

1947, Dec. 6.

Dear Dr. Leonard:

I note your plea for a report on the 10th meeting and will try to get it to you, as requested.

Of course I haven't seen Stockwell's meteorite finds, but I have had a long course of correspondence with him and the photographs look so obviously real that I am willing to accord him full faith and credit. I am glad you are reprinting the note, and feel honored.

Juanita and I were delighted to hear that all goes well with Rhoda and with Frederick David. I am sure this is quite gratifying to all of you.

I've been wanting to write you about an entry in your Co-ordinate Number Catalog (I like it). You list a siderite from Meers, Okla. May I ask the source and details of your information? My reason for asking is as follows:

When I visited the U. S. National some 8 or 10 years ago, Henderson told me they had a file on a supposed siderite from there, the correspondence having been between Merrill and the finder, who ultimately refused to send the main piece in to Washington. Merrill apparently believe the material meteoritic from a small sample sent him, but as I recall, the sample had not been preserved (perhaps used up in testing). With Henderson's permission, I went to Meers and after two rather arduous efforts, ran down an old ne'r-do-well semi-pro prospector who had allegedly dug up the six or seven pieces in the mountains near Lawton. He was living in one of the dirtiest holes in Lawton I ever hope to put my foot in, and had these things in a burlap sap under his bed--had been carrying them around with him ever since prior to 1915! He thought they were immensely valuable, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that I persuaded him to let me bring one home as a sample for testing--had to sign a receipt with a witness and all that sort of thing. I was much disappointed as it didn't look like a siderite at all. My simple, kitchen-variety nickel test came out negative and the ground and polished surface of a small side looked like cast iron to me. However, to make doubtly sure, I sent it to Washington, and Henderson pronounced it non-meteoritic and returned it to me. I sent it back to the old man. I may not have all the facts exactly right in my memory, but this is the story, substantially.

Oscar E. Monning