

The Find. A local resident, who supplements his income by beachcombing, covered the area pretty thoroughly the first day or two of June. Then came three days of rain during which he did not work the area. When the weather cleared, he found the two pieces of metal on the shale bed.

Disposition of the Metal. The finder, unable to handle the larger chunk, loaded the small 800-lb. piece and sold it for one cent a pound to a scrap metal dealer in Quebec City where it was erroneously classified as non-ferrous metal. The large magnetic crane used for handling the scrap, would not lift the metal due to its low magnetic permeability, so it was pushed into a pile of non-ferrous scrap and eventually shipped to Japan. As for the larger piece of metal, rumour of the find reached the Canadian Arsenal's Research and Development Establishment (CARDE) in the area, who, thinking it might have been part of a space capsule, picked it up for investigation. On completion of their investigations, CARDE eventually handed the metal over to a Club member who, at great difficulty, trailered the heavy object to Ottawa where it is now in the custody of the Club.

*verification from
Nunes & Technical
Survey Report
PC-61-3
of 20 Jan. 61.*

The Findings. After analysis, CARDE reached the following conclusions: "The X-ray diffraction analysis indicated that the unidentified object consisted of a metallic face-centred cubic compound, with a unit-cell dimension agreeing with those of 1) austenitic steel, and 2) meteoric iron. The semi-quantitative spectro-graphic analysis showed, however, that there was insufficient nickel present for the material to be of meteoric origin. The amount of manganese detected in the spectro-graphic analysis suggests that the metallic material is best described as high-manganese austenitic steel. This is consistent with the very weak ferro-magnetic nature of the metal. The iron oxide and the hydrated iron oxides on the surface are normal results of the exposure of steel to the atmosphere. The amounts of quartz and calcite detected by X-ray diffraction are very small, and are common extraneous materials. The low nickel and high manganese content are not consistent with a meteoric origin, whereas they are consistent with common high-tensile steels. The object is therefore considered to be of terrestrial origin."

Another report states in part: "The metal object proved to be a mass of high strength metal which had fallen, or had been dropped, while in a plastic state, and had splattered like a ball of mud. It was 6 ft. in diameter and 2 ft. thick at the centre. At the centre of the body, there was an outline of a tube about 10 inches in diameter which protruded from the mass about 6 inches. A small electronic potting can was imbedded near one of the outer edges. By scratching away the potting plastic, it was possible to identify an electronic component which appeared to be a transistor. There was also the imprint of another electronic can which appeared to have been removed by curio seekers. It is not considered that the object