

SCOVILLE PARK



The large monument in the center of the park was erected to honor the Oak Park & River Forest veterans of World War 1. The Dedication Ceremony was held on Armistice Day, November 11, 1925 - 2:30 PM. *Vice President Charles Gates Dowes* and *Major General James G. Harbord* were the principal speakers.

Amplifiers were placed about the park to enable all to hear. The new and powerful radio station - WLS, broadcast the event. Special telephone wires connected the station, in Crete, to the Sherman House studio in Chicago. The large bronze monument was cast by the American Art Bronze foundry, and was erected by Jules Beachem & Sons of Chicago. The cost of the project was \$52,573.00. No tax money was involved. The people of Oak Park & River Forest raised the funds for the memorial through popular subscription. An excess in funds of \$6693.00 was turned over to the Park District for future upkeep.

The bronze statues, representing the Army, Navy & Air Forces, guard a heroic figure of Liberty. Bronze tablets on the monument base are inscribed with the names of the fifty-six (56) Oak Park & River Forest veterans who died in service, and of the twenty-four hundred (2400) other Oak Park & River Forest veterans of World War 1. The statues were sculptured by Gilbert Riswold of Oak Park.

In 1926, General John Pershing visited Oak Park, and attended the Armistice Day Ceremony.

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World War Memorial in Oak Park, Cook Country, ILL.. Transcribed 1989 by Thomas Bodett.

