

July 21, 1961

Mr. M. E. Barnes
c/o The Southwestern States Telephone Co.
P.O. Box 499
Brownwood, Texas

Dear Mr. Barnes:

Thanks a great deal for answering my letter about the observation you made the night of May 30th.

I am very sure from what you say that you saw the satellite Echo.

The fire ball, from which the Harleton, Texas meteorite of 18-1/2 lbs. fell, had a duration of flight of only twelve to fifteen seconds by actual rehearsal measurement of a good observation from here. It, therefore, interested me at the time a great deal to have the report that you had observed it though binoculars and I assumed you happened to be standing outdoors with the binoculars in hand.

I am sorry if you bothered your son unduly, and he certainly need not write me now, but if he does I will be happy to acknowledge his letter and will be grateful for his attention.

You may be interested in knowing that the meteorite was eventually acquired by the U. S. National Museum, or Smithsonian Institution, who are keeping half of it as a museum specimen. The other half was promptly divided among a number of laboratories for tests they have long been anxious to make on a freshly fallen meteorite. Primarily, they are trying to detect short lived, radio active isotopes, presumably generated in the meteorite by cosmic rays while it is out in space.

Ordinarily I collect these objects for myself but in this case I combined forces with them because I knew they were so very anxious to get such a specimen.

Yours sincerely,

oem/fh

OSCAR E. MONNIG