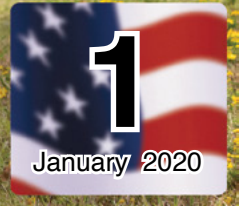


The Meter Setter



Meet Vessel: The First Water Leak Detection Canine in the US

On November 19, 2019, Central Arkansas Water (CAW) introduced Vessel, the first water leak detection canine in the US. Vessel is specially trained to detect chlorine in treated water. When a water main cracks or breaks, chlorine gas from the escaping water rises to the surface, and this is what Vessel detects. Since starting her new job, she has had 100% accuracy in detecting leaks. Vessel's skills have helped CAW teams better pinpoint leaks, thus reducing digging and saving money. According to Doug Shackelford, CAW Director of Communications and Public Affairs, "A recent example was a leak that we knew existed and sent a crew to repair. When we took Vessel to the site, she actually triggered on another location near the spot where we thought the leak was. Our crew dug Vessel's mark instead of the expected mark, and actually found a substantial leak with only one dig." It's no wonder the team calls her a Rockstar!

Vessel's life started out very differently and could have been a tragic one. She was rescued off the streets and entered the Arkansas Paws in Prison training program. After a short time, trainers recognized her potential as a service dog, and she entered advanced training. Through word-of-mouth, she was eventually chosen for training as a leak detection dog.

On a typical day, Vessel and her handler, Stephen Sullivan, verify suspected leaks in the system. Or, she may identify leaks in the utility's easements. She will also help with CAW's satellite leak detection studies. Sometimes even advanced technological programs need a little help from man's best friend.

Since introducing Vessel, CAW has received numerous requests from other utilities for more information about this program. According to Shackelford, "I suspect this will be a tool that becomes more of an industry standard in the coming months and years. Plus, a dog like Vessel puts a positive face on the work utilities are doing every day to provide safe, dependable drinking water to their communities."



Vessel is a rescued 2-year-old black lab mix



Vessel and her handler, Stephen Sullivan

Information courtesy of CAW and NRW's Rural Water Wire. For more information, follow CAW Detective Dog on Facebook or Instagram.











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Mississinewa
Oil on canvas by Barbara Hickie

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The Remarkable Hamilton Sisters



The story of Edith Hamilton and Alice Hamilton, sisters who grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has all but fallen from view. Edith, born in 1867 while the family was living in Germany, became famous as an author and classicist whose books remain in print. Alice, who was born in New York City in 1869, cracked glass ceilings in medicine long before the term originated and was a pioneer in the field of occupational health.

Edith and Alice grew up in a world of wealth and privilege in Fort Wayne where the family moved in the 1870s, but their father insisted they have a good education so they could pursue rewarding careers.

“My father...wasn’t interested in making money, but he was interested in making people use their minds,” Edith said in an interview as she recalled her childhood. Her father guided her into a study of the classics, which she continued at Miss Porter’s Finishing School at Farmington, Connecticut, and, later, at Bryn Mawr. “I came to the Greeks early,” she said and noted that her father started her reading Greek when she was 10.

She earned two degrees at Bryn Mawr, and after additional study at the University of Munich, where she was the first female student, she became the founding headmistress at the Bryn Mawr School for Girls.

She wrote her most successful books in retirement. *The Greek Way* and *The Roman Way* cemented Edith’s reputation as a classicist. In 1957, when she was 90, Edith traveled to Greece to receive the Golden Cross of the Order of Benefaction, the country’s highest civilian award. At the same ceremony she became an honorary citizen of Athens.

Edith Hamilton died in 1963 at the age of 96.

Alice Hamilton’s interests led her to study medicine in an era when few women gained admission to medical schools. She graduated from the University of Michigan’s School of Medicine in 1893. She interned in Minneapolis and Boston before realizing that she did

not want to establish a practice. Instead, she turned to a career in public health.

Alice moved to Chicago to become a professor of pathology at Women’s Medical School at Northwestern University. She was attracted to social work, and joined Jane Addams at her already famous Hull House where she taught evening classes and made medical calls in the neighborhood. She lived at Hull House on Chicago’s Near West Side for 22 years.

Hull House was on Halstead Street in the city’s old 19th Ward. Tenements into which the ward’s poorest citizens were crammed surrounded Hull House, and Hamilton saw the unsanitary conditions in which they lived as she made her medical visits.

Chicago was caught up in America’s rapid industrialism when Hamilton lived at Hull House, and she was aware of the unsafe conditions under which many in the neighborhood had to work. She became a leading authority on occupational health and safety, and her work in the field led to new laws and regulations which improved those conditions.

In 1919, Harvard University named Alice as the school’s first female faculty member. She taught classes made up only of men, for Harvard was years away from admitting its first female student. As the only woman on the faculty, Hamilton could not join the Faculty Club. She could not march in the academic procession at ceremonies and could not even buy football tickets. And in 16 years the university never promoted her above the rank of assistant professor. A stipulation in her contract with Harvard allowed her to return to Hull House for a part of each year.

Throughout a long retirement, Alice Hamilton remained an activist for many social causes. She died in 1970 at the age of 101.

by Pete Jones

Please send questions or comments to Pete Jones at peteinwabash@comcast.net.