

Casas Grandes

F. M. GETZENDANER
UVALDE, TEXAS

Uvalde, Texas,
April 18, 1938.

Mr. Oscar Monnig,
312 W. Leuda,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Monnig:

When you were in my office Saturday I told you of a reference to a meteorite in a book that I have. The book is "A Texas Pioneer", by August Santeleben (Neale Publishing Company, New York and Washington) 1910. In chapter XX, beginning on p. 180, I note the following:

"I was in Chihuahua again in the spring of 1875, and while there was told that several years before a large aerolite had fallen on the ranch of Mr. Henry Mueller near San Lorenzo, about 10 miles from the city, which was said to be one of the most massive known to the scientific world. I became very much interested and decided that if it was possible to secure the stone I would haul it to Texas and place it on exhibition at the World's Fair in Philadelphia".

On p. 181--"The meteorite was composed of solid iron and weighed 5400 pounds. It was shaped like a turtle, round on top and flat below. It measured about two feet through its thickest part and curved to the edges, where it measured three feet wide and four feet long across the bottom".

After describing his trip from Chihuahua to Luling, then the terminus of the Galveston Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad, he says, on page 183, "I left the stone in Luling with instructions to send it to Philadelphia, but as my business called me back to Chihuahua immediately, I was unable to give it any further attention. It was publicly exposed with the Mexican exhibit without my authority, and my claim was ignored, as if the contract was not in existence. When the Centennial Exhibition closed the meteorite was donated to the British Museum".

by Mexico

Very truly yours,

FMG/FS

F. M. Getzendaner

I have found other parts of Mr. Santeleben's book rather reliable. I knew his brother, and now know some of his nephews, and from them and others who knew the author, I have the impression that he told things about as they occurred.