

The New Orleans Tomb

PART IX

By Leonard V. and Albert R. Huber

That the New Orleans tomb can be erected for a comparatively small price has been demonstrated in the past articles of this series. It is also possible to design a structure having lines that appeal to the most discriminating and to those who know something of architecture. Such a tomb is illustrated this month. It is not a cheap tomb nor is its price so high that there is comparatively little demand for it. It fills the demand for an above-ground tomb having the richness and refinement of a good mausoleum without the great cost of such a building.

The "Wells" tomb has sides in monolithic pieces; the roof is also a monolith. The sides are slightly hollow to allow two caskets to be placed on each shelf. Crypt shelves are built directly into grooves which have been cut into the sides of the tomb, (on the interior, of course). The roof has a cyma recta moulding which is used quite effectively in this connection. The lower course of the tomb is ornamented with a fret and the door is also ornamented by a sand carved border. The tomb sets on the mound or terrace commonly used in New Orleans. This tomb is rather a difficult one to erect. The large pieces make it imperative that a boom derrick of at least 8 or 9 tons capacity be used.

The "Wells" design is the most permanent of all the tombs so far shown; the unusually small

number of pieces used in its construction and the great weight of its principal members all go toward making it time-proof. Compare such a tomb with the best community mausoleums so far produced and even the most skeptical will be forced to admit that the tomb stands alone in a class by itself, the last word in permanency and time-resisting construction.

Mr. Lester E. Harris, Executive Secretary of the Memorial Craftsmen of America, warns that the community vaults promoters are constantly putting over new projects. Thus far no better weapon to fight the public vaults has been evolved than the private tomb; the writers receive letter after letter from dealers throughout the country along these lines, "my customer is thinking about going into a community mausoleum but likes the idea of an inexpensive private tomb. How much does such a tomb cost?" Such letters indicate that many dealers throughout the nation are thinking about the New Orleans tomb. How many of these dealers have had the courage and foresight to erect such a structure for sale? Introduced in this way to a community the tomb should pay its own way immediately.

This is the last of this series of articles on the New Orleans tomb.

