

## Mason Valley Tidings February 8, 1894

### A Wonderful Sky Illuminator

Last Thursday night at 10:50 local time a brilliant meteor, which illuminated the heavens within a large radius, passed over this portion of Nevada from the west and took a southerly course. The heavenly messenger left a fiery violet tinted tail behind it and gave out a hissing sound as it flew through space, like that made by a sky rocket when making its ascent. It was visible throughout central California and western Nevada, and was about five seconds in passing out of sight. Virginia, Carson, Genoa, and Bodie papers each allege that it disappeared in their immediate vicinity, but they are all mistaken. It fell to the earth in the neighborhood of Belleville-Candelaria and its collapse caused intense excitement in those hamlets.

A person who was upon Railroad hill, Candelaria, when the meteor exploded, describes his experience thusly; He was sitting in the railway office when suddenly the room was lighted by a various colored and dazzling light accompanied by a hissing sound. He jumped from his seat but before he reached the door there was a detonation as if a large piece of artillery had shot off near by. His first thought was that the engine had exploded. A strange rumbling noise quickly followed accompanied by severe vibration as when an earthquake takes place. Buildings in both towns were rocked and swayed and people rushed madly into the streets in abject terror. A peculiar electrical force was noticeable immediately after the phenomena.

Postmaster Swindell at Belleville was about the last man who saw the celestial visitor. He states that it was about the size of a football. As it might have been one mile or 100 or more from the earth at the time no correct estimate of its size can be made. In our judgment, if the aerolite is ever discovered it will be fifty miles distant from Candelaria at least, and not, as general opinion holds, close to that camp. The detonation and rumbling noise which followed it was heard as far north as Hawthorne and at Bishop, Cal., 180 miles south.