

1981, June 3

Mr. Elo F. Wunderlich,  
P.O. Box 115  
Yorktown, TX 78164

Dear Elo:

Thank you for being so considerate and prompt in answering my requests. I went by Bob Brown's place of business and he and I shared your letter and examined the specimens together.

First let me thank you for marking the locations of the two meteorites on the map. They were certainly barely inside De Witt county! I thought maybe you would write and say I should send a map of the adjoining county! I believe the man who found the other one was Raymond Kyrisch. Is he still living? Maybe he will spot another one some day.

The black stone you submitted is a piece of basalt. This is a terrestrial rock of volcanic origin. It was at one time mined at the Knippa Quarry near Uvalde, and was shipped all over the southern United States, mainly on the Southern Pacific lines, to be used as ballast on railroad tracks.

There are also some outcrops of such rock along the Balcones Fault, terminating in a big hill of the stuff southeast of Austin called Pilot Knob. The boulder from which your sample came may have been brought down from up there or in some other isolated occurrence. It does have a glassy looking mineral called "olivine" in it; there is one speck visible in the sample you submitted. But it is definitely not a meteorite.

The reddish brown material does have a little free metallic iron in it, but the background does not look like any meteorite. We have concluded it is probably from a pile of grindings off an emery or carborundum wheel, such as you find in machine shops. Or it might have been from some heavy grinding on a pipe line project out in the country. At any rate, we feel sure it is artificial and not a meteorite.

A woman farmer near Seguin has an iron meteorite of about 180 pounds or better that her father brought out of Arizona back in the 1890's. She will not sell it to me. Do you want to go up there some time and try to talk her into selling?

Best regards,