

1959, Dec. 24.

Mr. Virgil E. Barnes,  
Bureau of Economic Geology,  
Austin 12, Texas.

Dear Virgil:

Many thanks for your very prompt answer to my inquiry about the Mitchell County feature; I think we both have the right idea and agree, but I am going to pursue it a little further for the satisfaction of my own personal curiosity. There is some slight tilting of some of the rocks, but I minimized it because it certainly didn't seem to me to be marked or significant. Incidentally, considerable checking of soil in and around the crater with a pretty big Alnico magnet didn't turn up any magnetic fragments at all.

I'm sorry if I stepped on your toes on any one else's on the Odessa Crater matter, but my feelings that way are pretty strong, and you would be surprised at the number of people from all over the country who talk the same way. The procedure there was not at all justified, in my opinion.

I have thought seriously about restoration. I would love to see it if there was any assurance the feature would then really be left that way and maintained. It is hopeless to think the general public would ever care about it because it is not sufficiently spectacular. I saw no garbage on my recent trip but apparently the further stripping of the subsidiary craters sponsored by the Barringers has resulted in some huge holes or caliche pits along the west side--I'm not sure what anything is out there any more!

Merry Christmas to you and your family, and thanks again for your kindness in always being my personal geologist.

*Orville M. ...*