

ON THE TRAIL OF AN IRON DOG

Editor, The Times Herald:

A 91-year-old, cast metal dog, the size of a pony, made in Port Huron, has been the subject of numerous news accounts, over the years. It is known to many who travel 25-A, near Tipp City, Ohio, where it has attracted attention since 1918.

Originally, as told by Mr. E. L. Crane, one-time Tipp banker, to Mrs. Hartman (Grace) Kinney, Tipp historian, the dog was cast in a Port Huron foundry. She is a Texan!

Van E. Crane, an uncle of E. L. Crane, moved to Port Huron, and the foundry business in 1879. He cast a large metal dog, presumably in the exact image of one that grieved for his young master, who died at that time. (A son of Van E. Crane.)

He took the dog to Tipp and placed it, on his son's grave, at a high point, of the old section, of the Maple Hill cemetery, where it could be seen by passengers, travelling on the nearby tracks of the then much-used train.

People asked the conductor about the dog. He knew the story and told it — with a bigger buildup, on each trip, when he found his passengers enjoyed his account. People were impressed, they sent money for a shelter for the dog, for food, and wrote to bemoan the fate of a faithful animal who stood over his master's grave, day and night, winter and summer.

Finally the story attracted so much attention that the Associated Press, broadcast it across the nation. This, in the form of a clipping, from San Francisco, must have convinced the well-to-do Crane family, that the publicity had gone far enough. They moved the dog, about 1913, to Acacia Place, their 1,000 acre farm.

However, there is still a small stone dog, near the Crane cemetery lot, which may have been placed there by some sympathetic relative.

Later when the 1,000 acre farm was sold to the Miami Conservancy, some items, including the dog, were sold. W. E. Clingan purchased the famous dog, and placed him in front of the house, at a place called Evanston, Ohio, where for 52 years he has again attracted much attention - the dog is known to all who have ever been residents of the area, and many others, who only travelled by the place.

The latest was Jack Farr, of Houston, Texas, who saw the dog, interviewed people, called the then owner of the farm. He is writing a book which will tell the

stories of similar iron dogs and other objects of this kind, which he has seen in various places in the U.S.

He plans a museum, some day in Houston, near the astrodome. His story, was published, after his son, then manager of a restaurant at the Dayton airport, told him of seeing the dog, which daily attracts the attention of passing motorists.

The point of this story, the writer is an ancestor hunter, and he is interested in hearing from anyone connected with the Van E. Crane line, of Port Huron, or wherever.

The only survivor of the Dr. Wm. W. Crane, line, a brother of Van E. Crane, is Mrs. Richard L. Sherwood, of Troy, Ohio. She knew Van E., as uncle "Van," and says there were some children, besides the one, whose dog grieved his death.

Anyone with data is encouraged to write to 2218 Alta Vista Ave., Austin, Texas, where a former Miami Co., Ohio resident, still writes a column, "Your Family and Mine," started in Tipp City, O., in 1938.

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(U.S.A. Ret.)

Austin, Tex.

BERRY'S



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"I suppose you want to know what
is all about"