

W. D. QUINN OF SMITHFIELD on 1936 12-20 said he was at cor of Main & 1st sts Grandview on 1917, 10-1 and saw fireball from alt 17 S 5 W to behind barn-top of present roof (new barn) 2 alt az S 45 W. We were there and he pointed.

Arnold E. Zeiske

Dallas, Texas

January 15, 1937.

Mr. Oscar Monnig,
312 W. Leuda,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Monnig:-

It was a pleasure, indeed, hearing from you, and I assure you the contents of your letter were most interesting. I shall give you, as near as I can, whatever information it is possible for me to give, regarding the meteor which I saw on October 1, 1917. Did you see it, by the way?

It seems highly probable that the meteorite found was the one which fell on that date, for the triangulations made at the time, as set forth in the Bulletin of the University of Texas (No. 1772: Dec. 25, 1917) a copy of which you no doubt have, very closely point to the spot where the fragments which you mention were actually found recently. The conclusion states that "It is my belief that the sequence to this tale will be a description of some of the fragments into which the meteor broke when they shall have been found in or near Menard, Mason, or Kimble Counties."

Now, as to the azimuth of the point of disappearance. The end point of the meteor could be fixed well indeed in Austwell, for as far as I remember the direction in which we saw it was precisely down the main street of the town, that is, as I reported it (p. 16 of the above Bulletin) N. 35 degrees W.. The comment which I now read on this page are: "With one exception, no observations giving merely one of four points of the compass or the direction northwest, northeast, southwest or southeast, were used for this purpose (the determination of the point of first appearance) These involve generalizations. In each case which has been used, the observers report a direction that appears to have been deliberately determined." And evidently I reported N. 35 W because this direction is given as emanating from Austwell, and I am sure I was the only one whose report from there was used - in fact the only one who even reported.

How I wish I had time and money enough to be able to say, "All right, we'll just hop in my car or my Autogiro and drive or fly down there and do the thing right." However at present I have neither car nor autogiro, and so we'll have to console ourselves otherwise. I will say this, however, that if you could obtain authentically the direction in which the streets are laid out in Austwell, you would have it quite as well as you would by going down there, for to the

the direction of the street (that one of course nearest to Northwest) would then be the direction of the meteor.

I shall give you the names of some people who might be able to get for you a map of the town from which you could get directions or tell you the accurate directions themselves. Mr. W. H. Gisler who is a good friend of ours was, and may still be the Mayor. At any rate he is an intelligent and educated businessman who could give you valuable assistance. He should at least be able to advise you where you could get a map or information as to the exact direction of the street. I do not remember whether I obtained the direction N. 35W with any greater precision than an ordinary compass or whether I got it from a map. But I do know this, that the meteor was, to the best of my knowledge rightslapdab down the throat of main street. Another man in Austwell is J. H. Kinsler, who could no doubt, also give you information, having, perhaps more to do with surveying and real estate than Mr. ~~Kinsler~~ Gisler.

1937
9-27
wrote

I was sitting on the back of the rear seat (with me feet on the seat itself) of an old Model T Ford with top down (touring car) in front of an ex-drug store, which was being used at the moment for a danchall in which the Mexicans were holding a fiesta of some kind or other. With me on the same perch was a fellow whose father, as I remember was, together with my father, standing on the running board of the same car or on the ground near it, and all of us as well as many others of the white population of the town were watching the Mexican dance in side the building. The car was parked facing down the street, and so I was looking right at it (the meteor) when it appeared, and suppose I had as good a ringside seat as any one in the State to witness this phenomenon. It is one of the experiences I shall never forget. I realize, of course that the human element plays a great part in such things, but believe nevertheless that I observed it pretty closely, particularly with reference to its path and appearance. Professor Udden discounts the "Zigzag" reports of its path, yet my picture (No. 12 on page 14 of the above mentioned Bulletin) represents as closely as I could possible get it what it looked like to me. In other words there was not much difference between the azimuth of its first appearance and that of its last appearance, although it did seem to swerve at first to the left somewhat, and then come down fairly straight, the weaving or hunting having been, perhaps, only apparent, as may have been the indicated swerve to the right in its lower portion. In other words if I gave N.35 W as the ~~approximate~~ direction of its first appearance this also applies pretty closely to the direction of its last appearance.

I should say that the direction of its last appearance was either exactly the direction of the main street in Austwell, or slightly to the south of this direction. Because while the swerving to the right may have been illusory, the ~~an~~ initial swerve to the left seems more definite, as I remember it, and also as I have drawn it on the picture.

I hope you will excuse this "un-neat" letter, but I think faster than my fingers will allow me to travel, when I get onto something which I am interested in, and in their rush to get the letters down, tumble all over themselves and each other

I am sure you have the bulletin referred to. If not, I would surely try to get one. If you can't do that, I shall be glad to lend you my copy, as highly as I value it.

If you ever come to Dallas, and have time or give a lecture, I would count it an honor to have you call me up or come to see me. Did you see the comet this summer? We went out several times and tried to see it with binoculars, but missed it on I think seven counts. In the first place we went on the wrong day, secondly we went at the wrong time of day (or night), thirdly we looked in the wrong direction; in the fourth place, we had nothing very powerful to look thru anyway, and moreover, ~~xxxxxxx~~ if we had seen it we would probably not have recognized. There were two other reasons for our failure, as I recounted them at the time, but I don't remember them now. Oh, yes, one was that the moon was too bright, and another was that we were mostly interested in the moonlight anyway, I am afraid - the night we went out having been, as I remember such a beautiful moonlight night anyway.

I enjoyed your letter, and should be most interested in hearing more about the outcome of evidence tending to prove that the stones recently found were fragments of this particular meteor. If you hear or do anything more about it, let me know.

Sincerely yours, again apologizing for the ragged appearance of the letter, not all of which is exactly my fault,

Arnold E. Zeisk
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8-6131.

If you ever lecture again here, please call me up, as I really want to hear you if I can.

If you should actually go to Arestuill, give my regards to Mr. Gister & Family also the Kinslers if you contact them and others whom you might meet.