

The McGee and Stone Correspondence

Background:

Bernice McGee wrote an article that was published in the 1964 Winter issue of Old West magazine. It was titled, “**The Other WORLD of the Superstitions**”.

In preparation the McGees had assembled a group, which included a reporter for the Fort Worth Star Telegram, to document the expedition. One of the areas that the group intended to explore included the Reavis Ranch. The Forest Service suggested that the McGees, contact the Stones, who owned the Reavis Ranch, for additional information. Bernice first wrote in April 1963 and that would begin a 7 year correspondence with Lucille Stone.

We only have a couple of letters that Bernice wrote to Lucille and the rest are all from Lucille to Bernice. Since we don't have Bernice's questions, some things that Lucille is addressing will forever remain their secret.

The writing in the margins and highlighting were done by Bernice. I have not added anything.

Bernice and Jack McGee were initially interested in the petro glyphs in the Superstitions but it later spilled over into the treasure stories.

Although a lot of the conversation is domestic, some of the items that Dutch Hunters may find interesting include references to the stone maps, place names, Al Reser, Charlie Miller, hand drawn maps, etc. If the heart shaped rock slide catches your eye, I would suggest you also read the Doc Rosecrans letters which tie into that conversation.

Some of the stone map references included information “before” the Life Magazine article by Clarence Mitchell.

I don't believe Jack and Bernice returned to the Superstitions after 1966 and the conversation between Lucille and Bernice wound down. It would have been interesting to have seen Lucille's comments on the Stone maps while Bernice was preparing the last article; “**Are the Peralta Stone Maps a Hoax?**” (Frontier Times, April-May 1973) but it didn't happen.

I have included a rough overview of the letters below. For those not wishing to struggle through everything, the listing will at least provide some guidance for items that they might find interesting.

Overview of McGee and Stone Correspondence

1963 Apr 17	McGee to Stone (Describes upcoming Expedition to Superstitions and asks for any help)
1963 May 1	Stone to McGee (Offering as much help as possible, Location of Reavis Grave)

1963 Jul 24	Stone to McGee (Sold 45 acres, the house and orchards to Dick Carpenter on June 13, 1963 – Stone's own all of the Reavis Grazing allotment and the J F Brand and cattle. Jack Frasier History)
1963 Dec 30	Stone to McGee (Peralta maps)
1964 Apr 19	Stone to McGee (History of area, Paul Berndt, Heart Map, etc.)
1964 Oct	Mound Mountain Ruins and Indian Post Office Ruins
1964 Feb 14	Stone to McGee (Reser Gave Picture of Horse/Priest Map – Invites McGee's to stay with them on next trip)
1964 Jun 15	Stone to McGee (Reser gave copy of the one stone with Heart – Charlie Miller)
1965 Dec 27	Stone to McGee (Names several searchers, waiting for McGee's Article)
1966 Feb 11	Stone to McGee (Walnut Springs)
1966 Mar 23	McGee to Stone (Bloody tanks story, Responses to Article, Storm made his own symbols in LaBarge Canyon – Loveless Collection)
1966 Apr 12	Stone to McGee (Charlie Miller Story)
1966 Apr 16	McGee to Stone (Reavis and plans for forthcoming trip to AZ – Barkley covering things up)
1967 Dec 9	Stone to McGee (Sale of ranch and trashing by visitors)
1969 Sep 15	Stone to McGee (Card and note)
1970 Dec	Stone to McGee (Christmas Card)

Enjoy,

Garry and Carol Cundiff - August 7, 2012