



Associated Press Wirephoto

FIRST STONE PLACED AT KENNEDY GRAVE: A crane lowers granite slab into place at the permanent grave in Arlington cemetery. Temporary grave is in foreground.

First Stones Placed At Permanent Site Of Kennedy Grave

By NAN ROBERTSON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 11—The temporary grave of President Kennedy, virtually unchanged since the day of his burial 28 months ago, will soon be transformed into a \$2-million permanent monument of marble and granite.

The first stones, the biggest two weighing 22,000 pounds each, were lowered into place today ahead of schedule, forming the base for a 36-foot long wall that will rise in back of the flame in Arlington National Cemetery.

The gravesite was designed by John Carl Warnecke, the architect, on commission from Mrs. Kennedy. All but the landscaping will be finished by late

August or early September, faster than originally expected.

More than 12 million people have now seen the temporary grave. About 50,000 visitors a day are expected this Easter week, many of them children out of school.

Transformation of Scene

The square white picket fence with its curiously domestic air and the military caps on the mound of evergreens will give way to noble overlooks and sweeping stone walks leading up to a grassy rectangle 20 feet below the present plot. The flame that has flickered in darkness and sunlight will remain the central symbol.

Construction work has greatly changed the serene green hillside below the present grave. Chunks of earth have been gouged out by bulldozers. Concrete has already been poured for the new terrace of the grave for a huge, elliptical overlook, and for part of the circular approach ramp.

The President's widow has now chosen the statements, all from Mr. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, that will be inscribed on a low, sloping stone wall bordering the ellipse. Theodore C. Sorensen, Mr. Kennedy's principal speech-writing assistant, helped with the selections.

They consist of eight sentences and part of a ninth from the address of Jan. 20, 1961, incised on seven granite blocks by John E. Benson of Newport, R. I.

As the visitor faces the panorama of Washington across the Potomac, his back to the grave and the Curtis-Lee Mansion atop the hill, he will read these inscriptions from left to right, in chronological order:

Let the word go forth
From this time and place
To friend and foe alike
That the torch has been passed
To a new generation of Americans.

Let every nation know
Whether it wishes us well or ill
That we shall pay any price,
bear any burden
Meet any hardship, support
any friend

Oppose any foe to assure the
survival

And the success of liberty.
Now the trumpet summons
us again

Not as a call to bear arms,
though arms we need
Not as a call to battle, though
embattled we are

But a call to bear the burden
of a long twilight struggle
A struggle against the common
enemies of man
Tyranny, poverty, disease, and
war itself.

In the long history of the
world

Only a few generations have
been granted

The role of defending free-
dom

In its hour of maximum dan-
ger.

I do not shrink from this re-
sponsibility

I welcome it.

The energy, the faith, the de-
votion
Which we bring to this en-
deavor

Will light our country
And all who serve it
And the glow from that fire
Can truly light the world.
And so my fellow Americans
Ask not what your country
can do for you

Ask what you can do for your
country.

My fellow citizens of the world,
Ask not what America will do
for you, but what together
We can do for the freedom of
man.

With a good conscience our
only sure reward

With history the final judge
of our deeds

Let us go forth to lead the
land we love, asking His
blessing

And His help, but knowing
that here on earth

God's work must truly be our
own.

Platform for 1,000

Lowest on the slope of the new grave will be a 12-foot wide circular approach walk, 660 feet in circumference, of dark gray granite. The 210-foot-wide grassy mound it surrounds will

remain empty except for one gold, tall and dramatically gnarled post oak in its present position off-center.

The ellipse platform with the inscriptions is of medium gray granite, 120 feet long and 50 feet wide. It can accommodate 1,000 persons.

The upper steps to the grave terrace, the terrace itself, and the "terminal wall" seven and one-half feet high behind the flame, which is cupped in a triangular bronze font, are all white Vermont marble. The terrace is 42 feet wide and 66 feet long; its grassy plot is 18 feet wide and 30 feet long.

Flanking the gray slate marker set flush with the ground on the President's grave will be two smaller markers, one for Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, who lived 39 hours and 12 minutes in August, 1963; and a nameless baby girl stillborn to Mrs. Kennedy in 1956.

The permanent grave will have what its architectural project manager, Alan Rider, called "inconspicuous lighting" of stairs and the grave terrace rim. The only light on the terminal wall will be what the flame casts.

Congress has approved the use of \$1,770,000 in public funds to pay for the landscaping, approach walks, overlooks and all parts of the 3.2-acre gravesite except the grave terrace itself. The Kennedy family is contributing the money—\$309,000—for the terrace.