

1959, Dec. 29

Dr. Virgil E. Barnes,  
Bureau of Economic Geology,  
Austin, Texas,

Dear Virgil:

It was very thoughtful of you to "take typewriter in hand" and write me from home, and I do appreciate it. No, I wasn't going to revisit the Mitchell County locality so soon, as I am certainly not hot about any idea of its being meteoritic. Anyhow, if I had gone on such a trip, I would have had some other things on the agenda to check into, so my time wouldn't be lost. Moreover, since it is avocational, it never makes much difference whether I accomplish much--it's not a drip of work like you have to go on so frequently.

I appreciate Chelf's diagnosis of this as a fossil sink, and without trying to set myself up as an authority to disagree with geologists, I must say I am still interested in pursuing this further. I do not understand (1) what sank; (2) why; or (3) why there aren't other sinks also in the region (there may be). I don't expect you to worry about it any more!

Thanks for the additional word about Odessa. I have never urged much about what should be done there for fear somebody would try to call in the federal government. God forbid that! Mr. Chelf's idea of further excavations does not intrigue me.

When I went last to Colorado City to see this formation, I was also trying to get more information about some meteorites. I have a little iron allegedly found near Fort Stockton by a deer hunter some 20 years ago, and I was trying to see if it could be merely a misplaced piece of Odessa or Barringer Crater, Arizona. It will probably be simpler to cut it and check the etch figures! I was also running down more dope on an old stone of some 30 odd pounds from Patricia, which has a detached piece showing very beautiful slickensiding; this doesn't belong to us, but is lent to me here for a collection we're exhibiting at the local Children's Museum.

Sincerely,