October 16, 1952

Dr. C. C. Wylie
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Iowa City, Iowa

Dear Sir:

Since writing you, I did make a trip to Ardmore and actually viewed the Lake Murray meteorite. I am told that the mass was surrounded by about a six inch thick layer of oxide at the time it was excavated. This is what La Paz said fell all to pieces and came off in spite of the greatest care and efforts to preserve and keep it, and this no doubt is what leads to his estimate of an original higher weight that would make it the largest meteorite of this type ever to be found. However the actual iron core presumably weighs only the 620 pounds which he stated to me over the phone it did. It is about 23 inches long in two of the longest dimensions on one side, but the shape of this side is roughly trapezoidal and one of the smaller dimensions is about 16 inches. The entire mass is about 5 to 7 inches thick.

I have not kept up with the detailed technical articles about classifications of meteorites, but I have some impression that this is what used to be called a "brecciated hexahedrite." I was sorry to see term "granular" come into use, because grains to me are very small and these spparate pieces in the hexahedrites of this type are generally larger. There is is also the further point which you mentioned that these things seem tobe called coarse octahedrites by some authorities. I suppose the difference hinges on the nickel content shown by analysis, since as I recall the hexahedrites have a fairly constant and very narrow percentage range.

The Lake Murray meteorite lay exposed in an erosion ditch, with the top about 5 feet below the adjoining land level. The land had been cultivated but is now back in grass. The finder claimed he first saw the object and suspected its identity about 1930, in the first year he moved on the land to work it, and has been telling people about it ever since!

Yours sincerely,