

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MARVIN LAWRENCE STONE

MARVIN LAWRENCE STONE, the son of Samuel Stone and Anita Abrams Stone, was born February 26, 1924 in Burlington, Vermont. He attended local public schools and graduated from Burlington High School in 1941, where he showed his early interest in journalism by working on the school newspaper.

He entered Marshall College (now University) at Huntington, West Virginia, in 1941. He chose to study journalism under the able direction of Page Pitt, a remarkable teacher who proved to be a major inspiration throughout Stone's long and successful career as a journalist. In December 1942, he found a part-time job at a local newspaper, the *Herald Dispatch*, where he worked as reporter and rewrite man until June 1943.

After two years of college work he interrupted his studies to participate in World War II. In July 1943 he entered the United States Naval Training Program V-12 at Emory & Henry College, Emory, Virginia. Upon successfully completing his V-12 training, he next attended the U.S. Naval Training School at Camp MacDonough, Plattsburg Barracks in New York. He graduated and was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserves on June 27, 1944.

He was assigned to the *USS Osage*, a vehicle landing ship, in December of 1944. His ship saw service in the Pacific Theater, coming under enemy fire at Okinawa in April 1945. In December 1945, he was transferred to the Twelfth Naval District, Naval Information Service, San Francisco, where he served until he was released from active duty in July 1946. He continued in the U.S. Naval Reserves until he was honorably discharged in October 1956, as a Lieutenant (junior grade), when his work as a journalist prevented him from fulfilling his duties as a reserve officer.

Upon his release from active duty, he returned to Marshall College to continue his studies under Page Pitt in the Journalism Department. The *Herald Dispatch* also rehired the talented veteran, where he worked as a police reporter and columnist. One of his most successful endeavors at the newspaper was authoring a series of articles which described the antics of "The Professor," who reported on subjects

as diverse as changing a baby's "didie," a "culinary whodunit," purchasing Easter bunnies, giving yourself a permanent, shopping for a hat, gardening, political campaigning, fishing, etc. He posed for a series of humorous pictures for each article.

He graduated cum laude in 1947 with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. He continued for a short time with the local newspaper, but his desire to further his education in journalism meant he had to leave Huntington.

After studying briefly at University of Vermont, he was admitted to Columbia University's School of Journalism in 1948. A year later he graduated with a Master's degree in Journalism. At his graduation he received the first of many honors, when he won a Pulitzer Traveling Fellowship, which was established in 1911 by the will of Joseph Pulitzer. The awards were awarded annually to enable the recipients to spend a year abroad studying the social, political and moral conditions of the people and the character and principles of the foreign press. Stone chose to spend his time in Europe, which began a lengthy association with the region, especially the nations of Eastern European.

In 1949 he also married Sydell "Terry" Magelaner. The couple enjoyed a long and successful marriage, remaining together for the next fifty years. They raised three children: two girls—Jamie Faith Stone, and Stacey Hope Stone—and a son, Torren Magelaner Stone.

After his traveling fellowship ended, Stone was employed by the International News Service (the forerunner of the United Press International) in 1949. He was initially assigned to the wire service's headquarters in New York City. In 1950 he was reassigned to Europe, where for the next two years he worked between London, Vienna, and Paris. While working in London in 1951, he was the first reporter to break the story that the Soviet Union had developed the H-bomb. His scoop came as an apparent surprise to U.S. authorities, who reported the U.S.S.R.'s atmospheric test shortly thereafter. He was then reassigned to the Continent, reporting on the growing communistic take-over in Eastern Europe. During the same time he also covered the

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Olympics: the winter games at Oslo, Norway (February 1952); and the summer games in Helsinki, Finland (July-August 1952).

In 1952 the INS transferred him around the world to the Far East where he became its Far East Director. He authored a widely published column titled "Asia Today." While in the region he covered a number of significant events, including the latter stages of the Korean War, and the 1953 armistice signing at Panmunjom that ended the conflict. Two years later from Hanoi he reported on the end of the French Indo-China War, the conflict which preceded the United States' protracted and controversial Vietnam War. Before leaving the region he also covered the 1958 crisis over Quemoy-Matsu, two small islands claimed both by Communist China and democratic Taiwan. He wrote about the establishment of the Southeast Asia Treaty Association (SEATO). He also covered his third Olympic games, the 16th Summer Olympiad at Melbourne, Australia. After leaving the region he wrote a book-length manuscript on Far East, but it was never published.

He left the INS in 1959, when he won a Sloan Foundation Fellowship to study science writing at Columbia University. After his fellowship ended, he served as a Special Assistant to the Chief of Army Research & Development at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., until 1960. He researched the beginning of the space age, including observing rocket launches from Cape Canaveral, as well as writing widely on the subject. As a result of his research he authored a 10,000-word paper that was later published as *Man in Space*, part of the Doubleday Science Program

Leaving the Pentagon in 1960, he was hired as a Pentagon correspondence by *U.S. News & World Report*, beginning a twenty-five-year association with the news magazine. As he worked successfully within the magazine's organization, he began to rise through the company's ranks, becoming an Associated Editor in 1966, an Associated Executive Editor in 1969, a Senior Associated Executive Editor in 1971 and an Executive Editor in 1973. In the latter position he covered President Gerald Ford's visit to China, flying on Air Force One. In 1976 he became

the magazine's third Editor-in-Chief.

Under Stone's tutelage the magazine's editorial viewpoint shift toward the center from the more conservative views held by its founder David Lawrence. He kept abreast of new technologies, overseeing the introduction of personal computers to the newsroom. He also sought to keep the magazine up-to-date with developing print technologies, introducing the use of four-color photography to the magazine. He also expanded editorial opportunities for minorities with its organization. Finally, he oversaw the construction of a new office building and helped celebrate the magazine's fiftieth anniversary.

While Editor-in-Chief, Stone was asked to be one of the four panelists in the Jimmy Carter-Ronald Reagan presidential debate in 1980. One of Stone's questions to Carter drew out the President's reply that he had just that morning discussed nuclear defense strategy with his young daughter Amy. Carter's answer resulted in considerable ridicule to his campaign. Stone later said that he was amazed that this single question on television resulted in more mail to his office than a year's worth of responses to his editorials in the *U.S. News & World Report*.

At the end of his tenure as the magazine's Vice-President/Editor-in-Chief, Stone not only managed the publishing the magazine, but his duties also included oversight of its other publishing activities, as well as serving as the Chairman of the Board, of the Madana Realty Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the magazine. Following the magazine's sale to Mortimer Zuckerman in 1985, he described the transition period as six "amicable" months, after which he resigned in order to take a position with the United States Information Agency (USIA). His resignation ended twenty-five years with *U.S. News & World Report*.

Stone became the Deputy Director of the United States Information Agency (USIA) upon the nomination of President Ronald Reagan and ratification by the U.S. Senate in 1985. For the next four years he served in that position until the end of Reagan's term in 1989. During his tenure he traveled widely throughout the world, including Europe,

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Asia, and South America.

After leaving the USIA in 1989, President George H. W. Bush appointed Stone as the Commissioner-General for United States for the 1992 Seville (Spain) World's Fair. However, upon a lack of continued support by both the White House and the Congress for the project, in which the latter dramatically slashed its funding, he resigned in protest a few months later. Stone's resignation resulted in bringing attention to the program's lack of funding, and eventually the United States' participation was only assured upon the major sponsorship of General Motors and a large number of other corporate sponsors.

In 1989 with the support of both the current Secretary of State James Baker and former George H. W. Bush Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, Stone founded the nonprofit International Media Fund (IMF), serving as its president and chairman. The IMF was set up to promote the establishment of a free press in the countries of Eastern Europe and the Balkans after the collapse of the Soviet Union. The IMF, initially encouraged by the State Department and largely funded by Congress, built independent radio stations, TV studios and printing presses in fourteen countries. It trained hundreds of working journalists and emphasized especially the training of university students throughout the region. Stone, often accompanied by his wife Terry, traveled extensively throughout the region, gaining an appreciation and

deep respect for the people of Eastern Europe.

In 1996 Stone disbanded the IMF when the U.S. Agency for International Development succeeded in yielding a tighter policy rein on overseas media development, in which assisting independent foreign media was not one of its priorities.

As IMF neared its end, Stone received spent time in Eastern Europe as a Knight International Press Fellow in Hungary in 1995 and in Croatia in 1996, in which he continued to champion the cause of a free press in Eastern Europe.

From 1997 on, Stone and his wife spent their time in traveling and visiting their children and grandchildren, enjoying their retirement. In 1999 they celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary. At the beginning of 2000 they charted the year ahead as usual: planning a Caribbean cruise; accepting an invitation from the South Korean government to attend the commemoration of the beginning of the Korean War, and visiting their children and grandchildren. Unfortunately it was not to be; Marvin L. Stone was diagnosed with cancer and he died on May 1, 2000, at his home at Falls Church, Virginia. He was seventy-six years old.

Marvin Lawrence Stone's career in journalism spanned forty years. It included every phase of news gathering from the daily newspaper, to the wire service, and to a national news magazine, as well as the promotion of the freedom of the press throughout the world.