

April 16 1966

Dear Lucille, Stoney, and girls:

Howdy! Sure was glad to hear from you Lucille. The storm of mail resulting from "Ghost-Walk", has finally dwindled somewhat. Thank God! This old First-year-typist had her hands full for a while. The letters were just great, and we enjoyed them all, but I couldn't answer but four a day,, was thirty-some-odd behind at one point.... I'm not exactly a speedy Gonzales on this contraption.

I am still madly in love with your stationary. As this is Saturday, Jack was home to open the mail for a change. I heard him laughing as he opened one of the letters and Guess who sent it? Your portrait of a Dutch-Hunter was adorable... couldn't have been titled any better. Some of these letters from Dutch-hunters are really way out! Didn't know there were so many... also didn't know writing about treasure put one in the category of a hunter! Seems we have become overnight seekers, according the mail we get. Little do they know! Ha.

As for you not helping us with research... you must be kidding! How do you think the Reavis story was born... who sent maps of unknown glyphs. (unknown to us) Who made maps of old sites of ruins, who sends us newspaper clippings of the latest "poop" circulating around the Superstitions. Between you and Mrs. Woody, we now have the Missouri State Historical Society working on the Reavis Genealogy. (we hope) Just sent them a big fat envelope of stuff that should interest them enough to help us out a little. I sent you copies of the stuff about L.Y. Reavis, the hermits brother, didn't I? There is a street in St. Louis named for Reavis, so he must be well known to the Missouri historians. His escapades of "Capital removing" made him a controversial figure. James Addison Reavis was born and raised in Missouri, and had some sort of real estate holding in St. Louis. So put Missouri born-and-bred James Addison Reavis, together with the two brothers L.Y. Reavis, and E.M. or (Elisha Alva) Reavis all in one big pot, and what have you got?..... not a damned thing, till the State historical society stamps it with a legal O.K. Ha. It has only taken three years to come up with this much, but we are patient. Hope they come through with the information I gave them. Reavis is still our favorite subject... especially since reading the material Mrs. Woody passed on to us. We still hope to find his gravesite some day, since you told us the topography maps was incorrect in placing the grave on the wrong side of the trail. Guess Stoney is up at the Reavis by now, sniffing the apple blossoms like Ferdinand the bull. We had hoped to come in April again this year, but had Jacks folks here for the first week in April, and they are in California now but will come back through next week, so guess we won't make it till the 1st of May. I have been off my feed since last Wednesday, so will have to see if I pull out of it by that time. Haven't been able to eat for four days, and for me that is a catastrophe!!!! I am so weak from hunger it's pitiful. Can't walk across the room right now, much less walk up a mountain. Ha. The only thing my tummy can take is a cup of boiling water with one little cube of what they call Chicken Bullion, only think they forgot to add the chicken. Ha. Taste's like scared water. Coffee and beer make up the rest of my daily diet. The beer gives me yeast, the coffee gives me sugar... both make for a lot of trips! Ha. This diet is better than the metracal plan... my clothes already fit like socks on a rooster. When I get over this attack of Gall-bladder, ulcer, or liver, I will eat six meals a day to make up for it. Gosh. I'm hungry!

The name Charlie Miller doesn't ring any bells, but of course Mr. Reser's name was given us by you. Mr. Miller does sound like a story, but he probably wouldn't want his story told if he is a treasure hunter... most of them don't. Wish to remain anonymous. Perhaps he would let us do a story of his life at Fort McDowell... bet he could tell some good straight stories, and we are just the one's who would listen. We will arrive in Apache Junction a little later than usual this trip. We will stop in Miami to powwow with the Woody family. Still haven't heard from anyone on the Indian and Squaw location. Mr. Carl Smith never did answer after he said he would help.

Guess he changed his mind. That happens occasionally, so we have learned to expect it, and just start all over again. Ha. He was going to identify that old house in Queen Valley. Since he works for Bill Martin, we thought he might know something about it. He told Mrs. Middleton for us to write him, which we did, and he agreed to help if he could. We sent him color slides of the old house, and a black and white of the Indian and Squaw! Haven't heard from him since. That old house is bugging us to pieces, and I mean bugging! One would think it was invisible to everyone but the McGee's. Ha. Anyway, we are going to see the Woody's, then see Mrs. Craig at the Pinal Ranch. She writes the sweetest letters. Then we stop at the Silver King for a couple of days. We want to do some retake's on the Childs grave...and hope the Iris are in bloom a little better by May. Also found an old mining journal that give's the route of the Stoneman Grade, from the Silver King, northward over King Crown Peak. Some say the grade is still visible, some say it is not. There is only one way to settle the dispute...put on the hiking boot's and go get it, if there! If we were able to find one tiny boy's grave we should be able to find trace's of an old road. One way to find out!! Why don't you join us at the King? Will be a good hike, or do you like to hike??? You are a horseback enthusiast, aren't you? Ha. You ride, we will walk behind you. Ha. We also want to go up on the hill known to few people as the "Cornish Settlement". The hill looks barren of houses from down in the valley, but want to go up there and look around. We would love to have you join us any day you can make it. We had hoped to learn more about the "Bloody Tanks" site, but it looks rather shakey at the moment. Will go with Marlowe's to see the "Peralta Fortress" or "Storehouse" as he calls it. The photo he sent us was enticing to say the least. The breastworks, the rock house's inside the walls, and the tall, round, column of stone in the settlement's center is what attracts us. Hope it has some sort of marking on it. He says it was made by the Peralta's but there is a good chance it was built by Jesuit's, (in part, anyway) We are excited about seeing it, one way or the other... who ever built it! We have the two stories almost completed on the Childs grave, and on the Stoneman Grade, but need to do a little more footwork, before they can be called a finished product.

Have heard from of Storm's companions on his expedition's for "Thunder-Gods Gold", or whatever it was named. One of them confirmed your statement that Storm was responsible for some of the Spanish Symbals. Turn his onery-hide, I could wring his neck, for messing around with something like that! No wonder he is hiding out in California. A lot of people would wring his neck if they ever found out!

Hey I'm all for scrubbing a ledge. Have brush, will travel! Where and how far...can it be walked? Marlowe gave me the terrible news that in order to get my Dinosaur tracks, I would have to ride a horse into the interior...spend the second day pouring plaster and looking around, the third day ride out! Is he kidding??? Ha. I wrote him back and said "Thanks, but no thanks"...I wouldn't ride across his front yard on a horse, if I knew I could capture a live dinesaur and a basketful of it's eggs. He said it was on Peter's Mesa, wherever that is. Must be close to Peter's canyon. I wouldn't go through another one of those horseback ride's, if I never got to see anything. Maybe I'm hardheaded, but once was enough. I couldn't steer one any better now, than I did three years ago.

What is ~~thing~~"thing" with Tex Barkley? Covering things up, I mean. One other person told us of something he covered up...give me a second to think about it and I will remember what it was! (fifteen minutes later) Due to my razor-keen memory, my instant recall ability, and my computer-type brain, I can't remember what it was! Ha. Something to do with handhole's cut into a cliffside, and an old mineshaft he covered to keep his cattle from falling in it! Sorry I brought it up. Ha.

I don't know what good we would be to Mr. Reser, for him to make such a long trip. Everything we know is in print already or about to be! Ha. He doesn't care much about writing letters, does he? Can't say that I blame him for that...I got so sick of it last week, I couldn't even write. Would sit down at the typewriter, and the words wuldn't come. Would almost gag me, so I just left it!

Boy, have we had the kookie-one's write us. If we were treasure hunters, we would be running six ways at once after all the treasure sites given us from readers all over the country. Ha. What do you want... gold, silver, cache's, sunken galle~~ons~~, Church treasure... you name it, we've got it! According to the writer's, all you have to do is go and pick it up by the tubsfull. Ha. Others haven't been so kookie, in fact 80% of the letters are great! Some see the Peralta maps a lot clearer than Mr. Marlowe. Of course, I'm sure he knows more than what he told us. He is no fool! Ha. We were grateful for what we were told. As your letter did not comment on his story, I cannot decide whether you agree or not! I have a few conclusions of my own, but since this was about him and his deductions, I could not confuse or interject my own thoughts on the matter. For instance, the 2 MILL. (2 million dollars or peso's). I would prefer to think of it as M-III Meridian-III, 2 (o-mitted) 6III'20. This would conflict quite a bit with his interpretation, wouldn't it? Ha. This was not my own deduction... but that of a friend! Another gentleman wrote us yesterday with another bomb! Almost fell off the chair when I saw it. Of the dozens of maps we have put together, we have never noticed it before. You are the only one we have repeated it to so have at it you female treasure hunter! Don't know that it means anything, but here it is. Will show it to Marlowe, but feel like he already knows it(?)

How does that grab you? Isn't that incredible? Still can't get over the coincidence. The thing that throws me is that surely the road to Kavanaugh Goat Ranch didn't exist then, even though it did exist before 1881. (How long before I still don't know) The trail used for the right ear and lower neck, couldn't have been in existence either unless they were old Indian trails. Either that or the Mexicans were running all over the place during the Peralta's time, and wore number 17 shoe's. Maybe there were 400 men. That would account for some of the tracks and trails. I realize the No-name Canyon road follows the contour of the canyon bottom, therefore accounting for the left side of the horse's face, but the coincidence is too much, isn't it? If the entire horse could be drawn, it would place the Silver crescent sign approximately over the Silver King area. Ha. How about that? Go get em' Lucille! Your Mr. Miller might be interested in this... go ahead and show him if you want too! The man who told us about it is an armchair prospector! Ha. Sure made us feel like a couple of dumbheads. Never had noticed it!

Will give you a call when we arrive in Arizona. Might stay at the Superstition Inn for a few days. We have been invited to stop by and meet our "fellow Members" on the Chamber of Commerce. We have been plotting more trips for the readers than the Chamber has. Have had dozens of letters from people wanting to visit the Supe's for their first time. I have sent them all a suggestion to send for six topography maps, then write me when they get them, we don't want to be responsible for anyone getting lost in there. Ha. The Denver Office must have had a run on Superstition maps! Ha. Bet they are wondering what in the flying heck is going on? Some want to camp, some want to know where to stay, any bus stop's at the Junction, any air field nearby???? I had to write the Chamber of Commerce for some help! They very graciously answered all our questions. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lake of the Superstition Inn (managers) have invited us to dinner with them one evening, so we should stay there a night or so. Is a nice place but Jack and I like to stay at the out-of-the-way place's, where we can come and go as we please, and not care how filthy-nasty-dirty we are at the end of the day! The Honda's would have to sit out front, where we couldn't keep an eye on them. Can't cook for ourselves so would have to dress for dinner instead of taking off the boots, putting our feet up, and cooling off with a Coor's... then eat in our dirty clothes if we felt like it. No two people can get as dirty as the two McGee's. Riding Honda or hiking all day really make's one get ronchy by 6:00P-M/ This is why we like to hide-out!

We might stay in a trailer the rest of the time. Would like to go back to Tortilla Flat but the owners are not too friendly... to busy to keep smiling! Ha. If we had their hours, I wouldn't like people either!

Guess you all will be on round-up again during our visit. Can't seem to hit it right so we can all get together, darn it! Guess the kids will be in school too, so that would probably keep you all from joining us even if Stoney id too busy. We will go to Phoenix for a visit to the State Library and Archive's, and the Museums if we have time. We want to spend as much time possible in the mountains, so if you can get away and would like to scrubb a cliff, find the Stoneman Grade, see the Childs grave, or whatever else... let us know! O.K.? Did you guys ever see if that cliff dwelling was a cliff dwelling? We still haven't been able to see one cliff dwelling up close! A guy wrote me the other day, who had excoavated a dwelling on Geronimo's Head. (1941) Said he almost gagged on the dust in there. His best find was a sloth-bone, or bones, that dated back 10,000 yrs. ago. His findings are in the L.A. County Museum. The man in "Ghost-Walk" called us about his Geronimo Cave... is between Don's Campground and Miner's Needle! Ha. Have had a lot of other news, but can't think of it all now! Still want the Dinosaur tracks too, but not by horseback! Never enough time!

Byebye Lucille. Thanks for the interesting letter. Will bring the Lovelace Collection for you to see. Maybe you won't find it as interesting as we did, but then again maybe you will!!! Tell Stoney and the girls Hi!

Sincerely,

Bennie and Jack