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Meteorites of Colfax, Union, and Taos Counties, New Mexico

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1966, pp. 103. https://doi.org/10.56577/FFC-17.103

in:

Taos-Raton-Spanish Peaks Country (New Mexico and Colorado), Northrop, S. A.; Read, C. B.; [eds.], New Mexico Geological Society 17th Annual Fall Field Conference Guidebook, 128 p. https://doi.org/10.56577/FFC-17

This is one of many related papers that were included in the 1966 NMGS Fall Field Conference Guidebook.

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METEORITES OF COLFAX, UNION, AND TAOS COUNTIES, NEW MEXICO

By

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In 1959 I reported that 18 New Mexico counties had yielded 31 meteoritic falls. Of these, Colfax County had yielded 5—more than any other in the State; Union County ranked second with 3 falls; and Taos County had only 1 fall.

In his recent "Catalog of the Collections of the Institute of Meteoritics, The University of New Mexico, as of October 1, 1965," LaPaz (1965) records 6 additional falls from Colfax County, but transfers the Gladstone fall from Colfax to Union County. Thus, Colfax County now has 10 falls; Union County has 4; and Taos County has 1.

In the following lists, aerolites (stony), siderolites (stony-iron), and siderites (nickel-iron) are distinguished; the name of the fall is given, followed by the date of recovery, and total weight, if known.

COLFAX COUNTY

Aerolites (stony)

*Abbott, 1951-60. Total of 310 specimens cataloged.

Aurora, 1938, 2.2 lbs.

Chico, 1954, 231 lbs. New Mexico's heaviest stony meteorite.

*Chico Hills, 1951-60. Total of 27 specimens cataloged.

Farley, 1936, 43.5 lbs. (2 pieces).

(Gladstone is now assigned to Union County.)

*Palo Blanco Creek, about 1954.

*Point of Rocks, about 1954.

*Tafoya, about 1951.

Siderolite (stony-iron)

*El Rancho Grande, 1954.

* Cited by LaPaz (1965). Specimens of these falls are now being studied.

Siderite (nickel-iron)

Point of Rocks, 1956, 40 lbs. Seen to fall 2:30 p.m., March 6, 1951; recovered 1956.

UNION COUNTY

Aerolites (stony)

Beenham, 1937, 97 lbs. (many fragments).

Gladstone, 1936, 127 lbs. (3 pieces). Originally reported to have been found in Colfax County, near the Union County line.

Pasamonte, 1933, 9 lbs. (about 80 fragments). Originally called the Pasamonte Ranch aerolite, this was photographed in flight and seen to fall at 5:04 a.m., March 24, 1933.

Ute Creek, 1936, 4.5 lbs. (several fragments).

TAOS COUNTY

Siderite (nickel-iron)

Costilla Peak, 1881, 78 lbs.

See Northrop (1959, p. 301-312) for further details, including analyses of the Costilla Peak iron and references to published descriptions and illustrations of the Chico and Pasamonte stones.

REFERENCES CITED

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