

Plans underway to erect memorial to Old Fella

By Diana Royal dianar@thetruecitizen.com

Just like the RVers who love his story, the money for his memorial keeps on rolling ... into the bank that is.

As of Tuesday morning, the memorial fund for Waynesboro's famous fourlegged canine had reached nearly \$1,000.

Old Fella, who died last month, is still touching the hearts of not just locals, but the readers of the RV forum where his story first began.

Waynesboro resident Richard Daniels misses the old black dog he rescued back in 2005 after one of his own RV trips was responsible for their first encounter. He wanted to do something special to remember his pal but never imagined the multitude of others who would want to help.

Efforts are now underway to erect a statue for Old Fella - and the fund to make it happen has reached \$984.

And people from the RV community are continuously chipping in.

According to Richard, a wellknown artist was commissioned by a doctor from Hammond, Ind., to paint an oil portrait of Old Fella. "I will be looking for a place to display the painting for the public to see until the

building or buildings (for an animal shelter/spay and neuter clinic) can be completed," he said, adding that the United Artist group has designated Old Fella Burke County Animal Rescue as one of its recipients to receive donations from the paintings they sell each year.

Highway Magazine, which has a readership of around two million, plans to print an article in September about the legacy of Old Fella.

"It's touching to know so many people remember Fella," Richard said softly while adding he and his wife, Sue, visited the campground where they found their cherished dog just this past weekend. "It brought back a lot of memories," he said.

The most important thing he says he has realized is that Old Fella's memory is still alive. "And it will continue to be alive as long as people remember," he said. "This memorial will not only be for him but will mean a lot to all of the rescue animals that are out there. It will serve as a constant reminder that efforts must still go on."

Anyone wishing to help with the cost of the memorial can send donations to:

Old Fella Memorial Fund
c/o First National Bank of
Waynesboro
Attention Elva Raines
P.O. Box 647
Waynesboro, GA 30830