

**ALL THE NEWS
WORTH
REPORTING**

THE ARMENIAN REPORTER

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America's Leading Armenian Newspaper

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Mailing address: P. O. Box 488, Flushing, N.Y. 11355
Telephone: (212)445-2882

In Impressive Ceremonies, Armenians Mark Anniversary of the Martyrs with Unveiling and Dedication of Statue of Meher in Philadelphia



THE UNVEILING. Haik Kavookjian seen at far left soon after releasing the cord that brought down the curtain covering the magnificent statue of Meher, the Armenian legendary hero. Among the thousands who cheered this momentous occasion was Mayor Frank L. Rizzo of Philadelphia, far right. M. George Mooradian, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, center, is seen joining those who applauding the event.

Many Honored at Awards Presentation Banquet

By Edward K. Boghosian

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. - The nation's most extensive Bicentennial effort undertaken by any ethnic group on a purely voluntary basis took place here last Saturday noon, when an assembled crowd of close to two thousand people, including numerous Armenians from California, Boston, New York City, Washington, D.C. and other cities, witnessed the formal unveiling and dedication of the statue of the Armenian legendary hero, Meher.

As the enthusiastic crowd applauded loudly, Mr. Haik Kavookjian, the 101-year-old "Armenian Patriarch" of New York City, unveiled the impressive 22-foot-high bronze and granite monument which is located opposite the East Wing of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The site of the monument was in Fairmount Park.

And accepting the gift of the Armenian-American community to the United States on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of this country was Mayor Frank L. Rizzo, who with other high ranking city officials sat patiently on the reviewing platform throughout the one and a half hour long ceremonies, that included a keynote speech by Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, President of Bentley College of Waltham, Mass.

Sharing the platform with Mayor Rizzo, who is regarded as a close friend of the Armenians, were an array of distinguished Armenians from coast-to-coast, rarely assembled and seen together. Present to witness the unveiling were the noted movie director Rouben Mamoulian, philanthropist Stephen P. Mugar of Boston, restaurateur and

"patriot" George Mardikian of San Francisco, Calif., noted composer Richard Yardumian and numerous other luminaries.

The impressive unveiling ceremonies got under way around 1:00 p.m. under clear skies and warm sunshine; perfect weather for such an outdoor event. After introductory remarks by Mr. John Samelian, Chairman of the Statue Committee and M. George Mooradian Esq., chairman of the Armenian Bicentennial Commemoration Committee, Dr. G.H. Adamian delivered a powerful speech in which he drew a parallel between the legendary feats of Meher and the undaunted spirit of the Armenian people to survive numerous trials and tribulations of history. He said that on the anniversary of the Turkish Massacres of the Armenian people, it was extremely significant to witness the unveiling of a statue to be presented to the United States, a country that opened its doors to the survivors of the darkest days of the Armenian people.

(The full text of Dr. Adamian's speech will appear in next week's issue of the Armenian Reporter.)



A MEMORABLE MOMENT. Sculptor Khoren Der Harootian bowing his head in a moment of meditation soon after the unveiling of his Statue of Meher. To his right are Mr. and Mrs. Haik Kavookjian.

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In Impressive Ceremonies, Armenians Mark Anniversary of the Martyrs with Unveiling and Dedication of Statue of Meher in Philadelphia

Continued from page 1

The brief program also included prayers and scripture readings by Armenian clergymen serving in Philadelphia area churches.

The unveiling of the statue brought a loud response from the crowds and as the Philadelphia Police and Firemen's Band played a military march, guests and all rushed to see and admire the statue which with its arms stretched high in the air, stands as a symbol of the revival of the Armenian people.

"AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE" BANQUET

The high point of the weekend's festive celebrations came when close to 1,500 persons, seldom seen in such numbers at any Armenian affair anywhere in the country, attended a banquet at the Marriott Hotel in City Line held on Sunday evening. The huge crowd obviously in a festive mood, witnessed the honoring of a select group of prominent Armenian Americans. With the presence of such popular stars as television's popular Mike Connors - Krikor Ohanian in real life, and David Hedison, Hollywood's Rouben Mamoulian and many more prominent Armenians, the banquet assumed the atmosphere of a festival, with the presence of scores of teenagers and youth at times turning the affair into a boisterous event with popular guests of honor receiving loud cheers.

As 19 recipients out of a select group of 22 were called by Mr. M. George Mooradian, Chairman of the Bicentennial Committee, to receive the "Bicentennial Award for Excellence," which consists of a gold, silver and bronze medallion, each addressed the audience and in brief remarks expressed thanks for the honor and asserted their pride in belonging to the Armenian people over and over again.

A touching moment came when Mr. Emik A. Avakian, confined to a wheelchair for life as the victim of a childhood disease, addressed the gathering. With a noticeable speech impairment he expressed his feelings upon receiving the award in the field of science. Mr. Avakian, a noted scientist and the holder of scores of patents extensively used in the development of computer science, moved everyone present as he struggled to make himself understood.

By far the most popular person, especially appealing to the young, was Mike Connors, who, fresh from his recent appearance in a pilot film for a possible TV series, literally stole the show. Hollywood's famous Rouben Mamoulian, seldom seen at Armenian affairs and looking healthy and robust despite his age, addressed the audience in Armenian and then recalled his early years, when pressure was placed on him to change his name so that people would remember him more easily. "If I were to become great," he said, "people would learn how to pronounce my name."

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A HAPPY OCCASION. As the unveiling ceremonies come to an end, a group of prominent Armenians assemble for a picture with the Statue of Meher forming a backdrop. The group, from left to right are Dr. Gregory Adamian, sculptor Khoren Der Harootian, John Tokmajian, member of the Committee, Mrs. Edward Mardigian, Haik Kavookjian, Edward Mardigian, Sarkes Tarzian, George Mardikian, M. George Mooradian, Chairman of the Committee, Mayor Frank Rizzo in the background, Hirair Hovnanian, Rouben Mamoulian, Col. Ernest Dervishian, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, Mrs. H. Hovnanian, a lady guest, composer Richard Yardumian, David Hedison, Mrs. Yardumian, Mrs. Hedison, Kerop Arakelian. Seated in front is the noted inventor Emik A. Avakian.



ADDRESS BY MAYOR. Mayor Frank L. Rizzo of Philadelphia officially accepting the Statue of Meher on behalf of the whole country soon after its unveiling.



LARGE ATTENDANCE. An estimated 2,000 people were on hand at Fairmount Park to witness the auspicious occasion of the unveiling of the Statue of Meher. Many had journeyed from New York, Boston, Washington, Detroit and California to see the unveiling of the Statue, which now stands as a symbol of the loyalty and gratitude of the Armenians of the United States on the occasion of her 200th anniversary.



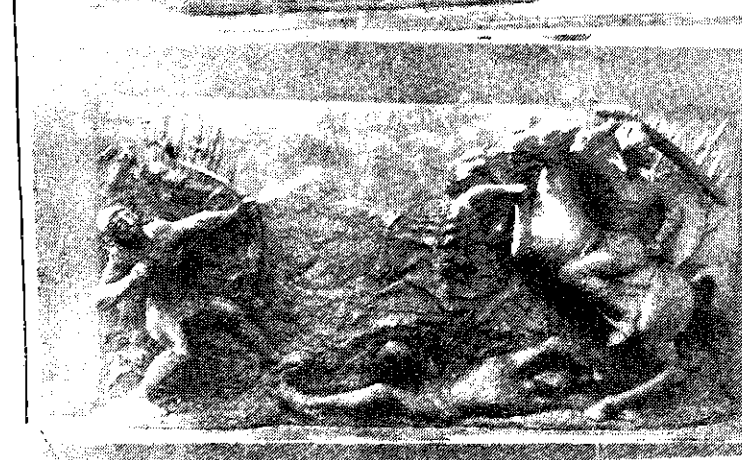
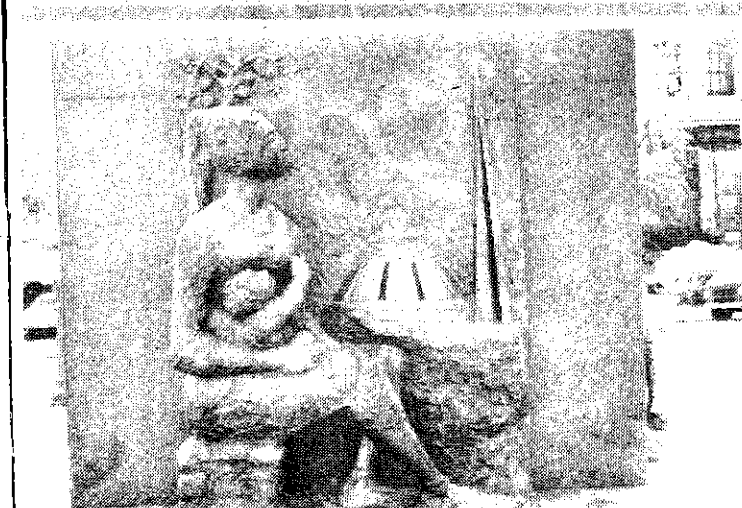
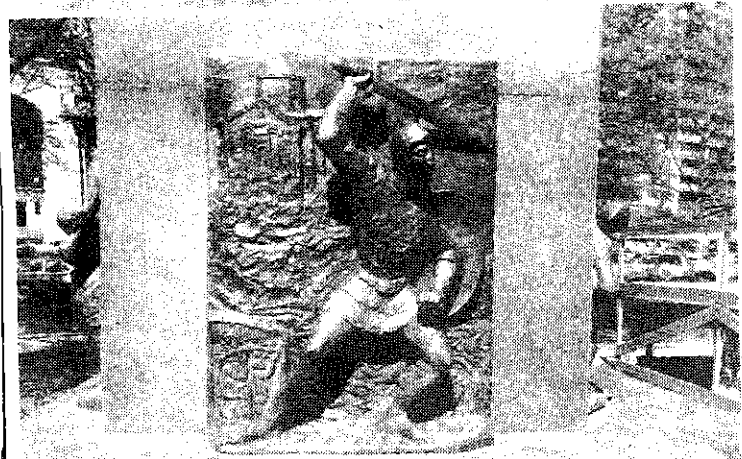
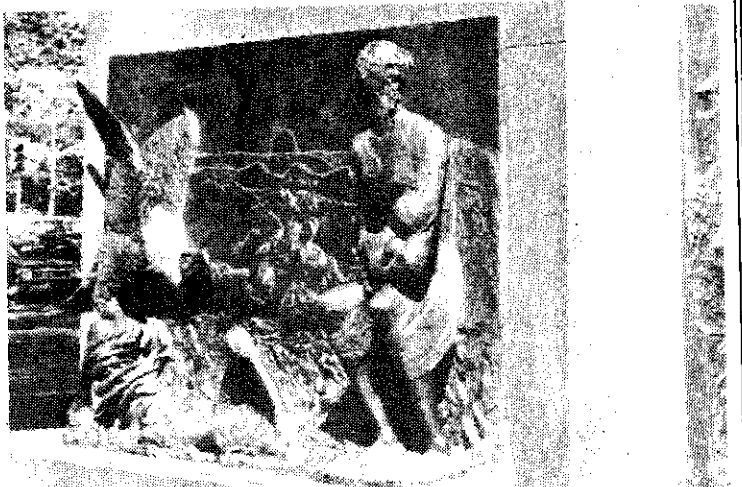
The story of Meher goes back to the Middle Ages. It springs from the legendary deeds of four generations of noble strongmen who dwelt in the Armenian highlands of Sassoun. Meher was the father of David of Sassoun, another of the best-known heroes of early civilization.

The combined deeds of valor of father and son are one and the same in what they symbolize, and their epic story is a record of courage, strength and the defense of their Christian faith. Armenia was the first nation in the world to adopt Christianity as its officially recognized religion.

Meher, also called Arutz Meher (Lion-Meher), ruled and protected the Armenian people against the formidable power of other nations. Esteemed as a mighty champion, his fame and reputation spread far and wide. He is credited with being never an aggressor, but always a defender - espousing the rights of his people to live in peace and to worship their God. He neither coveted the lands and possessions of other peoples, nor engaged in private wars for selfish ends. A patriot in the purest sense, he raised his invincible sword only when engaged in the defense of his nation.

The story of these heroic warriors, deeply ingrained in the hearts of all Armenians, is a record of determination and courage ringing with the fervent desire for liberty and justice.

The spirit of Meher epitomizes the Armenian peoples' undying love for freedom and their Christian faith, and symbolizes the ideals which have sustained them throughout the turbulence and tragedies of their history. —



Four base panels of the Monument

Business and Industry
Founder, Sarkes Tarzian, Inc.
 The dedication he has shown in his chosen field is exceeded by his dedication to creating a better understanding of our ideals. Innumerable homes throughout the nation have been touched through his pioneering work in broadcast electronics both present and future generations are indebted to the spirit and inventiveness of Sarkes Tarzian. He has brought the same leadership shown in his professional field to many charitable, cultural and educational endeavors for a broad spectrum of voluntary activity -- including the founding of the Chair for Armenian studies at the University of Pennsylvania. His many awards are ample evidence that in everything he has given the best of himself.



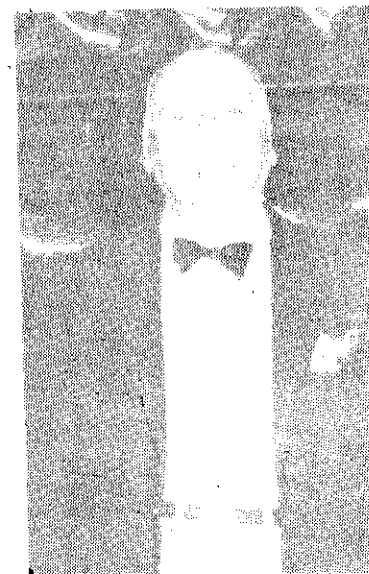
Musical Arts - Cymbalsmith.
 No serious percussionist or drummer would dare be caught without his Zildjian cymbals. In one of the most romantic chapters in all Armenian folk history, the Zildjian family secret of cymbal-smithing goes back in an unbroken line to the original Avedis' discovery in 1623, in Constantinople. In time, Zildjian cymbals gained wide recognition, winning prizes at trade fairs in Paris and London. In 1929, the business moved to America where the present-day Avedis Zildjian assumed charge and continues to this day as master of an unmatched enterprise. Now in Accord, Mass., three and one-half centuries later the Avedis Zildjian Co. still crafts the best band and orchestral cymbals in the world.

Richard Yardumian



Music - Composer. Son of the Reverend Haig Yardumian, the great beacon of hope who guided

hundreds of war-ravaged Armenians to America's shores Richard Yardumian is the product of a deeply religious and musical family. Few men have been able to perceive and master as many sides of music as has this internationally prized composer. With works of ever-present spirituality and supreme beauty in the forms of symphony, concert, oratorio and chamber music, his "Come, Creator Spirit," commissioned by Fordham University, was the first setting of the Mass in the English vernacular. Equally significant, a theme from his "Armenian Suite" was the signature for the "Voice of America" broadcasts to the Soviet Union. The music of Richard Yardumian has a universal message, but speaks individually to each person. Herein lies his genius.



AVEDIS ZILDJIAN

NOTICE TO READERS

Because of the abundance of coverage of April 24 events commemorating Armenian Martyrs Day, the usual format of the Armenian Reporter has been changed. Articles that usually appear on page 3 are on page 2 and articles that are usually on pages 4-9 begin on page 12.

Next week's paper will be printed in the usual format.

This week and for two weeks following the Voice of the Armenian Reporter will broadcast a special program on the Bicentennial Awards for Excellence Banquet held in Philadelphia on Sunday, April 25. Recordings of speeches made by some of the award winners, including Mike Connors, will be featured.

Barry Zorthian



Journalism - Journalist, Attorney. Barry Zorthian is one of America's most distinguished journalists. Now the Vice Presi-

dent for Government Affairs for Time, Inc., his meteoric career has included such executive posts as the United States' chief of press relations in Saigon. There, he became the first director of the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office and Counselor of Embassy for Information, achieving the rank of Minister. In his four continuous years of duty in Viet Nam, he served under three U.S. Ambassadors and received the U.S.I.A.'s Distinguished Service Award. A Yale man with an LL.B. cum laude from New York University Law School, and a World War II Marine Colonel, Barry Zorthian yet shares his superb gift for leadership as a director for a host of charitable and professional organizations.

Eddy Pechdimaldjian Says...

Come to

Jimmy's Italian Kitchen

Now Featuring
 Lahmajun and Italian food
 freshly made daily

In the near future, you won't have to go to the city to shop for Middle Eastern food. Jimmy's will soon have a complete line of authentic Middle Eastern grocery items.

73 Hillside Avenue, Williston Park, N.Y.
 Eddy Pechdimaldjian, Proprietor

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 (516) PI 6-8245

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, 58, of Moorestown in a district which includes parts of Bur-

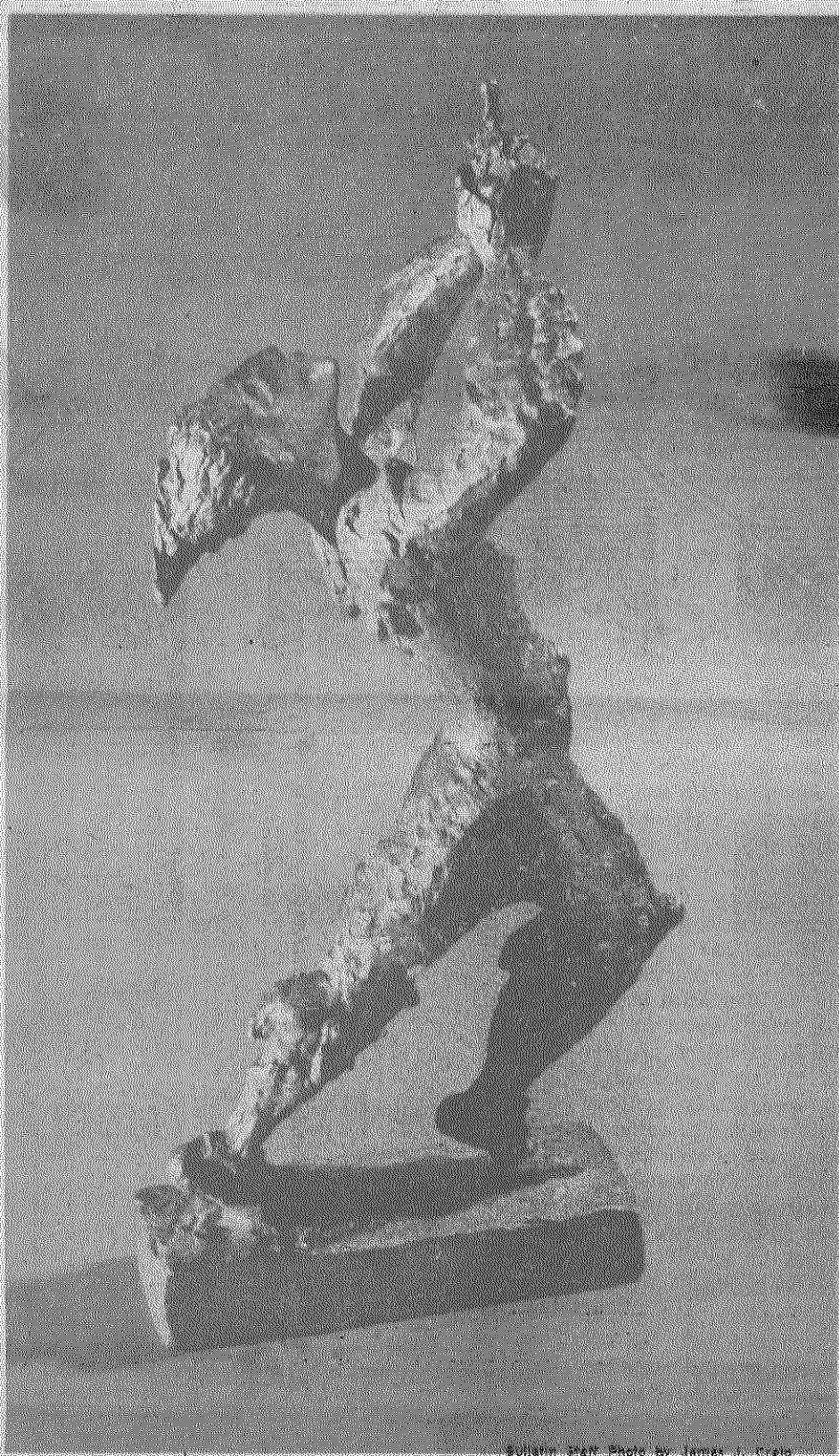
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Late Sports

RACING

2d, LIBERTY BELL

Highest Heels	14.80	7.20	4.80
lyer	5.00	4.20	
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 Commemoration

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, symbol of the Christian reli-

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 must approve the work since

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 the 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 unrepresented on the board.



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-

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The Daily Chuckle

The majority of us are proud of our freedom to say what we please. What we