



ON DISPLAY — Astronomer Oscar Monnig, right, is pointing out the characteristics of two meteorites to Dr. Henry Hardt, chairman of the chemistry department of TCU. The meteorites are on display in the university's Science Building.

By Astronomer, Associates

Large Meteorites Put on Display in TCU Building

Two large meteorites, on long-term loan from the collection of Astronomer Oscar Monnig and associates of Fort Worth, are being exhibited in the Science Building of TCU.

The larger, which weighs 258 pounds, was found in 1937 near Fluvanna in Scurry County. The second, which weighs 163 pounds and which is 98 per cent pure iron, is from the famed Barringer Meteor Crater in Arizona.

Monnig said the Fluvanna find was made by a farmer, Ira Drum, half buried in the grass near the Scurry-Garza County line.

In going into its interesting history, Monnig relates that H. M. O'Brien of Comanche, a real "rock hound," tried to purchase the meteorite from Drum, but the latter refused to sell for \$60—all the money the trucker had.

However, the two finally agreed on the price when Drum's mother-in-law broke the ice with:

"Two fools have really met. One's a fool for offering that kind of money for a rock and the other's a bigger fool for not taking it!"

Monnig said the meteorite finally was purchased by his group for about \$1 a pound—"the standard price these days."

The Barringer Meteor Crater discovery came as early as 1891, Monnig has stated. The 163-pound meteorite on display was brought in by a farm woman, Mrs. C. J. Kierum, after a \$50 prize was offered for the best specimen.

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