

Two Dogs Got Their Tails 'Pulled'

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Rtd.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Col. Pearson is a native of Miami County and 31 years ago was chairman of the City Commission, of Middletown. His first volume, "Enroute to the Redoubt," tells the story of the seizure of \$500,000,000 of art looted by Hitler and Goering; the capture of Dr. Ernest Kaltenbrunner, one of the 12 tried at Nurnberg; and the arrest of the late Norman Baillie-Stewart, once known only as the "Officer in the Tower," probably the only man twice tried for, and convicted of treason.

Almost everyone who has travelled the old "Dixie Highway," remembers the large iron dog, that has stood on the corner of the "Dixie," and the Evanston Rd. (southwest of Tipp) for about half a century.

Recently Judge William E. Kessler, of Troy, Court of Common Pleas, reported a duplicate "dog," in Monroe, Mich.

Both dogs have made the news:

The dog, near Tipp got into the news, when a man from Houston, Texas, tried to buy it for his collection of metal animals. Oliver James McGraw, 6576 S. C. Rd., Rt. 25, Tipp City, the present owner, refused to sell.

The 94-year-old dog, near Tipp, the size of a small pony, was made in Port Huron, Mich., by Van Eli Crane, Miami County native, to place on the grave of his son, in Tipp City.

Mrs. Hartman Kinney, local historian, interviewed the late E.L. Crane, banker, of Tipp., for an article for the centennial issue of the Tipp Herald, in 1969.

The large metal dog, was on a hill, overlooking the train tracks, and the conductor knew the story, and answered questions of passengers, until the Associated Press got the story.

The well-known Crane family, moved the dog to their 1,000 acre farm, "Arcadia," south of Tipp, to stop the publicity, presumably. The wife of Dr. Adkins, of Troy, daughter of Mrs. Richard (Anne Crane) Sherwood, now of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., said her mother had told her many times of how she sat on the dog. (and so did many others!)

When we visited the gravesite, we found that whoever moved the dog, had a bit of sentiment. . .they replaced it with a small stone dog.

Then we traced the descendants of Van Eli Crane, in Port Huron, where Stuart John Crane still lives. There is another story about the molding of hands for the statue of an angel, which

stands on the grave of Jean F. (Mallery) Crane. The molding was done with a pair of French gloves, still in the shape of the lady's hands.

"I saw a duplicate of the dog, when I drove through: Monroe, Mich., last summer," was my greeting, from Judge Kessler last summer. He didn't have to explain.

So we secured a copy of an article about "Rex," the dog that stands in front of a factory, in Monroe, Mich. The headline: "Familiar Landmark in Monroe Object of Senseless vandalism," causes many calls.

It seems that someone had broken the tail off the large metal dog, on which many had sat as a child. It was taken

inside to be repaired.

Roy Macy, whose place of business, is across the street from the former home, of the man who bought the Tipp dog, when the farm was sold, added this story. (Next door to "Bill" Clingan's house was "Jim McClure's plumbing shop.)

Roy said: "One day the auditor came to go over Jim's Books. He said: 'What the H... is this?' It was an item for \$5.00 for soldering tail on a dog.

The Mich., dog was made in Batavia, N.Y., and was standing in front of an Ohio "mansion," which was being demolished, when it was purchased by the then president of Monroe Steel Castings Co.



STILL ON GUARD—The large iron dog so-familiar to travelers on the old Dixie Highway, southwest of Tipp City, still

stands, but in a more secluded environment today. (Mike Pearson Photo).