

Great Nevada Meteor of 1894 - Summary of Press observations

By Tom Mahood

Sacramento:

"Northeast of the city", "..shot down straight from the zenith and seemed to burst near the earth...", (SFC 2/2/94).

Carson, NV:

"Southeast of Carson", "..fell between Belleville and Candelaria, situated eight miles apart, and nearly 140 miles from Carson". "Threw the railroad agent at Belleville off his chair", (SFC 2/3/94).

Napa:

"..direction was from here directly east. It started from about 15 degrees above the horizon, and its fall set aglow the whole eastern sky",.(SFC 2/3/94).

Keeler:

"..lit up the heavens north of this place..", Seen by people in Independence and Bishop Creek. "A great rumbling noise just previous to this display was heard and ended in a terrific explosion", , "The meteor looked as if it struck the earth about ten or twenty miles south of Candelaria in the mountains...", (SFC 2/4/94).

Virginia City:

"..struck ground about 30 miles east of this city 8 miles north of the Carson River.", (NV State Journal 2/10/94).

Candelaria:

"It lit up the town and surrounding country as light as day.. .people were beginning to recover from their surprise a terrible explosion occurred in the upper regions. ...The explosion was followed for three or four minutes by a terrible ripping and hissing noise..." "Those on the street at the time are unable to state anything as to the direction of the meteor, but by questioning as to where the noise seemed to begin and end we think it went from northwest to southeast." "The explosion sounded a little north of our zenith and as the time from the flash till the explosion was 30 seconds, it must have burst within six miles of us." (NV State Journal 2/6/94).

Several locales:

"Some thought the meteor fell a few miles to the east, and several parties went out to Summit Springs in search of it, but it was never found". "Observers at Silver Star (Marietta) did not note the sound of the explosion, and the operator at Benton.. .reported he heard a faint noise; from all of which it appears the explosion was nearly over Candelaria." ""The meteor is reported to have been seen, traveling across the sky far to the south, by people living at that time in Belmont, Nevada, so that it continued at least fifty miles east of Candelaria, across the deserts of Nevada." (Amer. Journal of Science, 1909, page 431).

Luminous trajectory was approximately 430 kilometers (270 miles)