

fountain

Intercity Horse Trough Fountain

August 20, 2016



Location: [Wyandotte County Museum, Wyandotte County Park, 631 N 126th Street, Bonner Springs, KS](#)

Owner: Wyandotte County Historical Society

Dates: Constructed 1904, Purchased by Wyandotte County Historical Society 1967, Restore 1992

Designer: Humane Society of Kansas City

Description:

At the turn of the 20th century, Kansas City had a very large horse population. After an epidemic where many horses fell sick and died, it was determined that the horse troughs located around the city were the main cause. Those troughs were just large bins of water that would sit there for days and the water was changed out infrequently which led to the water becoming toxic with bacteria and disease.

In 1904, the Humane Society of Kansas City started constructing fountains in order to give fresh water to the horses and other animals of Kansas City. Water would come out of the lion's head on each side of the fountain and fill up the large granite basin, four feet in diameter, to give horses clean water to drink. People could also fill up cups directly out of the lion's heads. The overflow from the basin would go down into smaller basins at street level in order to give dogs clean water to drink as well.

This particular example of these fountains was the first one to be built in 1904 and was originally located on the Kansas end of what is now known as the Lewis and Clark Viaduct. It was later moved to the tennis courts at 18th and Parallel in Kansas City, Kansas. In 1967, the Wyandotte County Historical Society purchased the fountain, had it restored and placed it at its current home at the Wyandotte County Museum in Wyandotte County Park in Bonner Springs. However, it is no longer an operational fountain.



Tags: 1904 1967 1992 horse dog Humane Society Bonner Springs Wyandotte County Museum N 126th Street lion inoperable



DECIDED TO ACCEPT.

Fountain Offered By National Humane Alliance Will Be Placed on North Fourth Street.

The council at the meeting held Tuesday night decided to accept the fountain offered by the National Humane Alliance of New York.

The fountain which is of Maine granite and weights 5 tons, is to be shipped in five pieces to Kansas City, Kansas, freight pre paid by the society. The Alliance simply asks that the city put it in a place where it can be approached from all sides so that horses and dogs can drink. The city must furnish running water and pay for the plumbing. It must be placed at the West end of the Inter-City viaduct between Minnesota and Armstrong avenues on Fourth street. The National Humane Alliance generally presents these fountains to cities through the city council, civic clubs or local human societies. All that the alliance must be assured of is that the fountain will be placed so that it will meet the requirements and that running water and plumbing be furnished by the city.

"I think we should accept the fountain", said Mayor Cornell last night. The location is a good one. It is certainly needed and the cost of the placing it in position will amount to only a trifle, the conditions are simple and easy to comply with.

The fountain is six feet wide, and seven feet in height.

DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

The drinking fountain, presented to the city by the National Humane Alliance, has been put in position at the approach to the intercity viaduct. It is a substantial and artistic affair, being of mottled granite finely polished, perfectly plain and devoid of any gingerbread.

On the east side of it there is a bronze tablet bearing the following inscription:

1907
PRESENTED BY
THE NATIONAL
HUMANE ALLIANCE
HERMON LEE ENSIGN
FOUNDER

The fountain has four basins at the bottom where cats and dogs may quench their thirst and a reservoir extending around it where horses and cattle may slake their thirst. A bronze lion head adorns each of the four sides out of the mouths of which the water will flow into the large reservoir.

The fountain cost \$1,000 and was a gift to the city by the National Humane Alliance, as above stated, the only expense to the city being the cost of placing it in position. It will last for all time and as long as it is supplied with water will quench the thirst of all dumb animals that wend their way by it.

FOUNT FOR ANIMALS

DEDICATORY EXERCISES FOR
FIRST OF ITS KIND HERE.

FLOW OF WORDS AND WATER

ANIMALS IMBIBE WHILE GIFTED
ORATORS EXPOUND.

**Fountain Given to Kansas City by
National Humane Alliance, of
New York, Begins Career
of Mercy Under Fa-
vorable Auspices.**

During the dedication of the \$1,500 granite horse and dog fountain at Fourth and Broadway yesterday afternoon, thirteen teams, nine horses in single harness and three dogs stopped, dipped their faces in the flowing water and drank deep. [Frank Faxon](#), one of the speakers, kindly said:

"I am sorry there are no more horses and dogs present. I would like to ask them all to step up and have a drink with us."

Mr. Faxon was more generous than he thought, as he learned at the close of the exercises, when he and the other speakers and the audience rushed over to the fountain to get a drink. There are no cups on the fountain. It is strictly a place for birds, and four-footed beasts. President E. R. Weeks, of the Kansas City Humane Society, who wore a Panama hat, essayed to drink out of the rim of his headgear, mountain brook fashion, but most of the water ran down his shirt front. Mr. Faxon, [Police Commissioner Elliot H. Jones](#), Mrs. L. O. Middleton and others looked on and declined to try to use the hat which Mr. Weeks proffered them.

The humans held a meeting around the fountain and argued the question of having cups chained there, but decided adversely.

"During a busy and hot work day," John Simmons, secretary of the Teamsters' union, said, "the teams line up from all directions awaiting their turns at the fountain. There is no chance for a man to get a drink. Besides, if there were cups, children who tried to drink might be trampled by the horses which rush to the fountain."

Nearly every department of city life was represented in the dedication exercises. E. R. Weeks was chariman, Hale H. Cook appeared for the school children, Mrs. L. O. Middleton for the T

appeared for the school children, Mrs. E. C. Middleton for the T. U. F. M. Furgason carried a [Judge Jules E. Guinotte](#) proxy, George Hoffman spoke for the city hall, Father Dalton for the church people, Harry Walmsley appeared for the birds and Frank Faxon for "Old Dobbin."

No one had a word to say in condemnation of any bird or beast. The speakers tried to outdo each other in praise. Mr. Faxon said that a horse "was always faithful and kind," and Mr. Walmsley declared that the birds are symbols of the heavenly life." But Mr. Furgason, reading Judge Guinotte's speech, went then all one better when he quoted George Elliot as saying: "The more I associate with men, the more I like dogs."

In calling attention to the fact that the fountain dedicated yesterday was the first permanent one in the city, Mrs. Middleton recited the history of attempts made by various charities in past years to erect public drinking fountains. The most successful of these schemes was the setting in place of twelve ice water casks on downtown corners by the W. C. T. U. many years ago.

The beautiful piece of granite dedicated yesterday afternoon, which Thomas Wight, secretary of the Kansas City art commission, described as "a permanent bit of art and a forerunner of a new era in municipal life," was presented by the National Humane Alliance of New York. The purchase price came from a fund bequeathed by the late Herman Lee Ensign of New York, whose name is on a bronze plate on one side of the fountain. The Kansas City Humane Society and the city council were among those most instrumental in securing the gift for this city. The society hopes that other fountains may be erected on busy corners through gifts by local philanthropists.

Labels: [animals](#), [arts](#), [Associated Charities](#), [Commissioner Jones](#), [Father Dalton](#), [fountains](#), [Frank Faxon](#), [Humane Society](#)

July 27, 1907

TO DEDICATE A FOUNTAIN.

Special Program Arranged for Sunday Afternoon at 4 o'Clock.

The dedication services of the National Humane alliance fountain at the corner of Minnesota avenue and Fourth street, at the end of the inter-city viaduct, will be held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. A special program has been arranged for the occasion as follows:

Invocation, Rev. Father Kuhls.

Dedication address, Hon. J. W. Perkins.

Reception address, Mayor D. E. Cornell.

"Women of City and Cause of Temperance," D. F. Stephens.

"Reception for Dogs," F. S. Glasscock.

"Reception for Birds," William B. Sutton, Jr.

"Reception for Horses," Rev. John Bamford.

Remarks by Chairman E. R. Weeks.

FOUNTAIN DEDICATED.

The Ensign fountain at the west approach of the inter-city viaduct, which was placed in position some months ago was formally dedicated on Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The fountain was a gift to the city from the National Humane Society and was purchased from the Ensign fund. It is of New England granite, cost \$1,000 and is a fine specimen of artistic workmanship.

Mayor D. E. Cornell presided over the ceremonies. Rev. Father Kuhls pronounced the invocation. Homer Reid gave a very interesting account of the Ensign fund. E. R. Weeks made the presentation speech and Mayor Cornell in a few appropriate and chosen words accepted it on behalf of the city. Mrs. D. S. Stephens accepted on behalf of the Womans' Federated clubs. Dr. Glasscock on behalf of the canine race. Rev. John Bamford of the Western Highland Presbyterian church, on behalf of the thirty-seven horses that had quenched their thirst at the fountain since the exercises opened, and all the rest of the horses in the two cities. W. B. Sutton on behalf of the feathered songsters.

The exercises were brief, occupying fifty-five minutes, as well as interesting and instructive. The attendance was rather small, showing an utter lack of public spirit and civic pride on the part of our citizens.