

1960, July 28

Mr. Will T. Scott,
4820 Beaumont,
La Mesa, Calif.

Dear Mr. Scott:

Don't trouble yourself about my Schmidt camera $4\frac{1}{2}$ " circular Ektachromes; the batch I had were developed for me by an old friend who has a camera studio in Blackwell, Okla. He simply did them in trays, and only one got off color balance (too hot?) tho he did scratch or mar a couple. However, it turned out my slow motion wasn't working at all properly on a number of them, so nothing was lost.

It has been suggested to me that they could be enclosed in some sort of sack of material thru which the solutions could get to it; i.e., a sort of plastic mesh, but that doesn't sound too feasible. I have a Yankee Agitank film tank developer case supposed to hold up to 4 x 5 films, and these circles can be fit into the grooves in it by slightly bending them, which doesn't hurt. The trouble is, however, that since the films are thus held by only a little area on two ends of a single diameter of the circle, they are apt to slip out or come loose, as I found out by trying some black and white films therein.

Say, what I wish you would do is give me those poisonous developer formulae that you think better than the standard ones for Ektachrome. I promise to be most careful should I ever use them! Will they work with the fast Super Ektachrome? Are they as critical on temperature variation?
E3

You had me worried about that operation, which I knew was most serious, and it was a relief to hear from your daughter that all went well; thank her for writing me.

It is indeed kind of you to remember me with samples of the new finds you so interestingly described. I would be glad to pay for these specimens. I am sure that I was never as adventuresome a soul as you, as I stay pretty close to civilization on the little sorties I take.

I did meet a friend at Nashville in early June and we got Dr. C. W. Wilson of the Geology Dept. at Vanderbilt to look over the Wells Creek Basin structure with us. This is now pretty well redognized as an old meteorite crater, or the eroded roots of one. Fortunately, a new quarry had recently been opened near the center and many shatter cones were exposed there, ready for collection! These are in the Wells Creek dolomite, once at the bottom of the geologic column here, and now forced up to the top by the rebound from the meteoritic impact. Some drill cores of it are impregnated with what they are trying to prove is brecciated chert from an originally much higher level.

Earlier in the year I think I told you of visiting the Sierra Madera formation in Texas, where we also saw shatter cones exposed. Dietz is arguing in recent scientific articles that these are diagnostic of meteorite craters of great geological age.

I will remember your Sept. 20 visit to Big Spring and maybe I can come out to see you there then. Keep me informed.

May I repeat a question in one of my previous letters as to whether you have a good altimeter or aneroid more sensitive and with more "travel" to the hand than the ordinary barometer? A friend of mine made me one post-war that went thru a 360° swing of the hand for about an inch or so variation, and that little thing really showed slight pressure changes. But he put it in a plastic case that came apart, and some of the interior bearings corroded, so it finally came apart entirely. If there is something desirable available in the aviation trade you may know of it, but I've never seen it.

If you have not already sent the samples of your recent finds please include the following items from Sara's recent circular:

Dumortierite, one or two pounds
Precious serpentine, pink and green, one or two pounds.

I want the best material you have in these, which is why I am a bit indefinite about the weight, to give you some latitude, and will pay extra if you deem it worth it; I am especially interested in some of the serpentine with good pinks in it. I would of course honor the bill for this and the parcel post promptly.

Sincerely,