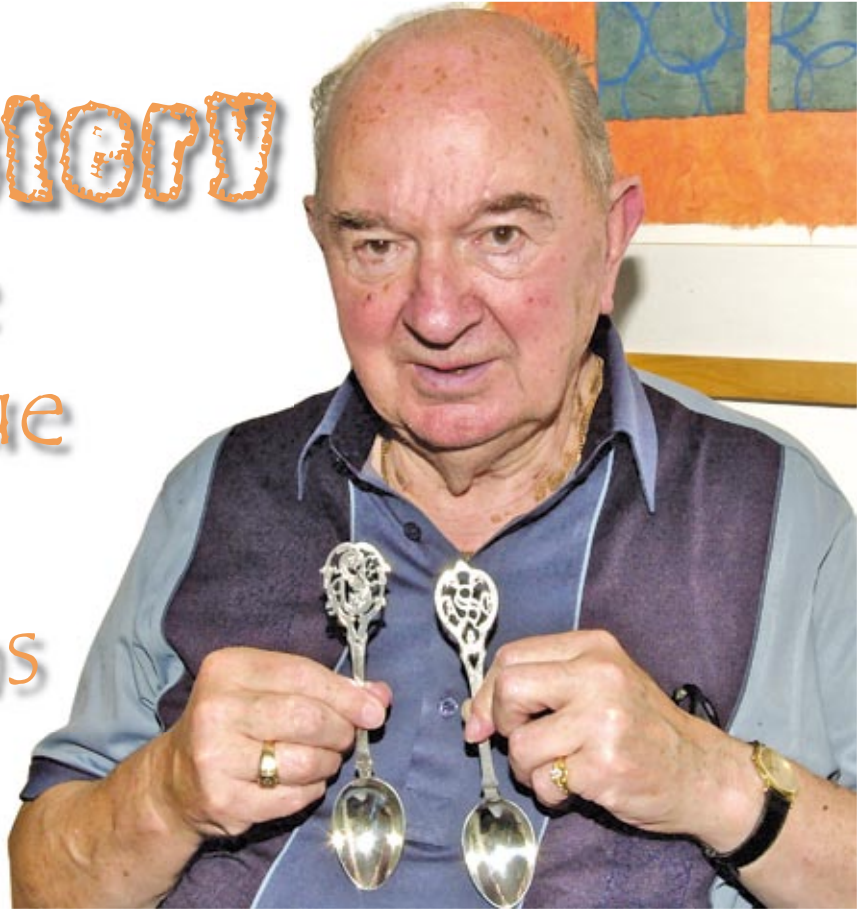


# Mystery

## of the antique silver spoons



A FREQUENT visitor to Oban is appealing to locals for information on two antique spoons he has in his possession. Pitlochry man Ian Robb is anxious to find out the history of the spoons, which were made and designed by his jeweller grandfather in 1910.

Ian said this week: 'Around 35 years ago, a friend of mine was browsing in McGillvary's jewellers in Oban when he discovered the spoons with my grandfather's hallmark, and he bought them on my behalf.

'Ever since then, I've wondered who they were made for and why, and I'm hoping that someone in this area will know.'

The silver dessert size spoons have the initials A.S.E on them, although Ian thinks the E could actually be a G.

'The spoons were obviously made to order as they have someone's initials on them, and that person

must have been of some consequence,' Ian said. William Robb of Ballater was also a jeweller to Queen Victoria and, as a child, Ian's dad, James, would take a stagecoach to Balmoral, go into the castle and up to the Queen's chamber. There, her lady-in-waiting would take the jewellery from James and lay it out for the Queen, who would pick what she wanted and send the rest back to Ballater on the next stagecoach with the youngster.

Ian went on: 'There are a lot of collectors of my grandfathers work, including me, and one of his wee tea caddy spoons sold for £700. The spoons I have now could have been a betrothal gift, but I am just really curious to find out the history behind them.'

Wife Sheila added: 'We have enquired everywhere we can think of in Oban and the local museum has been really helpful. If anyone in the area knows anything about the spoons, it would be great if they could contact *Lorn Life*.'