

**TO TURN WATER INTO
FOUNTAIN THIS WEEK**

**Gift of Humane Alliance Soc
in Use at 7th Street and
4th Avenue.**

SKETCH OF HERMON ENSIG

**Founded National Humane Alliance
Which is Devoting His Money to
Welfare of Animals.**

Seventh street near Fourth avenue
has been selected by the city council
as the site for the drinking fountain
which was presented to the city
by the National Humane Alliance
through the good offices of Rufus W.
Walker, sr. The work of installing the
fountain is already well under way
and present prospects are that it will
be in operation by Thursday of this
week. The site is an excellent one
being reached from five ways and
convenient to heavily traveled streets.

Through the activity of Mr. Walker
the fountain was presented to the
city by the National Humane Alliance
which was founded by Hermon Le
Ensign, a former resident of Davenport
and later of Denver. Mr. Ensign
was born in Cantonville, Pa., on June
20, 1849. At an early age he moved
with his parents to Sheffield, Ill.
When 15 years old he acquired a
knowledge of telegraphing, and soon
after that he went to Davenport, Ia.
and later to Denver.

Studied for the Ministry.

He was reared under religious in-
fluences, was a member of the Con-
gregational church, and when twenty
years old decided to become a minis-
ter. With that object, he entered
Phillips academy. His health or
chances 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 ren-
dered important service to this com-
pany by saving from the office valu-
able books.

A few years later he became the
manager of a brilliantly written
paper called the Alliance, a weekly
journal, mainly religious and widely
humanitarian. His experience as
journalist he turned to practical ac-
count by later engaging in the adver-
tising business, following it with
marked success, and acquiring a for-
tune in twenty years.

Fertile in fancy and quick in ex-
periment, he devised a new form of
newspaper advertising, known as
headline reading advertising. He also
invented the stereotype plate with
removable base.

In 1882 he moved to Rochester and
two years later to New York, where
he lived until his death in 1905.

Loved Domestic Animals.

Without advantage of birth or for-
tune, living the life of a quiet Ameri-
can citizen and dying before he was
50, he had founded out a notable
life. To his business and general
friends, he was known as a genial and
compassionate man, successful in his
affairs, light hearted and satisfied
with life. His more intimate friends
knew that he had other interests and
feelings, which represented the deep-
er 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 provoker—man. It
became more than a sentiment—it be-
came a passion, growing upon him
and at last dominating his life.

To him animals were not merely in-
feriors or slaves, they were compan-
ions and friends, devoting themselves
to man and dependent upon him for
their lives and happiness. The ethics
of the relations with lower animals
have seldom had more practical and
forceful expression than from this hu-
mane man. He was an ardent dis-
ciple of Henry Bergh, and felt that if
he could leave behind him such a
record as did Mr. Bergh, he would re-
gard it as the best monument that he
could desire.

Left Fortune For the Work.

He accordingly founded the Nation-
al 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 start-
ed he died. He left his fortune for
this work and the society is adminis-
tering the trust of Mr. Ensign on the
lines of his ideas, for humane work,
educating children in kindness to ani-
mals and other similar work.

The Humane Alliance has offices at
No. 121 United Charities Building,
New York city. The officers are:
Harrison Gray Flake, president; Fred-
erick B. Tildeman, vice-president;
Lewis M. Seaver, secretary and treas-
urer.

Moline, Il Turns Water On 1907-07-16

Clipped By:



johnwalshderby
Thu, Jul 30, 2020

Old Moline Fountain To Regain Its Youth

By GUS KONDOS

Restoration of a water fountain, originally donated to the City of Moline for use by "horses and dogs," is a 1967 project of a Chamber of Commerce Committee.

The fountain, embossed with three lion's heads, was removed from a jungle of undergrowth at Prospect Park and installed in a triangular patch of property between Fifth and Sixth Avenues near the west entrance to Riverside Park.

The Chamber Community Beautification and Improvement Committee has launched a drive for funds to complete the project and according to a spokesman about "50 per cent has been raised."

Presence of the fountain in the southwest corner of Prospect Park was uncovered by Mayor James F. Arndt.

Action Begins

Arndt informed Ralph Birks, superintendent of parks and recreation and action was begun to restore the fountain.

Birks said the fountain was donated to the city by an H.L. Ensign a "lover of horses and dogs." Ensign gave similar fountains to other cities, including Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The fountain carries an inscription showing the year 1906 as its dedication.

"For many years," Birks said, "It was a focal point in Prospect Park activities"

During the depression years

of the 1930s, interest waned at Prospect Park and the fountain "practically disappeared in heavy undergrowth and trees," Birks said.

In Old Square

Before the fountain was moved to Prospect Park it stood for a number of years in old Market Square located on Third Avenue and Seven-

teenth Street. Third Avenue, in early Moline history, was the hub of downtown shopping and activities.

Birks said the restoration has cost about \$1,000 to date. He said when completed, the fountain will be "illuminated with colored lights and a spout will shoot water into the air."



By Gus Kondos.

Water fountain once forgotten and hidden by underbrush in Prospect Park, Moline, will be given a new place of prominence near the west entrance to Riverside Park as a 1967 project of a Chamber of Commerce committee.

Moline restoration 1967

Clipped By:



derbyct

Sun, Nov 10, 2019



Photos: John Greenwood

Above: The Friends of Riverside Park Gardens, who operate the greenhouse and tend the park gardens on a volunteer basis, will rededicate a historic fountain they worked to reset and reinstall all summer. Diane Wolf, president of the Friends, and Tom Greene and Nancy McKinnon, among many other volunteers, donated countless hours to get the fountain operating again. The fountain weighs 4 tons, is made from Maine granite, was donated to Moline by the Humane Alliance with funds bestowed by Hermon Lee Ensign. The fountain will be re-dedicated at 2 p.m. Oct. 9. The event is open to the public.

Right: Three lions heads, made of cast brass, spew a continuous flow of water.

Moline fountain flows again

By Dawn Neuses
dneuses@qconline.com

MOLINE — A 4-ton fountain given to the city 105 years ago is working again because of efforts of the Friends of Riverside Park Gardens.

The fountain, one of 124 of its type known to exist, will be dedicated at a public ceremony 2 p.m. Oct. 9 at Riverside Park, 5th Avenue between 31st and 34th streets.

The fountain is located in the gardens west of the greenhouse and east of the pool.

"We are very happy," said Diane Wolf, president of Friends of Riverside Park Gardens. "This was just a dream a year ago, and here it is. This is just another piece of our efforts to turn this park into a showplace, a place all people can come and enjoy."

The fountain was presented to the city in 1906 by the National Humane Alliance, an organization of Hermon Lee Ensign, said Tom Greene,



a Friends volunteer and the researcher of the fountain.

Hermon Lee Ensign was devoted to the welfare of animals. When he died in 1899, Mr. Ensign left an endowment to the National Humane Alliance for animal welfare, Mr. Greene said.



The fountains, which were on pedestals, allowed people to drink fresh city water spurting from lion heads; large animals could drink water from the basins; and from the pedestals below, small animals were able to drink.

The Humane Alliance used the endowment to donate fountains to be installed in open air markets. The fountains, which were on pedestals, allowed people to drink fresh city water spurting from lion heads; large animals could drink water from the basins; and from the pedestals below, small animals were able to drink, Mr. Greene said.

Moline applied to receive a fountain, made of Maine granite, and was awarded one. Mr. Greene, a retired city employee, said he was told it was installed in a public market on 17th Street. It was later moved to 5th Av-

enue, then when traffic patterns changed, it was moved in 1996 to Riverside Park.

Mr. Greene said the fountain worked well in Riverside Park at first but stopped working in 1998.

A year ago, the Friends allocated \$3,000 and volunteered their labor this summer to build a circular cobblestone base to surround the fountain and installed all new mechanics that will survive Midwestern winters.

Mr. Greene said he has never seen the pedestal to the fountain, but as it sits today, the fountain still weighs approximately four tons and makes quite an impression.

Parking for the dedication ceremony is available in the Riverside Aquatic Center lot off 5th Avenue, in the greenhouse lot at 5th Avenue and 34th Street, or in the park shelter lot, past the greenhouse off 34th Street.

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to win a share
of \$1,000,000?
Start voting.

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U.S. Cellular Calling All Communities program.

Education is facing lots of challenges. So we're giving the school with

Moline Fountain rededications 1911

Clipped By:



derbyct

Sun, Nov 10, 2019



FountainContributed photoThis granite fountain came to Moline in 1906 as a donation from the National Humane Alliance, which gave fountains to communities that had an open-air market where people, small animals and horses or mules would require water.

Restoration of the Riverside Park Fountain

Contributed photo
[The Quad-City Times](#)

Friends of Riverside Park Gardens

This granite fountain came to Moline in 1906 as a donation from the National Humane Alliance, which gave fountains to communities that had an open-air market where people, small animals and horses or mules would require water.

The fountain originally sat in the old Market Square, 17th Street and River Drive, now a parking lot for the Caxton Block.

The fountain has been moved twice, and somewhere along the way it lost its original pedestal. It was moved to its current location in 1996 and stopped working two years later. Over time, the lion heads were removed and the bowl was filled with soil to become a flower planter.

A year ago, the Friends of Riverside Park Gardens allocated \$3,000 to install all new mechanicals and volunteered the labor to build a circular cobblestone base.

The Moline Park Board donated the bricks and replaced the lion heads with versions made of brass instead of lead. The cast was made using one of the original lion heads, with the work done at the Rock Island Arsenal.

The fountain is one of 124 of its kind still known to exist throughout the country.

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Moline fountain flows again

Moline fountain flows againBy Dawn Neuses, dneuses@qconline.com
[Quad-Cities Online](#) | Saturday, October 1, 2011 8:10 pm

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