

Louisville pilot's Cold War death will be honored



Norman Schwartz as a fighter pilot in World War II. He was decorated for service in the Pacific theater.

Memorial will say what went unsaid for years

By BUTCH JOHN
The Courier-Journal

The fires burning in Manchuria the night of Nov. 29, 1952, signaled to Louisville native Norman Schwartz and his fellow pilot that Li Chunying had completed his work in Communist China. Li, a Western spy, awaited removal from his desolate hiding place.

At the rendezvous point, Schwartz's C-47, which carried two agents with the Central Intelligence Agency, went into a slow descent.

This kind of Cold War mission wasn't new to the Civil Air Transport crew, which operated in East Asia and often was used as cover for clandestine work by the CIA.

On this night, Schwartz's flight was listed as a routine freight haul between Seoul and Japan.

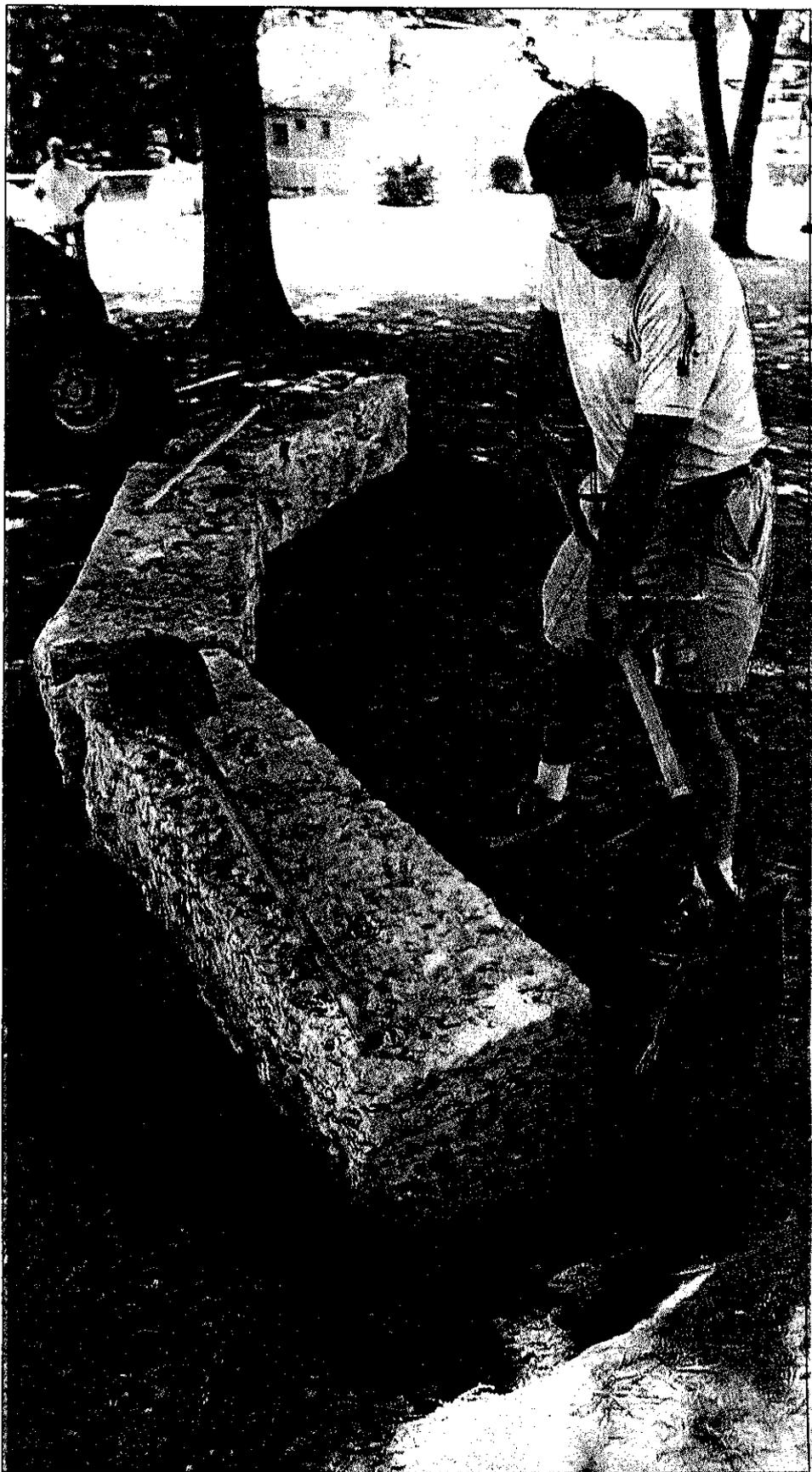
But approaching the pick-up point, where Li would be snatched from the ground by a rope, everything fell apart.

Schwartz's plane was shot out of the sky in an ambush that the U.S. government waited almost 20 years to admit had occurred.

Schwartz and cockpit mate Robert Snoddy were killed. The CIA agents were captured.

On Thursday at 5:30 p.m., Louisville will honor Schwartz, who was 30 when he died, and others who perished in the East-West conflict by dedicating a Cold War meditation area at Taylor Memorial Park on Poplar Level Road. The American Legion estimates the West's Cold War toll at more than 350 dead.

A simple limestone bench and plaque surrounded by a garden, the monument is likely the first in the nation to focus on the Cold War, said Barbara Motley, coordinator of veterans affairs for Mayor Dave Armstrong, Armstrong and 4th Ward Alderman Cyril Allgeier, who



BY PAT McDONOGH, THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Kevin Klarer of Beechwood Trees and Gardens worked around the stone bench that is part of a new Cold War monument at Taylor Memorial Park in Louisville.

See LOUISVILLE
Back page, col. 1, this section