



National Museum of Natural History · Smithsonian Institution

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560 • TEL. 202-

July 27, 1971

AIRMAIL

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
29 Chelsia Drive
Fort Worth, Texas 76134

Dear Oscar:

Your letters of June 2 and 4 arrived during my trip to Alaska, which accounts for the delay in my answer. Somehow I suspected the return of the Tishomingo samples would do you more good than a hand full of tranquilizer pills.

Those two specimens were worth stealing for the National Collection, but I did not want to be the one who stole them and further more I did not want to be the one who lost them in the National Museum either.

One evening in Tok, Alaska, a traveler was venting his feelings because his camera had failed him. He saw I was carrying two cameras so he asked me what was wrong with his. In our discussion I discovered he was a Texan who came north to see if Alaska was truly bigger and better than his state. I noted that the camera case had a Fort Worth address on it. So I said "small world, this gray sweater was purchased in Fort Worth". With this remark another party spoke up and said "In Monnig's store". Then the wife of the owner of the camera said "I heard Monnig's store was sold to some Eastern chain", but my camera man spoke up and said "Monnig's is a Texas owned store, they aint selling to no Eastern store".

By this time I figured I could better use my time with the flit can to kill the mosquitos that perhaps came in on my back when I was bringing in the baggage, so I retired to our quarters. At best I figured that Texan had perhaps only lost one roll of pictures.

Don't you forget that you really owe this collection a hunk of the Tishomingo iron. You are blessed with so much of that important iron, and we have so little. There must be some way to equalize this unequal distribution between these two important meteorite collections - Monnig and the National Collection.

If you are going to Germany this summer, fly east via Washington. The stop off will cost nothing and a visit from you would do me a lot of good.

Cordially yours,



E. P. Henderson
Curator Emeritus
Division of Meteorites