

*Meteorites*

September 17, 1958

Mr. Andrew Briner  
134 E. 6th Street  
Coquille, Oregon

Dear Mr. Briner:

Ward's Natural Science Establishment, 3000 Ridge Road East, Rochester, New York, is always in the market for meteorites. An inquiry directed to them will give you information on prices and specifications.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason  
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk

Coquille, Oregon  
Sept 12, 1958

Dear Sirs:

Could you tell me of a market for meteorites?  
I know where there are some, I'm not sure of the number but would like to find a market for them.

Sincerely  
Andrew Briner

*Meteorites*

January 9, 1957

Mr. George R. Callos  
P.O. Box 45  
Deep River, Washington

Dear Mr. Callos:

We are interested to learn that you have been doing some prospecting for the Port Orford meteorite. This Department has no detailed information which would be of help in locating the meteorite, but it is our understanding that Dr. Erwin Lange of Portland State College, has been doing some research on this subject recently. Dr. Lange may be addressed at 1620 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland 1, Oregon.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason  
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk  
cc Dr. Erwin Lange

P.O. box 45  
Deep River, Wash.  
1/4/57

Dept. of Geology And Mineral Ind.  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sirs:

I recently read an account in the Ore\*Bin, by Mr. Pruett, on the missing meteorite of Port Orford, discovered by a Dr. Hughs in 1859.

I have been doing some prespecting in that area and would like to get more details of Dr. Hughs description of the location.

Any information you can give me would be appreciated, enclosed is a self adressed envelope.

Thank you

---

Geo. R. Callos

RECEIVED  
JAN 7 1957  
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

January 6, 1941

Mr. R. C. Hoskinson  
Klamath Falls  
Oregon

Dear Mr. Hoskinson:

Your letter of January 3 concerning a possible meteorite has been received. This Department would be eager to render any assistance possible, but we have no funds which could be used in doing any work on the supposed location. From your letter, it is my understanding that your evidence consists of a certain depression which you and Mr. Kennerly consider to have been made by the impact of a meteorite and that it could be exposed by excavating.

I would be glad to learn if you have any other evidence other than the depression, since such a depression might conceivably be caused from something other than a meteorite.

Mr. J. Hugh Pruitt of the University of Oregon is very much interested in all matters relating to meteorites, and I feel sure would be glad to have you write him concerning the evidence you have.

I shall be glad to hear from you further concerning the matter.

Very truly yours

F. W. Libbey  
Mining Engineer

FWL:hk

RECEIVED  
JAN 6 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

*J. H. Hunt*  
Klamath Falls, Ore.

Jan 3. 1941.

State Dept of Geology.

Dear sir:

I am writing you for funds or assistance to help locate a meteorite which I think I have discovered, near Klamath Falls.

I have been referred to you by Rep. Walter M. Pierce, also the University of Oregon.

Just today I took a Mr. Al Kennedy of 1135 Pine St this city out to look over the ground, and he says that he thinks that I am right, he has made quite a study of these things, you might write him.

I believe it is of metal origin, as I can't find any fragments around the depression.

I would be pleased to go out with any expert you might send here.

Please let me have your opinion, also  
what other steps I should take.

Yours very sincerely.

R. E. Hoskinson,

15 Lamath Falls,  
Gen Del. Ore.

*Meteorites*

July 21, 1960

Mr. J. C. Croy  
Camas Valley  
Oregon

Dear Mr. Croy:

Thank you for your letter of July 11 concerning the Port Orford meteorite.

We are happy to learn that you believe you have found this long-lost object and would like to suggest that you send us a small sample for identification. We are enclosing a sample information request blank for this purpose. There is no charge for the analysis, but we must have all of the information requested on the blank.

Dr. Irwin F. Lange, Chemistry Department, Portland State College, 1620 S.W. Park Avenue, Portland 1, Oregon, is recognized as an authority on the Port Orford meteorite, and he could doubtless inform you as to the possible ownership of this body.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason  
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk  
Encl.

Samas Valley, Ore.,

July 11 - 68

State Department Geology..

Sirs.

Several years ago there was a long story in one of the Portland papers in regard to the long lost Poit Orford Meteor.

It stated that the new finder would receive so much a pound, and the government laid claim to it, regardless of when it was found.

My find answers the description to the very point, so would be pleased to learn of the present value. If any charges answer C. O. P.

RECEIVED

JUL 18 1960

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

Yours Truly

J. E. Eroy

J. E. Eroy

*Meteorites*

August 5, 1960

Mr. Edwin O. Winans  
1140 Cambridge Street  
Novato, California

Dear Mr. Winans:

This is in reply to your letter of July 27 sent to Governor Hatfield of the State of Oregon. Governor Hatfield has referred your letter to our Department for answering as we are making geological studies in the region outlined on your map.

I am enclosing, for your information, a copy of our June 1956 ORE.-BIN concerned with magnetic declination in Oregon. Apparently the blue lines on your map were copied from the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey isogonic chart of the United States. I think that if you will refer to earlier isogonic charts, you will find that the patterns of these lines are quite variable.

It would appear to me that if meteorites were present in the areas indicated, the isogonic lines would be more stable than shown. Further, there have been recent investigations by two major oil companies using gravity meters in the area of your interest. It is my understanding, but I must confess that I do not have access to their charts, that anomalies on an order that would be expected from large meteorites were not found.

Careful geologic mapping in southeastern Oregon by members of our Department has not given us any reason to believe meteorites are present. Neither fragments of meteorites, ground disturbances or craters have been noted that could not be accounted for.

I wish to thank you for taking the time and interest to write and explain your theories. Certainly we are all better off by this ready exchange of information.

Sincerely yours,

HMD:jr  
Encl.  
cc Governor Mark O. Hatfield

Hollis M. Dole  
Director

*Meteorite*

January 10, 1961

Dr. H. H. Nininger  
American Meteorite Museum  
Sedona, Arizona

Dear Dr. Nininger:

Mr. E. L. Mason of this city suggested that I send a sample of a possible meteorite to you for identification. The sample was submitted to us by Mr. John J. Smith, 3005 S.E. 87th Avenue, Portland 66, Oregon. He stated that it came from his property, which we believe is composed of Portland terrace gravels. A few unusual rocks have been found in these gravels, including a boulder of kyanite and a 4-inch piece of pitchblende. These materials probably were brought down from the upper drainage of the Columbia River.

The sample we are sending to you is unlike any natural rock we have examined. We are more inclined to call it a slag of some kind. The specimen is about 8 inches across, somewhat angular, and weighs about 20 pounds. The surface is fused to a depth of about 1/8 inch and contains some irregular flow lines. The specimen is composed of at least two separate minerals, neither of which we were able to identify. Mineral "A" is lath-shaped, elongate crystals up to 25 mm long, which under the microscope are nonpleochroic, biaxial negative, length slow, with inclined extinction. It is transparent and has an index greater than 1.81. Mineral "B" is dendritic and fills the interstices, is pleochroic brown to green, and biaxial positive. It also contains some opaque metallic inclusions.

We are sending you a spectrographic analysis which may help you in identification. You may keep the specimen being sent you. We will appreciate anything you can tell us concerning this rock.

Very truly yours,

H. G. Schlicker  
Geologist

HGS:lk  
Encl.

*Meteorite*

June 5, 1961

Mr. Everett Akers  
2735 West Gary  
Roseburg, Oregon

Dear Mr. Akers:

Sometime ago you were in our office and talked to me concerning the possible meteorite you have located. I am wondering if you would be free for a field trip next week, possibly June 13, 14, or 15. If not, possibly we might make it in July. Let me know by Monday morning, the 12th, if you would like to make it next week.

Sincerely,

H. G. Schlicker  
Geologist

HGS:lk

December 16, 1964

Mr. William Baldrige  
P.O. Box 1094  
Brookings, Oregon

Dear Mr. Baldrige:

I think you can see now the confusion that can exist in trying to identify a sample from verbal description. Here I was thinking all the time that your sample was gold in color and now from your description it sounds as if it might meet the color of a meteorite. Nevertheless I will defer judgment on it until either I or some member from the Department see it.

Once again I want you to know that your name will be placed on our inspection list and when next either I or someone from the Department is in the Brookings area we will call on you. I do hope, however, that you will be going either to Grants Pass or coming to Portland and can bring the sample with you. You do have me intrigued on this sample.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Hollis M. Dole  
State Geologist

HMD:jr  
bc Grants Pass office

Dec 10 1964

BROOKINGS ORE.

Mr. Holli M. Pol;

Dear Sir,

Received your letter today.  
Thanks for your interest  
in my questions on the  
object I found.

There is something that I  
would like to draw to  
your attention. The letter that  
you sent me; indicates that  
you are assuming, that this  
object I found is of a golden  
mitchel color. Whether I mentioned  
or not. This object is very  
black, appear as though it  
had been lagured on the  
outside. The golden color is in  
specks showing through

This very black lacquered  
skin. And you may be  
sure, this is the blackest  
shinest object I have seen any  
place. It also has the look  
of something very old.

Mr Hollis - do I have to  
have any kind of permit, to  
look for things of this type?  
Sorry to bother you as I  
know you are busy.

Sincerely  
William L. Balbridge

RECEIVED  
DEC 14 1964

DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
GENERAL INDS.

December 9, 1964

Mr. William Baldrige  
P.O. Box 1094  
Brookings, Oregon

Dear Mr. Baldrige:

It is very difficult to identify any rock from a verbal description. It would be my guess, however, that the gold color which you note in your rock would indicate that the object you have found is not a meteorite. I have never seen a meteorite that was not black or of real dark color. This does not mean, however, that other colors do not occur.

Inasmuch as you are unwilling to submit your sample for testing and observation, I cannot give you any help as to whether or not it is a meteorite. I will put your name on our inspection list and the next time one of our field geologists is in your area he will look you up. This being the off-season, however, it would seem unlikely anyone will be in the vicinity before next spring.

Could it be that if ever you get to Grants Pass, where we have a field office, or to Portland, where our head office is located, you would be able to bring your specimen with you? If you could do this we would be glad to examine it at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Hollis M. Dole  
State Geologist

HMD:jr  
bc Grants Pass office

RECEIVED  
DEC 7 1964  
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
MINERAL INDS.

Dec. 1, 1964  
Brookings  
Mo.  
P.O. Box 1094

Mr. Bob Hollis;

I have found a strange object, of which I think is a "Meteorite". I have been told that it is the real thing, but talk is cheap. Myself I am no expert by any means.

The object I mention, weighs approx 8 lbs. is a very shiny black; has pit marks, all around excepting, on the head end, and tail end; Head end is rather smooth showing intense heat. The tail end is slightly →

smaller; showing metal of a golden color, that has been melted, then fused.

Around the sides of this object, this golden metal looks as though it had been in a molten state at some time? and had been blown through the skin of the object, at various places. Along one side of the object in question; is a very prominent ridge, from head to tail. This ridge has this golden metal showing the full length of the ridge

2

The part, that is interesting about this ridge, is where this golden colored metal, has been running out of this object, in a molten state; Then by some unknown means, it has completely re-welded itself trapping the remaining metal inside -?

Also if you look at this object, in an indirect light you will see a million, brilliant, specks of some kind of material.  
Now -

If you can give me some idea of what to do to get this object identified 3

I would be most grateful.  
I do not want to send  
it anywhere, that it will  
be out of my sight.

This object I refer to.

I found in Curry County,  
myself. Between Brookings  
and Port Orford Oregon.

If you can help me  
with this, please do.

If not, send me a letter  
as to what you think  
best for me to do.

Sincerely Yours  


William J. Baldridge  
P.O. Box 1094 Brookings Oregon

January 25, 1950

Dr. J. Hugh Pruett  
1832 Longview Drive  
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Pruett:

A man named R. M. Polk, Gaston, Oregon, brought in yesterday a sample of a supposed meteorite which he states he has on his farm. He also stated that he had, through Dr. Clarke of Willamette University, sent you a piece of this meteorite but had not received any word from you concerning it. Have you received any report concerning the specimen of this material which Polk said you had?

From Polk's description, it is difficult to explain the presence of the hunk of metal as due to human hands. However, strange things of that kind do occur. We have been unable to detect any nickel in the metal other than in microscopic amounts. It seems to be very pure metallic iron. We have not had very much experience in etching meteoric iron but the literature indicates that the Widmanstaetten lines do not appear on a polished surface of iron containing less than 5 percent nickel. Therefore we seem to be sort of up against it in attempting to identify the material as to whether or not it is natural or artificial.

If you can throw any light on the matter, I would appreciate it very much.

Sincerely yours,

Director

FWL: jr

January 27, 1950

Dr. J. Hugh Pruett  
Oregon State System of Higher Education  
General Extension Division  
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Pruett:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 26 containing the very complete information regarding Mr. Polk's supposed meteorite.

I shall be very interested indeed to learn the facts regarding the Sams Valley meteorite when you are in a position to release the publicity. I realize that probably you would wish to release this through the press services or newspapers but if you do type up a formal release, I shall be glad to have a copy for use in our ORE.-BIN.

Sincerely,

Director

FWL: jr

OREGON STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
GENERAL EXTENSION DIVISION

CORRESPONDENCE STUDY DEPARTMENT  
EUGENE, OREGON

January 26, 1950

OFFICE OF THE DEAN, PORTLAND  
PORTLAND EXTENSION CENTER, PORTLAND  
STATE-WIDE EXTENSION CLASSES, EUGENE

VISUAL INSTRUCTION, CORVALLIS  
RADIO STATION KOAC, CORVALLIS  
THE SUMMER SESSIONS, PORTLAND

Dr. F. W. Libbey, Director  
State Dept. of Geology,  
702 Woodlark Bldg.  
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Dr. Libbey:

I have your letter in which you mention that Mr. R. M. Polk of Gaston has taken to you a piece of the supposed meteorite found on his farm. Also you mention that Mr. Polk says that he has never heard from me concerning it.

Before I gave my final report on it to Dr. Clarke of Willamette Univ., Mr. Polk called me long distance one day (I believe he was in Portland at the time) and talked to me a considerable length on the subject. Then when I mailed my report to Dr. Clarke, I sent Mr. Polk a carbon copy.

Here is what I know about it: Dr. Clarke sent me two pieces of the material and said he was sure it was from a stony-iron meteorite. Off hand, it looked somewhat like that to me. I heard second hand from another resident of Salem that Dr. Clarke had said he found nickel in it. I tested it for nickel the same evening I was testing some josephinite. The latter was simply loaded with nickel and gave a very heavy ~~precip-~~ scarlet precipitate with ~~with~~ dimethylglyoxine. Next I dissolved some of the Clarke specimens and tried several times to get a <sup>nickel</sup> metal test, but could get none. *Plenty of iron, however,*

I next broke off small bits of each of the Clarke specimens and sent them to Dr. A. H. Kunz of the University Chemistry Dept. A few days later he called me and said he had tried hard to find a trace of nickel in them but had failed to find the least bit. I next sent both the pieces to Dr. Frederick C. Leonard, the meteorite expert at the Univ. of Calif. at Los Angeles. He kept them for some time and finally reported that both he and Dr. Murdock of the geology dept. (Leonard is in the astronomy dept.) had examined and tested the specimens but could find no nickel. They said the samples were not meteoritic but were likely iron slag. Later I returned the specimens to Dr. Clarke with a full report. Leonard and Murdock also examined at the same time a reported find of more of the Sam's Valley meteorite (which Kunz and I thought genuine) and reported that they were convinced it was the same as a known piece of the Sam's Valley I had sent him. We shall give this some publicity soon, but it is not ready for release just now.

Yours truly,

*J. Hugh Pruett*  
J. Hugh Pruett

Copy to Mr. R. M. Polk.

RECEIVED  
JAN 27 1950  
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDUSTRY

Banks Oregon  
July 23, 1952.

Mr F. W. Libbey:

Dear Sir:

I've read several articles on meteorites in the ore Bin and for several years in my spare time have been looking for meteorites. I have found what I am reasonable sure is a crater where one hit the ground north of North plains and if the Department would be interested I would be glad to show it to you and get your opinion, or you may know of some one that has had experience in that line who could give me some pointers on how to recover it.

I will tell you how to find where I live in case anyone is interested take the sunset Hiway out of Portland and go two miles beyond the Banks junction turn right on gravel cross road at sunset Fur Farm and I live in the third house on right  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from sunset Hiway.

Yours Truly  
Roy A. Chain  
over.

The sunset fir farm is on the right side  
of the Hiway and has a big sign on one  
of their buildings

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

JUL 24 1952

RECEIVED

*Meteorite*

July 24, 1952

Mr. Roy A. Chain  
Route 1, Box 185  
Banks, Oregon

Dear Mr. Chain:

Thank you for your letter dated July 23 concerning the possibility of a crater formed from a meteorite in an area north of North Plains.

We shall be glad to look into the location just as soon as we can make the necessary arrangements. We are short-handed this summer as most of our field men are away from this office doing geologic mapping.

We shall notify you as soon as we can make the necessary plans and I hope that someone from this office can call on you within the next two or three weeks.

Very truly yours,

Director

FWL: jr

*VISITED 9-23-52 JSM*

*Meteorites*



THE EVERGREEN OBSERVATORY  
1832 LONGVIEW DRIVE  
EUGENE, OREGON

Nov. 28, 1952



Mr. F. W. Libby  
State Department of Geology  
1069 State Office Bldg.  
Portland 1, Ore.

Dear Mr. Libby:

I thank you very much for your opinion on the supposed craters written about by Roy A. Chain.

As I recall, I addressed my letter to the geology department here at the University of Oregon. They evidently sent it on to you.

Yours truly,

*J. Hugh Pruett*  
J. Hugh Pruett

JHP:MP

RECEIVED  
DEC 1 1952  
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

November 18, 1952

Dr. J. Hugh Pruett  
The Evergreen Observatory  
1832 Longview Drive  
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Pruett:

We have received your letter dated November 7 concerned with a letter to you from Roy A. Chain, Banks, Oregon, telling of the existence of two or three craters in his locality.

On September 24 our Mr. Ralph Mason visited Mr. Roy Chain's property at Mr. Chain's request and inspected the depressions called "meteorite craters" by Mr. Chain. Mr. Mason reported that there was no conclusive evidence concerning the cause of the pits and that these pits had been used as dumping grounds by many people. There seemed to be some possibility that the pits were caused by slumping, although no real evidence could be shown one way or the other. We obtained no samples and we did not know that Mr. Chain had samples of metallic material.

Very truly yours,

Director

FWL: jr



THE EVERGREEN OBSERVATORY

1832 LONGVIEW DRIVE  
EUGENE, OREGON

Nov. 7, 1952

Geology Department  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, Ore.

Dear Sirs:

I have received a letter from Roy A. Chain, Route 1, Box 185, Banks, Oregon, in which he tells me that he knows of the existence of two or three craters which he suspects are meteoritic. He claims that he has bored down into one of these and brought up some metallic material.

I am writing him that I do not make inspection trips, but that I will mention it to your department so that if any of your men are on field trips in his locality, they may look him up. He says that he lives a mile and a half due north of Banks, "the third house on the right side of the road past the Sunset Highway."

Yours truly,

J. Hugh Pruett

JHP:MP

RECEIVED  
NOV 18 1952

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

*Meteorites*

January 22, 1953

Mr. R. S. McRivett  
P.O. #856  
Klamath, California

Dear Mr. McRivett:

Mr. Len Ramp (another State geologist) and I made an inspection of your property today in order to find evidence of a possible meteorite crater. Your map directing us to the hole was quite accurate and we had no difficulty in locating it. The "hole" was actually found to be two or three sunken pits more or less in line with each other, the lowermost of which emptied into the adjacent creek bed.

Owing to the thick cover of vegetation over these holes, it was impossible to do any extensive digging. We were, however, able to run a traverse across the area with a very sensitive magnetic needle to see if there was any abnormal dip of the needle as we passed over the holes. The results of this test were negative, showing that there cannot be any large amount of meteoritic iron buried beneath the surface.

A careful survey showed that the soil in this area, when wet, tends to slump out in pockets along the canyon sides. We feel that this type of slumping would account for the holes which now exist. Percolation of water down hill has tended to deepen them to a certain extent and cause their common orientation with regard to the creek.

I hope that the above explanation will be of some interest to you and would welcome any further questions which you would care to ask about this area.

Sincerely,

R. E. Corcoran  
Geologist

REC:lk

Klamath Calif  
PO# 856  
Jan. 9 - 1953 ✓

Mr. R. E. Corcoran.

Geologist

Dear Sir

your letter of Jan. 7-53. received and wish to thank you for it - I have sketched you a sort of map that should lead you to it I hardly know how to fill out the blank you have sent me to fill out. however being as it is so close to Portland it will not be to much trouble to inspect should you decide that its a possibility that it might contain something I am most sure I could get permission from Mrs. Dorothy McRuffy to explore it when we split the tract she drew that tract Mrs. Bigsby the other and I mine and Mrs. Gaffner here so you see its sort of a settlement of an estate the tract was at one time known and I believe still is the Welabard addition should you have trouble locating it. I could make arrangements to come to Portland I have often thought of contacting some one of authority on that hole but have neglected doing it through the years. it will be when you locate it quite a prominent hole I may have shoved a few stumps in it with the tractor and I am sure you would readily recognize it from the description I have given

Thanking you for your interest in the same  
please advise me.

R. S. McRuffett  
PO# 856  
Klamath Calif

Beginning at a point in the west line of S.W. 25 ave  
which is north  $88^{\circ} 52' 40''$  west 30 feet from the Quarter  
section corner between section 28 and 29 in township 7  
south, Range 1 East of the Willamette meridian thence  
north  $88^{\circ} 52' 40''$  west 600.05 feet to an iron pipe  
thence south  $0^{\circ} 01' 40''$  East 219.76 feet to an iron pipe;  
thence south  $88^{\circ} 54''$  East 599.93 to an iron pipe in the  
west line of S.W. 25th ave thence north along the <sup>said</sup> west  
line 219.52 feet to the place of Beginning

219.52 →

Quarter Section 28  
Township 7 South  
Range 1 East

GOVERNING BOARD  
NIEL R. ALLEN, CHAIRMAN, GRANTS PASS  
H. E. HENDRYX, BAKER  
MASON L. BINGHAM, PORTLAND



FIELD OFFICES:  
2033 FIRST STREET, BAKER  
NORMAN S. WAGNER  
FIELD GEOLOGIST  
239 SOUTHEAST "H" STREET  
GRANTS PASS  
HAROLD D. WOLFE  
FIELD GEOLOGIST

F. W. LIBBEY  
DIRECTOR

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY  
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

1069 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
PORTLAND 1, OREGON

January 7, 1953

Mr. R. S. McRivett  
P.O. #856  
Klamath, California

Dear Mr. McRivett:

Your letter to the University of Oregon was forwarded to us for reply.

First, to answer your questions:

(1) No, a Geiger counter would not register when passing over a meteorite unless it should, by chance, contain some radioactive mineral; (2) Yes, a nickel-iron type of meteorite could deflect the needle of a compass if the compass was sensitive enough and the meteorite fairly large and close; (3) According to Ellis Hughes, the discoverer of the Willamette (or Oregon City) meteorite, the rock projected above the surface of the ground and could easily be seen.

I am sending you under separate cover a short article published by the Department on meteorites in order that you may obtain further information about these "wanderers from space."

I am also enclosing a form, "Request for Inspection of Property," which we would like for you to fill out and return if you wish us to inspect the locality. We are particularly interested in knowing the location of the hole-in-the-ground as accurately as you can make it, as you will probably not be in this area to lead us to it.

Sincerely,

*R. E. Corcoran*

R. E. Corcoran  
Geologist

REC:lk  
Encl.

*P.S. will return your letter so you will know what I am  
driving at you. Could perhaps fill out the form you sent me  
more intelligent than I can from the information I have given  
you. will be awaiting your reaction to this*

*mac*

REQUEST FOR INSPECTION OF PROPERTY

by

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

400 East I Street  
Grants Pass

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland

2102 Court Street  
Baker

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING IN BLANKS

Every blank should be completely filled in. The reasons are that: We cannot examine all of the properties we are asked to examine because we do not have enough engineers to go around. Our funds and personnel are limited. It costs the State a substantial amount for the examination of your property. We are just as anxious to examine it as you are to have us do so. Therefore, in order that there shall be no loss of time, we must know exactly where your property is, how to get to it, where to meet you or someone who can take us in, and how much there is to be seen. You'd be surprised how often people, in directing us to their own properties, give directions which are not clear or which are confusing or incomplete. Sometimes we lose hours or a full day which could have been saved if the blank had been properly filled in. Please give us a break and put down all the dope!

Fill in accurately all the following blanks as fully as possible (even if the answer is "No"), and mail this form to the office address above, nearest to your property. A field engineer will then get in touch with you and arrange for the trip.

Date JAN 9 . . . 1953 . . .

Inspection requested by:

Owner of property:

Name: . . . . .

Name: Dorothy McNulty . . . . .

Address: . . . . .

Address: 3308 NE MISSOURI PORTLAND ORE

What is property commonly called? . . . . .

What is your own interest in property? None

Location of property:

Owner: . . . . Partner: . . . . .

County: . . . . Postoffice: . . . . .

Lessee: . . . . Other . . . . .

Section: . . . Township: . . . Range: . . .

What is the problem that is bothering you most? In other words, is it geological, metallurgical (milling), mining, how to continue exploration, financial, or what?

just down right. Puzzled.

January 7, 1953

Mr. R. S. McRivett  
P.O. #856  
Klamath, California

Dear Mr. McRivett:

Your letter to the University of Oregon was forwarded to us for reply.

First, to answer your questions:

(1) No, a Geiger counter would not register when passing over a meteorite unless it should, by chance, contain some radioactive mineral; (2) Yes, a nickel-iron type of meteorite could deflect the needle of a compass if the compass was sensitive enough and the meteorite fairly large and close; (3) According to Ellis Hughes, the discoverer of the Willamette (or Oregon City) meteorite, the rock projected above the surface of the ground and could easily be seen.

I am sending you under separate cover a short article published by the Department on meteorites in order that you may obtain further information about these "wanderers from space."

I am also enclosing a form, "Request for Inspection of Property," which we would like for you to fill out and return if you wish us to inspect the locality. We are particularly interested in knowing the location of the hole-in-the-ground as accurately as you can make it, as you will probably not be in this area to lead us to it.

Sincerely,

R. E. Corcoran  
Geologist

REC:lk  
Encl.

Klamath Calif  
PO# 856.

Jan 3 - 53

President of University  
Eugene Oregon

To The Rock-hound



Dear Sir:

would you please see that this letter reaches

the gentleman who is interested or teaches something  
about meteoric or any how rocks that falls from the sky.

Question one should a gyge counter register passing over  
such a body, would it deflect a compass.

have you any records showing how deep in the ground  
the one recovered at Oregon City penetrated the earth.

My reason for asking these questions is that since  
the year of 1922 I have known when there is a  
depression in the ground in a wooded section near the  
outskirts of portland it was a real thick growth of  
fir trees and underbrush until two years ago when I  
removed the timber. This depression in the ground is  
perhaps forty feet long and possibly 30 feet wide and  
about 12 or 16 feet deep. homes are being built around  
this place and it will only be a matter of time until  
some one fills it up and if it did happen to be something  
worth looking for it would no doubt be lost forever.

P #

I have puzzled over <sup>the</sup> hole for years wondering how it got there and could not come up with any answer. The ground is composed of a clay and is a gentle slope. Over the years it has gotten no deeper and if anything has filled from erosion.

I was reading a part in an old newspaper, something about the Oregon City Meteor and its the only answer I can come up with these dimensions or measurement I give you on this depression are only guess work. I have never taped them. One more question do the depressions when Meteor's have been recovered. Necessarily be round or. Could they be sort of oblong holes?

Compare this impression I have written you with what information you can find and tell me as to whether you think its worth a look see, with me its could be possible,

awaiting your reply.

very sincerely yours.

R. S. McRivett

PO# 856.

Klamath

P.S. We are former Portland resident Calif and still own a little property close to this hole in the ground

*Meteorites*

October 12, 1953

Miss Jessie White  
Route 2, Box 604  
Coos Bay, Oregon

Dear Miss White:

We are interested to learn that you believe you have found a meteorite. If you wish to have your specimen identified we will be happy to do so without charge if you will mail it to this Department.

The market for meteorites is rather limited but some museums will occasionally buy pieces of good quality. There is also a demand for this material by individual collectors and perhaps you can get some help from a local rock and mineral club in the Bay area.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph S. Mason  
Mining Engineer

RSM:lk

RECEIVED

OCT 7

1953

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

Oct. 5, 1953

Coo. Bay Oo.  
Box 604  
Rt 2

Mr. Frank Kibbey  
Geologist Dept. Salem  
or Portland Ore.

Dear Sir:

I found a piece of "Star"  
or meteor please inform me what  
to do about it. If you could  
come to see me about it we  
could deal as I know it has  
minerals in it because a boy  
that has a book on "Stars"  
named one of the minerals.

Please let me know

Thanking you  
Sincerely,

Jessie White

Rt 2 Box 604 Coo. Bay

May 23, 1941

Mr. Robert Owen  
Gold Beach  
Oregon

Dear Bob:

If the man of whom you speak actually has a meteorite of that size, I feel confident that he could get someone to help finance its excavation. However, it would be absolutely necessary that we know that it actually is a meteorite, and in order to do this, one of our men would have to visit the meteorite or he would have to send a sample of it for identification. Tell him to break off or saw off a small piece and send it to this office, and then we will go ahead with seeing what we can do.

I have hunted high and low for the manganese samples, and have written to both our assay laboratories with no returns. I am sorry that these were mislaid.

Anything new on the chromite situation in your part of the country? Chromite is hot now, and I expect the price f.o.b. the railroads to rise from \$15 to maybe 25 or 30 before it is through.

Kindest regards to you and Irma.

Sincerely,

John Eliot Allen  
Geologist

JEA: jr

RECEIVED  
MAY 32 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL IND.

Gold Beach  
Oreg.

May 20 1941

Mr. John Elliot Allur

Dear John  
There is a man here who claims  
to have a Meteorite and he said  
they sunk 28 feet in it and was  
not able to carry on the work he  
said the Crater was about 16 ft. in  
diameter

He wants to know if the  
State or Govt. will be interested in  
it enough to finance the digging  
he will show us any time you  
can come and you can drive  
Merely to it

Please let me know as  
soon as you can

John I guess our manganese  
samples were lost so we haven't  
heard a word from them yet  
Regards to the family

Robert Brown

*Mutone*

December 11, 1942

Mrs. Floy Kincaid  
Mt. Vernon  
Oregon

Dear Mrs. Kincaid:

Your description of the shiny rocks with pits in them sounds very interesting. As you say, all meteors are not constructed of solid metal, although most of them are. Probably the easiest way to determine the meteor is to chip off a small piece of each of these rocks and send them to this office. When meteors are not composed of metal, they are composed of a mineral, olivine, which can be identified under the microscope. We would be very glad to make this identification for you.

It is possible that these boulders may be serpentine which also takes a high gloss or shine, although the pit holes suggest that they may be meteors.

I suggest that you write to the State Librarian, Salem, Oregon, and ask her what books she has on meteorites. They are usually very accommodating there and you can borrow the books by mail and read them. Dr. H. H. Nininger, Museum of Meteoric Research, Denver, Colorado, is a well-known expert on meteorites and it might be that if you write him, you could get further information. Closer to home, Dr. Hugh J. Pruett of the Department of Astronomy, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon, is very glad to give information concerning meteorites.

If we can be of further assistance, do not hesitate to write us.

Sincerely yours,

John Eliot Allen  
Geologist

JEA: jr

mt Vernon, Oregon

Dec 8 - 1942

State Department of Geology,

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sirs

I believe that you will be able to give me some information that I need. therefore I am writing to ask about meteorors - is there any way to determine a meteoror. I understand that not all meteorors or meteorites that is that they are not constructed of solid metal is that true?

I know of four large boulders in this locality that has always made me wonder when ever I look at them they have deep pit holes, but in between the pit holes the surface is very smooth and has a high gloss or sheen, when the sun shines on them just right they can be seen a long distance away, and I am wondering if it could be possible that these boulders have some time fallen from the sky.

I have lived in eastern Oregon all my life but I have never seen boulders like these any place else. These boulders, two them would weigh around a ton or more <sup>each</sup> possibly much more, depending on its contents. Two of the boulders are less than a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile apart. another about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile and the fourth one about one mile away all on a line running east and west.

is there any other formation of rock that would have the pit holes and the high gloss or sheen? I am very much interested in these boulders and I will greatly appreciate your earnest advice in the matter.

is there any printed matter in regard to matters put out by the government or state that I may obtain? I would like very much to study about them

Thanking you very much for information,

Yours truly  
Mrs Floy Kincaid

RECEIVED  
DEC 11 1942  
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

## Recently Fallen Meteorite Found



John McWade, assistant warden of Linn County fire patrol, kneels near fragments of recently fallen meteorites found by McWade on logging road 17 miles east of Foster.

### Log Road Yields Debris

SWEET HOME (Special)—Shattered portions of a recently fallen meteorite were discovered Thursday in and along an old logging road, 17 miles east of Foster in the Quartzville area.

Finder was John McWade, assistant warden of the Lane County fire patrol.

Largest segment was described as about 2½ by 2 feet, of whitish color, with the appearance of having been scorched around the outside. Other smaller fragments were found scattered about on the brushy hillside.

The specimens were taken to the fire patrol headquarters east of here on the Foster-Sweet Home route.

McWade, who was leading a road crew into the area when the strange rock was discovered, estimated the meteor particles had fallen since the road was traveled, not longer than two weeks ago. The largest of the pieces lay directly in the road, where it dug a hole about two feet deep.





MARK O. HATFIELD  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE CAPITOL  
SALEM

July 30, 1960

Mr. Edwin O. Winans  
1140 Cambridge Street  
Novato, California

Dear Mr. Winans:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 27 in which you mention where a large meteorite would probably be found in Oregon.

Because this would be of interest to the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Mr. Hollis M. Dole, the Director of this Agency. I am sure you will be hearing from Mr. Dole very soon.

Thank you for the interest you have shown in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Governor

MOH S

cc Mr. Hollis M. Dole

COPY

RECEIVED  
AUG 5 1960  
STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

July 27, 1960

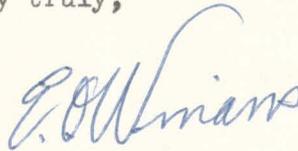
Governor Mark O. Hatfield  
Salem, Oregon.

Dear Sir,

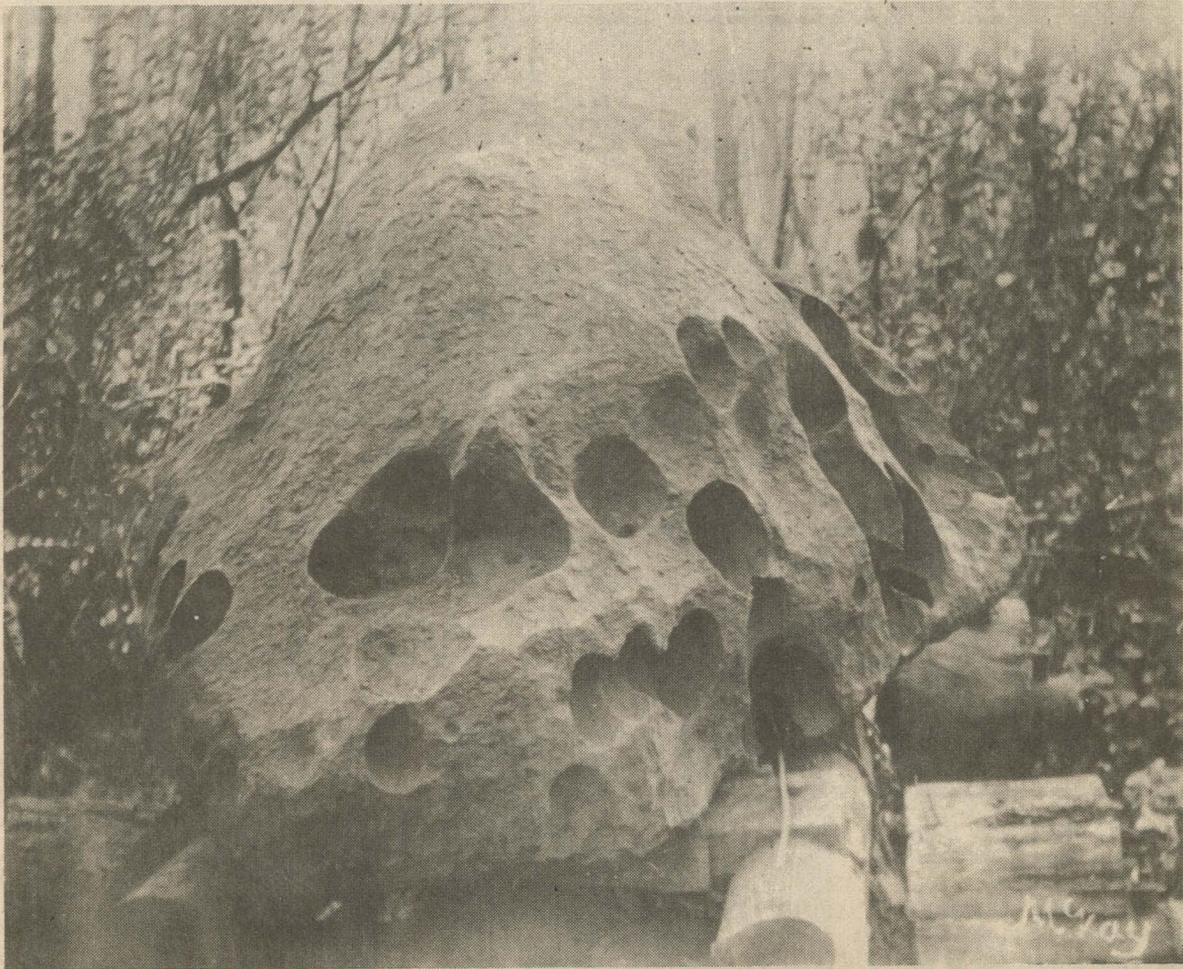
After sending you the maps showing where a large meteorite would likely be found, I arrived at further surmises that there are likely to be more large meteorites in Oregon, one even larger than that at Lake Albert. It would be in the Alvard Desert in the vicinity of Lake Alvard. This one smashed into the area composing Harney and Malheur Lakes, and plowed underground at a  $11^{\circ}$  angle and stopped under the Alvard desert. Since it was so big it would likely be near to the surface in places. The one under Albert rim hit at Summer Lake and plowed underground at a  $11^{\circ}$  angle to stop under Lake Albert. The enclosed map will indicate what I think is their approximate size and location. There is also a large magnetic disturbance in the vicinity of Eugene, so there may also be a fragment there.

I believe suitable seismic, magnetic and drilling explorations would be fruitful.

Yours very truly,



EDWIN O. WINANS  
1140 CAMBRIDGE ST.  
NOVATO, CALIF.



**BIG FIND** — The Willamette Meteorite, largest meteorite ever found in the United States, was discov-

ered in 1902 by Ellis Hughes. Rock was sent to New York and now is housed in the Hayden Planetarium.

Oregon Historical Society



Oregon Historical Society

POPULAR ATTRACTION — Youngsters perch on Willamette Meteorite in early 1900s photo. Meteor-

ite was taken from Ellis Hughes, who found it on Oregon Iron and Steel property.



**The Oregonian/BOB ELLIS**

**REMEMBERS ROCK** — Joe Rabick, 83, remembers stories about the Willamette Meteorite while growing up in the area. The Stafford-area resident never saw the giant rock discovered by Ellis Hughes in 1902.

# 2 seek missing pieces of meteorite

By LINDA MCCARTHY  
Correspondent, The Oregonian

WEST LINN — Ellis G. Hughes, a one-time miner from Wales, stumbled across the biggest find of his life back in 1902 at the southeast intersection of Grapevine and Sweetbriar roads in the hills above West Linn.

A sign along Johnson Road in West Linn now marks the historic spot where Hughes and a friend uncovered a 15-ton meteorite 83 years ago.

"Oregon history on this section of land," the sign reads. "The famous Willamette Meteorite was discovered in 1902 by Ellis Hughes."

Hughes lost a lengthy legal battle for possession of the meteorite he had found on someone else's property and illegally moved to his own land. The big rock — the largest meteorite ever found in the United States — now is in the Hayden Planetarium in New York.

The meteorite may be gone, but the memories and the stories about the exciting discovery linger.

Dick Pugh, a science teacher at Cleveland High School in Portland, is considered a local expert on the Willamette Meteorite. He has been working on a special project with Carol Lange of West Linn. Her father, the late Dr. Erwin Lange, wrote books about the meteorite and was a former teacher of Pugh's at Portland State University, where he taught for 30 years.

Together, the two hope to find missing pieces of the meteorite that were chipped off while it was on display near the spot where it was uncovered.

"There were quite a few pieces chipped off. No one knows for sure how many because it's never been publicized where the pieces are," Carol Lange said.

She said some people living in the area might have meteorite chips tucked away in their attics and not realize it. Because the meteorite was 91 percent iron, she said it was difficult to get a souvenir of it.

But many people tried.

"It was hard to break off pieces. You had to use a chisel and when you did, it would ring like a bell,"

Lange said.

The loud ringing sound was a signal to Hughes that someone was tampering with his rock.

"Every time it was hit, it would ring like a bell, and here would come old Hughes," Pugh said.

So far, Pugh said the search for missing pieces of the rock had not been too successful. He said he had located one piece and had a lead on another. But he knows there are at least a dozen or so more pieces out there.

"We're just trying to find out how many are still in the area," Pugh said. "We're just trying to locate them — we don't want to take anything away from anyone."

Pugh said it was believed that the meteorite had been embedded in the ground for 10,000 years before Hughes and his friend stumbled across it.

Indians roaming the hillside had known about the "great mass of iron in the deep forest" for years. The Clackamas Indians talked of washing their faces in the pools of water that would collect in the basins of the meteorite. They also would dip their arrows in the water before going off to battle.

Hughes and William Dale, an old prospector living with Hughes at the time, thought at first they had uncovered a large iron reef embedded in the ground and covered with weeds and other debris. Strangely enough, the odd object was found on property that belonged to Oregon Iron and Steel Co.

The two men did not know at first that they had uncovered a 15-ton meteorite. But once Hughes realized the significance of the find, he decided to keep the discovery secret and made an attempt to purchase the property from Oregon Iron and Steel.

When the iron company refused to make a deal, Hughes began making plans to move the large rock to his property about three-fourths of a mile away. Hughes quickly discovered that the hefty meteorite, which measured a little more than 10 feet long, 7 feet wide and 4 feet tall at the summit of the dome, was not going to be easy to move.

Hughes called on his wife and 15-year-old son to help him with the move. He used horses to pull an old log truck, sometimes only moving the meteorite

a truck-length a day.

After three months, the iron mass was on the Hughes property, and the old farmer was quick to set up a shed where the curious could view the meteorite at 25 cents a peek.

One curious viewer happened to be an attorney for Oregon Iron and Steel, who noticed that a newly carved road led right to the iron company's property. Hughes was charged with stealing the meteorite, and the case went to circuit court, which ruled in favor of the steel company.

Hughes disagreed with the verdict and took the issue up with the Oregon Supreme Court, which also ruled in favor of Oregon Iron and Steel. In the ruling, the court said the meteorite belonged to the owner of the land on which it had been found.

After the court battle, the meteorite was taken by river to Portland and put on display at the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. It was purchased in 1906 by Sarah Dodge, wife of New York merchant William E. Dodge, who presented it to the American Museum of Natural History. In 1936, it was moved to the Hayden Planetarium.

Joe Rabick, an 83-year-old retired farmer who has lived on Stafford Road several miles from the meteorite site since 1907, remembers hearing stories about the meteorite as a youngster. He and several friends spent a lot of time at a swimming hole on the Tualatin River not far from where Ellis Hughes lived.

"Instead of going swimming one day, a friend of mine (the late Robert Schatz) went over and talked to Hughes about it," Rabick said. "That was along about 1910, and he told his neighbors all about it. Us kids were just interested in swimming and didn't go over there."

But Rabick remembers the stories about the Indians and the sacred water in the rock. And the tales about the loud ringing that accompanied any effort to swipe a piece of the rock.

Hughes died on Dec. 3, 1942. Until his death, he considered the court rulings unjust. His name will live on in the science world as the finder — and loser — of the largest meteorite ever found in the United States.

# A Myth 926 Reborn

"AN unearthly rock with an astronomical price tag of over \$1,000,000 lies hidden on the side of a mountain 40 miles from Port Orford on Oregon's southern coast."

So wrote one Roger Fidler in last Sunday's edition of the Eugene Register-Guard. As many writers before him have done, Fidler sought to depict the long-lost Port Orford meteorite as a great treasure awaiting discovery. And, just as many writers before him have done, the author of this most recent bit of meteoric melodrama obviously did not dig deep enough into his file of facts.

We don't like to burst Mr. Fidler's bubble, but the fact of the matter is that the Port Orford meteorite may be nearly worthless. There is also a very good chance that it does not even exist.

The legend of the worth of the meteorite is one of long standing and is based on a "reward" which supposedly has been offered for the meteorite by the Smithsonian Institution. The fact of the matter is, however, that no such reward is offered. E. P. Henderson, assistant curator of the division of mineralogy and petrology for the Smithsonian, told us two years ago:

"THIS institution is no more interested in the relocation of the Port Orford Meteorite than in any new meteorite. Since we are glad to consider the purchase of any new and important meteorite for the national collections, perhaps this is the reason for the rumor that our institution was offering a reward for this particular meteorite . . . . No chemical analysis has been made but we know that Port Orford Meteorite is a pallasite. Since these frequently prove to be unstable, the specimen may have decomposed . . . . If this is true, the meteorite has little scientific value and thus would not be much of a prize to locate."

The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Resources a few months ago published a definitive paper on the meteorite in which the strong possibility was noted that the meteorite may not even be in Southwestern Oregon.

The famed diary of Dr. John Evans, the man who sent back samples from the meteorite over a hundred years ago, may not even have been written by the geologist. Too, there are numerous inconsistencies in the report which cast much doubt on the existence of the meteorite in Southwestern Oregon.

Many people have spent considerable time and money in searching for the legendary rock from outer space — most of them spurred on by false reports such as that written by Fidler and others which have appeared in various publications throughout the years.

We deplore the sensationalism employed by these writers and their failure to note the facts.

But it sure does make interesting reading.