

Mrs. White Against Moving Monument to Her Husband

Official Announcement of Agreement Premature, Widow Discloses in Giving Her Views

Official announcement that everyone had agreed to moving the Hamilton S. White memorial to the opposite end of Fayette park appeared last night to be just a bit premature.

There was a general understanding at city hall yesterday that all parties immediately interested had been converted to the idea of removing the monument from its resting place of three decades to provide a site for the projected Columbus memorial.

Whereupon Mayor Marvin made announcement to that effect. But publication of the announcement brought out immediate repercussions.

The upshot of it was that last night the probability of the monument's being moved had become doubtful. And another site appeared to be likely for the Columbus monument.

New Site Favored

The other site appeared to be favored in some quarters—namely, the plaza which will be situated in front of the new New York Central station when Syracuse's long-cherished dream of elevation becomes a reality.

Capt. Clarence E. Howard, consultant of the planning commission, is credited with having suggested it to John W. Barnell, attorney who has been acting as spokesman for the Italian committee sponsoring the Columbus project.

Mrs. White, widow of Syracuse's much beloved fire chief, voiced her approval of such a site last night.

City hall officials appeared yesterday to be under the impression that Mrs. White had acceded to the proposal to move the monument to her husband.

She very definitely corrected that impression last night, after reading reports to that effect in the newspapers.

Heretofore Mrs. White has preferred to remain in the background during the discussion of the monument's removal. Last night, however, interviewed by The Post-Standard, she made plain her attitude.

Opposed to Moving Monument

"I am averse," she explained, "to entering into any controversy, but I am very much opposed to moving the memorial.

"It was given in a different way from most monuments. It was given

after my husband's death by the people old and young, rich and poor, regardless of race or creed.

"It was they who decided where they wished the monument to be placed, and out of respect to those who gave it, it seems to me the memorial should not be moved after all these years."

Mrs. White's statement brought to mind the circumstances of the monument's erection nearly 30 years ago.

Friends of the dead Syracusan recall it as a spontaneous tribute from all sections of the city. Most of the money came in small sums. School children raised \$600, giving their own money "because he was my friend."

Originally there was talk of placing the monument at the east end of the park, where it would face the former White home, now housing the Ka-Nah-Te-Nah club. But the givers preferred the west end of the park, because it was a more prominent location, facing as it did toward the heart of town.