

Box 67
La Villa, Texas
7 May, 1957

Mr. Oscar E. Monnig
Texas Observers
1010 Morningside Drive
Fort Worth 4, Texas

Dear Mr. Monnig:

I have finally come to the place where I am able to give you a decision concerning the meteorite found on the J. R. Wade Farms, Inc., near La Villa. Much more time has been required to arrive at this decision than was thought when you visited in my home. For your benefit I will try to explain same.

I had a reply from one magazine last week and this week heard from the other one. Neither one could use the story due to its being an old meteorite, as you had predicted. I wasn't too disappointed, however. In the meantime, I had gone ahead with information secured through consultations with Dr. Elliot and Mr. Engle, had my story written by the time I received the letter from the second magazine.

I took a good newspaper man and news director for a TV station, and a close personal friend, into my confidence and asked him just how to go about releasing my feature story. I realized that I really had a good story and one that just might possibly be good enough to submit to some large papers for sale. My supposition was correct. This man, whom you would know were I to mention his name, was very excited after I had talked to him and he had read my five page story. He told me it was a good story- and that, coming from him was all I needed to know. Really, the valley has only had about three other stories that will rate higher than my story and I have read the papers carefully in the over 27 years that I have been writing for the three daily papers. He advised me to submit my feature story to some of the leading newspapers of the state and out of the state papers as well, and urged me to do this before the story was released to any papers, following which the Associated Press would then pick it up and I would have no chance whatsoever to sell my story.

I had an outstanding photographer, and also a close personal friend of mine, make pictures of the rock. This way I was free to do as I please about the pictures. The TV man also promised to make pictures for his TV program. This he later did and he will use them on a TV program in the afternoon after the local papers have released the story.

I am completely overwhelmed by the bigness of this thing- all who have helped me, tell me its really, really a big story and when these kind of people tell me this, I know there is something to it. I have a copy of the story to send you as I promised and this will be mailed the first part of next week.

Now for the part of the story of which is of utmost importance to you-my decision- I should say our decision as to the disposal of the meteorite. We have decided since it is the very first to be found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley that it should stay here, and therefore the family is presenting it to Pan American College to be used in the work of the astronomy department and in connection with the new observatory. Dr. Elliot and Mr. Engle are accepting this on behalf of the College as the family requested. It is to be turned over to them on Tuesday, May 14 after the stories have been published. The story will reveal to the college that it is to receive this gift.

I trust that you will not be too disappointed in not being able to purchase and add this to your collection. I also wish to say that I greatly appreciate your part in furnishing the identification and naming the meteorite. It was also a pleasure to have been able to meet you personally.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. R. Wade Sr.

Mrs. J. R. Wade, Sr.