A piece of Yates Castle someday may be incorporated in an Upstate Medical University construction project

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By Dick Case / Post-Standard columnist

I have readers’ questions to clear up today...

The first is about a piece of old Yates Castle, which used to stand in the 700 block of Irving Avenue, that was dug up during construction near Weiskotten Hall, on the Upstate Medical University campus in 2005.

It’s a section of turret from one of the bridges at Yates Castle. Yates went up in 1852 as a private home for the Longstreet family, and later the Yates family. The 24-room mansion of stone had 49 acres of grounds, which included stone bridges, gazebo, barn and gatehouse. It later belonged to Syracuse University, which used the Castle as a teachers college and journalism school, before it was sold to the state university to expand its medical college.

Yates Castle was demolished in 1954.

The turret is one of the few remains of the Castle. The only other remainders are portions of a stone wall along Irving Avenue and two Osage orange trees from the estate that still grow in front of Weiskotten Hall.

Darryl Geddes, director of public relations for the medical center, explained when I asked last week that the turret is in storage at Upstate “and we still
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In 1917, the Syracuse Herald commented that “The most interesting in the changes of street names is that of Mary Alley, which is now Neutral Court.”

Pam said she found no reason why the name Neutral Court was picked. Is it buried in old city records?

Personally, I like Mary Alley.

**Bob’s Tune?**

Bill Kramer has this tune stuck in his head. He used to hear it on WSYR radio, on the Bob “Deacon” Doubleday broadcast. Deacon had a player piano with lots of rolls.

Bill recalls “Nola” but “there was another song that usually followed it; it was peppy, like the Lawrence Welk theme music. I can hum it and tap my hands along with it, but I can’t find a name for it.”

Can anyone help Bill?

**AXA’s time and temp?**

Charlie Gowing says he misses seeing the time and temperature on the AXA (MONY) tower downtown. “Runners and walkers who start from Columbus Circle depend on this information,” he writes.

Help!

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