TASTING THE SOUP

There are some areas of study I find very fascinating. Among my favorites are history, politics, crime investigation, the Titanic and the study of old archaeological finds.

To even think of how inhabitants of the world lived 100, 200 or 1,000 years before us is intriguing. I have to wonder about the cave men and women. When I think of the cave man era, I tend to remember Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble. Of course, we all know that life back then was nothing like it was portrayed in the long running animated cartoon.

We have all watched a lot of TV and I am inclined to believe that the days of the old west were just like they are depicted on television.

They probably had good looking cowboys and fiesty saloon girls who wore big fluffy dresses. There just had to be a handsome Lone Ranger, a Bat Masterson and a Matt Dillion. Plus, those cowboys looked so nice in their tight jeans, boots and cowboy hats.

Then I think about the Indians. I like to believe they were handsome, long black- haired wild fellows who could shoot and kill a bear with one pull of his feathered bow and arrow.

The Indians' teepees looked bright and colorful and, of course, we have seen on TV stories about cowboys and Indians and although their life looks glamourous in the movies, it probably wasn't.

I often wonder about the people who sailed on the Titanic. Of course, all the men looked like Leo DeCaprio in the movie. I have always wondered exactly what those passengers were doing when that great ship went down. I wonder if they even had an inkling they were about to go down? Some were eating and drinking as if nothing was going on.

The Titanic has been a field of opportunity for historians to study and for many to speculate about.

To find out and study the cultures of those who lived and walked the earth way before us is a fascinating subject, at least to me it is.

Remember the old nursery rhyme that goes like this? “Peas porridge hot. Peas porridge cold. Peas porridge in the pot nine days old.”

An especially fascinating discovery was made a few years ago that I would loved to have been a part of. Would you believe that a pot of soup from 2,400 years ago was found in a tomb in China? And it was still hot! The porridge in that pot was way over nine days old?

The 2,400 year old bronze vessel was found near the capital of Xian. Archaeologists also believe they found a container of wine, and traces of brie. I would love to know what kind of soup it was, if it was spoiled and how it kept hot that many years?

It was reported to be the first discovery of bone soup in Chinese archaeological history. Plus, it was the first soup ever unearthed in a pot and still warm.

Scientists were expected to conduct further tests to confirm the liquid was indeed soup and to identify the ingredients. One soup expert, said, “It didn’t look like hot n’ sour soup to me, or won ton soup.”

The tomb could have held the body of either a member of the land-owning class or a low-ranking military officer, archaeologists said. It was also reported that the soup smelled delicious.

Today, I hear my kids saying that the ‘70s and ‘80s were the “good old days.” While they were good days, my good old days take me back to the ‘50s and ‘60s. Probably someday, other generations and perhaps cultures will be studying our lifestyles. We will be at the level where archeologists may be unearthing things about our life.

They will be unearthing items like eight tracks, Polaroid cameras, handheld land lines, and perhaps black and white TVs.

Time marches on. The world changes and history is being made every day.

Would you have liked to taste the 2,400-year-old soup? Are you interested in the Titanic? Do you think life in the old west was glamorous? Let me know and I’ll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.