

Copy to Max 1-5-60

~~Will T. Scott~~ ★ AIRPLANES AND COMPONENTS

GILLESPIE FIELD HI 4-3959

HD 6-4479 SANTEE, CALIFORNIA

December 30, 1959.

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig:
p.O. Box 2200
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Monnig:

Thanks for the letter, copy of letter from Dr. Virgil Barnes. Note his comments, and cannot agree. To begin, the rim rocks are not flat, but slope notably toward the center. Also, the central cone or hill is tumbled in all directions. And the most important feature, to me, is the presence of quartzite and marble in the central hill. In my lifetime I have hunted antelope, deer, quail and rattlesnakes over all that country, and am familiar with it. And I am quite sure that there is no other metamorphic or heat and silica altered rocks nearer than the Brady granite or the Odessa crater. The presence of this granite sand, quartzite and marble can only be explained by vulcanism or meteoritic heat.

Incidentally, I majored in geology at U of Texas, class 1915. Memory is not too sharp now, but my favorite prof was Dr. Whitney, courses in paleontology, and Dr. Bybee, economic geology. Field trips were around Austin. Also have a memory of a Dr. Sellers- think he was also in school of geology. Maybe he was later.

Along about 1935, I called to the attention of Dr. Whitney that there was on our ranch many fossils of some sort of large reptile. About 1941 or so, U of Texas under Mr. Grayson Meade, opened two quarries on our ranch, about 15 miles almost due West from the "crater" you have explored. They recovered important Triloposaurus. There is a fine book, U of T publication No. 4401, with many plates and line drawings, covering all this. Written by Joseph T. Gregory. This formation is upper Triassic Dockum.

Dr. LaPaz thanked me for the specimens of quartzite and marble which I sent him, and appeared eager to investigate the formation near Colorado City. Havent heard any more from him. This was about 1950.

Now here's another crater. Last summer my youngest son and I were rock hunting around Tonopah, Nev. Heard about some good agate near the small settlement Duckwater. Went there, found good agate. Also, as the road to the agate bears thru the Roberts Ranch south of Duckwater, asked directions there. This crater is well known locally, and has been studied by Dr. Russell A.E. Morley of Salem, Oregon. Rancher Roberts dug a shaft 60 or 70 feet in the center of the crater and found nothing. It about the size of the Colorado City "crater", but has the usual depressed center. Same as Winslow and Ubehebe. I hunted two days around Ubehebe for some meteoric iron or rock, and found nothing.

I am familiar with the erosion and collapse depressions west of Big Spring. They are usually flooded, but one dry summer I landed my plane on several of them, hunting rocks. They are not in any way

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like the Colorado City "crater". They have no raised rim, and I found no plutonic or altered rock of any kind. No central hill.

My daughter Sara and I are leaving to-morrow for a field trip with San Diego Gem & Mineral to a location near Barstow. According to the bunch who will mark the route Jan 1, there are tons of good sagenite, banded and moss agate, as well as brecciated Lavic Jasper. Sara has to be back for school Jan 4, but I will continue on to the Colorado River and will hunt rocks and catch cat fish for a few days. The weather is at its best there now, days warm and nights cold. Sara is a sophomore in State College, and is, of course, featuring geography and geology.

Hope you find lots of meteorites in 1960. If I run across any further possibilities, will advise you. Should you come to this part of the country, be sure and call me. Can give you some exclusive field trip dope, at least.

Regards,


Will T. Scott.