

# Trivia test, courtesy of Dick Case: Can you answer these 10 questions about greater Syracuse?



Dick Case, left, with Barbara Rivette, Manlius Town Historian, during dedication for the General John A. Ellis Revolutionary War-era Cemetery by Onondaga Community College. *(Dick Blume)*

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Dick Case, who was a **column-writing colleague** here for many years, has written a book of "**Salt City Trivia**," published by the **Onondaga Historical Association**.

I picked it up the other day and was startled and delighted by many of these facts, including some tales I'd never known about our town.

Steve Billmyer, one of my editors, prepared the questions in the form of multiple choice - with some whimsical alternatives - based upon the book. See how many you can get correct!

What famed animated Disney film was based on a story created by a couple from Syracuse?

- Cinderella
- Dumbo
- Fantasia
- Bambi

Q.2

In 1890, the skull of what mammal was found near Oakwood Cemetery - leading to speculation these animals were once regular visitors to this region?

- Cow
- Horse
- Bison
- Giraffe

Q.3

What popular drive-in restaurant in DeWitt was leveled to make way for Interstate 690?

- A&W
- Salt City
- Sonic
- Pig Stand

Q.4

What famed children's character was invented by a Syracuse-raised author who is also credited with writing many of the Bobbsey Twins books?

- Stuart Little
- Max (Wild Things)
- Madeline
- Uncle Wiggily

Q.5

This Syracuse company, maker of a familiar brand of appliance, employed 700 workers on the North Side in 1963, when it closed down. What was it?

- Easy (Washing machine)
- Westinghouse (TVs)
- RCA (radios)
- Frigidaire (refrigerators)

Q.6

The proprietor of this doughnut shop was so popular with Syracuse University students that he received the Chancellor's Medal. Who is it?

- Steve's Doughnuts (Steve Robinson)
- Vernon Rudolph (Krispy Kreme)
- William Rosenberg (Dunkin' Donuts)
- Abe Previs (Abe's Donuts)

Q.7

The oldest known survivor of the sinking of The Titanic (remember, that's the longest-lived, not the last to die) lived in Syracuse until her death in 1987, at 104. Who was it?

- Robert Hichens
- Mary Eloise Smith
- Mary Davis Wilburn
- Elsie Bowerman

Q.8

These theatrical brothers, who became a dominant force on Broadway, got their start in Syracuse. Who were they?

- Marx brothers
- Shubert brothers
- Astaire brother
- Alexander brothers

Q.9

What is the legendary explanation for the name "Nedrow"?

- "Nedrow" is the backwards spelling of "Worden," a local landowner who supposedly was too humble to have a community named directly in his honor.

- Ned Clinton was a Revolutionary War general who owned a row of homes in that area.
- Nedrow comes from the Onondaga "nedrowious," meaning place in the valley where the creek runs clean.
- Nedrow was a word assigned by a surveyor Ned Lewis, son of Gov. Morgan Lewis.

Q.10

What is the meaning of "Mizpah," the name of a magnificent but crumbling downtown landmark?

- Architect Gordon Wright named the building "Mizpah" after his grandfather Mizpah Wright.
- "Mizpah" was the word used by early Baptist for a church, place of worship.
- In French, "Mizpah" is "Mitspa" and means "Stone Cathedral."
- In Hebrew, "Mizpah" means "Watch Tower,"

## Ten remarkable things about Syracuse: Answers to the Dick Case trivia test



Sketches by local artist Helen Durney. She created the illustrations for the original "Dumbo" childrens' book. For Dick Case column. (David Lassman | [dlassman@syracuse.com](mailto:dlassman@syracuse.com))

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Here are the answers to the trivia quiz, based on **Salt City Trivia** from Dick Case:

- 1.) Dumbo was created in Syracuse, **by Helen Aberson and her husband - at the time - Harold Pearl**. Illustrations were done by Helen Durney. In 1949, Disney bought the rights to the story; according to Case, the tale goes that Disney was not kind to Aberson and Pearl.
- 2.) A bison's skull was found in an excavation near Oakwood Cemetery, fueling speculation that American bison once roamed in Central New York.
- 3.) DeWitt's famous **Pig Stand** was in the way, unfortunately, of Interstate 690 construction.
- 4.) Howard R. Garis, who grew up in Syracuse, created "**Uncle Wiggily**," a rabbit at the heart of many children's stories. Garis is also credited with writing many of the **Bobbsey Twins** books.
- 5.) The **Easy Washer** washing machine company was once a major Syracuse industry.
- 6.) Abe Previs, owner of Abe's Donuts, was honored by SU for his "outstanding service to students."
- 7.) Mary Davis Wilburn, survivor of The Titanic, spent much of her life in Syracuse; she died in 1987. Here's **a column I wrote about her** in 1998.
- 8.) **The Shubert brothers** left Syracuse for New York City, and established an entertainment empire.
- 9.) Legend has it that "Nedrow" is the backwards spelling of "Worden," a local landowner who supposedly was too humble to have a community named directly in his honor.



10.) In Hebrew, Case tells us, "Mizpah" means "Watch Tower," accounting for the name of the **magnificent downtown landmark** so many of us dream might one day be restored.

- *Sean*