

Real Country
Bk.

PORT CREDIT STONE CARVER

MISSISSAUGA TIMES

AUG 22 73

Pg. 7

Louis keeps dying craft alive

BY SID RODAWAY

Louis Temporeale represents a dying craft in more ways than one.

It's no joke that his business is becoming exclusively oriented towards the cemetery; the passing of the type of architecture which once attracted his talents has made it so.

Louis Temporeale is a stone carver—a sculptor to art snobs.

For the last 27 years his company, Canadian Art Memorials Ltd. of Port Credit, has chipped away at thousands of tons of granite and marble.

Just after the war Louis was official stone carver to the Bank of Montreal, the Bank of Nova Scotia's Archives building, the University of Toronto, the MacLean Hunter building and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. But those days are gone and modern architects prefer steel and glass to carved stone statuary.

At 64 years of age Louis has no intention of retiring. "I love my work. What else

could I do that's as good?" he explains.

His skills go way back. He enrolled in the Italian State School of Design at age 16, then was tutored by a prominent local sculptor. After immigrating to Canada in 1927 he studied at the Ontario College of Art when it "was just a small room in the cellar."

Although contract sculptoring is relatively rare now, pride drives him to keep his hand in the more creative side of the art. A large bust of a Negro breaking his chains is Louis' latest creation. It stands unsold in front of his plant of Lakeshore Road west of Mississauga Road.

Headstones constitute virtually all of Temporeale's business now. About 200 annually go through his shop, each individually cut from blocks of marble or granite and carved to order.

The sign outside still features the brand name of a line of monuments but Louis dropped them last year in deference to his own hand-

crafted models.

He has few good words for the monument sales outlets which simply fill orders for a factory. "More and more of those carpetbaggers are opening all the time."

It seems that tastes in headstones are slow to change and it's rare when a customer will defer to Louis' more expert tastes.

There are exceptions though. One woman recently ordered a headstone for her husband with the inscription: "Make it a Double." A quick check with cemetery officials was required to make sure they would allow it.

Louis claims eastern European groups buy the most creative memorials for their relatives.

His largest non-cemetery sculpture is 14-foot-tall statue of King George VI which stands on Niagara Parks Commission grounds opposite the American Falls.

A major monument may take a year to complete and although a small granite flat

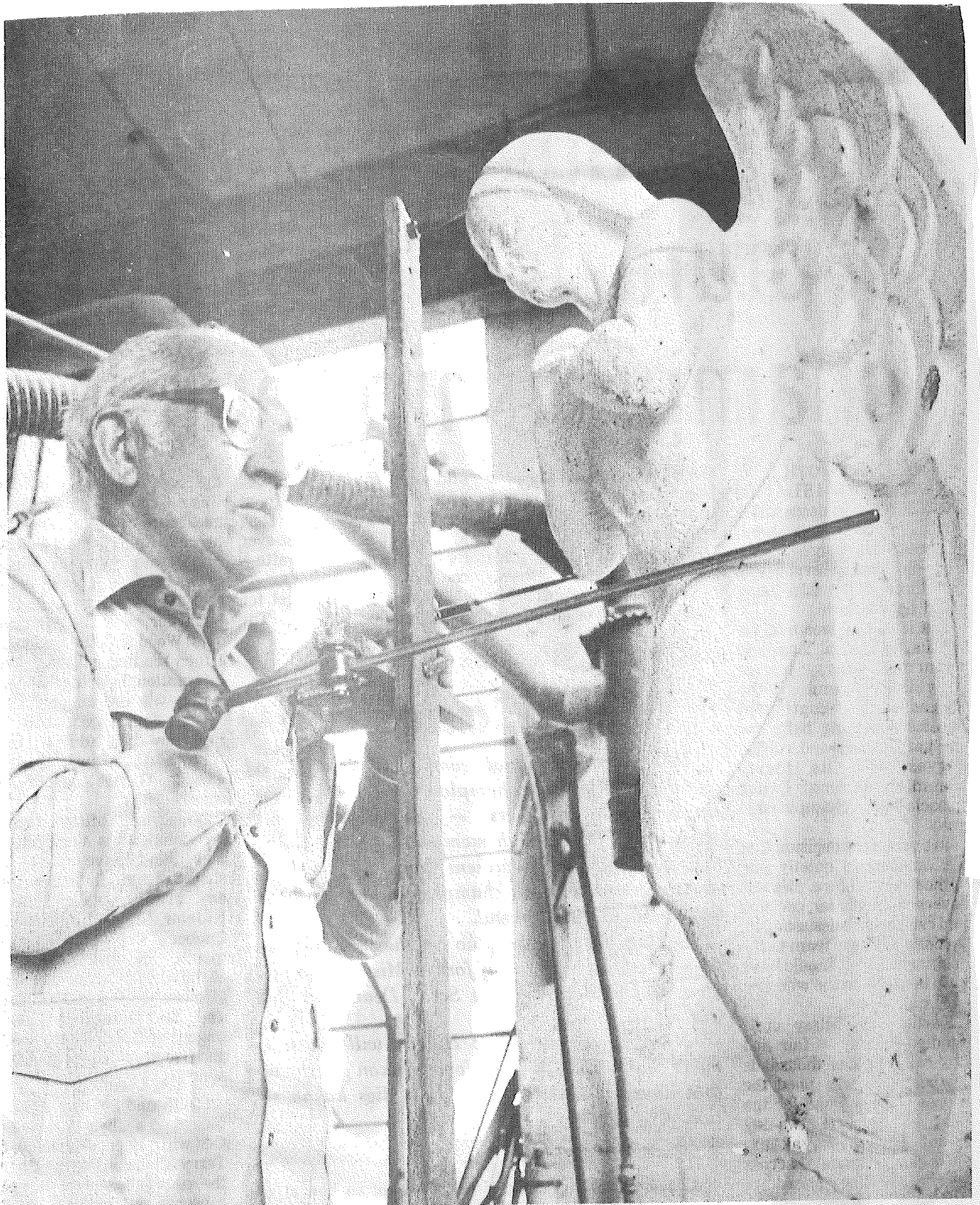
stone goes for as little as \$228 the cost can run into the thousands of dollars. Louis' most expensive creation is a \$25,000 memorial now sited on a grave near the Lake of Bays in Muskoka.

Help is becoming harder to find and the number of stone

carvers starting out is shrinking. But for Louis Temporeale stone represents permanence in creative talent.

"When I die there will be hundreds of my works lasting a thousand years, each with my name on it."

AUG. 1973



Louis Temporale takes precise measurements from a plaster model before finishing off the angel in granite at his Canadian Art Memorials Ltd. in Port Credit. (Times photo by Ray Saitz)