

## Famous Quarries In Quincy Used Only by Killers

By Henry Bosworth  
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(Written for the Associated  
Press)

Quincy (P)—Although its once-productive quarries are now better known for hiding bodies of murder victims, Quincy is not ready to surrender its title of Granite City.

True, only one of the more than 30 man-made cavities which dot the western section of the the country is being worked to city and made it the biggest of 57 granite producing centers in day.

The others long have been abandoned.

As men dug deeper into the earth, the more costly it became to haul out the granite.

At the same time, development of reinforced concrete gave contractors as sturdy a building material at a cheaper cost.

Then, too, Quincy's coarse-grained dark-colored granite did not give as sharp a background contrast for monument lettering as the light hued varieties from other sections.

Some of the quarries became

favorite swimming holes as they were filled in by underground springs. Some are being used for rubbish dumping. A few have been the secluded stage for murder.

One yielded the bullet-riddled body of Boston gangland informer Red Curran who was taken for a ride in the speakeasy days of the early '30's.

More recently, in 1948, another gave up the trussed and iron-weighted body of Eugene P. Irwin, Jr., slain Dorchester used car dealer.

There have been others before and in between and there probably will be more.

Quincy police still think four-year-old Robert (Danny) Matson, missing since Jan. 19, is in a quarry near his home, a drowning victim, although his parents cling hopefully to a theory he was kidnaped and is alive somewhere today.

Only one, the J. S. Swingle quarry, is left as a reminder of Quincy's reigning days as the great granite producer.

Thus very little of the handsome Quincy stone, endorsed the world over when it was selected for the Bunker hill monument after the Revolutionary war, is being used.

The first railroad in America was built here to haul granite for the monument by horse and cart over a crude iron and granite rail.

That was the beginning of

Quincy's granite era that saw the city become the greatest producer in the country, its granite sought everywhere.

That era reached its greatest height at the turn of the century.

Today Quincy is no longer the great producer of old.

But the slack is being taken up somewhat with monumental and polished building work using, of all things, granite quarried in Barre, Vt., Westerly, R. I., Groton, Conn., South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Oklahoma. Some is imported from Finland and Sweden.

Years ago bringing granite to Quincy would have been like bringing coals to Newcastle. But not today.

Now sons, grandsons and great grandsons of pioneer Quincy granite cutters are employing the skills and techniques learned from Quincy granite and passed down through their families to turn out handsome monuments and polished building stone made of other people's granite.

"Their skilled hand labor and modern machinery puts Quincy at the top in this field," says Edward D. Marnock, former secretary of the Granite Manufacturers association of Quincy who came into the business with the century.

"We'll never come back to the good old days but we'll get along," he said. "The future looks good."

1951 Jul the dark side of quarries MA

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Jan 2, 2025