

CITY NEWS

MYSTERY VEILS ACCIDENT THAT WRECKS TROUGH

Quarter Century Old Fountain in South End Knocked from Base by Unidentified Car.

Hope is held out that the ornate watering trough, which has stood for the last quarter century at the intersection of Main and Locust Streets, may recover ultimately from the serious injuries incurred either late Wednesday night or early Thursday morning when it was knocked unceremoniously from its base and scattered in pieces upon the pavement.

Just what struck the sturdy fountain, which was presented to the city by the National Humane Alliance in 1907, remains a mystery. The police have had no record of an accident or collision from the men on duty in that section of the city on the 4 o'clock and "dog" watches and none of the garages or repair shops in the vicinity could produce any records of automobile or truck brought in for repairs. Whatever it was that struck the fountain and inflicted so much serious damage remains a mystery.

The fountain consisted of a heavy base, three marble columns supporting a marble basin and a single column rising above the basin. The basin and the base escaped unscathed, but the three supporting columns and the one upper column were badly smashed—so badly, in fact, that the further usefulness of the fountain is seriously threatened. The shattered remains have been gathered up by employees of the Department of Streets and Engineering and have been taken to one of the city's workshops for treatment and surgical attention, but so far it has not been determined whether the outlook is hopeful or hopeless.

It is the earnest desire of city officials to prolong the life of the fountain, for, while it has not been in active use as a watering trough for several years, it has been a colorful memorial of times now gone, while it has served also as an excellent traffic marker to divide the north and southbound traffic in Main Street and to discourage automobile drivers from cutting that particular corner.

Springfield fountain damage a mystery -
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johnwalshderby
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