lb piece from Glenn Orr and inquired if Henderson could cut it in half, polish both pieces, use it for non-destructive analysis (probe, I assume), and return both pieces to OEM because the boy still wants to keep it.

Several correspondances followed about how the cut would occur.