

Dec. 28, 1959

Dear Oscar:

The Bureau is closed during the holidays so I take typewriter in hand and answer your letter of the 24th. The main reason for not answering after the first of the year is because I got some more information on your Mitchell County crater. Carl Chelf was in my office this morning and has been doing a lot of work for the Janes Gravel Company in that part of the world. When I mentioned your crater to him he said that he first saw it from the air several years ago and later when opportunity arose he visited it on the ground. He says it is a fossil sink and not a crater.

Chelf has been doing some drilling around the Odessa crater recently I believe for the Barringers. He tells me that someone has actually been using the caliche from around the rim of the crater and possibly the pits you saw were created in this manner. Glen Evans supposedly found out about the caliche diggings, and put a stop to it. Chelf is in favor of making a huge excavation and stabilizing the sides so that a cross section of the crater can be seen. The material from such an excavation could be used to fill up the shaft and other artificial holes about the area. However, I doubt if anyone is interested in furnishing money enough to do the kind of job that would be permanent.

The main reason for writing now is to save you another trip out to Mitchell County in case you might be planning to go there during the remaining days of the holiday season. Mildred joins me in wishing you and Mrs. Monnig a Happy New Year.

Sincerely

