

# Plymouth Rock resurfaces, journeys safely to city hall

By SUE WEBBER

The Plymouth Rock was pulled from Lake Independence last Saturday. It now appears that its frivolous existence may be over. In fact, it looks as though the 300-pound boulder is at last destined to serve a dignified, stately purpose after all.

Post readers who have been following this story may remember that after Plymouth resident Vern Peterson's rock won the 1976 Bicentennial contest in Plymouth, it lived in virtual obscurity in his back yard while awaiting its official summons to the newly-completed Plymouth City-Center.

However, soon after the 150-ton stadium rock was moved, with much public fanfare, to a bank's front yard in the Four Seasons Mall last March, Peterson's rock suddenly became the object of much attention. The Plymouth Lions, whose contest produced the rock, worried that their rock's name would be usurped by the "new" rock. No, no, reassured the Plymouth City Council; there would only be one Plymouth Rock in the heart and mind of the city.

THEN THE ROCK was stolen from Peterson's back yard. It reappeared in Easter bunny finery at the Medina Ballroom April 6 but was re-stolen within 30 minutes. Then, on the night of May 5, Peterson and two friends located

what they THOUGHT was the rock. The next morning, however, they had to admit that it was a case of mistaken identity, and the search continued until the miraculous discovery at the bottom of the lake last weekend.

After the rock was recovered last Saturday, Peterson promptly drove it to the Plymouth City Center himself. Fred Moore, Plymouth city engineer, was summoned from his home by Plymouth police, and he arrived at the city center to supervise the rock's incarceration in the receiving room. At Peterson's request, Moore also issued an official receipt for the rock, certifying that it is now indeed in the secure possession of the City of Plymouth.

What next? According to Moore, members of the city staff met with the Plymouth Lions last week to discuss the rock's permanent placement. Moore said that the Lions are expected to submit a drawing to the staff, detailing plans for mounting the rock in cement at a location in front of the City Center.

Lee Kochenderfer, past president of the Plymouth Lions, said that the official placement will occur Aug. 13, as part of the "Music in Plymouth" festivities.

Earlier plans for the rock to ride

on a float in the Aquatennial parade July 19 have been abandoned, according to Duane Margeson, public relations director for the Hennepin County Lions groups. He explained that the rock had been scheduled to occupy a float in the parade, but the unit was cancelled by Aquatennial officials when the rock began its multiple disappearing stunts.

"THE ROCK HADN'T been found, and we were right down to the brass knuckles on time," said Margeson. Now that the boulder is locked in Plymouth's City Center, he added, "no one will take the responsibility for moving it again."

Even the latest rock recovery came close to being botched, it seems. After it was discovered in Lake Independence last Friday night, hauled in and placed in Peterson's truck, the rock was discovered back in the lake again 20 minutes later. Peterson said he then posted a "guard" until he could retrieve the rock Saturday afternoon and take it to the City Center.

A number of mysteries remain unsolved, however. For example, where has the rock been since it made its brief appearance as an Easter bunny April 6? Why was the rock in Lake Independence? Who put it there, twice? We'll probably never know, will we?