

1960, July 7

Dr. E. P. Henderson,
U.S. National Museum,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Henderson:

Thank you for phoning me and discussing the puzzle of the alleged Utah meteorite. I will elaborate by stating that it is alleged to have been found about 1954 by one C. M. Sims, now of Midland, Texas, while employed by Conkling Bros. of that city in some uranium searches. It seems Sims was a surveyor's assistant, a chainman, working under one Bob Coen now of Olton, Texas.

The object is said to have been found on the floor of Hatch Canyon, some 75 miles west of Moab, Utah, in the Crimson Cliff area near Fiddler Butte. The canyon is over 700 feet deep, and a road had to be blasted down the face of the cliff for even 4-wheel drive vehicles to negotiate.

It is said to have been thus brought out by Jeep, but Coen doesn't seem to remember it specifically, as he said they brought out many rock specimens of various sorts. It does seem to be very definitely established that it was brought back from there in a private plane, because the amount of weight to be carried was limited, and there was some discussion about taking the meteorite because many other items were to be hauled.

I am getting a confirming statement by letter from one of the Conkling Brothers (the employers of the man who found it), and everything does seem to point to the bona fides of the story. I can hardly hold off any longer on paying the present owner for the object, and now intend to go ahead before July 15th as he rather definitely wants some action by then.

I shall be in South Texas over the week-end, making a talk on meteorites in Edinburg, and may not return till July 13th. If you could have some kind of a letter here for me by then I'd be grateful. If you definitely decide the probabilities make it a Canyon Diablo, wire me. Otherwise, I'll risk buying it.

Sincerely and thanks,