

KENNEDY MEMORIAL (350)

DALLAS, TEX., DEC. 11 (AP)-CONSTRUCTION OF A MEMORIAL IN DALLAS TO THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY WILL BEGIN NEXT MARCH, THE KENNEDY CITIZEN MEMORIAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED.

THE MEMORIAL, PROJECTED AS A CENOTAPH OR ROOFLESS TOMB, IS TO BE ERECTED IN THE MIDDLE OF KENNEDY MEMORIAL PLAZA, A BLOCK SQUARE OF LAND NEAR THE DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT AND TWO BLOCKS FROM THE POINT WHERE PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS SHOT TO DEATH NOV. 22, 1963 AS HE RODE IN A MOTORCADE.

THE LAND IS OWNED BY THE COUNTY AND BUILDINGS NOW ON IT ARE TO BE RAZED.

W. DAWSON STERLING, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THEN MAYOR EARLE CABELL TWO YEARS AGO TO PLAN THE MEMORIAL, ESTIMATED THE COST AT "ROUGHLY \$100,000" AND SAID IT WILL BE PAID FROM DONATIONS AND PLEDGES ALREADY RECEIVED.

PHILIP JOHNSON, NEW YORK ARCHITECT, SPEAKING AT A NEWS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS DESIGN WAS ACCEPTED, DESCRIBED THE MEMORIAL AS A ROOFLESS TOMB-LIKE FLOATING CONCRETE BUILDING 30 FEET HIGH AND 50 FEET SQUARE. IT WILL FEATURE AN OPEN ROOM EFFECT WITH NO CEILING.

THE MEMORIAL IS TO BE BUILT OF PRECAST CONCRETE WITH A FINISH OF PERFECTED STONE.

THE BUILDING WILL HAVE AN OPENING ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES, CREATING WHAT JOHNSON CALLED A HORSESHOE MAGNET EFFECT TO SYMBOLIZE THE TENSENESS AND MAGNETISM OF KENNEDY.

THE BAQQA

THE TENSENESS AND MAGNETISM OF KENNEDY.

THE BASE WILL BE TWO AND A HALF FEET OFF THE GROUND AND SUPPORTED BY EIGHT PILLARS.

LIGHTING WILL BE ARRANGED AROUND THE BASE AND POINTED TO THE GROUND TO HIGHTEN THE EFFECT OF FLOATING.

"WE WANTED TO USE THE MATERIALS AND THE DESIGN OF OUR DAY," THE ARCHITECT SAID, "I BELIEVE THE ROOM WILL INDUCE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SOLEMNITY."

THE MEMORIAL WILL BE SURROUNDED BY AN OPEN LAWN AREA. A DOUBLE ROW OF LIVE OAK TREES ARE TO BE PLANTED ON TWO SIDES OF THE PLAZA.

NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE ON THE INSCRIPTIONS OR MARKERS TO BE PLACED AT THE MEMORIAL.

JOHNSON, WHO WAS A FRIEND OF THE LATE PRESIDENT AND MRS. KENNEDY, SAID, "THIS DESIGN IS THE MOST STIMULATING PROBLEM EVER GIVEN ME. IT IS ALSO THE HARDEST, BECAUSE TO MAKE A MEMORIAL TO SOMEBODY YOU ADMIRE SO MUCH REQUIRED JUDGMENT AND SERIOUS THOUGHT.

"MRS. KENNEDY REQUESTED THAT THE MEMORIAL BE SIMPLE, MODEST AND DIGNIFIED. THESE THREE WORDS ARE ALL I HAD TO GO ON."

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