



Moline, Il Turns Water On 1907-07-16

Clipped By:



johnwalshderby Thu, Jul 30, 2020

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Old Moline Fountain To Regain Its Youth

By GUS KONDOS

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

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 Sitxh Avenues near the west entrance to Riverside Park.

The Chamber Community

The Chamber Community
Beautification and Improvement Committee has launched
a drive for funds to complete
the project and according to a
spokesman about "30 per cent
has been raised."
Presence of the fountain in
the southwest corner of Prospect Park was uncovered by
Mayor James F. Andt.
Action Begins
Arndt in 1 or m e d Ralph
Birks, superintendent of parks
and recreation and action was
begun to restore 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, lowa.
The fountain carries an inrelation. 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 a nd trees," Birks said.

Leenth Street. Third Avenue, in early Moline history, was the hub of downtown shopping and trees," Birks said the restoration

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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-

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."



Water fountain once forgotten and hidden by under-brush 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

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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

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

Moline fountain flows again

MOLINE — A 4-ton foun-tain 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 Riv-erside Park, 5th Avenue be-

tween 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
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this park into a showplace, a
lace all people can come and place all people can come and

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

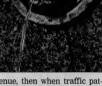


a Friends volunteer and the researcher of the fountain. Hermon Lee Ensign was devoted to the welfare of ani-mals. When he died in 1899, Mr. Ensign left an endowment to the National Humane Alliance for animal welfare, Mr. Greene said.

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.

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 heading and from 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-



terns changed, it was moved in 1996 to Riverside Park.

Mr. Greene said the foun-tain 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 cob-blestone 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 green-house lot at 5th Avenue and 34th Street, or in the park shelter lot, past the green-house off 34th Street.

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PauntainCentribuled photo This grantle fountain cerns to Mollos in 1904 as a denuition from the Nations Manuare Alliance, which gave fountains to communities that had an open-air market where people, ami animals and horses or makes would require water.

Restoration of the Riverside Park Fountain

Contributed photo The Quad-City Times

Priends 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 againBy Dawn Neuses, dneuses@qconline.comqconline.com Quad-Cities Online | Saturday, October 1, 2011 8:10 pm

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"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," she said.

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