

1960, August 10

Dr. E. P. Henderson:  
U. S. National Museum,  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

I appreciate your confirmation of my diagnosis of the little iron piece from near Holliday, Texas, as a meteorite. I thoroughly understand that since it turned out to be a rather typical medium octahedrite nothing can at this stage be said definitively as to whether it is a separate find.

I have had the finder mark a Texas highway map (1 inch to the mile—a State Planning Survey map of high accuracy) and the point of find turns out to be almost exactly 9 miles S 7° W of the center of Holliday. It is in a little tributary or draw of the North Fork of the Little Wichita River, and the coordinates of the find are long. 98° 43' W. and 33° 41' N. lat.

It turns out that an oil pipe line runs thru this "canyon" (the term is probably used rather loosely—it is likely more of a little creek valley), and that there is a stock tank nearby. Human activity has obviously been more than you might think in this rather wide open region, and I will try to learn whether these structures were built before or after the finding of the meteorite.

I have made arrangements with the finder to do the searching you suggested (perhaps with tongue in cheek!) sometimes next fall or winter; I had already thought of that and can spend a pleasant day at it when the weather is cooler and the rattlesnakes have gone in. I have scant hopes of finding anything, but I always like to try. I would think there is more chance of finding another small piece rather than a big one; this might very well be the scene of another shower like the Deport, Texas.

I had thought you might save the grindings and check the nickel percentage, but since you did not mention this, I assume the tiny quantity of material thus available and the contamination with oxidized crust, etc., would make this impractical and the results non-significant. If it is a medium octahedrite I suppose you could make a better statistical guess of the Ni % than could thus be determined chemically.

Sincerely,