

falling downward, even y noticeable by the ob- and Bovey, mention the t is not certain whether t, if all the observations at it was. Yet all across explosive sounds began west of Hamilton, Ont- ast to Elmira, and they les farther on in Penn- in without aural com- s must have begun at a opped downwards, and nsylvania after roaring altitude. If continuity th-length of individual assumed from the 90th) to Elmira, the path- are commonplace in

ctory must await treat- tent than the present e estimates of the same e East Lansing and Al- ighigan fireballs about nd at a height of about een the same ones as ust have passed at least e meteors made up the Thus, the two altitudes

e present investigation ith which celestial phe- ssible doubt that spec- farquette and Detroit, wspapers of those cities ed anything out of the ased directly over the ere (in Caro) it was re- 8 others, nearby, there attern of unpredictable only region in which a phenomenon over their ises forced it upon the t much of this neglect

was due to the cold weather and the lateness of the hour, but a large part of it must be attributed simply to the infrequency with which human beings notice what is going on in the sky.

I should like to conclude with an expression of appreciation for the continued interest and coöperation of Professor Lincoln LaPaz, whose permission to use the name of the Institute of Meteoritics is largely responsible for such success as this investigation has had, and who has maintained an active and helpful association with it for nearly two years, in spite of the many other demands upon his time.

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THE DETONATING FIREBALL OF 1956 FEBRUARY 12*

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes the orbit, size, brightness, and sounds of a meteor that appeared over Southern California on 1956 February 12, at 1^h 7^m 40^s P.S.T. Parabolic elements were computed that indicate that the meteorite overtook the Earth in a direct orbit of low inclination. The luminous envelope was found to have a diameter of at least 0.1 mile. Finally, factors favoring the possible recovery of fragments are discussed.

At 1^h 7^m 40^s P.S.T., on Sunday morning, 1956 February 12, a brilliant fireball appeared over the Southern California coast near Port

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