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BIG SPRING LION

by

MARNIE GALLOWAY

Did you know that a lion used to live in Big Spring Park? For many years, this cast iron lion lounged in the park while children played on him. No one knows exactly when he first appeared, but some people remember him from the turn of the century.

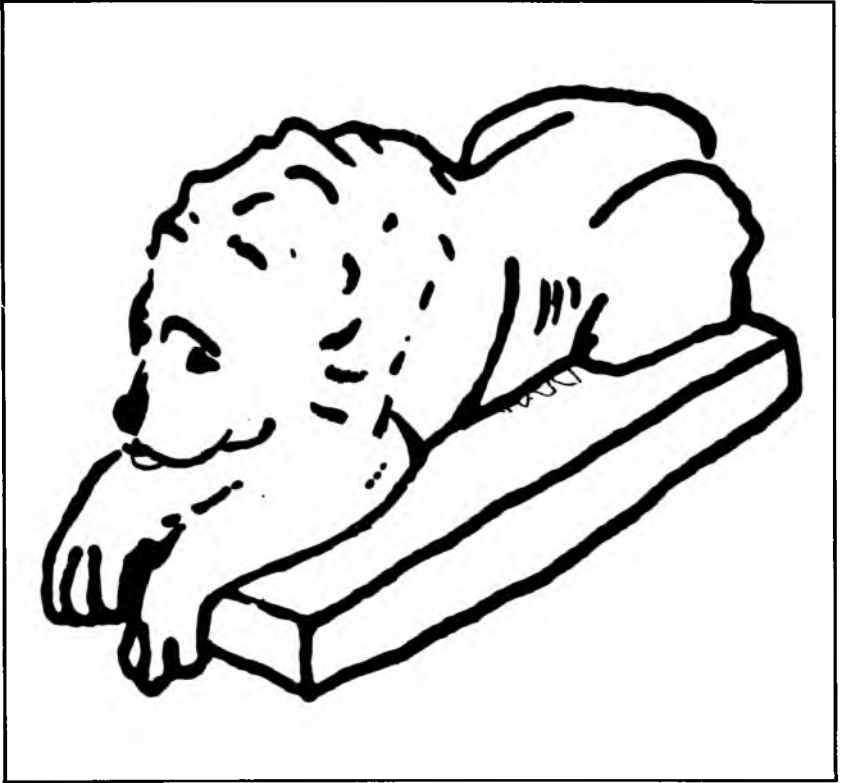
Five years ago, he was recovered from the spring where someone had thrown him. I visited him in the shed of the City Greenhouse, where he lay among boxes, rusty weed eaters, and other discarded items. He is about one foot tall and three feet long and is in a reclining position.

He looked very sad, even though pictures show he was once gold and proud. Now he is whitish-gray, with many rust spots on him from the water.

But after he is sandblasted clean, we will see him again in Big Spring Park. He will lie on two slabs of limestone, designed by the people in the office of Mark Seeley, the city engineer. They have to find a way to protect him from people who might skateboard over him or try to throw him back in the water.

This lion is a landmark or a tradition. With all the new stuff at Big Spring, it will be good to have some old things that will tie the past to the present.

Marnie Galloway is ten years old and will be in the fifth grade at Chapman Elementary. She loves to draw, climb trees, and write poems.



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