



How the Otter Fountain Came to Winona



Once there was a woman who dreamed of being a great sculptor. She decided to enter a sculpture contest to fix up an old drinking fountain.



She submitted an otters design.

To her amazement, her idea of the otters won!!!



After gathering materials and studying about otters, she started to sculpt.



After many days they started taking shape.

In five weeks,
the sculpting
was finished.



Finally, it was
time to go to
the foundry.





At the foundry,
the sculpture was
cut into pieces
so the mold
pieces could be
made.

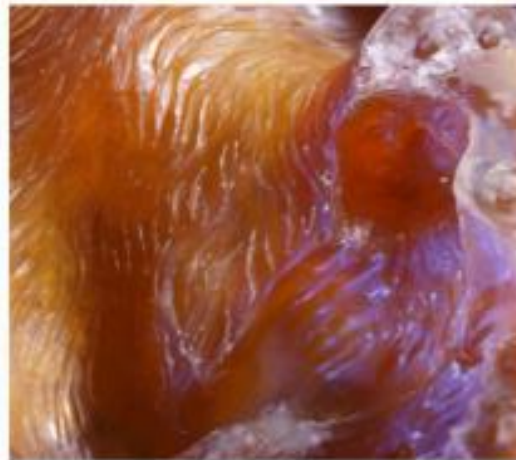




There were nine mold parts to the other sculpture.



All the details of the sculpture were captured in the rubber mold which was used to make a copy of the sculpture in wax.



Momma otter was good the whole time and her mold was very nice.



The foundry man named this otter Billy. Billy got into lots of trouble.



Molds are very messy!!!



Wax copies of the otters are made. Then another mold is made around the wax. That takes 7 more days!





The wax is burned out of the investment molds. When the molds are red hot they get molten bronze poured into them.



The bronze is melted in a very hot furnace and melts at 2100 degrees.



Impurities are skimmed off, then...



... the molten metal is poured into the hot molds.



When the metal cools, the molds are chipped off.



Sand blasting and chasing are done to clean them up after such an ordeal.



Reassembling the sculpture
takes some strong arms.



After more cleanup, the otters are ready for patination.



Heat and chemicals make the finished colors absorb into the metal and the finish is very durable, unless people rub it too much.





Almost ready for the trip to Winona.



This will be the otters'
new home.



Laying out the site takes
a lot of coordination, ...

... mental work, ...






... and muscle!



Beautiful work, Shad!!!
A great new home for the otters.





Last but not least, the plumbers arrive to hook up the fountains.



February, March, April, May, June and finally, by the 4th of July, it was operational. A dedication celebration was set for early August.









Let the celebration begin!!!





AND THE DREAM CAME TRUE!



