

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1909

FINE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN TO BE GIVEN THE CITY

GIFT COMES THROUGH LOCAL HUMANE SOCIETY.

Fountain Will Cost About \$1,000—Expense to City Only for Foundation and Drayage.

Gift is Made Possible Through the Herman Lee Ensign Fund—Memorial Will Be Centrally Located.

Lewis Mead Seaver, secretary and treasurer of the National Humane Alliance, New York City, stopped in Cedar Rapids yesterday in consult with Councilman Huston with reference to placing a memorial fountain in this city. Mr. Seaver, accompanied by Councilmen Huston and Sherman, visited all points in the city where such a fountain could be located to good advantage, and last evening a further conference with Mr. Seaver was had at the Montross hotel by Mr. Huston and Mrs. Dr. Richardson, president of the local humane society. The result of this conference was that Mr. Seaver will recommend a fountain for this city, notwithstanding the fact that Iowa already has more than her proportion of them," as Mr. Seaver puts it, and at Mr. Huston's request it will come to the local humane society and by its president turned over to the city formally. This fountain, which will cost \$1,000 to manufacture and is made of the finest Vermont granite, will be delivered, f. o. b. cars, at Cedar Rapids, freight paid, and the only expense to the city will be foundation and drayage. Mr. Seaver remarked that Mr. Huston was for some two or three years past a most persistent and tireless worker to secure one of these fountains and he felt that where so much interest was manifest he felt it his duty to come to Cedar Rapids and make a personal investigation. He expressed himself as delighted with Cedar Rapids and would put it on the list for future visits.

The fountain will be centrally located and will be so constructed as to carry an electric light and will be a monument of beauty as well as service.

In this connection it will be of interest to readers to know how it came about that such fountains are being placed throughout the principal cities in the Union, there being from one to five fountains in thirty-seven states already. This history is as follows: Mr. Herman Lee Ensign of New York City was a great lover of animals. He died at the age of 48 and having no immediate relatives he made his former business partner, Mr. Lewis Mead Seaver, Mr. Frank, husband of Miss Madeline Plake the actress, and Mr. Thomas, all of New York, executors of his estate, the income and principal of which was to be used in humane work. After many suggestions as to how the estate could be distributed to get the best results some one realizing the great lack of drinking places for beasts in particular suggested the idea of memorial fountains and it has proved a most happy idea, and the great use made of them is shown in a daily print recently received from Cleveland, Ohio, where a careful checking in ten hours showed that more than 7,000 horses were watered at the fountain in ten hours of the day.

In visiting the city Mr. Seaver said it would be impossible now to give Cedar Rapids two fountains, one for each side of the river, as requested by Mr. Huston, but the proposition of the public spirit of the latter in cheerfully agreeing as to the location selected as being the one place most easy of access on the part of draymen, hackmen and the riding public.

Mr. Seaver left at a late hour last night for Lincoln, Neb., where one of these fountains is now being put up.

Cedar Rapids 2

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Wed, Nov 6, 2019

THE GIFT TO CEDAR RAPIDS.

The announcement that Cedar Rapids is to be made a present of a fine public fountain, to cost the donors about one thousand dollars—and which announcement was made in The Gazette last evening—came as a surprise to the vast majority of the citizens of Cedar Rapids. It is needless to say, however, that it was an agreeable surprise.

The fountain comes as a gift to Cedar Rapids largely through the endeavors of Councilman Huston. It will come through the local Humane society, which is, of course, interested in providing adequate watering places for animals. The gift, as announced in The Gazette last night, is made possible through the humane generosity of the late Herman Lee Ensign of New York, who was deeply interested in humane society work.

The people of Cedar Rapids will be quick to thank all who were in any way instrumental in securing the gift for Cedar Rapids, as they will be thankful that such men as Herman Lee Ensign have lived.

Cedar rapids Fountain

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Wed, Nov 6, 2019

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1910.

PUBLIC FOUNTAIN MAY BE REMOVED

COUNCIL INDICATES IT IS TOO MUCH IN THE WAY.

Thirst Quencher at First Street and Second Avenue Donated by Wealthy Easterner is Declared to be Something of a Nuisance.

It looks as though the thirsty horses and dogs in Cedar Rapids will have to go somewhere else to quench their thirsts than at the big fountain which stands in the middle of the street at First street and Second avenue. It was indicated at the council meeting this morning that unless the fountain is fixed so it will not allow water to run all over the streets and freeze in the winter, that the monument to the memory of Herman Lee Ensign, a wealthy easterner, who donated the fountain to the city, would have to be removed.

Mr. Ensign, upon his death bequeathed his entire fortune to the care of dumb brutes and among other things provided that fountains for the use of animals be placed in prominent places in different cities in the United States. The fountain at First street and Second avenue was placed about a year ago and as it is in the center of the intersection of four thoroughfares, so that it is easily accessible from all sides, it has been a popular watering place. The fountain represents an outlay of about \$1,000 but the city was put to only a small expense to get it set up and in operation.

It was pointed out at the council meeting this morning that when the work of building the Third avenue bridge began next year that most of the street traffic would be thrown to First and Second avenues and that the fountain would interfere with traffic and cause congestion when teams were stopped there to be watered.

Another complaint was made regarding the plumbing, which was declared to be faulty, permitting the water to slop into the streets.

A communication was read from Lewis M. Seaver, of New York, secretary and treasurer of the National Humane Alliance, which has Mr. Ensign's bequests in charge, stating that he would be in Cedar Rapids Tuesday to consider the removal of the fountain. Mr. Seaver said in his letter that he was sure if Cedar Rapids didn't want it, that he would have no trouble of disposing of it as several other cities were desirous of obtaining such a decoration. Mr. Seaver wrote from Osage, Kan.

cedar Rapids nuisance

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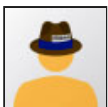
KEEP THE FOUNTAIN.

The administration would like to lose the Ensign fountain. And that it is not to the credit of the administration. The fountain should be kept. And the present location is "not so worse," after all. To be sure, it discommodes a few automobile drivers. But if they cannot stand a little of what is to them discomfort for the sake of the thousands of horses who have found the fountain a blessing, then The Gazette has a mistaken idea of the disposition of the auto drivers. If they can't stand a little annoyance at one street intersection in Cedar Rapids, The Gazette wonders what they would do if they were compelled to drive under the restrictions that are in force in many states and those which are in force in the downtown district in Chicago.

The Ensign fountain should be retained by Cedar Rapids—and in its present location, if that is the place where it will benefit the most horses. To permit the fountain to be taken from Cedar Rapids would be an act of retrogression. The council should refuse to stand for anything but progress.

Cedar rapids should keep the fountain

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Sun, Nov 10, 2019

SDAY, AUGUST 30, 1910.

CITY MAY LOSE STREET FOUNTAIN

CANNOT BE MOVED TO ANOTHER LOCATION.

Lewis M. Seaver Comes to Look Over the Situation and Says Many Towns Will be Glad of the Chance to Get It. Council Thinks It is in Teh Way.

If the city council insists upon the removal to a more obscure location of the animal drinking fountain at the intersection of Second avenue and First street, in all probability the National Humane Alliance, which donated the fountain to the city will pack it up and ship it elsewhere.

Such was the declaration of Lewis M. Seaver, secretary and treasurer of the alliance, who was in Cedar Rapids today to look into the matter.

The council believes that the fountain causes more or less inconvenience to traffic and that when operations begin next year on building the Third avenue bridge, which will throw most of the traffic to Second avenue, that the fountain will cause too much congestion while horses are being watered.

Plumbing is Faulty.

The fountain was accepted by the council in a resolution passed July 14, 1909, in which the city agreed to take the fountain from the car, place it on a foundation at Second avenue and First street, put in water connections and take permanent care of it. One of the principal objections raised by the council is that the fountain permits the water to overflow into the streets. This, Mr. Seaver declared upon an examination this morning, was due to faulty plumbing. He said the drop pipes never had been put in, which would do away with this difficulty.

Mr. Seaver came to Cedar Rapids from Osage City, Kan. He spent considerable time this morning interviewing different persons as to the value of the fountain to the city and every one questioned declared it would be too bad if the fountain is removed. Mr. Seaver had expected to see Percy Smith, head of the street department, but Mr. Smith was out of the city.

Many Towns Want Them.

The fountain was secured for Cedar Rapids through the efforts of Charles D. Huston, when Mr. Huston was superintendent of streets and public improvements. He learned that Herman Lee Ensign, a wealthy easterner, upon his death had left a large estate which had been devoted to the care of dumb animals. This money was held in trust by the National Humane Alliance, of which Harrison Grey Fiske, the noted dramatic producer is president; Frederick B. Tighman, vice president, and Mr. Seaver secretary and treasurer. Drinking fountains similar to the one in use here have been set up in 102 cities and this year sixteen more will be sent out from New York, making a total of 118. Applications have been received from sixty-six towns for the fountains, so Mr. Seaver thinks if Cedar Rapids is not content with its fountain that a place can be found for it without any trouble. He left at noon for New York city.

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