
Hampshire County Historical Society

1993

Newsletter

Second Quarter

FOUNTAIN RESTORATION MAKING GREAT PROGRESS



Great progress is being made with the restoration of the fountain on the west side of Cooper Mountain by the Hampshire County Historic Society. The fountain was constructed around 1938 with the old Northwestern Turnpike bordering on the rear while the front faced Rt. 50. In the thirties, fountains were necessary for the dual purpose of providing water for cars that overheated easily, as well as for beauty and refreshment for tourists.

West Virginia State Road Commission records indicate the water rights from a spring 400 feet south of the area were conveyed to the Commission by F.M. and Salome McCormick in March, 1938. This spring fed the fountain by gravity through a pipe that ran under Rt. 50.

The fountain and walls were built by Mr. Hubert Keister under the supervision of his father, W.W. Keister.

Because the fountain area was abandoned in 1952 due to unsafe drinking water, forty years of undergrowth, dirt and debris had accumulated when Society members started the restoration. All of this has been cleared away to give a clear view of the stone walls and fountain. Although the years have taken their toll on the structure, it is in relatively good shape.

Mr. Bill Unger, who owns William Unger Construction Company in Capon Bridge, has volunteered his labor to repair the stone work at no charge to the Historic Society. Mr. Unger and his wife, June, work from their home on Cooper Mountain and have lived in the area for about 8 years. Mrs. Unger says that Bill takes a lot of pride in his work and enjoys being creative.

Mr. Ronnie Wolfe, who now owns the fountain property, has given the Historic Society permission to restore it and has also hauled away brush from the site. Mr. Arlie Davis and Mr. John Province voluntarily cut away the trees and undergrowth. We appreciate the help these men have given.

Plans are underway to landscape the area with flowers and shrubbery to create a setting the fountain would have had when it was built 55 years ago.