

Hidden on East Garden

Old Pensacola Water Fountain May Become Traffic Island Soon

By PAT BURGESS

An old watering fountain for horses, once located in the hub of the city at Garden and Palafox, now sits unobtrusively in East Garden Street parkway a few feet from Thrasyma St.

In its hey-day, the fountain had bronze lions' heads on three sides and was topped by a large round light bulb of the street-lamp variety. The granite basin was kept full and fresh with ever-flowing water from the lions' mouths. The lions' heads have long since vacated their stately positions and the only trace left of them are three bare black holes.

The fourth side, still intact, holds the only clue to the origin of the fountain. On this side is a plaque which reads "1908 presented by the National Humane Alliance, Hermon Lee Emmons, founder."

Many phone calls to civic leaders and discussions with old timers produced only the barest facts concerning the fountain. All recall that when the watering trough was on the east side of Garden and Palafox, where the bus loading island is now located. They also remember that it was moved at the time Palafox Street was re-laid and placed at its present location.

Queries about the organization, the Humane Alliance, which presented the fountain to the city were answered with "I think it was..." or "I don't know." One old timer thought he recalled the group and named several women, all now deceased, who were leaders. As he remembered, the organization had interests much like the Humane Society. The belief that this alliance was a forerunner of the present day Humane Society was shattered.

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upon calling the director of the local humane organization.

What was the National Humane Alliance? Who were the members of the group? Was the fountain placed in the heart of the city without ceremony? These questions remain unanswered and the fountain apparently wishing to have some memorials all its own tells only the pertinent facts.

But like many movie stars, who after many years in seclusion begin to shine again, the old watering fountain will make a "comeback." Plans were made by the City Council last year to have the monument cleaned, restored to its original appearance, and placed again in the intersection of Garden and Palafox as a traffic island.

Waf, Wac Recruits To Be Sought Here

Cpl. Gladys L. Bennett, recruiter for the Women's Army Corps and Women in the Air Force, will be in the postoffice from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 18, to interview and accept applicants for these two branches of service.

Qualifications are the same for both corps. Applicant must be a citizen, possess a high school diploma, be single and between 18 and 25.

Both services, after completion of basic training, give the service women a chance to train in any one of the 40 specific technical career fields.

Qualified applicants for the Wacs received their basic training at Fort Lee, Va., while Wafs are flown to Lackland AFB, San Antonio, Tex., for their base.




1908 LIME LIGHT TO OBSCURITY—(Upper photo) The old watering fountain for horses now sitting in an obscure place on East Garden Street was once in the center of activity on Garden and Palafox. Here a lucky Pensacola horse in 1908, gets a drink of water from the ornate, flowing trough while his master waits patiently. (Photo from the historical collection of T. T. Wentworth Jr.) Jerry Wilson, standing, and Jerry Fowler, sitting, (lower photo) look into the rain and trash filled basin of the fountain in its present location. It no longer has flowing water, the bronze lions' heads or round light bulb, but side weather-beaten and unattended except for hurried drivers who scrape the paint off their cars when they try to go through the narrow driveway on East Garden Street where the fountain now sits. —(News-Journal photo by Burgess)

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