

ITALIAN GROUP PREPARING TO DEDICATE SITE

Break Ground for Colum-
bus Monument on
October 12

Syracuse Italians will see fruition of their 20-year hope for a fitting tribute to their city when St. Mary's circle is dedicated and ground is broken Columbus day, October 12, for erection of a 40-foot monument as a memorial to discoverer of America.

Mayor Marvin is scheduled to accept the gift of the monument, a civic banquet will be served and notables from all sections of the country have been invited to attend the ceremonies.

The monument, costing \$25,000, will be of Italian granite and bronze, the work of an Italian sculptor. It will rise from the center of a pool of water with fountains playing around the edges and flowers and benches will add to the beauty of the spot.

More than 20 years ago a group of Syracuse Italians conceived the idea of erecting and giving to the city a monument which would stand thru the years as their tribute. During those years the idea always has remained alive altho many times relegated to the background by unforeseen obstacles.

The structure will represent the contributions of the entire Italian population, even the pennies of school children having added to the generous flow of funds contributed to the Columbus Monument Association, Inc., in 1929 when a one-week drive for \$15,000 was conducted.

At the end of that week the fund totaled \$25,000 instead of \$15,000 and plans were started immediately for erection of the monument. The first stumbling block and a major one for several years was where the monument should be placed, St. Mary's circle finally being agreed upon.

Immediately after the dedication and ground breaking ceremony, which will include a parade and air maneuvers by planes from the municipal airport work will be started on erection of the monument.

The statue will tower over every other in the city except the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument in Clinton square.