

The Deport Times

Awarded First Place by State Fair 1933 for Best Small Town Weekly Newspaper in Texas—Second Place 1934
Class A Rating National Newspaper Contest, School of Journalism, University of Illinois, 1935

DEPORT, LAMAR COUNTY TEXAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1935

NUMBER 44

Four-Year Men All Signed. Let Water and

Are There Stone Meteorites In Country Around Deport?

The question is asked by Oscar E. Monnig, amateur astronomer of Ft. Worth, who has been collecting from the finders many of the iron meteorites which have been found near Deport.

Monnig states that there is a large block of counties in Northeast Texas in which no stone meteorites have ever been found, but he points out that results obtained in other areas make it highly likely that there are some stone meteorites in this region. Such objects are much more common than was once supposed, the difficulty being that most people do not know what they look like, and hence generally pass them by.

Stone meteorites have a crust which melted as the object fell, and when fresh, this coating is very distinctive and can be used as a guide. However, as the meteorite weathers, the crust deteriorates to a rusty brown. Even pits on the surfaces of meteorites, known as "thumbmarks," tend to disappear as they lay in the ground for a long time. Most meteorites have a dark outside, black or brown, but the inside color may be various

shades, even white. Color is not a good test. The best test for a suspected stone meteorite is to grind a little spot on it with an emery or corborundum wheel, and if little bits of metal (iron) appear on the ground surface, the object is almost certainly a meteorite.

Some large stone meteorites weighing over 300 pounds, were found near McKinney over 60 years ago, and a small 2 pound stone fell near Troup in 1917. These are the nearest stone meteorite localities in Texas, with regard to Deport.

Monnig further stated that he will gladly pass on any suspected stone meteorites, and will furnish interested parties with more information at no charge. He is gathering a collection of meteorites, which will be displayed at Ft. Worth's Centennial Show next year, and will buy any of the iron meteorites which may be found near Deport, as well as any stone meteorite which might turn up.

He warned possible finders of stone meteorites not to break them or treat them roughly, as such handling destroys surface features which scientists desire to study.