

After Ensign died, Minnie Fiske and her husband, Harrison, became officers of the Humane Alliance and were in charge when fountains were distributed from Maine to California.

Jackson was evidently the only city in Michigan to receive an Ensign Fountain, although surrounding states had several. City government, urged on by the Town Improvement Society, accepted the free gift in 1907.

The fountain stood for decades near the old post office on Otsego Avenue, where untold numbers of horses took refreshment during labors around the city. The fountain was eventually removed and stored in pieces at Hillcrest Memorial Park cemetery.

Many people know modern-day philanthropist Betty Dahlem Desbiens was largely responsible for restoring the fountain and having it placed in Blackman Park 11 years ago.

Few people, however, know about the advertising man and actress who gave it to Jackson in the first place.

Here's hoping city leaders do all they can to maximize the new appearance of that historic little park with a granite centerpiece.

The Ensign Fountain sits in Jackson's Blackman Park. (Brad Flory/MLive.com)

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