

## IREDELL METEORITE

Trip of 1937, Nov. 2-3

R. A. ("Angus") French, now 63, figured he was about 20 when the met. was found, which would make the date 1894. He worked on the Dudley place two years, and then went off and worked elsewhere about a year before he married, which was in 1899 (?); this makes the date seem more like 1896-7 or perh even '98. He said Frank Harris had owned the place before Dudley, but Dudley owned it then. French and Dudley were sitting on the porch of the old house (still standing, where the windmill is in the yard, all somewhat NE of newer house), which faces E., and it was after dark. They heard an explosion, about as loud as 3 10 guage shot guns, and saw a flash towards the SE. Later he said they heard a kind of a whistling thru the air and the explosion came afterwards. George Dudley was the owner's name. They made no investigation then.

Some three weeks later the piece was found, by Art Cooper, now dead (his younger bro. John Cooper lives at Tye). The point is abt. 450 yds. SE of the old house, just outside (NW) of an old field at the foot of the hill, where the road "drops" off the hill. French and Cooper were riding to kill some dogs that were bothering the sheep, and French had shot one dog. Art went to see it while French rode after the other dog, and when he returned, Cooper called to him to come look at what he had found. Just beside the sheep or cattle trail, lying in the grass and apparently not at all buried, Cooper had picked up a piece which looked like the bottom broken out of a wash pot, curved, about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and almost as big as the 9" x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ " file I was carrying, according to French's memory. Later he indicated the area was probably not so large--say  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{2}{3}$  that much. It weighed abt. 6 lbs., and was rough, not smooth. One edge looked like it had been broken, and French later seemed positive that it was bright like the exposed iron on my samples. The piece laid around the house several years. The grass was thick and high-- $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 feet.

We went to the location on the farm, which we found Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ Copeland of Caddo had recently bought. The old field referred to is still in cultivation. Mesquite trees have grown in the area where the met. was found and confused French, who first thoguth he had the location within 30' but later said he was within a radius of 100 feet. of the spot. He placed the point about 300 ft. from the field fence at first, later 75'. The trail referred to runs roughly east-west, and may be represented by a wash now present. The meteorite was found about where this wash crosses a rock ledge. It was black except for the broken edge, and French was positive it was on the grass beside the trail, and not buried or in he trail.

He also told of another fireball to the NE of the ranchhouse a short time later, perh. detonating, and supposed to have fallen nearby.

*Jerry Phillips • School Supt at Iredell; large school, wants talk on met.*



## IREDELL METEORITE

Trip of 1937, Aug. 22.

Farrington states that this met. was found 1898 in a rut 7" deep in an old road on the Dudley sheep ranch 5 or 6 mi. SW of Iredell in Bosque Co. The orig wt was abt. 3.3 lbs.; "scarcely a third of the orig mass in the form of angular fragments with rusty exterior can have been preserved". Orig it had the shape of a large mussel shell, but was broken up into many pieces and among other things used to replace knife blades.  $5\frac{1}{2}\%$  Ni., slight exudation of iron chloride, a little schreibersite. Normal hexahedrite with some en echelon cleavage and some indications of dodecahedral cleavage.

The orig. Dudley ranch was found to be apparently more nearly WSW than SW and probably 7-8 miles away from town; Cap Shanks said it lies at the edge of the county. John Craft of Ft. W. was there and his son J. E. Craft at present leases this ranch and other adjoining property, but they have been there only a couple of years and know nothing of the met. Old man Dudley died a few years ago; he owed some money to G. F. (Frasier) Boone of Ft. Worth, who now seems to be the owner of the property; he lives at 1206 Dorothy Lane, 7-3464.

A. F. Russell, an old timer who lives back towards town on this road, recalled nothing; we later interviewed his son J. R. Russell, south and west of the father's place. A. F. referred us to a son of Dudley's, Dr. Claude Dudley, formerly a homeopathic doctor but now farming <sup>(near Hamilton?)</sup> \* J. R. referred us to Dr. A. N. Pike or his f (?) Dan Pike, 7 mi. out from Iredell twds Meridian, as an old timer. \* Tulia Tex (osteo?)

Herbert Sellers, now mayor of Hico, is son-in-law of Dudley, Sr., and formerly owned the Sellers ranch, now owned by W. E. Rogers; E. A. Koonsoman, whom we met there, thinks he recalls the finding of the orig met when he was a boy, and believes it was found on that ranch, which seems in general to fit the orig descrip better and has a badly washed road leading to the house. Koonsoman lives several mi. to the SE.

Musick, on the road bt the 2 ranches, knew nothing, but thinks his m, Mrs. J. J. abt 10 mi SW of there near Hamilton Co. line, has mentioned it.

"Cap" Shanks says Frank Harris was the owner of the Dudley ranch in 1898 and was in active charge then; see his widow, Mrs. F. O. Harris at Ft. W. Georgia, widow of Frank L., stewardess T.C.U. Cafeteria, in only one there listed; r 2932 (2926) W. Lowden, W. G. Hewatt's residence, 4-2927. Shanks also said to talk to Frank Warren at Cisco--he lived just north of Dudley ranch as a boy.



Iredell



to Hico

no home  
stone house

ashed  
direction

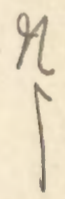
A. Russell  
x

Munch

Rogers (Dallas  
ranch)

old Dudley  
ranch

JR  
Russell



rough sketch

Boone says to see Ang(us) French, runs filling station west side of main st. in Iredell; he worked on the Dudley ranch or was familiar with it at that time. Dudley owned the land many years, but sold it in 1916 to \_\_\_\_\_ who sold it to Waco Shares Co. who sold it to Boone in 1924; Dudley hasn't been on it since 1916. See son Tom Boone in gro. store across from Castleberry School; he was on the land 10 years. See the Smith boys, trappers (f is "old Tom Smith") who live in little house on top of hill north of the place where Craft lives (on right side going twds Hico?); see Trimmier's to the south (and west) of Craft's house. Old man Raney who once owned part of what was later the Dudley ranch left that region yrs ago with \_\_\_\_\_ Fort; don't know where they are now. The road west of where Craft lives is county line.

house  
not  
interviewed

91  
1

Jredell Met

1937 11-3

to Nico

old house +  
windmill

new house

X<sub>1</sub>

X<sub>2</sub>

cut field

trail or  
wash

rocky  
ledge

crooked  
rocks

Jredell

large cluster  
of lvs  
in  
as seen  
only  
distance  
from X.

County  
line

French first picked X<sub>1</sub> then X<sub>2</sub>

