FOR YOUR SAFETY
Climbing of Mount Rushmore is prohibited. Stay on trails and stairways. Do not run. Pets must be kept under physical control at all times. Do not disturb, injure, or destroy natural features or wildlife in the memorial. The building of fires is not allowed in the memorial. Be careful with cigarettes and matches. Observe posted speed limits. Promptly report all accidents in the memorial to a park ranger. Set handbrake and leave vehicle in gear when parked.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT
The memorial is 25 miles southwest of Rapid City and 3 miles from Keystone, S. Dak. Transcontinental buses and major airlines serve Rapid City.

The sculpture is best viewed under morning light. Each night from June 1 to Labor Day, floodlights illuminate the faces. During this time, evening programs are presented in the amphitheater. The visitor center and park concession, which has food service and souvenirs, are open all year. Overnight accommodations, campgrounds, and picnic sites are only available in nearby communities and Black Hills National Forest.

ADMINISTRATION
Mount Rushmore National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Keystone, SD 57751, is in charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
more, because it was of smooth-grained granite, dominated the surrounding terrain, and faced the sun most of the day.

Work on the mountain began on August 10, 1927, the same day President Calvin Coolidge officially dedicated Mount Rushmore as a National Memorial. Lack of funds and bad weather delayed the project frequently, and 14 years were required to bring the sculpture to its present appearance. The time spent in actual construction was 6½ years.

In the early years, private donations supported the project, but when more funds were required, the Federal Government assumed full financial responsibility. Federal appropriations accounted for $836,000 of the $989,992 spent on the memorial between 1927 and 1941.

In March 1941, before he could finish the memorial, Gutzon Borglum died. His son, Lincoln, continued to work on it until funds were exhausted later the same year. Since then, no additional carving has been done on the mountain and there are no plans to add other figures to the group.

MOUNTAIN “CARVING”

The word “carving” used in connection with Mount Rushmore is only a figure of speech, since very few conventional sculpturing methods were employed. “A unique engineering accomplishment” better describes the work performed in creating the memorial.

Gutzon Borglum used engineering techniques at Mount Rushmore that he had developed earlier during his work on Stone Mountain. His first task was to design a Presidential grouping that would conform to the mountain’s granite cap. Deep cracks and fissures required nine changes in his basic design. Next he made individual working models of each President to guide the workmen. The faces were carved to a scale of men 465 feet tall. On an average, the heads measure 60 feet from chin to top, with each nose 20 feet long, each mouth 18 feet wide, and the eyes 11 feet across. Borglum did not intend for Mount Rushmore to become known only for its gigantic proportions; rather, he believed that “a monument’s dimensions should be determined by the importance to civilization of the events commemorated.”