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COMANCHE, TEXAS, NO. 2 (Meteorite)

A moderately bright fireball over Central Texas on August 22nd, 1963, seemed worthy of a survey, which was made in a preliminary way on August 25. In a house to house survey on Sept. 1 under the region of the suspected endpoint we met a Mr. Jim Powers who said he had a heavy, black rock that might be a meteorite.

WE next returned on Sept. 22, 1963 and visited Mr. Jim Powers at his home, 408 West Grand, Comanche, Texas. The rock he produced was quite obviously an old stony meteorite--in no way related to the supposed recent fall on which we were working.

Mr. Powers was somewhat vague about the date of find, at first saying it was 3 years ago, but at a later date changing this to 6 or 7 years. 1956-1957 will have to do as the probable year of find. He was walking across a peanut field, apparently after the fall harvest, when he saw the rock and was attracted by its appearance enough to push it with his foot. He walked on some steps before deciding the rock was sufficiently unusual to go back and check it more closely. He had a hammer with him because he was going to repair a fence. He was struck by the density of the rock and used the hammer to knock a chip off one end tip. He was impressed by how difficult it was to knock the piece off. All the circumstances made him decide to take the rock home, and he had kept it ever since. It had been provisionally identified as a meteorite some time ago by a Mr. Monsell O'Brien in the neighborhood (the man from whom we obtained the Fluvanna, Texas, stone meteorite some years ago), who had tried unsuccessfully to buy it.

Dec. 1, 1963 I went with Mr. Powers to the site of the find to get the precise location on a Texas State Highway Dept. General Highway Map of Comanche, Texas. The coordinates are lat. $32^{\circ} 02'$ N., long. $98^{\circ} 40'$ West. It is on a ridge just north of a branch of Copperas Creek, near the terminus of a now abandoned road. The location is southeast of a little settlement called Beattie, northeast of Taylor's Chapel, and Northwest of Soda Springs, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from each.

The stone weighs 5 pounds 4 ounces; the missing chip probably weighed 1 to 2 ounces. Primary crust covers about half the piece and contains one large shallow thumb print; at least two other surfaces clearly represent breaks. Two or three veins are visible as hairline cracks. Along one of these a V-shaped chip has come out of the meteorite at some past date. Much of the surface is covered with blisters, mostly broken, and possibly due to the exudation of lawrencite. A "ground line" is visible, the rougher surfaces apparently having been buried. They are a lighter brown than the exposed primary crust, which is darker to the point of being almost a shiny black on ridges--perhaps a terrestrial hematite like "desert varnish". The area of find is a sandy soil.