

MEERS, OKLA. Meteorite

Trip of 1939 Dec. 30-31.

H. W. Bruce said the place of find was between Mt. Scott and Mt. Sheridan (not at all near Baker's Peak, which is in the NW corner of the reservation). It is nearer Mt. Sheridan than Mt. Scott, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the highway that now runs thru the reservation, from Cache to Meers. It is east of the highway, near the headwaters (and on?) Cedar Creek.

He found these pieces not long before they were first submitted to the U. S. National, presumably about 1912 or 1913. They were all in one place, roughly the size of an ordinary room. The largest piece weighed over 100 lbs., and he had to break it up to carry it away, partly by buggy and partly by burro. Besides the other moderately large pieces (20 or 25 lbs. and less), there were a number of very small fragments, about thumb-size (and ball-shaped?). Bruce believes he could go back to this original place of find.

In his general conversation he said that the first thing he always did with ores was to test them in a fire, but when specifically asked he denied having heated the piece he originally submitted to Washington. That piece he said weighed about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. He later sent it to El Paso and got \$12.00 for it, but he does not recall to whom he sold it. I mentioned the Empire Smelting & Refining Co., but that name meant nothing to him and was clearly not at all familiar. He may not have sold it at El Paso until several years after sending it to Washington, say 1917-18. Just after the war, he heard some one from El Paso was in Lawton trying to find him, the report being that this material was "extremely valuable", but no such individual ever approached him (Bruce was in Arizona at the time).

He confessed that the "original finder" may have heated this specimen, but I could get nothing tangible as to who this might have been. As Bruce first recalled the material, it was to some extent covered with "cinders" or slag (?) which he had to knock off, especially the largest piece. For many years he has vainly attempted to get an "analysis" and apparently many small chip samples have been given away in the process, as well as some larger pieces.

A more or less related trio of collectors at or near Roswell, N. M., got one piece which he gave them and are said to have sent it to Denver and to Lubbock, Tex., for "tests", with no results ever reported to Bruce. He named Fred Miles, \_\_\_\_\_ Miller (boot shop proprietor?), and \_\_\_\_\_ Wheeler, dairyman east of Roswell. A Chevrolet mechanic (\_\_\_\_\_ Weldon) also borrowed a piece to be submitted to some one in New Jersey, but he bluffed Weldon into getting this back for him. Some of these names may be confused, but they illustrate the widespread scattering of samples or pieces and a recurring failure to get

any information whatever on Bruce's part.

One fairly large piece (20lbs?) was submitted to            Burt (Bird?) with a big oil laboratory (Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Co?) at Duncan, Okla., and is presumably still there, subject to recall.

Bruce still has 6 pieces and they probably total about the 60 lbs. he claims. I saw these and examined each carefully. They are all alike and he claims they are the same material as what he submitted to Washington. Only one of them (12 lbs?) is entirely unscarred or unbroken. The largest, some 24 lbs., has had a number of chips taken from one side, apparently knocked off with a pick-hammer, indicating relatively great brittleness on the part of the metal. Two smaller pieces are slightly more compact than the others with somewhat less indications of porosity but on close inspection seem to be of identical material. The other two pieces were once part of a single individual which has been broken, and the larger of these (about two-thirds of the original piece), I borrowed for testing.

This piece is very characteristic, and is substantially solid, tho there are some indications of porosity. The old exterior is an oxide crust of rust. The broken face is granular and silvery, and it is at once obvious that this cannot be an octahedrite. Such holes as appear both on the exterior and interior look like typical cavities due to gas-bubbles in slag and are often spherical. There are occasional inclusions of 1 or 2 centimeters width that are apparently carbonaceous; these are stratified; they are very suggestive of material encountered in slags. The material is mainly iron, apparently composed of very tiny grains or pellets that tend to be spherical and are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in diameter, or less; these do not break with the matrix.

A fine-ground surface reveals a liberal sprinkling of other spherical inclusions with a different metallic luster than the matrix. The matrix itself, in cross-section, shows a fine reticulation representing the granules or pellets of which it is composed. On a Carborundum grinding wheel, the material throws sparks (like cast iron and unlike meteorites) and the frictional heat produces an odor (sulphur-like) like cast iron.

I do not see how the material can be any thing but artificial slag.

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