

Urbici Soler, Internationally Famous Sculptor, Dies Suddenly

Created Statue Of Christ The King

Urbici Soler, internationally famous sculptor, best known for his creation of the statue of Christ the King on Sierra de Cristo Rey, died suddenly in his home near Anapra early to-

Consider Burial Of Urbici Soler On Mountain

The body of Urbici Soler may be buried on the summit of Sierra de Cristo Rey near the Statue of Christ which he carved.

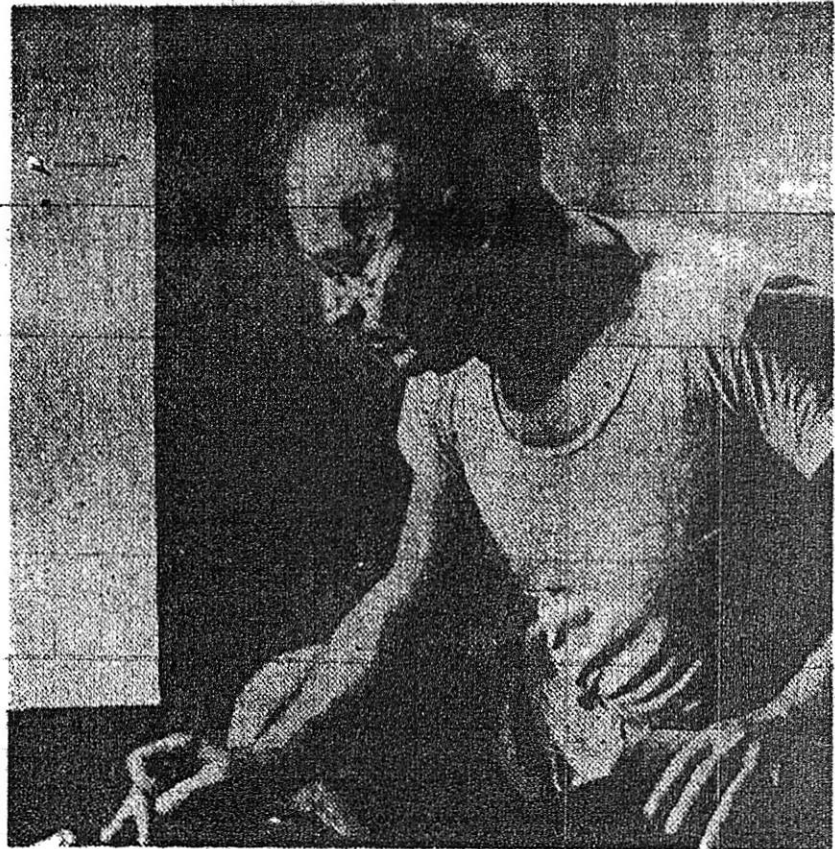
Mr. Soler had expressed a wish that he be buried there in conversation with The Rev. Lourdes Costa and Cleofas Calleros long before he died.

Mr. Calleros said today, "Mr. Soler not only made the monument, but also he was active on a committee which arranged the preliminary project."

Father Costa planned a conference with Bishop Sidney M. Metzger on possible burial of Mr. Soler's body on the mountain.

day after a heart attack. Mr. Soler was 63.

He was an art teacher at Texas



Urbici Soler

Western College. Mr. Soler had a bad heart condition for many years.

His death was described as a great loss by Dr. W. H. Elkins, president of Texas Western.

"He was unquestionably a genius in his field," Dr. Elkins said. "He had received fine training years ago under acknowledged masters,

and had a rich background of experience as a creator in his own right.

"His vast knowledge and technique, coupled with his enthusiasm for his medium, enabled him not only to teach, but also to inspire his students."

Mr. Soler was born in Farran, (Continued on Page 5, Col 2)

Sculptor Urbio Soler Dies of Heart Attack

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Spain in 1909 and from 1910 to 1912 he studied at the Barcelona School of Arts and the European Fine Arts Academy. In 1912, he went to Munich, Germany, to study at the Munich Academy of Fine Arts and three years later received the diploma of master student, the highest award given by that institution. He established a school of sculpture in Munich under the name of Soler Studio. He was during that time that he received a commission to build a monument to King of Prussia, Frederick Wilhelm, founder of the institution for the training of State teachers in Munich.

He conducted this school irregularly for three years, then went to Paris in 1920 to study in the workshops of the famous sculptor, Emile Antoine Bourdelle. At that time, he was commissioned to construct the portal of the great Casa Maternidad de Barcelona, which he carved from local stone. He was then asked to go to Madrid to erect two monuments, one in memory of the heroic Llaüt Garcia Cabezas of the Ceuta regiment, and the other in memory of heroic doctors killed in the various wars. The latter monument was placed in the Medical Military Academy in Madrid.

Invited to Buenos Aires

He made various portraits in bronze, stone and marble of several prominent politicians, intellectuals, and clergymen. In 1924, he was invited to go to Buenos Aires to carve statues for new government buildings. He remained in Argentina for five years completing this work and erecting the monument of the Spanish Colony in Bahía Blanca and the public fountain in the botanical garden of Rosario.

In 1930, he conceived the idea of creating a collection of busts of the most outstanding types of the native races of America. Starting in Chile, he went to the reservation of the Araucanian Indians, where he created the first examples of the collection, among which were the legendary types of the unconquered races.

Arrived in San Francisco

From Chile, he went to Peru, Ecuador, and Panama. He went to San Francisco in 1931 for his first visit to the United States. He exhibited his collection of the busts of the Indians at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco. As a result of this exhibit, he was made the director of the school of Modern Art in San Francisco, where he remained for 18 months. Due to immigration laws, he was forced to give up his work in San Francisco and go to Mexico City.

He exhibited his collection there and the president of the National University gave him the title of professor in the University and appointed him to teach a course in sculpture in the school of fine arts of the university.

Studied at Puebla

When he had finished the course, he went to Puebla to study the only Aztec type dwellings on the mountain slopes of Cuetzalán. In 1937, the National Secretary of Education of Mexico asked Mr. Soler to present an exhibition of all his work in the National Palace of Fine Arts as a contribution to the fine arts of Mexico. The exhibition

was sponsored by the Secretary of Education and the diplomatic corps of the American nations in Mexico City.

Statue of Christ the King

In the fall of 1937, he returned to El Paso on a commission from the late, Most Rev. Schuler, to construct the statue of Christ the King on Santa Rita Cristo Rey. He completed this work in three years and won the attention of Catholic America at the dedication ceremonies on October 12, 1940.

Mr. Soler left El Paso early in 1940 to teach in the summer at the Tulane University in Louisiana. He went to New York City and established his own school of sculpture and applied arts. In 1943, he went to South America to exhibit his work. In 1944, he returned to the United States and to El Paso to make his home.

He became an American citizen in El Paso Federal Court on April 19, 1949.

The late Ernie Fyle, Scripps-Howard writer, devoted a column to Mr. Soler.

He is a genuine artist, Fyle wrote. "He has all the outward attributes of the conventional foreign artist—the fire, the petulance, the picturesque speech, even the big head of hair."

"I admire him, because his sculptures actually look like something."

"He has done a good job for America with his statue of Christ the King."

Mr. Soler is survived by a sister, Mrs. Ventura Soler vda de Gonzalez of Barcelona, Spain. Funeral arrangements are pending with the Kaster and Maxon Funeral Home.

Intelligence Chief Okayed for Retirement

By International News Service
WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. — President Truman today nominated Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, chief of central intelligence, for a place on the Army's retired list with the grade of general.

Smith has been selected by President-elect Eisenhower as his under-secretary of state.