

## Grass River Pearl Once Sold For \$1,400 by Russell Firm

BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE (AP) — The supply didn't last forever but fresh water pearls from the Grass River in St. Lawrence County once sold for as much as \$1,400.

That's one of the many interesting facts Heidi Fuge has discovered in researching the various industries that once existed in the Adirondack Mountains before 1940.

Thus far, she has catalogued 140 industries that once existed within or on the periphery of the Adirondack Park. She is preparing the project for the Adirondack Museum here.

A small fresh water pearl

business flourished briefly in Russell, she said, and before the supply dwindled one such pearl sold for \$1,400 at Tiffany's in New York.

One of the earliest industries in the Adirondacks was a calico printing mill in Johnsburg in Warren County. The mill began operations in 1797.

"The index is not nearly complete and there are many mysteries yet to solve—such as the exact dates and place a product was manufactured or even what it looked like," she said recently.

"I'm also interested in products using the label

"Adirondack," like the Adirondack Mackinaw (coat) advertised in Saranac Lake in 1912, and the Adirondack (baseball) bat made in Dolgeville," she added.

Some other areas and what they were once noted for:

—Tupper Lake in Franklin County—clothespins, coffins, matches and wooden ware.

—Redford in Clinton County—glassware.

—Old Forge in Herkimer County—fishing lures.

—Horseshoe Lake in St. Lawrence County—buckets for maple syrup.