

August 30 1948

Dear Monnig;

Thanks for your letters of Aug 25 and 26th.

Our sample of Harriman Tenn. meteorite weighed 12.89 kgs and was obtained from Walter F. Pond, a geologist, who reported that the iron was given to him by Mr. Davis of Harriman. It was supposed to come from a ridge called Pine Ridge, about 2 miles S. of Harriman on U.S. Highway 70. I have no other details.

Our specimen is an octahedrite and so far has been very stable and I certainly am sorry to hear that your specimen is a bad actor. Will go ahead with the investigation of our sample and when that is completed we will worry you about a sample from yours. I did not need the complete mass, just enough of yours to analyse. Sometimes a corner can be cut off but this may or may not be satisfactory as what I want is a section that is free from inclusions. I want the analyse to be made on the average structure and not a grab sample with inclusions in it.

You think that your Harriman might not be stable if exposed to placer conditions. You may be wrong in that assumption, as often these irons that react so badly when stored inside behave differently when exposed to rain and normal weathering. If it was buried in a placer where it was washed with melting snow water perhaps the chloride would have been removed by this time.

Sometimes I feel, but I have as yet not confirmed the idea, that many of our iron meteorites are injured by this type of alteration because they have picked up chlorides from the ground water or the water which we wash them in the shops. They seem to hang onto any chlorides once they pick them up and I have tried several ways to remove it but have not been successful. I do know that the native iron from Greenland went to pieces very rapidly once it was stored inside, but when we put it our doors it is far more stable. That has been the findings of other museums.

Mr. Robert Brown has a point but until we know more about these irons and have more or them studied by identical methods we can not be certain if they are identical or even close. Those old descriptions are of little value and are frequently most inaccurate.

How about giving me a little of the background history of Norton? I mean the dope about the maneuvers which have been made by the various individuals. You indicate that a big price has been paid, does that mean a purchase or field expenses?

Thanks for your copy of Roy K Marshall's letter. I had that information and I know that Lenord has it. It was on the list sent to him.

We have an iron from Mertson, Irion Co. Texas. weighing 3.71 kgs. I have very little additional information on this. You mention one from Granger, Is that a new discovery?.

Cordially yours,

*Ed.*