

Questions, answers, and more questions

08/21/22

Since we are about halfway through the summer, I thought I would update you, the reader about some past stories, and relate a few more. The July 6th story about the 2 round items that looked like buttons brought no comments or suggestions. I still don't know what they are.

The telephone system article brought lots of comments and memories. People commented that they still remember their childhood phone number, people who were scolded by the telephone operator for 'playing' with the phone, and many more funny comments.

The article about Grace Molnar Hoskins plaque brought a phone call from a woman who knew the man who made the plaque. She said the family was from around the Phoenix NY area and she could not remember if Grace was the man's daughter or wife. The mystery continues....

A woman from the Buffalo area came in asking what the name was of the woman who drowned in the River around the turn of the century. Well.... I have never heard a story about a woman drowning at the turn of the century in the River. I asked more questions and apparently, she was a proficient boater and, in the Buffalo area, apparently a local legend. After some digging, I found this article in the NY Times.

A ST. LAWRENCE RIVER MYSTERY

Body of a Stranger Taken from the Water Near Massena.

GOUVERNEUR, N. Y., June 27.—The body of a well-dressed stranger was found to-day in the St. Lawrence River at a point near Massena. It was badly decomposed, and probably had been in the river two months or more. Two bad cuts were found near the heart.

No clue to the identity of the body has yet been discovered. It was clothed in a brown coat and vest, gray trousers, light-colored shirt, and white collar. A gold watch and diamond-set cuff buttons were found in the clothing.

There were no marks on the clothing and no letters, except an unsigned note, dated Nov. 13, 1898, saying: "Keep this in your inside pocket."

The mystery continues...

I have been asked twice in the past 2 weeks what the name of the hotel was at Point Vivian. I'm not talking about the Channelside, there was one earlier than that. People who currently live in the Point Vivian community remembered a hotel, but not the name. Ptvivian.org has photos of maps listing the lots by number, without a matching key. In looking into this, it was revealed to me that the Channelside motel was originally across the river and was pulled over the ice to its current location. Another question to be answered....

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I also have been asked to write about the clean up on the museum building in the 70's. Mayor Steve Taylor was a schoolteacher and formed a club called The Yorkers. I have received a note from a former Yorker discussing how that club helped to clear debris from the building in preparation for the future museum. I was a Yorker and don't remember ever being asked about helping with that. Do any of you recall cleaning out the museum building? Another question.....

It seems like searching for one answer, brings about more questions. I do enjoy the hunt! As always, I can be reached at info@alexandriahistorical.com, or by mail at 36 Market Street, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607/