

Meteor Blast Jars Big Area In Tenn., Ky.

NASHVILLE, Sept. 20 (AP).—A meteor flashed through the sky to the west of here early Wednesday and apparently exploded in the air jarring an area from Paducah, Ky., to Memphis.

The Illinois Central Railroad dispatcher in Paducah said reports from all along his line to Memphis told of a jar of an explosion.

He said a railroad signalman at Covington, Tenn., 40 miles north of Memphis, told of seeing a ball of fire in the sky getting larger and larger, then exploding.

The IC dispatcher's account was related here by Fred Denton, Tennessee Central dispatcher who said the IC man called to ask if there had been an explosion.

Patrol Cars Dispatched.

At Memphis, the Shelby County and state highway patrols sent six cars racing north of the city. The county radio officer said one car reported the meteor hit in the vicinity of Hatchie Bottoms, a semi-swamp area between Memphis and the Millington Naval Base, about 20 miles away. This

report was not confirmed.

At Murray, Ky., William Barnett, a filling station operator, reported a piece of the meteor fell on his farm nine miles east of Murray, near Wildcat Creek on Kentucky Lake. He took the object to the West Kentucky town. Observers said it was about the size of a man's head.

A report of the sky flash was given in Memphis by American Airlines Capt. H. J. Garman of Dallas. Garman had just landed a DC-6 with 41 passengers from Washington.

"We sighted that thing about 1:30 a. m. about 50 miles east of Nashville," Garman said.

"I was flying at 18,000 feet and it looked as though it came right across our nose.

Not a Clear Light.

"I tell you, I never saw such a brilliant flash of light before. No, it wasn't a clear light. It seemed to be burning with an orange, yellow and blue flame.

"I can't say for sure whether it burned out in the air or hit the ground. I've seen hundreds and hundreds of meteors, but that was the lowest I ever saw one.

"I tell you, it lit up the whole sky."

Garman had seen the flash up close about 250 miles from where it apparently ended. The CAA operator at the Nashville Airport said it lit the sky "bright as day" and he thought it landed between the field and the city, only five miles away.

Patrolman Albert K. Yancy at Paducah said witnesses reported the meteor lighted up the Paducah area about 3 a. m. so brightly "you could almost read a newspaper."

Yancy said the CAA told him that the meteor apparently exploded between Paducah and Nashville, though the exact location was not determined.

Meteor Streaking Across Kentucky Believed Exploded

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Sept. 20 (AP).—Scores of West Kentuckians all the way from Louisville to Paducah reported Wednesday they saw a flaming meteor streaking through the early morning sky.

The object, also visible in Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois, was reported to have exploded in the air somewhere between the Paducah area and Memphis, Tenn. A farmer near Murray, Ky., said a fragment of the meteor fell on his farm.

Witnesses said the meteor was flaming red, lit up the sky and some of them said it appeared to explode. Most of the witnesses fixed the time at between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning.

her duties as
Dr. Branton said.

Boy Digs Piece Of Meteorite Out of Ground

MURRAY, Ky., Sept. 25 (AP).—About the most terrifying thing that ever happened to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Barnett was the meteor which flashed across the sky early last Wednesday.

A loud rumbling like a fast freight and three rapid thunderclaps of an explosion awakened them. They thought it was a "cyclone."

When they reached their back porch they saw stars in a clear sky. Just then a heavy object crashed into the yard a few feet away. The Barnetts went back into the house. They went to bed again, but couldn't sleep. Mrs. Barnett took a sleeping powder.

When day dawned, their son, William, dug out the meteorite. Six inches in diameter, it had buried itself to its own depth in a hard-packed footpath on the Barnett farm nine miles from here. It weighed seven and a half pounds.

Among hundreds of visitors to Barnett's home and his service station here where he keeps the meteorite in the daytime were Dr. Carl K. Seyfert, astronomer at Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Seyfert yesterday identified the meteorite as one of the stony variety, the rarest known to scientists. He said that to his knowledge it was the first time a meteorite ever had been heard to strike the ground.

It is one of the largest stony meteorites ever recovered, Seyfert said, adding that other fragments of the meteor, which exploded from its terrific speed through the earth's atmosphere, probably fell over a wide area.

Thought this would interest you B.H.

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