

2005 Manitou Days Treasure Hunt
Jack Yost Park, White Bear Lake

Clue #1:

*Here's the story...Manitou Days in all her glory
A renaissance; a splendid move indeed!
With map and clues take a daily inventory
To our fresh location they will certainly lead.*

Explanation:

There are a couple very subtle hints in this first clue. "Here's the story" was the beginning of the famous jingle from the 1970s sitcom "The Brady Bunch," which starred Florence Henderson. Florence street forms the northern border of Jack Yost Park. Furthermore, the renaissance was born in Florence, Italy, in the 14th century. "Fresh location" told hunters to seek a place that had not previously hosted the event.

Clue #2:

*A squinting eye reveals cars flying by
Not here, but in about a stone's throw.
At our site the stakes are pretty high
Each marked by a shimmering glow.*

Explanation:

To the south of the park runs busy Highway 96. Four metal posts stand atop the park's knoll ("high stakes"). Each of the posts also contains a reflector ("shimmering glow"). "Stone" also pointed to the medallion's disguise: a fake stone made out of Plaster of Paris.

Clue #3:

*City streets surround grassy and woodsy ground
Where kids field balls and swing.
Sleds glide down the one big mound
When Old Man Winter does sing.*

Explanation:

Jack Yost Park has both grassy and woodsy areas and is surrounded by city streets (Florence, a city in Italy and Eugene, a city in Oregon). A ballfield and playground can be found in the park. The small hill in the park could also provide for some light sledding in the winter.

Clue #4:

*Not far from strikes are peddling bikes
Within our chosen abode.
Smooth surfaces aren't overly elating
So get your thrills off-road.*

Explanation:

An off-road, dirt bike trail can be found going over and through the woods on the park's hill.

Clue #5:

*"You're not using your bean!" Who isn't? "You, Gene!"
"What, me?" Shaking his head, seeming not to comprehend.
As sad as it may be, yonder it is seen
That all good things must come to an end.*

Explanation:

"You, Gene" – or Eugene – is a street that comes to a dead-end at Jack Yost Park.

Clue #6:

*Go take a seat, it's no tough feat
Requiring no strict modus operandi.
Wanna be first? Well, you've been beat
By two damsels and their friend Randy.*

Explanation:

This clue referred to a bench on the east side of the park that was full of graffiti. Three large names adorn the bench: Danielle, Amy and Randy.

Clue #7:

*'Tis true: a sunny forecast is usually untrue
So three shelters catch your focus.
By the light of the moon, one shines blue
Beneath the Big Dipper's summer locus.*

Explanation:

"Three overhead shelters" referred to three roofed public buildings within the park: a restroom, a picnic pavilion, and a blue-topped dome above the playground. From the treasure's location, that playground is to the northwest, below the summer location of the Big Dipper.

Clue #8:

*To extract pleasure from seeking treasure
Just the V on 4.
From there you'll find – in due measure
What you are looking for.*

Explanation:

The "V on 4" described the large V-shaped tree on Fourth Street. The medallion was paced of that tree.

Clue #9:

*Fire! Fire! Words that will inspire
He who would put out the flame.
Of local history you mustn't tire
For it will reveal a lucrative name.*

Explanation:

Jack Yost was a well-accomplished fireman in White Bear Lake. Solving this clue would get hunters to the correct park.

Clue #10:

*Feeling low? A little too much Rousseau?
Here you'll find people who care.
And as you learn to go with the flow
Stories of yesterday may fill the air.*

Explanation:

"People who care" referred to the nearby White Bear Lake Care Center. "Go with the flow" was a hint to "go with Florence" – as "Flo" is a nickname for Florence. The last sentence of the clue referred to the senior residents of the Care Center, who are able to share some inspiring stories of the past.

Clue #11:

*In the city's north, you must go forth
To where the nightingale calls.
Find a shrubby place to exploreth
In the company of well-hit homerun balls.*

Explanation:

This clue again put the medallion near Florence Street (Florence "Nightingale") and in thick underbrush near the outfield of the baseball diamond.

Clue #12:

*'Tis the end of the race! Yost is the place.
But not on a flat plain.
Your search will surely end in disgrace
If you ignore the elevated terrain.*

*Start at the tree shaped like a 'V'
Towering over Fourth Street.
Head east with steps totaling 103
And you just can't be beat!*

Explanation:

Final directions to the 2005 treasure.

Treasure's Exact Location:

