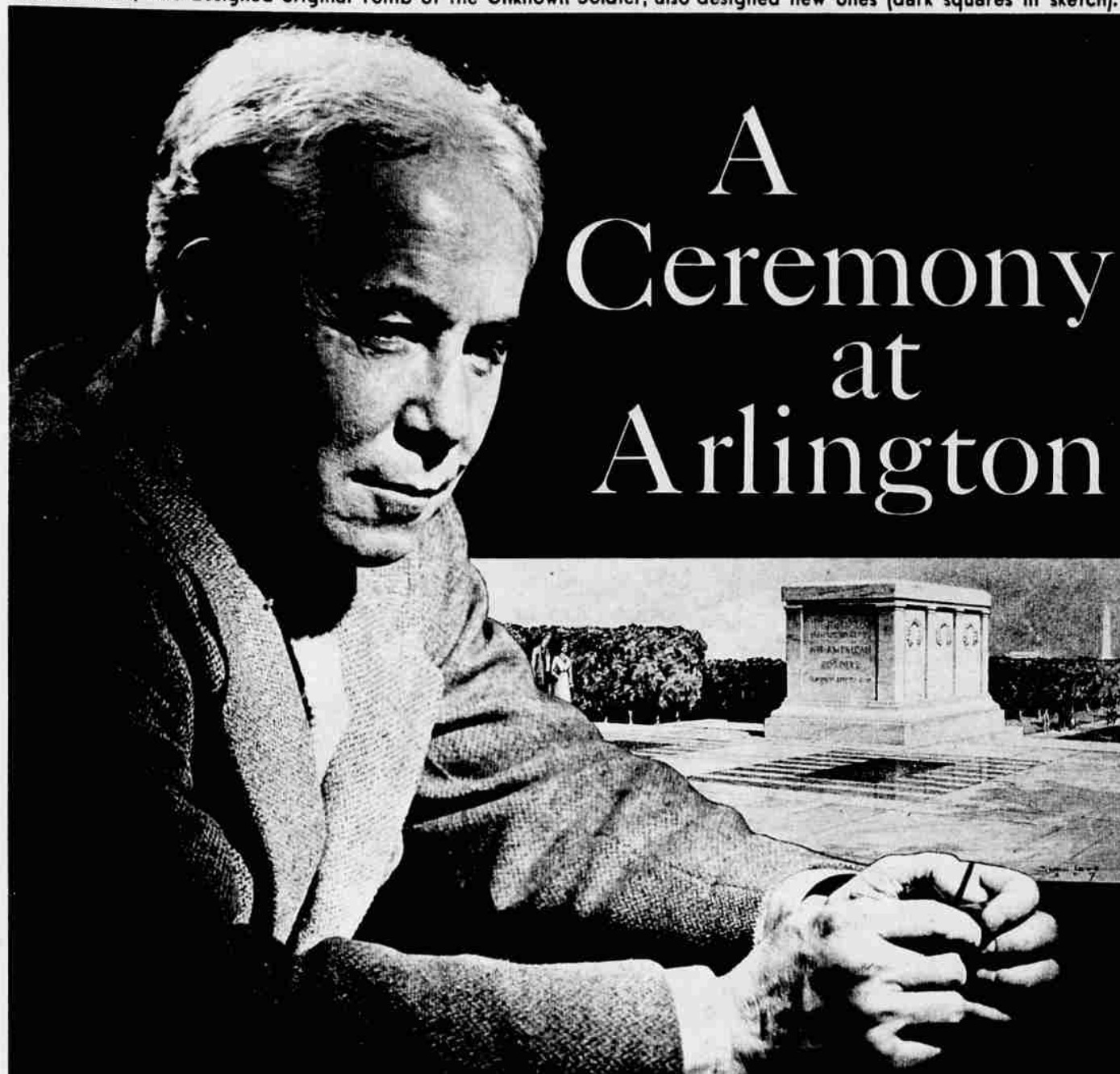


Lorimer Rich, who designed original Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, also designed new ones (dark squares in sketch).



A Ceremony at Arlington

Two fallen heroes from World War II and the Korean War will take their honored places beside the Unknown Soldier in simple dedication rites this Memorial Day.

by K. C. Jerome

WHEN AMERICA pauses in reverence on Friday—Memorial Day—to dedicate tombs for two more of our unknown soldier dead, the wheel will have come full circle for a veteran of World War I named Lorimer Rich.

Just a generation ago, Rich's design for the original Tomb of the Unknown Soldier won out over 70 plans submitted by other architects. Now fate has given him the melancholy task of adding to that tomb the final resting places for unknown victims of two more conflicts: World War II and Korea.

The two new graves lie in the shadow of Rich's marble reminder of "the war to end all wars." Set under the pavement, each is covered with a slab of Vermont marble surrounded by pink granite from New Hampshire. The only inscriptions: "1941-5" and "1950-3."

"These graves are plain alongside that of the World War I Unknown Soldier," Rich declares. "Very simple, no inspiring inscriptions, just the dates of the wars in which the men were killed. We wanted visitors to come, to see the simplicity of it, form their own feelings, and compose their own messages on the meaning of it all."

Born in Camden, N. Y., the son of a furniture designer, Rich was graduated from Syracuse University just as the first world war erupted. The Unknown

Soldier of that war came back from France in 1921, on the eve of the Washington Naval Conference which, it was hoped, would presage an enduring peace.

In the funeral cortege rode ex-President Wilson. At the cemetery, 1,000 Gold Star Mothers heard President Harding say:

"As we return this poor clay to its fellow soil, garlanded by love and covered with decorations, I can sense the prayers of our people that this day shall mark the beginning of a new and lasting era of peace. . . ."

It wasn't until 1928 that the magnificent monument for the grave was ordered on plans submitted by Rich in the nation-wide competition. Winning the assignment helped establish the young architect and, in the years since, he has gone on to design schools, post offices, office buildings, and churches.

Four more years passed before Rich's 56-ton block of Colorado marble finally was secured in place over the crypt of the Unknown Soldier. As today, the crowds gathered at Arlington National Cemetery were concerned about business conditions at home and sword-rattling in Europe and the Far East. And today, when we prepare to entomb in glory two more of our heroic, nameless dead, the words spoken by War Secretary Patrick Hurley still ring true:

"Puritan or Cavalier, rich man or poor man, native or foreign born, Jew or gentile, Catholic or Protestant, Republican or Democrat—the externals that differentiate men in life all have been swept away from the United States, and we behold merely the man, the soul, the symbol of the spirit of America."

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