

1950, Oct. 14.

Mr. Clarence T. Jones,
Architect,
Chattanooga, TENN.

Thank you, Clarence, for your thoughtfulness in sending me the recent clipping about the recovery of a meteorite near Murray, Ky.

I knew about this fireball the morning after its occurrence from a report thru my C.A.A. friends here. They gave me a rough resume of the airplane reports they had on it, and one was as far down this way as Hawkins, a little town in East Texas, where a pilot saw the meteor and had the customary illusion that it was but a few miles away.

The newspaper reports of great detonations made me feel it was really a Class A fireball and that meteorites most likely fell from it, but I normally hesitate to do any work on these objects when they are over 300 miles from me. The repeated trips one must usually make to secure results make it quite burdensome at such distances.

Besides, I was in hopes that I had inspired some of you folks to undertake investigations in such promising cases! Did any one there in Chattanooga do anything about it? I read that a likely specimen was inspected by Dr. Seyfert at Vanderbilt and I have written him about it.

There is probably little chance of my procuring any of it for my collection but I was primarily urging him to see if it could be promptly sliced and placed at the disposal of Dr. Hildegrad Stücklen of Sweet Briar College. She wants to get a freshly fallen meteorite and make repeated exposures of a flat surface on nuclear plates over a two year period or thereabouts. The idea is to check possible cosmic-ray-induced radioactivity, and see if it appears and decays over that length of time. I think each exposure is from 1 to 4 weeks, the plates are 1 x 3, and it is desirable to get a fresh fall within a few weeks or few months at most.

Regards to all of your admirable family, from