

1963, Dec. 13.

Dr. Donald P. Elston,
Geological Survey,
Branch of Astrogeology,
P. O. Box 1906,
Flagstaff, Arizona.

Dear Dr. Elston:

Thank you for your letter and for your cordial attitude in being willing to have some of us join you if and when you get to Sierra Madera. I can well understand that a full program of regular work and duties may make it difficult to get to any one thing, and I am not at all impatient. In fact, I have personally thought that science has perhaps advanced too rapidly during the last two decades. To my mind, the entire national metabolism is too speedy!

I am quite pleased to hear that Shoemaker is still chief of your branch. I have been studying some of his papers about the moon with great interest, and I certainly admire his methods and approach.

Probably many amateur astronomer-meteoriticists have wondered about the Solitario in Southwest Texas. I know it has been treated as typically igneous and so described in the geological literature by the late Dr. Lonsdale of the University of Texas. But when we do get together, I shall be intrigued to learn whether either of you has ever been at the site and given any thought to the possibility that this was triggered off by an impact. I have never seen it on the ground but two of our group here went by there once some years ago and they tell me the walls are truly impressive.

With best wishes for a Happy Holiday season, I am

Yours sincerely,

Orvil Manning