

Picture Stories

John M. Hoenig and Nadine A. Hoenig describe stories revealed by photographs.

Isabella's Hair

This young lady was a relative of the John Hoenig's mother's, Isabelle. The picture was taken when Isabelle graduated from high school in 1920. An interesting observation is that Isabelle has short hair while back then long hair was the fashion. Why was her hair short?



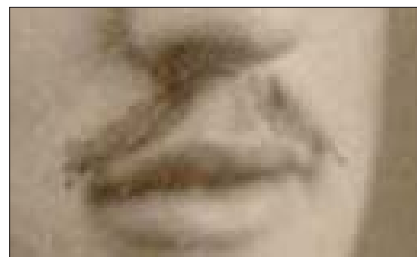
In 1918 the Spanish flu was devastating. It's estimated that between 20 and 50 million people died worldwide. In America, 600,000 people died in just a few months. Isabelle's daughter told us her mother came down with the flu and her fever rose so high that her hair fell out. It hadn't completely grown back when this graduation picture was taken.

Oh, Vanity!

These photos (top right) are of John's mother's parents. A blow-up of grandfather's mustache reveals that the photographer enhanced the growth with a pencil.

Grandmother is also rather shapely in this photo. But if you stand in front of a mirror in a heavy coat with your arms at your sides, you won't see a gap between your arms and your body. So why is there a gap in grandmother's photo?

A blow-up of the photo reveals the photographer cut out a crescent on each side of grandmother to make her more shapely.



Photographs of the author's grandparents. A closeup of his mustache shows that it has been enhanced with a pencil. His grandmother's waist has been made smaller by cutting away part of the picture.



Souvenirs: John's grandmother's photo album had several photos of monuments and grandiose buildings, clearly European in nature. They may have been taken as souvenirs while the family were on vacation. On the other hand, the family left their home in Budapest, Hungary, around 1940 and came to America. They never went back. Perhaps grandmother wanted some memories of her life in Budapest.

Nadine loves to investigate a good mystery. She used Google to search for "monuments", "churches" and other terms in combination

with "Budapest" and, sure enough, she identified some of the scenes as being in Budapest. This suggests (but does not prove) grandmother wanted souvenirs of home before leaving.



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