

October 25, 1972

Mr. Oscar L. Monnig
29 Chelsea Drive
Port Worth, Texas 76134

Dear Mr. Monnig:

Thank you for your letter of October 12.

It was nice to talk with you on the phone, although I too regretted that you were unable to come out to visit when you were in Denver. The next time, bring Mrs. Monnig with you. She would be more than welcome.

There is evidently no nationalization of meteorites action going on now. There was an effort by NASA in 1966 but it died for lack of support. Roy Clarke called me last week to say that the Smithsonian was not contemplating any action. It seems that Senator Dominic's (Colorado) office had contacted the Library of Congress research bureau to find out about the situation. They had called the Smithsonian and had talked to the Secretary, the Legal Counsel, and Clarke. It appears that my informant had taken the 1966 effort for a current effort at nationalization.

I hope that you can convince the widow in Waco to let you have the meteorite. It will surely get lost or thrown out a few years after the school gets it. Maybe you could convince her to sell it to you with the understanding that she would get a polished end piece back. She could donate this end piece to the school and use its value as a tax deduction. The money wouldn't amount to much but she might feel that you were looking out for her interests.

Several have spoken of the direction which the recent Meteoritical Society meetings have taken. I suppose this is natural evolution in an era of specialists but there are still a number interested in general, non-technical meteoritics. Both Dr. Niiniger and I plan papers dealing with field work. And there will be a lively discussion on the naming of meteorites. I hope that you can make it.

I see by the morning papers that central Texas has had a fireball. Hope that it proves to be worth working on and that you get something.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Glen J. Ross

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