

Traffic Engineer Hopes To Rejuvenate Fountain

By PHIL NORMAN

Hopes for rejuvenating the 50-year-old fountain and horse trough on Market Street were revealed Thursday by Acting Traffic Engineer Everett McIntire.

McIntire said he will recommend that the Safety Board allow the marble fixture to remain where it is unless it would interfere with new highway construction.

The traffic chief said he had not found out whether the old trough would be in the way if the expressway is extended eastward.

THE FIXTURE, near the old market house at the intersection of First Avenue with Market and Pennsylvania Streets has been called a hazard to vehicular traffic.

After checking the situation, McIntire said he thinks a removable asphalt "island" should be built around the one-time oasis for thirsty carriage horses.

He said he may even recommend that the fountain, which has been turned off for at least 12 years, be turned on again.

The fountain was donated to the National Humane Alliance in 1910 by the late Adolph Mel-

zer, soap manufacturer, inventor, and animal lover.

MELZER, who recorded the voices of friends on early phonograph records that he fashioned from soap, was a friend of Thomas A. Edison.

When Melzer died 36 years ago, he left \$1,000 in National City Bank to draw 4 per cent interest semi-annually until the year 2162. The \$19,956,400.13 that will have accumulated is to be given to the City, and a portion of it is to be spent for dumb animals.

Melzer's fountain has been offered a new home by Al Keerl, who is building a wildlife refuge on his property at 6901 Happe Road.

THE VANDERBURGH County Humane Society, which grew out of the old Humane Alliance, has told Keerl it has no objections to his taking the fountain. Merton Smith, president of the society, said Thursday night, however, that "if the City could put it in a park, it would probably be better."

McIntire said he talked to Mayor Frank McDonald and the Mayor agreed the fountain and horse trough should be maintained as a public fixture. The Mayor was out of town Thursday and could not be reached for comment.

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