

DRINKING FOUNTAIN FOR STOCKMEETING

From Tuesday's Daily
As will be seen by a reference to last night's commissioners' proceedings, arrangements have been made for the placing and piping of the handsome new drinking fountain recently presented to this city by the National Humane Alliance. The fountain will be placed in an accessible spot at the intersection of Main and Seventh streets and the work of placing it and making the water connections is to be completed so that the water may be turned on before the first day of Stock-meeting.

The credit for getting this handsome gift for Rapid City is said to be due to W. E. Adair, formerly a reporter on the Journal, who took up the matter with The National Humane Alliance and succeeded in inducing the Alliance to place a handsome gift in this connection. It is also an opportune time to call attention to the founder of the National Humane Alliance. This man was the late Herman Lee Enslin.

He was born in Carbondale, Pa., on June 25, 1849. At an early age he moved with his parents to Sheffield, Ill. When fifteen years old he acquired a knowledge of telegraphing and soon became an expert operator. Soon after that he went toavenport, Iowa, and later to Denver.

He was reared under religious influences, was a member of the Congregational Church and when twenty years old decided to become a minister. With that object, he entered Phillips academy. His health or finances soon failed, and he left school and went to Chicago, where he began business with a bridge company.

During the great fire of 1871 he rendered important service to the company by saving from the office valuable books.

A few years later he became the manager of a brilliant weekly paper called the Alliance, a weekly journal, mildly religious and widely humanitarian. His experience in journalism he turned to practical account by later engaging in the advertising business, following it with marked success, and acquiring a fortune in twenty years.

Fertile in fancy and quick to experiment, he devised a new form of newspaper advertising known as headline reading advertising. He also invented the stereotype plate with reasonable ease.

In 1882 he moved to Rochester and two years later to New York, where he lived until his death in 1899.

Without advantage of birth or fortune, living the life of a quiet American citizen and doing before he was fifty, he had rounded out a notable life. To his business and general friends he was known as a genial and companionable man, successful in his office, unobtrusive and unobtrusive with life. His more intimate friends know that he had other interests and feelings, which represented the deeper and more vital side of his nature. He had an eager and imaginative temperament, an instinctive love of what is good and true and a hatred of what is wrong. From childhood he was a lover of domestic animals. This love made him detest all that was cruel or unkind in the treatment of animals by their natural protectors.

It became more than a sentiment—it became a passion, growing upon him and at last dominating his life. To him animals were not merely inferiors or slaves, they were companions and friends, devoting themselves to him and dependent upon him for their lives and happiness. The attitude of the relations with lower animals have seldom had more practical and forcible expression than from this humane man. He was an ardent disciple of Henry Dargh, and felt that if he could have belted him such a record as old Mr. Dargh, he would regard it as the best monument that he could desire.

He accordingly founded the National Humane Alliance to carry out his ideas for the welfare of animals. He intended to give his time and fortune to the work. But just as it was started he died. He left his fortune for this work, and the society in administering the trust of Mr. Enslin on the lines of his ideas, for humane work, admiring citizens be kindness to animals and other similar work.

The Humane Alliance has offices at No. 529 Third Street Building, New York city. The officers are: Harrison Gray Blake, president; Frederick B. Hoffman, vice president; Lewis M. Sewer, secretary and treasurer.

Rapid City, SD arrangements

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Fri, Nov 8, 2019

CITY OF RAPID CITY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared By The
Rapid City Growth Management Department
300 Sixth Street
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

2004 PROJECTS

The following list represents the major projects undertaken by the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission during 2004.

FOUNTAIN RESTORATION PROJECT Lee Vierling, Project Coordinator

During 2004 the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission continued their ongoing efforts to restore the City downtown fountain and return it to Downtown Rapid City. The fountain, a gift to the City in 1911 from the National Humane Alliance of New York, was originally placed at the center of the intersection of 7th and Main Streets to serve not only to beautify the dusty Downtown area but as a watering station for horses and dogs. With the rise of the automobile in the mid-1920's; however, the placement of the fountain was deemed impractical and it was removed from the Downtown area and relocated to a local City park.

The Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission worked with students and faculty at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to refurbish the fountain and to restore it near its original location, at the northwest corner of 7th and Main Streets. Engineering plans for final placement were completed and the project was coordinated with the City of Rapid City. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology secured the assistance of area artist John Lopez for the fabrication of the original lion-head ornamental water spouts. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology also secured a replica of the original top lamp post.

The dedication ceremony for the 1911 Lions Head Fountain was held on May 23, 2004 and brought to conclusion the decade long project for the Historic Preservation Commission.

As the fountain project did not fall under the project criteria of the Certified Local Grant program, the Historic Preservation Commission secured grant funding from the Modern Woodmen of America foundation. The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology secured additional funding from the Julianne Creamer memorial fund.



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HISTORIC FOUNTAIN DEDICATED IN DOWNTOWN RAPID CITY

South Dakota Tech students and faculty and local historic preservation officials will dedicate the 1911 Fountain during a ceremony held Sunday, May 23, at the corner of Seventh and Main streets in Rapid City.

This fountain was donated to Rapid City in 1911 by Hermon Lee Ensign, the founder of the National Humane Alliance. The fountain was designed as a horse watering trough, but the fountain base features two small basins for dogs and cats. The fountain originally sat in the middle of the intersection of Seventh and Main streets. When cars became popular, the fountain was moved to the corner, and then it was placed at the city parks department in old Storybook Island.

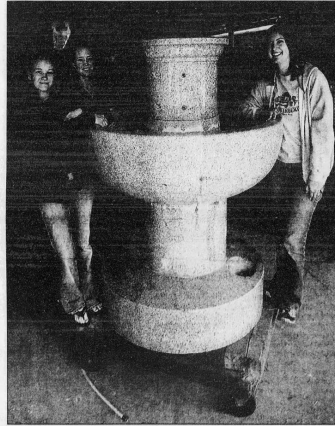
In 1998, the Rapid City Historic Preservation Committee and South Dakota Tech decided began a project to restore the fountain and place it downtown once again. At Tech, the project began with student involvement from the American Society of Civil Engineers. It evolved into a senior design project to design the pump, subgrade and concrete pad.

The most difficult portion of the project was replacing the lions' heads and plaque. After mentioning the project to artist John Lopez, he decided to take on the task of recreating the lions' heads from a photograph of a similar fountain in Illinois.

With continued and dedicated help from the American Society of Civil Engineers, businesses in the community, and the City of Rapid City, the fountain can finally be dedicated near its original location.

'[The project] wasn't supposed to last the semester, but once we all started it, we couldn't stop.'

— Rachael Stelbow, a South Dakota School of Mines & Technology student who began working a year and a half ago on the restoration of a vintage fountain



Dick Kattewell/Journal staff

Civil engineering students, from left, Kari Kilian of Rapid City, Rachael Stelbow of Rapid City and Amanda Kost of Mitchell, were involved in the project to restore Rapid City's historic horse fountain, shown here in storage on the campus at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Tech project restoring fountain to downtown

By Dan Daly
Journal Staff Writer

A forgotten piece of Rapid City's history will soon return to the downtown street corner where it started out in 1911.

The ornately decorated fountain once quenched the thirst of horses, jocks — and perhaps people — in the middle of the street at Seventh and Main. It was a gift from the estate of a wealthy New York businessman and animal lover.

But with the advent of the automobile, Rapid City's downtown fountain became merely a traffic hazard. It was carted away, stripped of its hardware and all but forgotten for decades.

Now, through the efforts of the Rapid City Historic Preservation Commission, sculptor John Lopez, a long list of donors and a tenacious group

of civil-engineering students at South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, the old fountain has a new life.

Scott Kenner, head of the civil engineering department at Tech, persuaded some of his students to take on the project to restore and install the old fountain.

"Dr. Kenner ... offered our class a deal. He said whoever worked on this restoration project didn't have to do a semester paper," student Rachael Stelbow of Rapid City recalled. "A small group of us took him up on that deal 11-1/2 years ago. It wasn't supposed to last the semester, but once we all started it, we couldn't stop."

The newly restored fountain is to be installed at Seventh and Main Streets with water flowing and the lights on sometime before May 8 — graduation day for Stelbow.

See **Fountain**, Page A2



Courtesy photo

Replacing the long-missing lion head fixtures on the Rapid City fountain was the hardest part of the restoration project. A lion head on an identical fountain in Illinois, pictured above, was used as the model for the Rapid City fountain.

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Sun, Nov 10, 2019

Fountain: Few like it survived the past century

From Page A1

and her classmates. It won't be in the middle of the street, but next to the sidewalk node at the northwest corner of the intersection.

The fountain is the legacy of Hermon Lee Ensign. Before his death in 1899, Ensign made his fortune in publishing and advertising. He was also founder of the Humane Alliance, a group dedicated to improving the lives of horses and other beasts of burden.

When he died, a large portion of his estate went to the Humane Alliance's drinking fountain program. The group donated at least 130 fountains to municipalities in 44 states. They were of various designs. Most were made of polished Maine granite and trimmed in bronze. Rapid City's fountain is one of the few surviving round fountains.

It was topped by a large electric light. Water poured from two lion heads into the horse trough. At the base, two smaller water-filled troughs allowed cats and dogs to drink. Water also flowed from a small alcove above the horse trough. Stelrow believes there was once a tin cup in the alcove, affording humans a drink of water as well. It is unclear exactly when the fountain was moved away from its downtown site. It spent time in Halley Park. And in recent years, it has been a centerpiece in the flower gardens at Sioux Park, near the city Parks Department headquarters on Canyon Lake Drive.

About six years ago, then-Historic Preservation Commission chairman Paul Suedlund noticed the fountain in an old photo of Rapid City's Main Street. He wondered what had happened to it.

"Then one day I was driving by and saw it sitting there in the park," he recalled in a telephone interview from Denver, where he now lives. "That got the ball rolling. It seemed like (bringing it back downtown)

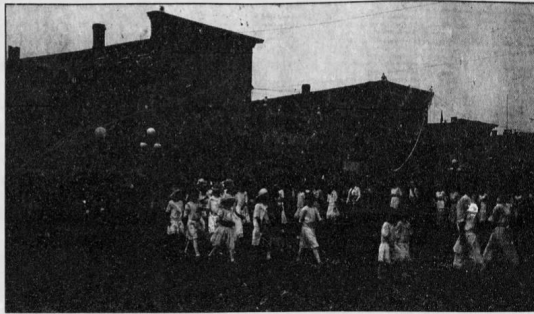


Photo courtesy of Mary Farrar and the Fred Farrar Collector

The Ensign water fountain for horses can be seen in this undated photo of a downtown Rapid City children's parade. The fountain once stood in the middle of the street at Seventh and Main. But the automobile age turned it into an unnecessary traffic hazard.

would be an easy thing to do, but it got complicated."

Four years ago, Lee Vierling, a Tech professor and member of the Historic Preservation Commission — and now the chairman — stepped in to see the project through to completion.

"It was my first assignment on the commission. Paul said, 'Lee, you're going to do it.'" Vierling said.

He began working with Kenner and his students. The latest group of students accepted the challenge and completed the project.

At various times, Kenner and his students helped with the mechanical design work. They had plenty to do. The fountain needed a new plumbing system, new wiring and a new light fixture that matched the original. They had to figure out how to extend water and electricity to the sidewalk, and they had to design the concrete base. Consider their fund raising and historical detective work, and they faced a well-rounded student civic and civil-

engineering project.

The biggest challenge was replacing the two lion heads. Somewhere between downtown Rapid City and Sioux Park, the bronze heads and the commemorative plaque disappeared. The students speculate that the pieces are probably hidden away in someone's basement. The plaque and its inscription were fairly easy to replicate, but the lion heads were another matter.

The students found an identical Ensign fountain with its hardware intact in Princeton, Ill. They persuaded a Tech alumnus who lives in Illinois to drive to Princeton and shoot photos of the fountain.

The students' plan was to hire a casting expert to make a mold of one of the Princeton lion heads and use it cast new heads for the Rapid City fountain. They could not find anyone to do the work, so they turned to Rapid City sculptor John Lopez.

Working from photos, Lopez sculpted an exact copy of the

lion head fixture from clay. Stelrow said it almost seemed effortless for Lopez, "and it's shocking how beautiful it is."

Lopez bronze lion heads will be unveiled Sunday, April 18, during a reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Dahl Arts Center. Also, the Historic Preservation Commission has tentatively planned a dedication ceremony for the completed fountain on May 23.

Much of the funding for the project has been donated by Modern Woodmen of America, the fraternal insurance company. Cretex Concrete Products West is donating the labor and materials for the concrete base.

Another donor is the Julianne Creamer Memorial. "That's my grandma," Stelrow said with a smile. Toward the end of the project, the students were running low on money. Her mother suggested they use money from her late grandmother's memorial to finish the work.

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Sun, Nov 10, 2019

