

1955, March 27.

Mr. Robert J. Monnig,  
# 7 Longmeadows,  
Clayton 24, Mo.

Dear Bob:

Thanks for your March 1 letter about seeing Mrs. Hinrichs. I never got together with Mr. Hinrichs mainly because he acted indifferent. Maybe he was that way because he thought my ideas of price too low.

The University competing is quite possibly the University of Iowa where Mr. Hinrichs' father was a teacher. There was something funny about his connection with that school and I think to say the least he fell out with them--the father who taught there, I mean. I don't believe they would have much sentiment in favor of the University, but as you say, money is probably more important to Mrs. Hinrichs now than that sentiment.

I was wondering whether the Hinrichs boy would play much part in the sale. He was always very commercially minded about the meteorites, quite willing to see them sold as long as he squeezed as much out of them as possible.

There were supposed to be some 70 or so small pieces, a sort of thumbnail collection totalling only about 8 or 9 pounds. Then he had about 43 pounds in several bigger stones from the Amana, Iowa, fall and one stone of about 50 pounds from Texas, that I particularly wanted. I don't even know if the whole collection is still intact. He used to have the little pieces over at his laboratory and the big stones in the attic at home.

The man in Arizona is the well known professional meteorite hunter H. H. Nininger, but he would expect sort of a wholesale price and does not have ready money. I don't think he would be too serious competition. I am more fearful of a St. Louis group who has recently become active, but I think they don't know about the collection and I am hoping nothing will be printed about it.

Thanks for your trouble; if I need your further help, I'll let you know....The usual dividends have been declared on store stock for this spring, but what we do this fall will depend entirely on how profits come along. We did enter into a restrictive agreement with the people from whom we borrowed for the retail building improvements. We cannot pay out on the principal of the loan plus dividends any more than we actually earn.

Sincerely,