

\$100,000 Armenian memorial dedicated on Saturday

By JOHN DALMAS
Staff Writer

Dedication and unveiling in Philadelphia of a massive bronze memorial to Armenian martyrs designed and executed by Khoren Der Harootian of Piermont will take place Saturday.

Commissioned by the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, the \$100,000 sculpture was recently completed in Piermont by Der Harootian, and consists of a 14-foot-high bronze statue of "Meher," a legendary sixth century A.D. Armenian hero. The statue is mounted atop a 7½-foot-high granite base containing four bronze pan-

els depicting scenes from Armenian history.

PERMANENTLY installed in a small triangular park adjacent to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the memorial will be dedicated Saturday to the one million Armenians slain in Turkey during the "Genocide of 1915." April 24 on the Armenian calendar is known as Armenian Martyrs Day and marks the first day of massacre that year.

In keeping with the Bicentennial, the memorial is being presented to the city of Philadelphia as a token of gratitude for 200 years of hospitality extended Armenian immigrants by the

United States. A plaque at the base of the memorial expresses this gratitude.

A noted sculptor, Der Harootian was born in 1909 in the village of Ashodavan in Turkish Armenia. As a boy of six he saw the Turks torture and kill many of his family, including his father, who was the village priest. Escaping into the hills with his mother, Der Harootian witnessed many other atrocities and the destruction of Armenian property before he eventually made his way to the U.S. He and his wife, Hermine, have lived in Piermont since 1950.

"MEHER" (pronounced ma-HAIR), Der Harootian said, is one of four genera-

tions of Christian Armenian heroes, beginning with Sannassar, Meher's father, and continuing with his son, David of Sasoun, and his grandson, known as "Young Meher."

"All four heroes had to deal with invasions of Armenia by neighboring peoples," Der Harootian said. "In Meher's case it was an invasion by Arabs, which he successfully repulsed. The heroes remained vivid in the minds of most Armenians, and whenever Armenia was invaded, every individual became like one of the heroes. That's how Armenia survived."

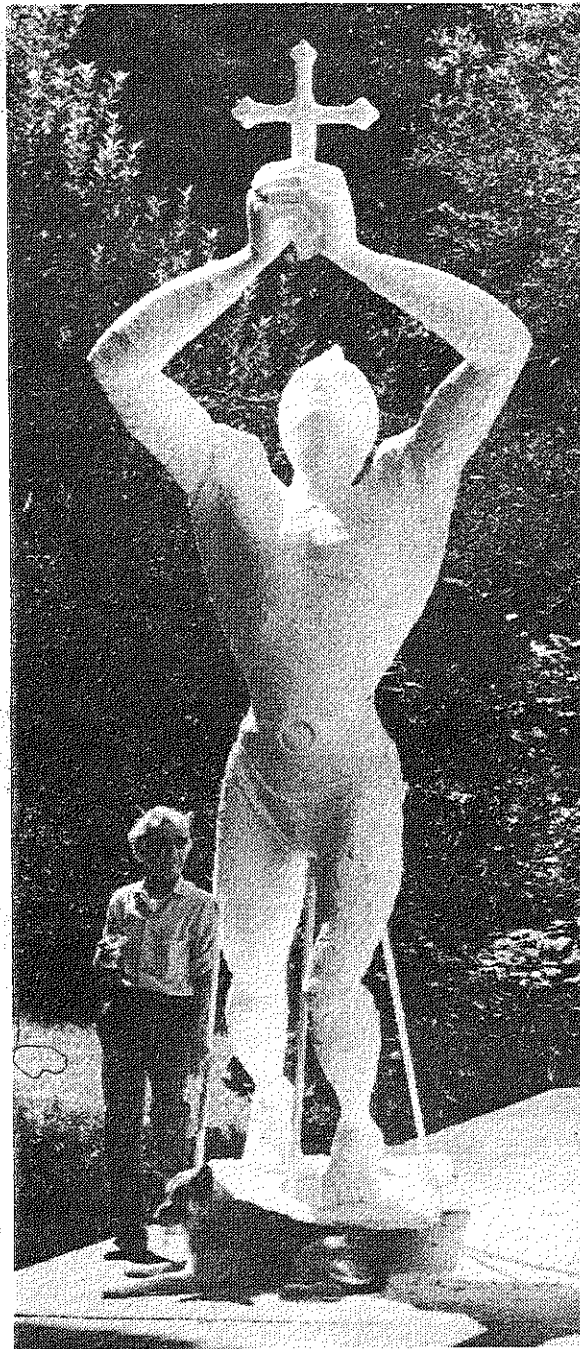
The titles of the four panels in the memorial, he said, are "The Battle of Avarair," showing St. Vartan fighting the Persians in 451 A.D.; "The Last Survivors"; "Protector of the Armenian Culture"; and "The Future."

DER HAROOTIAN, whose sculpture is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, has visited Soviet Armenia on three occasions, he said, the last time in 1971 at the invitation of the Soviet Committee for Cultural Relations with Armenians Abroad. The committee sponsored an exhibition of the sculptor's work that year in Erevan, the capital of Soviet Armenia.



Staff photos- Art Sarno

Memorial panel depicting Battle of Avarair, 451 A.D.



Khoren Der Harootian with plaster cast of Meher, legendary Armenian hero

Upper Darby Boss Dickey To Quit GOP 'War Board'

N.J. Chooses Nominees For Congress

Two state assemblymen and an Ocean City lawyer won Democratic congressional nominations in South Jersey in yesterday's primary elections and will face three Republican incumbents unopposed in the primary.

The Democratic victors were Camden Assemblyman James J. Florio in the 1st district, William J. Hughes, a lawyer from Ocean City, in the 2d district, and Burlington County Assemblyman Charles B. Yates of Edgewater Park in the 6th district.

Despite ideal weather, the turnout was reported to be

Brown's son wins California race. Story on Page 3.

very low throughout the state, especially in South Jersey, where only 10 percent of those eligible voted in some areas. Only one voter in seven showed up in Salem County.

The Races

Florio easily defeated two Democratic opponents, Walter C. Gebelein Jr. of Gloucester Township and Ms. Judith L. Holzer of Washington Township.

He will oppose GOP incumbent Rep. John E. Hunt, 65, of Pitman in the district that includes Gloucester County and part of Camden County.

Hughes finished on top in a field of six candidates, including Atlantic County Freeholder-Director Michael Matthews.

Hughes, a veteran campaigner, won a second shot at Republican incumbent Charles W. Sandman Jr., 52, of Erma Park, who narrowly beat him in 1970. The district includes Cape May, Cumberland, Atlantic and Salem counties and parts of Ocean and Burlington counties.

The Outlook

Yates also defeated five opponents, including Camden County Clerk Michael J. Keating of Haddon Township and Daniel J. Carluccio, a Toms River lawyer.

Yates will face incumbent Rep. Edwin B. Forsythe, 53, of Moorestown in a district which includes parts of Bur-

Late Sports

RACING

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ish Limerick 5.60



MODEL of "Young Mehert," a \$100,000 sculpture by Khoren Der Harootian, was commissioned by Armenian Americans for Philadelphia's Bicentennial. When completed in April of 1976, work will be 15 feet high and sit on a four foot base.

Armenians Give Phila. First Bicen Art Work

By NESSA FORMAN
Bulletin Art Critic

Armenian-Americans are presenting Philadelphia a \$100,000 sculpture for the Bicentennial year.

The work, by 65-year-old Armenian-born sculptor Khoren Der Harootian, was commissioned by the Armenian Bicentennial Commission.

tional backing, and the Philadelphia Chapter, Knights of Vartan, a service and fraternal organization.

Der Harootian's work will be a 15-foot-high bronze sculpture.

An 18-inch-high model shows "Young Mehert," a mythological Armenian-savior figure, holding a cross, symbolizing the Armenian people's survival through the centuries.

alive through the centuries.

Around the base, Der Harootian will sculpt four reliefs, each bound together by a religious theme.

Meet With Commission

The sculptor and members of the committee are meeting today with the Fairmount Park Commission at Belmont Mansion. The Commission

Factions Battle In Delaware Co.

By CAROL L. RITCH

Veteran Upper Darby political boss Samuel R. Dickey announced today he is quitting the Delaware County Republican Board of Supervisors (War Board), for decades the dominant force in Delaware County government and poli-

The War Board has been target of a series of investigative articles in The Bulletin during the last two months.

These articles have dealt with violations of election laws, abuses of political patronage, waste and lack of efficiency in county government and payoffs to political leaders.

Dickey's departure dramatizes a growing split on the board which finds the Upper Darby and Chester factions opposing the Ridley Township contingent represented by County Commissioner Nicholas F. Catania.

Citing irreconcilable differences with War Board policy, Dickey said he was getting out.

"I'm not in accord with Harry McNichol," he explained, "with what he said to the paper to the effect that Democrats are not admitted to Fair Acres (the county home for the aged). 'Entitled to Admission'

"I thought that was just terrible. It sounded asinine to me. If McNichol wants to give out a statement that he doesn't allow Democrats to get into Fair Acres, I'm not going to be a part of the War Board. Anybody is entitled to be admitted.

"I said this years ago. John McClure knew I felt that way, but that was years ago. In Upper Darby, to my knowledge, we never check political registration with respect to Fair Acres."

McNichol is chairman of both the county Board of Commissioners and the War Board. In a recent interview with The Bulletin, he acknowledged political affiliation is a factor governing admission to the county nursing home.

Dickey said he would not formally tender his resignation but would "just talk to our great leaders and say 'count me out. I'm not in accord with what you gentlemen are doing, so I will say goodbye.'"

Speculation on Eyre

There has been speculation that Chester Republican leader Joseph L. Eyre also will quit the War Board. The departures of Eyre and Dickey would leave two of the county's most populous areas un-



Samuel B. Dickey
"... count me out"

State Stores Raise Prices On 288 Items

By DAVID RUNKEL

Bulletin Harrisburg Bureau

Harrisburg — The price of 288 items in Pennsylvania state stores increased an average of 27 cents a bottle today.

But the prices of 12 imported wines declined.

The increases are due to higher costs by the distillers and distributors. Liquor Control Board Chairman Gene F. Roscioli said the vendors were required to submit sworn affidavits that the boosts were not the result of increased profit margins.

Increases on 63 other items were also approved by the board, but these increases will not go into effect until current inventories are depleted, Roscioli said.

Shapp's Ideas

With the latest increases, 1,706 items have gone up in price since the Shapp administration took control of the board 17 months ago. There are about 2,000 items sold at state stores.

Meanwhile, Governor Shapp announced his support for converting 100 state stores to self-service operations. He also said he favors several changes in the liquor laws, including one to allow pur-

The Daily Chuckle

The majority of us are proud of our freedom to say

