

BUREAU OF PROPERTY CONTROL
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON

JOURNAL VOUCHER
FOUNTAINS, STATUES & MEMORIALS

DATE June 1, 1967

JOURNAL VOUCHER NO. _____

RECORD NO. _____ NAME David P. Thompson Fountain

ADDRESS Center of S.W. Main Street between S. W. Third & Fourth Avenues

CLASSIFICATION Fountain CODE _____

HOW ACQUIRED Donation WHEN ACQUIRED 11-29-1900 ORDINANCE NO. 11518

DONOR David P. Thompson

LOCATION NO. _____ LOCATION NAME Vacated portion of S.W. Main Street

DESCRIPTION: This fountain consists of an octagonal granite reservoir, approximately 25' in diameter, with four low-level animal troughs on the north, east, south, and west sides of the reservoir. This base is surmounted by a centrally located granite pedestal which supports the bronze figure of an elk.

There are eight water spouts in the form of animal heads which supply water to the animal troughs. Projecting from the north and south faces of the pedestal are two additional water spouts, also in the form of animal heads, which serve as a water supply to the reservoir.

The west face of the pedestal bears the following inscription:

"PRESENTED TO THE CITY OF PORTLAND
BY
DAVID P. THOMPSON
A.D 1900"

The architect and builder was H. G. Wright, and it is reported that Roland E. Perry was the sculptor.

HISTORICAL DATA In his letter of June 6, 1899, David P. Thompson stated that he was inspired by the Skidmore Fountain and its benefits to the City to offer to construct a fountain in the street between the two Plaza Blocks in front of the County Court House. His letter sets forth completely the conditions under which the fountain would be donated, especially the care of the street surrounding it, the supply of water to it, and the care of the fountain itself.

Mr. Thompson was a former Mayor of the City of Portland, and a founder of and several time President of the Oregon Humane Society. He stated "I have little care for a costly monument in Riverview Cemetery where I expect my ashes to be deposited when my body has been cremated and I want this work constructed where it will be of benefit to humanity and the dumb animals instead of it."

His letter was referred to the Committee on Streets which was instructed to meet with the Board of Public Works and the Water Committee on June 7, 1899 to take action on this matter. The select committee reported to the Common Council on June 8, 1899 with a recommendation to accept the fountain offered. The motion carried.

On March 7, 1900, Ordinance #11518 was passed which vacated a portion of the Plaza Blocks in the area around the site of the Thompson Fountain and specified the precise location of the fountain.

Mr. Thompson had estimated that the fountain would be completed on or before July 4, 1900, however it was not until September 5, 1900 that W. B. Chase, City Engineer, certified completion. Mr. Thompson formally presented the fountain to the city by his letter of November 29, 1900.

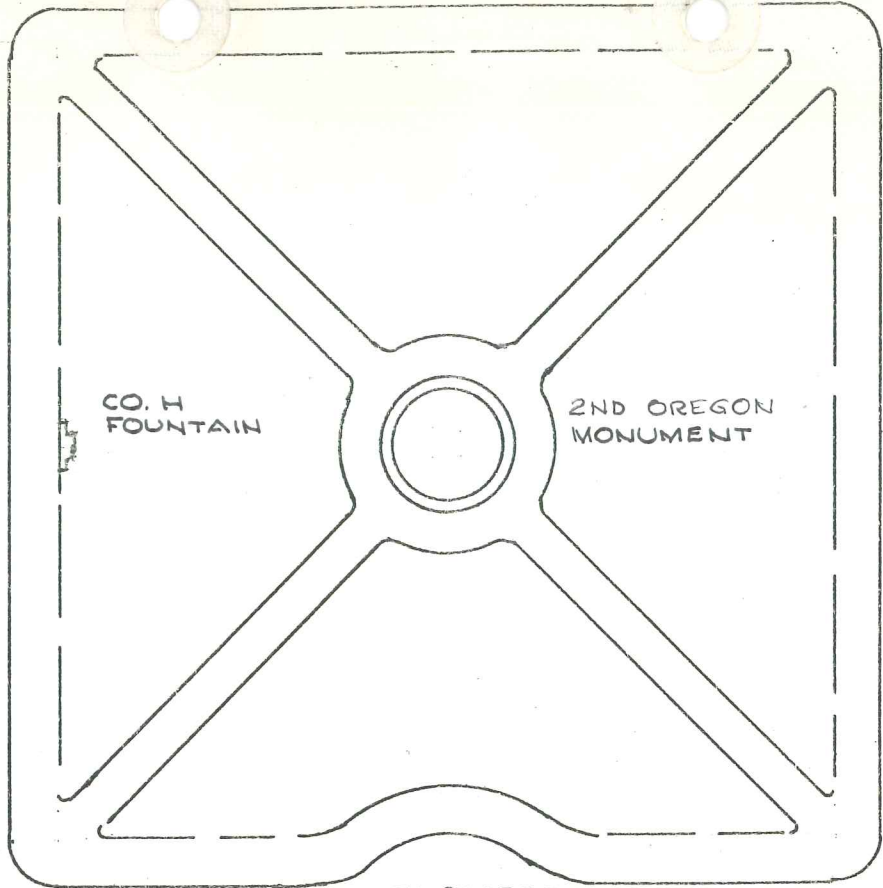
REMARKS

1. Research Sources: Ord. #11518
Council Minutes: Book 18, pp 424, 437, Book 19, pp 88.
Annual Reports of Officers for 1898-1901, pp 95 & 102.
Council Documents for 1899 & 1900

SW

SALMON ST.

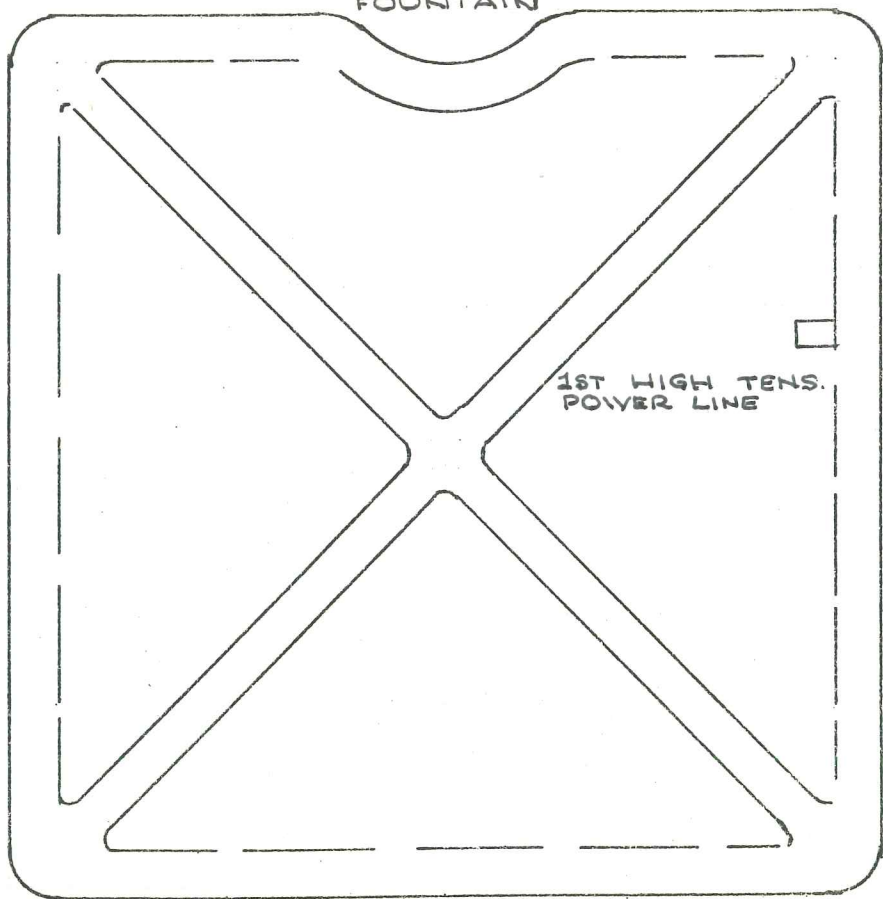
AVENUE



AVENUE

FOURTH

SW



SW THIRD

Ordinance No. 11518

An Ordinance providing for the vacating of a portion of the plaza blocks for the purpose of widening a part of Main street at a point where the Hon. D. P. Thompson fountain is to be located and to provide the place of location of the fountain.

The city of Portland does ordain as follows:

Section 1. The water fountain heretofore presented to the city of Portland by the Hon. D. P. Thompson and heretofore accepted by said city, shall be located in the center of Main street at a point equidistant from the center line of Third street and the center of Fourth street and said fountain shall cover the space in the center of said street circular in form and twenty-five feet in diameter. The roadway on each side of said fountain shall be 18 feet in width and the curve of the sidewalks about said fountain shall be laid with a radius of $30 \frac{1}{3}$ feet and the inside of said sidewalks to be on a curve with a radius of 42.5 feet.

Section 2. That there be and hereby is vacated so much of the plaza blocks and the same is hereby dedicated as a public street for sidewalks to be constructed on each side of Main street by said common council, a strip of ground on the north side of said fountain, which strip so vacated to be 104 feet long along the present lot line of both sides of ^{said} Main street and $12 \frac{1}{2}$ feet wide on the north and south of the center lines of said fountain and of said plaza blocks so to be dedicated, the ground on the north side of said Main street is described as follows: beginning at a point on the north side of Main street 48 feet west of the west line of Third street, thence with a curve to the right having a radius of 75 feet thence curving to the left with a radius of $42 \frac{1}{2}$ feet, thence curving to the right with a radius of 75 feet to a point in the north line of Main street, thence easterly along the north line of Main street 104 feet to the place of beginning. The land to be so

dedicated on the south side of said Main street is described as follows: Beginning at a point in the south line of Main street 48 feet west of the west line of Third street, thence curving to the left with a radius of 75 feet, thence curving to the right with a radius of 42 1/2 feet, thence curving to the left with a radius of 75 feet to a point in the south line of Main street, thence easterly along the south line of Main street 164 feet to the place of beginning.

and plan

That a map of that part of Main street so to be dedicated to the public and to be used for streets and sidewalks and of that part of the street to be used for said fountain is particularly described upon the map hereto attached and made a part of this ordinance, and hereby adopted by the common council of the city of Portland as the plan for the location of said fountain, the vacation of the streets and the dedication of that part of the plaza blocks on which the sidewalks are to be constructed and the street maintained around said fountain.

Passed the Common Council, March 7th 1900.

A. N. Gambell,

Auditor.

Approved, March 8, 1900.

W. A. Storey,

Mayer.

Revised
Ordinance No. 11518

Vacating and dedicating
portion of plaza block
for D.P. Thompson fountain

To the Mayor and common council, the Board
of Public Works and the Water committee of the
City of Portland -
Gentlemen -

From my office window, I have an oppor-
-tunity to see the great benefit "The Stramonium Foun-
-tain" is to Portland by furnishing water for the ^{domestic} ~~street~~
animals and birds, to quench their thirst, as well
as the great number of human beings who also drink
of the pure water which flows from this fountain -

Nothing has been done by any of our citizens
which has been of so much benefit to the animals
animals, and consequently to humanity, as
the construction of this fountain, from funds pro-
-vided by our late fellow citizen, Stephen Skidmore.

For many years past I have been an official of
"The Oregon Humane Society" and was for a time its
President - At the last annual election of Officers
of the Society, (and in the retirement of Dr. J. L. Elliot
who for seventeen years had so ably filled the office
but who asked to be relieved from further duties as
President,) I was again elected President -

I now make this proposition to your honorable
bodies. I will construct a fountain in the street
between the two "Plaza Blocks" in front of the County
Court House. I will construct it of Granite and
Bronze, to be ornamental in design - and on a
concrete foundation, the basin and steps as well
as the drinking trough to be of Granite, the centre

and ornamental parts to be constructed of Granite
and Bronze. The plans for the same to be agreed upon
by us jointly. I will put in all pipes through the
Granite and Bronze work and the concrete formation.

The street around the fountain to be maintained in
good condition by the proper committee of the City-
Government - The water committee to make all
necessary connections with the city water mains,
and to furnish free of charge the water for the fountain
and to keep the fountain clean after it is completed
and accepted by the proper committees.

(This has not been done as it should ~~be~~ be in the
case of "The Stranmore Fountain" for I have often seen
Mr. H. D. Searborn a friend of Mr. Stranmore directing
the cleaning of it when the city was neglecting it
and when it needs cleaning badly.)

It is my purpose to make this fountain useful
as well as ornamental. A Monument to "The
Oregon Humane Society"

I have little care for a costly monument in River
View Cemetery where I expect my ashes to be deposited
when my body ^{has been cremated} and I want this work constructed
where it will be of benefit to ~~the~~ humanity and the animal
animals instead of it.

This work to be completed on or before July 4th A.D. 1900

The Inscription on it to be "Presented to the city of
Portland by David P. Thompson A.D. 1900" -

Respectfully Submitted

David P. Thompson -

June 6th 1899 -

Commemorative
from D. P. Thompson
presenting to the City
a Marble Monument



James C. [unclear]
Stevens

Will. A. Jones 6/18/90
W. H. [unclear]
By [unclear]
Secretary

Portland, Dec. 15, 1900. 189

To the Honorable Mayor and Common Council
of the City of Portland

Gentlemen:

Your Committee on Streets to whom was referred the annexed communication from Hon. D. P. Thompson relative to the Thompson Fountain

having had the same under consideration, respectfully recommends that

said communication be placed on file.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. Nichols
P. B. Holbrook
R. L. Garrison

Committee on Streets.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON STREETS

-ON-

Communication from Hon.

D. P. Thompson relative to

the "David P. Thompson

Fountain".

Filed Dec. 15, 1900. 189

Thos. C. Perkins
Auditor.

By *S. G. ...*
Deputy.

DEC 19 1900

adopted

Portland Nov 29. 1900—

The Honorable Mayor and Common Council
of the City of Portland—
Gentlemen

Some months ago I made a proposition
to your honorable body that I would erect
a Fountain for drinking purposes for man
beast in Main Street between 3rd and 4th Streets
between the "Playa Blocks". Plans of the Fountain
were submitted to you - and the same was
approved by your honorable body. The
right to erect the same was granted - The
work has now been completed as is shown
by the approval of W. B. Chase City Engineer
as follows - "Portland Sept 5. 1900.

To the Honorable David P. Thompson.

This certifies that the Fountain known as
"The David Thompson Fountain" constructed
of Granite and Bronze and situated
in Main Street between Third and Fourth
Streets in the City of Portland - is completed ac-
cording to the designs furnished by the
Architect W. H. Wright, the specifications
approved by the City Council, as prepared
by the City Engineer.

Signed - W B Chase

City Engineer -

Portland Oregon

Much care has been bestowed by the City Engineer -

on this work in Superintending the construction
of the same - and it is believed by those confident
to judge of such work, to be as strong and durable
as it can be made, and should be as lasting
(with little care.) as the City of Portland - Which
credit is due to Mr. H. H. Wright Architect and
Builder of it -

The Fire Commission asked permission to place
a water pipe to connect with the basin so as to
be used by the fire department to be used in case
of a fire in the neighborhood. which request
was granted and the pipe placed in position.
I now place this work complete. ^{in the hands} of your Hon-
-orable body - and I only ask that you arrange
with "the Water Committee" the Board of Public
works" or the Portland Fire Department to keep
the same clear - and that an ordinance
be passed by you for the protection of the fountain

I am very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
D. F. Thompson

Commencement
from

John W. B. P. [unclear]

file

DEC 5- 1900

Ref'd to [unclear]

Miss [unclear] 1900

Franklin [unclear]

By [unclear]
[unclear]

Cornelius O'Donovan
433 Worcester Building,
Portland, Oregon

January 18, 1936

The City Council
Portland.

Gentlemen:

The Stag Statue located on the artery leading from the Public Market to the Courthouse and Federal Building, obstructing Main Street, referred to in my letter to the Council of January 11th, is a hazard to traffic and time, being liable to cause accidents anytime, especially at night in foggy weather, which may result in costly lawsuits against the City- who have provided no lights at this place.

This fountain on the street has outlived its usefulness as a water trough blocking traffic.

The Stag will look more beautiful, to be surrounded by grass and foliage, by moving it without being dismantled to the fountain site in the South Plaza block, and be an attraction under the shade of ^{the} trees of Oregon forest.

The cost of this Improvement can be acquired from W.P.A. funds, now being used for such like purpose on the State.

Yours Truly

Cornelius O'Donovan

Cornelius O'Donovan
433 Worcester building,
Portland, Oregon

January 11, 1936

The City Council
Portland.

Gentlemen:

While the City is planning new streets, and have taken the
bottlenecks out of others as at Broadway and Burnside streets, the
obstruction on Main street-within two blocks of the city hall should
not be forgotten, being a detriment to property ^{near} the civic centre
and should be removed.

A better setting for this fossilized stag (obstructing Main Street)
would be in a city park under the trees having natural surroundings
for the visitors to admire.

Attention, Mr. J.E. Bennett,
Commissioner of Parks.

Cornelius O'Donovan

520

JAN 13 1936

201

250
JAN 22 1936

PLACED ON FILE

Communication from
Cornelius O'Donovan,
requesting removal of
drinking fountain obstructing
S.W. Main Street between
S.W. 3rd and S.W. 4th Avenues.

Filed JAN 23 1936

W. Frank

City of Portland

Cornelius O'Donovan
453 Westover Building,
Portland, Oregon

January 11, 1936

The City Council
Portland,

While the City is planning new streets and have taken the

main street within the blocks of the city will remain

of Park under the trees having

to be

Commissioner of Parks.

Portland, Oregon, August 25, 1936

ouncil,

Commissioner:-

Since beauty is our objective, as exemplified by the redecorated and renovated City Hall, citizens of Portland are insisting upon the removal of that Laplander Stag (alias elk), standing defiantly athwart Main Street traffic in the thoroughfare-bisecting Lownsdale Square.

In size it is colossal, and in effect (when beheld suddenly) frightful, dangerous; little children seeing it for the first time, timidly ask their parents, "Oh-h, mother, what is that? will it bite?"

The general public demand the removal of this eye-sore to a site of safety, somewhere within the Park, clear of traffic and the thoroughway pedestrian; as the City Council recently ordered, or else, let me be permitted to make good my previous offer to paint this gargoyle quadruped a brilliant white, wearing about its neck a warning flag by day and a danger signal at night.

Beauty requires this improvement (as a PWA project), and safety-first demands it; especially being a hideous eye-sore, and be a public benefit.

It howls for elimination, and while yet we have Uncle Sam's assistance in dolling up the town. Apply the pressure of mass demand, so that Commissioner Ralph C. Clyde, in charge of the Lights, shall be compelled to obey the mandate of the City Council.

Cornelius O'Donovan
Cornelius O'Donovan
433 Worcester Building, City.

The City Council,

Commissioner.

Since beauty is an objective, as exemplified by the redecorated and renovated City Hall, citizens of Portland are interested in the removal of that Lapidus statue (also elk) standing delinently at Main Street traffic in the thoroughfare-district towards a quiet

Communication from Cornelius O'Donovan requesting removal of Elk Statue on S.W. Main Street, between S.W. Third and Fourth Avenues.

SEP 3 - 1936
REFERRED TO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

4359

AUG 25 1936

Bill Jones
W. P. Frank

to give the wants of the City Council.
Commissioner Ralph C. Clyde, in charge of the lights, shall be compelled to follow up the town. Apply the pressure of mass demand, so that it leads for elimination, and while yet we have Uncle Sam's assistance regards it; especially being a hideous eye-sore, and no a public benefit. as this improvement (as a PWA project), and safety first

Cornelius O'Donovan
Cornelius O'Donovan
433 Worcester Building, City

CITY OF PORTLAND

OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

J. E. BENNETT, COMMISSIONER

July 27, 1937.

To the Council:

Herewith Calendar 4359, being communication in re removal of Elk Statue on S.W. Main between S.W. 3rd and 4th Aves., with recommendation that the matter be placed on file.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Bennett
Commissioner of Public Affairs.

CITY OF PORTLAND
OREGON

J. F. BRINNETT, COMMISSIONER



July 27, 1937

201

4200 AUG 4 - 1937

ADOPTED

Report of the Commissioner of Public Affairs in re Calendar 4359 in re removal of Elk Statue on S.W. Main between S.W. 3rd & 4th Aves, recommending that matter be placed on file.

[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]

JUL 27 1937

Auditor of the City of Portland
By *[Signature]*
Deputy

1125 S.W. Main Street,
Portland, Oregon. August 3, 1937.

Mayor and Council,
Portland, Oregon

Gentlemen:- Remonstrance to No 4266 of the Calendar heard
by the City Council on Wednesday August 4, 1937.

The Council is tardy leaving an obstruction
on SW Main between SW 3rd and 4th Avenue, with this elk
blockading the artery while the watering trough across
the place has long served its usefulness.

The stag should be lighted up at least, as
its a hazard to congestion, if not immediately moved into
the park, as the city is now interested in those matters
for safety of traffic, while this will be a public benefit.

Among the properties is a block adjacent here
the state is offered for use, as an Office building.
Hope the matter will be given due consideration.

John Larson

Removal of drinking
water trough on SW Main
between 3rd & 4th Aves.
John Larson representing
Communication from

RECEIVED IN
COMMUNICATIONS OF PUBLIC HEARING
AUG 17 1937

AUG 10 1937

Handwritten scribbles

102

4452

Communication from
John Larson requesting
removal of drinking
fountain on SW Main St.
between 3rd & 4th Aves.

AUG 1 1 1937

REFERRED TO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

John Larson

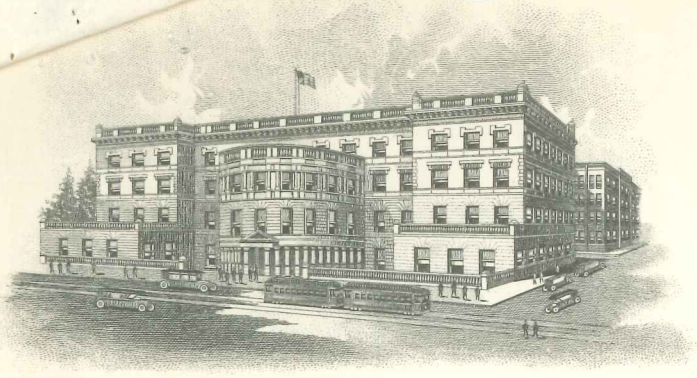
AUG 4-1937

John Larson

John Larson

...the matter will be given the consideration
...the office of the Commissioner of Public Affairs.
...the properties in a block adjacent here
...of public utility and the public health.
...the city is now interested in those matters
...to construction it was immediately moved into
...the city would be required to be made as
...the city has long desired the improvement.
...the city and the property owner.
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...of the city and the property owner.



CITY OF PORTLAND

OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

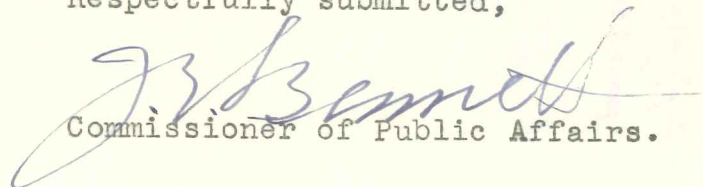
J. E. BENNETT, COMMISSIONER

August 11, 1937.

To the Council:

Herewith Calendar 4452, being communication in re removal of drinking fountain on S.W. Main Street, between 3rd and 4th Aves., recommending that the communication be placed on file, inasmuch as there are no funds available for the purpose mentioned and since there is no emergency which would warrant the appropriation of funds for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,


Commissioner of Public Affairs.

201

4599

AUG 1 8 1937

ADOPTED

Report of the Commissioner of Public Affairs in re Calendar 4452, being communication in re removal of drinking fountain on S.W.Main St., bet. 3rd & 4th Aves., recommending communication be placed on file.

AUG 12 1937

[Signature]

Commissioner of the City of Portland

[Signature]
Deputy

CITY OF PORTLAND
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
(NOT FOR MAILING)

OFFICE COPY
BUREAU OF PROPERTY CONTROL

November 16, 1973

From Bureau of Financial Affairs
Property Control Division
To Commissioner Francis J. Ivancie
Addressed to Mrs. Pat Bell, Commissioner's Assistant
Subject Relocating David P. Thompson Fountain

Dear Pat:

In response to your inquiry--it was the intent of the donor, David P. Thompson, in donating the fountain to the City of Portland that it be located in the center of S. W. Main Street between S. W. 3rd and 4th Avenues.

Confirming ordinance attached.

K. M. Hammon
Finance Officer

By: Donald W. Eckton
Property Control Officer

DWE:pm

Attach-Ord. 11518
March, 1900

cy: Mr. Hal Johnson, Director
Office of Management Services

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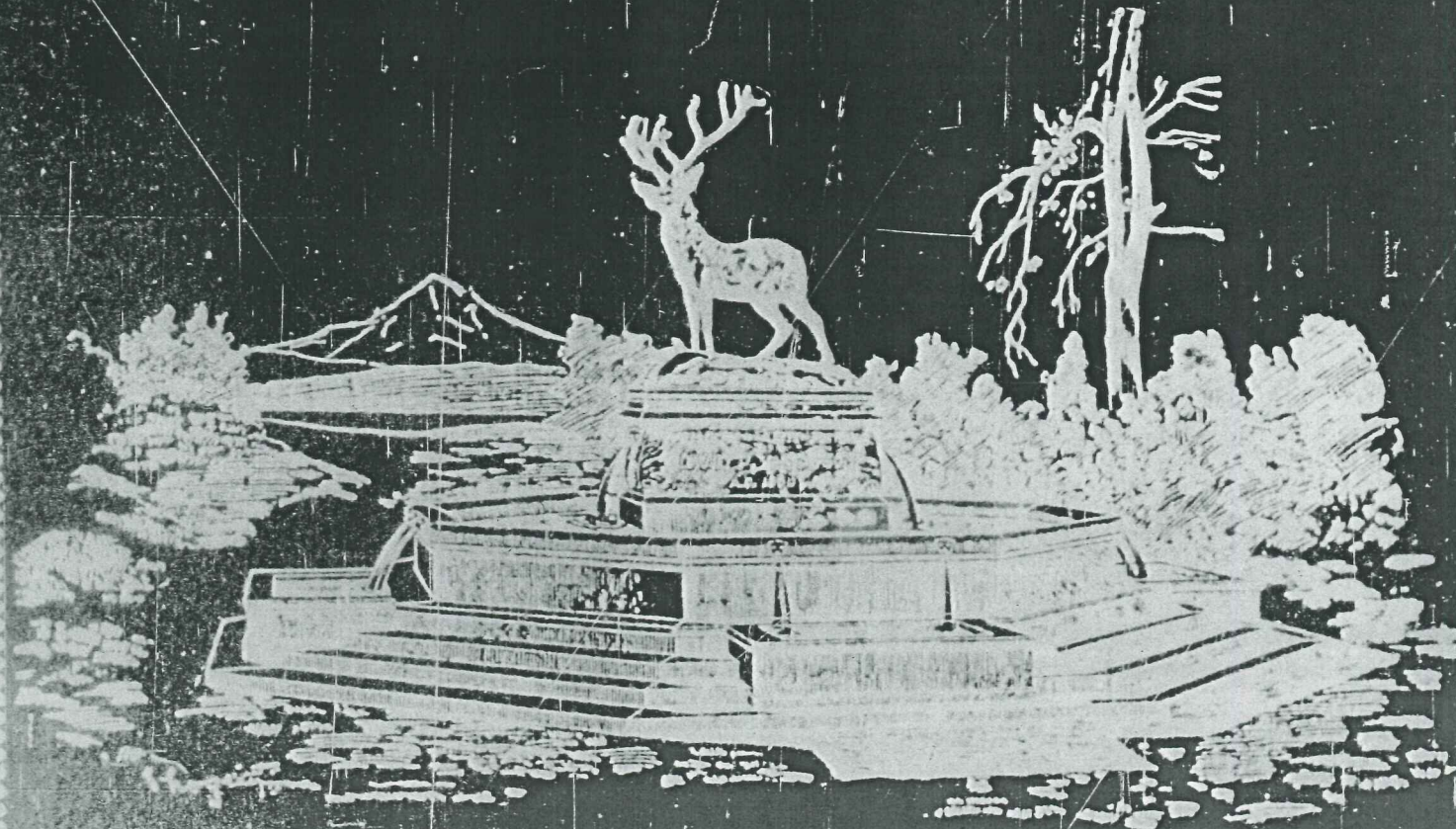
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in San Francisco. Cost of gathering and
shipping the bark is \$10 a ton, leaving the
shipper \$5 a ton net. Lumber shipments

and warehouses adjoining make a good
impression. This yard is a sort of court,

tarred rope. But one's fingers are likely
to be cut in trying to break one of the

D. P. THOMPSON'S GIFT TO PORTLAND



The Thompson Fountain, which is a gift to the city of Portland from Hon. D. P. Thompson, will be completed in time to be dedicated on July 4, 1900. The contract price of the fountain is \$30,000, the contract being held by H. G. Wright, of this city. It is being built in the East, of granite, and the work is well under way, the granite being all quarried. The elk surmounting the fountain is to be of the finest bronze. The diameter of the fountain at its base is 25 feet. The height from the base to the feet of the elk, is 8 feet, and to the top of the elk's antlers, 11 feet. Mr. Wright, who holds the contract, designed the fountain.

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