

1966, Dec. 20

Mr. C. M. Bain,
4811 Meadowbrook Drive,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Bain:

First let me thank you and Mrs. Bain for your most courteous reception when I called at your home the other evening after work. I probably should have called and made an appointment, but just thought I would run by after store closing time and catch you before supper.

Let me restate my little problem so you have the facts handy, and maybe you can inquire of some one else who may have the rock I am trying to retrieve. I obtained it from a Mrs. Don Chester of Comanche in the year of 1964, I think the fall but maybe earlier. I had obtained an old stony meteorite from her father, and she had found this stone under an old house; it looked somewhat like the meteorite I had got, and she thought maybe it was another one.

The piece was clearly one of those large, irregular nodules of hematite that weather out of Texas limestones. I have some recollection that they told me it weighed some 15 or 17 pounds, but it may have been only about 7. I know it was rather large for this type of material, dark reddish brown, and of course heavy for its size, since these nodules generally have a density of between 4 and 6. It was non-magnetic, whereas a stony meteorite will generally have a slight pull for an Alnico.

I told her I would take it and have it cut to show her that the interior contained no flecks of metallic iron as a meteorite would. Not having a saw, I waited until I could get a chance to find some one who would do the work for me. One day I was at the Fort Worth Children's Museum talking to a group I then knew there, in the hall, and I recall some one there volunteering to cut the stone for me.

Some other matters came up, and truthfully when I wanted to get the rock back after a few months, I could not remember who it was that I let have it. This was in late 1964 or very early 1965, some two years ago. I thought the man who took it would call me when he had it cut, but no one ever did.

Withatt recalling specifically that any of them was on hand the day I let some one have the rock, I did get in touch with Mr. John Casstevens, Mr. C. A. Rigney and Mr. Bill Diamond, all of whom had been associated more or less with the Children's Museum, as I thought one of them had the rock or would know who did, but such was not the case. I inquired vigorously at the museum and they let me look carefully thru their storeroom. When no trace of it could be found, I made an announcement of my plight at a meeting of the Ft. Worth Mineral Club, and I had the plea repeated at one of their sessions about a year later.

Mr. Rigney had in the meantime suffered a heart attack but fortunately recovered, and at the fall show of the Ft. Worth Mineral Society told me he recalled having come by to see your saw when you offered it for sale. I believe he had a Mr. English with him, and one of them thought you said something about a rock somebody was to cut for me or even had it on a shelf there.

There is obviously some mix-up here, but if you know of any rock found here with a saw that might be involved in my story, any help you can give me in trying to trace this piece will be deeply appreciated. The woman from whom I picked it up is quite reasonable but does desire its return, and I am embarrassed.

Forgive me for this long tale. Best Christmas wishes to you and Mrs. Bains. And since you are you quite a naturalist, I enclose one of the circubrs I use in my efforts to locate meteorites--you might find one or hear of one some day. Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,