

## Forensic Genealogy Celebrates Its 100<sup>th</sup> Photo Quiz! By Colleen Fitzpatrick



This week marks a milestone in unidentified photo-dom. Starting Sunday March 10, Forensic Genealogy is hosting its 100<sup>th</sup> photoquiz at [www.forensicgenealogy.info](http://www.forensicgenealogy.info). Weekly since April 25, 2005, Chief Quizmaster Colleen Fitzpatrick has supplied the photo-detective community with a new puzzle to solve, drawn mainly from readers' photo submissions and suggestions. Occasionally she uses a picture she finds on eBay or one from her own stash of favorite photographs. Quiz photographs have covered all sorts of topics, from Civil War embalmers (Quiz #65), a misidentified photo that was supposedly Mozart's wife Constanza (Quiz #68), and the Corn Palace in Mitchell, SD (Quiz #72). One quiz featured a picture of the annual Moon Amtrak event in Laguna Hills, CA (Quiz #61).

Colleen credits Dead Fred for supplying some of her most popular photographs. Quiz #45, featuring this picture of an unidentified knife thrower and inspired by Photo #23465, [http://www.deadfred.com/surnamePersR\\_05.php?ID=36137](http://www.deadfred.com/surnamePersR_05.php?ID=36137), was by far the most successful. With the help of the Rev Dr. David Adamovich, aka The Great Throwdini, an ordained minister and the holder of multiple Guinness world records as the fastest knife thrower in the world, she was able to identify the knife thrower as Gustavo Arcaris, the Father of Knife Throwing, and his target girl as his sister Kate.



But discovering Arcaris' name was only the beginning. Two of the top Quizmasters Mary Fraser and Grace Hertz traced the story of the Arcaris family through the census records and World War I draft registrations. Gustavo Arcaris and his wife May toured with the circus during the early 1900s, finally settling in Detroit with their three sons and one daughter in the 1920s.

More photographs of Arcaris at various stages of his career were located in the Ronald G. Beckman Collection of Charles Eisenmann Photographs at Syracuse University. See <http://library.syr.edu/information/spcollections/digital/eisenmann/>. Eisenmann presented another fascinating avenue of research for Colleen, David, and the Forensic Genealogy Quizmasters.

Charles Eisemann was a New York photographer of the 1890s who was known for his photographs of circus performers and sideshow freaks.

With David's help, Colleen was able to contact the Arcaris descendents so that Dead Fred could return the picture to them. The Arcaris family still had The Great One's original knives, yet they had no pictures of their famous great grandfather and knew very little about him. But Colleen, David, and the Forensic Genealogy Quizmasters soon changed all that.

Please join us for our 100<sup>th</sup> Photo Quiz Birthday at [www.forensicgenealogy.info](http://www.forensicgenealogy.info).