

Dr. Cogswell Gave Fountain

A crusade for temperance in the 80s left a memento in this city.

Located on the northwest corner of the City Hall block is an ornamented fountain which was erected by a San Franciscan doctor interested in the cause of temperance.

Dr. Henry D. Cogswell, after whom the fountain is named, made his offer to the city at a meeting of the Board of Aldermen on Aug. 13, 1884.

The then Mayor Read read the following to the board:

"Conditions are that the city officers pass resolution to receive the same and send (Him) a certified copy. Set it up as per plan. Also, so far as it is practicable, bind successors to maintain same in good order in perpetuity."

Although the fountain was to be an outright gift, certain stipulations were set up by the temperance leader:

"Adopt and pay the cost of an ornamental lantern (\$50) which is to surmount this and keep same lighted whenever lights are required in the city.

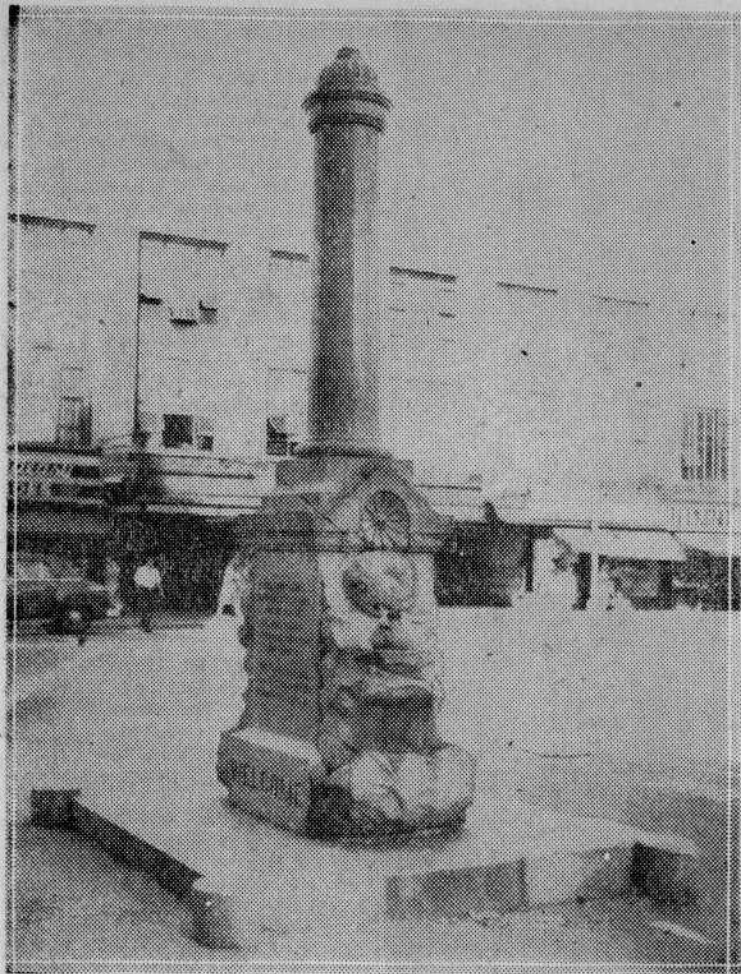
Use donor's plan for refrigerating water (which is also donated). Also to supply quantity of ice requisite to warm seasons.

"If conditions are accepted, to immediately make foundations and erect same within thirty days from this date (Ed note—Aug. 13, 1884)."

Much discussion followed among the townspeople as to the unspecified site of the fountain. Many preferred the southeast corner of the block which was later found to be Cogswell's preference.

The fountain was first set into use on Oct. 4, 1884. It has flowed for the most part ever since. It did stop flowing at a recent indeterminate date, but the Fall River Improvement Society set the wheels rolling that resumed operations there in July of last year.

At the same time, a cooling system was installed to do away with the old system of ice cooling. In the years immediately following the erection, the fountain was cooled by placing ice in a metal box surrounding the coils through which the water flowed.



—Herald News Photo
TEMPERANCE IS ITS AIM: The drinking fountain on the northwest corner of the City Hall block, was erected in 1884 by a Dr. Henry D. Cogswell of San Francisco to promote his crusade for temperance.