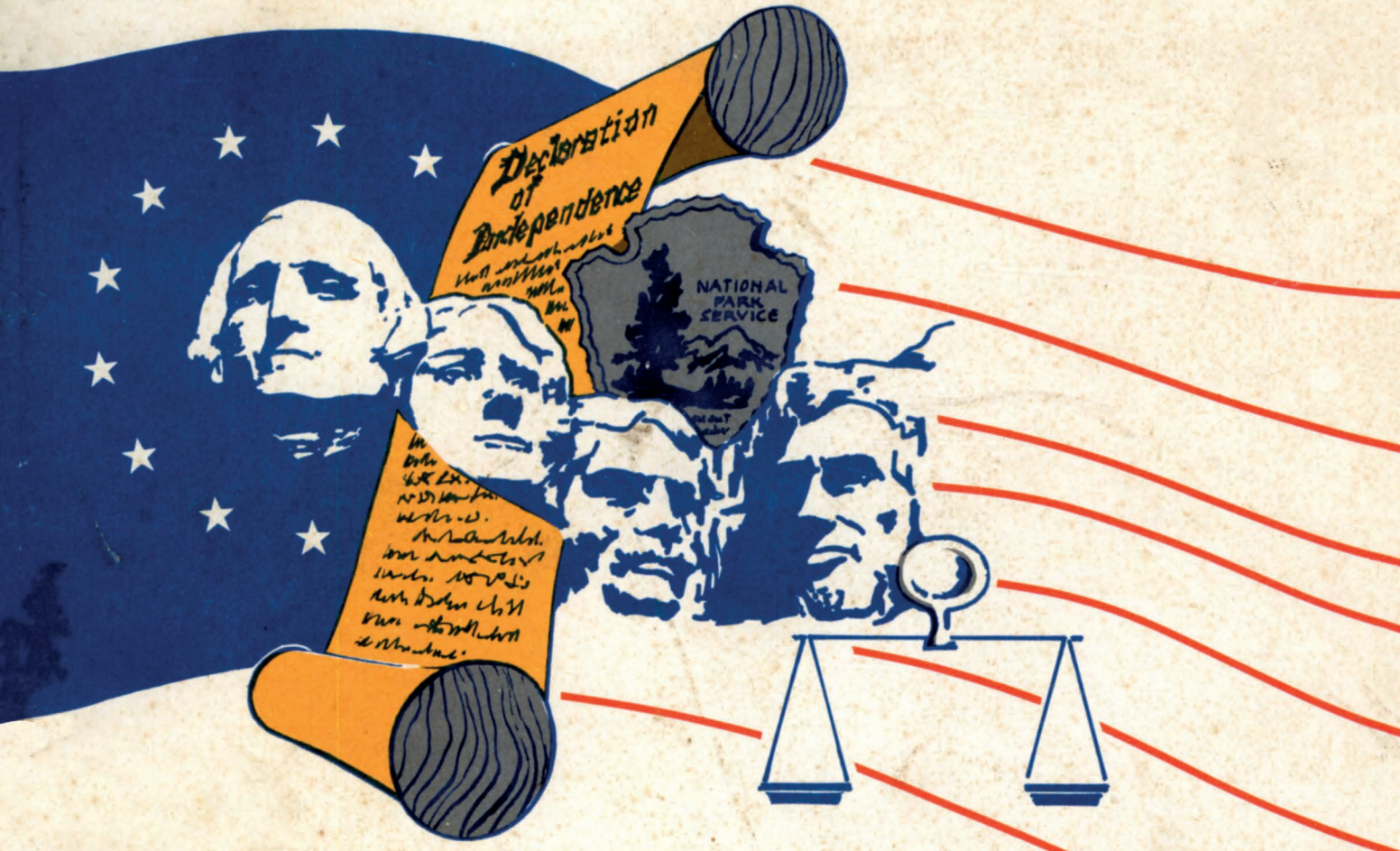

Mount Rushmore

NATIONAL MEMORIAL

1776 – AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL EDITION – 1976

LOCATED NEAR THE GEOGRAPHICAL

CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES

Mount Rushmore

NATIONAL MEMORIAL

"The Shrine of Democracy"

A Monument Commemorating the Founding, Expansion, Preservation and Unification of the Great American Republic...

PUBLISHED BY THE MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY OF BLACK HILLS

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RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA 57701

FOREWORD

A monument's dimensions should be determined by the importance to civilization of the events commemorated. We are not here trying to carve an epic, portray a moonlight scene, or write a sonnet; neither are we dealing with mystery or tragedy, but rather the constructive and the dramatic moments or crises in our amazing history. We are cool-headedly, clear-mindedly setting down a few crucial, epochal facts regarding the accomplishments of the Old World radicals who shook the shackles of oppression from their light feet and fled despotism to people a continent; who built an empire and rewrote the philosophy of freedom and compelled the world to accept its wiser, happier forms of government.

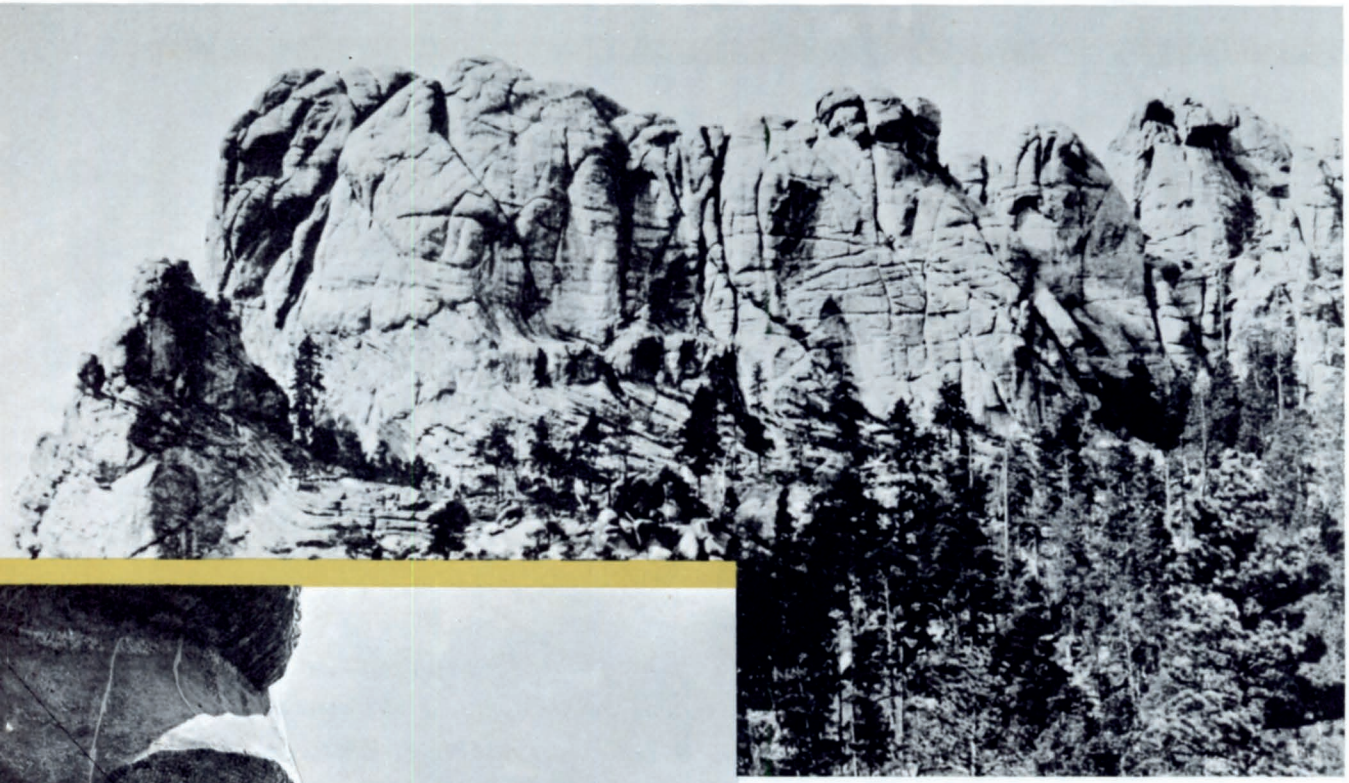
We believe the dimensions of national heartbeats are greater than village impulses, greater than city demands, greater than state dreams or ambitions. Therefore, we believe a nation's memorial should, like Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt, have a serenity, a nobility, a power that reflects the gods who inspired them and suggests the gods they have become.

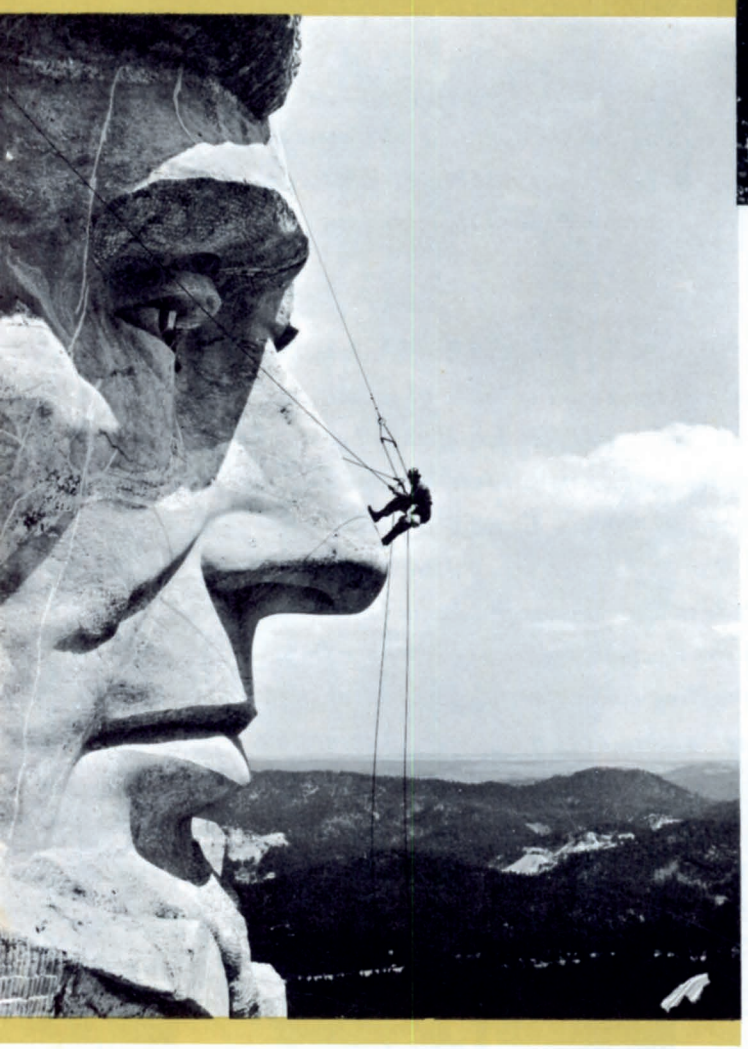
As for sculptured mountains —

Civilization, even its fine arts, is, most of it, quantity-produced stuff; education, law; government, wealth — each is enduring only as the day. Too little of it lasts into tomorrow and tomorrow is strangely the enemy of today, as today has already begun to forget buried yesterday. Each succeeding civilization forgets its predecessor, and out of its body builds its homes, its temples. Civilizations are ghouls. Egypt was pulled apart by its successor; Greece was divided among the Romans; Rome was pulled to pieces by bigotry and a bitterness much of which was engendered in its own empire building.

I want, somewhere in America on or near the Rockies, the backbone of the Continent, so far removed from succeeding, selfish, coveting civilizations, a few feet of stone that bears witness, carries the likenesses, the dates, a word or two of the great things we accomplished as a Nation, placed so high it won't pay to pull down for lesser purposes.

Hence, let us place there, carved high, as close to heaven as we can, the words of our leaders, their faces, to show posterity what manner of men they were. Then breathe a prayer that these records will endure until the wind and the rain alone shall wear them away.





MOUNT RUSHMORE

A MONUMENTAL TRIBUTE

Mount Rushmore is a monumental tribute to the soul of America.

The heads of Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt are 60 feet tall.

It cost nearly one million dollars to remove the 450,000 tons of stone now lying at its base.

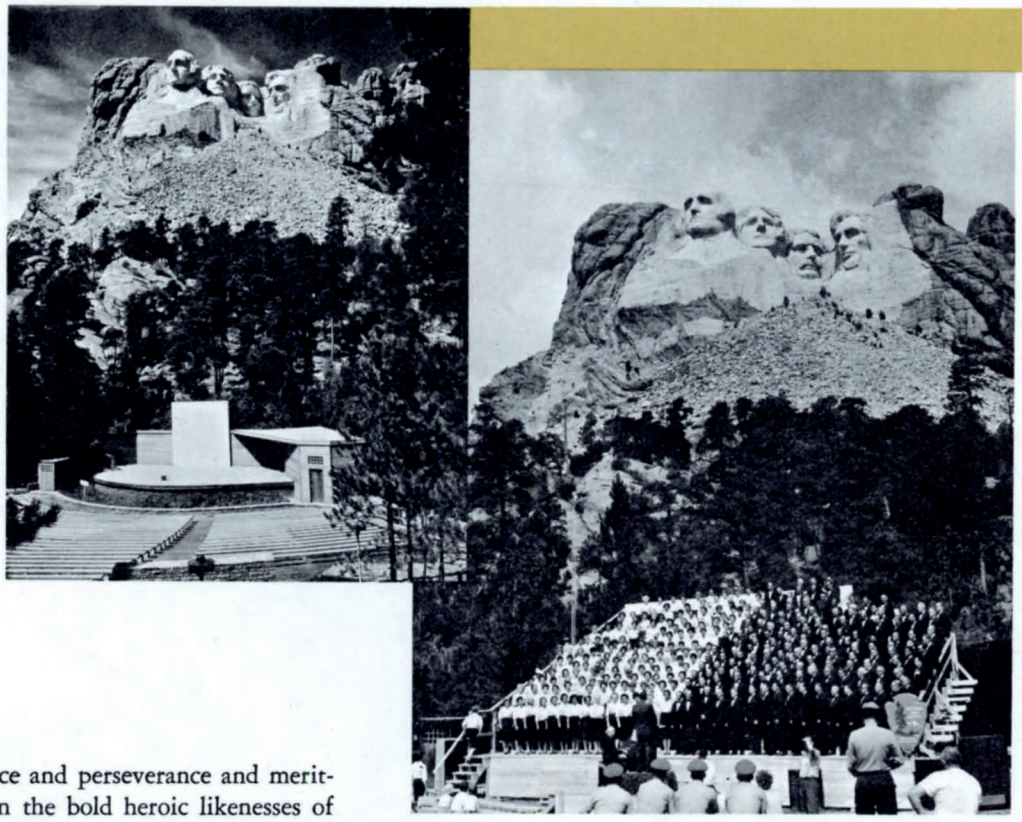
It required 14 years to complete, although only six and a half years of actual work were involved.

It was sculptured during some of the most trying years in American history — the depression, the drought and the international anxieties of the 1930's.

Despite the magnitude of the sculpturing problems and the vicissitudes of the times, Mount Rushmore stands today as this nation's Shrine of Democracy — the patriotic equal of which there is no other in the United States.

Impressive as it may be in size and mass, Mount Rushmore's greatest significance comes from its effect upon nearly two million Americans who visit the memorial each year.

It is a national monument to the greatness of America—symbolizing independence, justice, equality, free-



America-first telstar broadcast features Mormon Temple choir in Mount Rushmore amphitheater.

dom, audacity, self-reliance and perseverance and meriting the awe of visitors in the bold heroic likenesses of the four faces.

Mount Rushmore particularly is unique among the world's remarkable statuary in that it does not single out one page of history to euologize for posterity. Fittingly, in gigantic proportions, it commemorates an epoch — the 200 formative years and the great men whom God destined to personify them.

And the monument is finished. Future generations may see fit to remove the rubble at the base of the mountain, but the figures will remain as they were when death stayed the hand of the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum.

That people in all walks of life, from all over the world, come to the heart of America to look with wonder on the mountain sculpture is not nearly so hard to understand as that it came into existence at all.

That the four faces could be hewn from the almost-indestructible granite when the nation was beset by closed banks, dust bowls, massive unemployment and fears of a second world war is little short of a miracle.

But come into being it did and future generations of Americans can point with pride to this remarkable symbol of freedom and the American-born son whose genuis gave it reality.

Mount Rushmore's location is particularly fitting. The Black Hills of South Dakota are among this Nation's oldest mountains. Countless centuries of weathering have brought them both beauty and serenity.

It is near the geographical center of the United States, in the land of the once-mighty Sioux Indians, a part of the Louisiana Purchase, a land of lofty pines, granite peaks, emerald-green valleys and rushing streams.

Of the sculptor, Gilbert Fite, in his book on Mount Rushmore, first published by the University of Oklahoma Press in 1952, said: "The genius of Borglum had compelled him to accomplish an artistic work of national appeal, which would stand as long as the granite mountain endured. It was not only a memorial to American ideals and institutions; it represented the spirit, vision and audacity of Gutzon Borglum."

Since the memorial came under full control of the National Park Service in 1941, countless improvements have been made to accommodate visitors and more are in the planning stage.

The visitor center, spacious amphitheater, the Memorial View concession building and the 550-car parking area—all have been accomplished through the combined efforts of the National Park Service and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society of Black Hills.

A National Park Service Ranger gives short orientation talks during the summer season, and each evening from mid-May through September, a dramatic sculpture lighting program is presented.

To look upon Mount Rushmore is to see the most durable man-made work of any great size on this continent, but to understand Mount Rushmore is to know America, her forebears and her future.

SOUTH DAKOTA:
IN A SEA OF LAND, A NEW FRONTIER

The Great Plains of North America exist as a remembrance of the Inland Sea they once were. Massive herds of animals moved across them like giant shoals of fish, while unresisted wind flowed over hundreds of miles of grama and buffalo grass.

Before history began to write these Plains into her script, other tides and currents already moved on this dry ocean. People made up these movements, and though they came in scattered bands at first, in the course of years they would grind and change the Great Plains much as the tide wears away the seacoast.

The first current of humanity came down from the north toward the end of the last Ice Age, over the Bering Strait land bridge from Asia. Twelve-thousand years ago the paleo-Americans, ancestors of the American Indians, eddied into the Great Plains, where they hunted and lived in a vast area including the future South Dakota.

These early foot-hunters were being superceded by 5000 B.C. The Plains Archaic tradition flowed through the land, and then the Plains Woodland culture existed from about 500 B.C. to 1100 A.D., generally confined to the area of forest and substantial rainfall east of the Missouri River.

By then villages were being built, such as the one at the Lake Mitchell site. From 1100 A.D. to 1550 A.D. the middle-Missouri people inhabited the land along the Missouri.

Before the mid-1700's, the Arikara were the dominant tribe along the Missouri River. They had already made certain contact with Europeans. In 1743, the Verendrye brothers, French fur traders and explorers, left a lead plate at the present site of Ft. Pierre, claiming the land for the King of France. At that time, an Arikara village occupied the spot.

As the 18th Century ended the Arikara were threatened people, facing a new tide from the east. While the colonials fought the British in 1776, Chippewa Indians armed by Europeans and crowded by westward pushing settlers were in turn slowly driving the Sioux tribes out of their woodland homes into the tall grass prairie.

George Washington took the oath of office as first president of the United States on April 30, 1779.

The Sioux, or Dakota, had taken possession of the Big Sioux and James River valleys by 1750. Led by their Teton band, the Sioux reached the Missouri about 1780 and pushed farther west to the Black Hills. Their culture was in transition as they battled the Arikara for living space.

The Arikara, out-fought, weakened by disease, and unable to continue the struggle, abandoned their villages to the south and moved to the Mobridge area in 1794.

At least 15 million and perhaps as many as 60 million buffalo thundered over the Plains in the early 19th Century. The lords of the Plains from Nebraska into North Dakota and from Minnesota west into Montana were the powerful tribes of the Sioux — Santee, Yankton, Teton.

Their reign reached high water in a few decades. Fur-traders had become common in the future state by the early 1800's. Explorers Lewis and Clark represented the first currents of the new nation to penetrate the Plains, mapping the country in 1804-1806.

President Thomas Jefferson signed the Louisiana Purchase agreement in May of 1803.

After 1817, Ft. Pierre was a continuous occupied post. White men would soon come in a flood which would roll over the Sioux nation.

Pioneers didn't move into the land in great numbers at first; the myth of the Great American Desert was persistent. In 1856 Fort Randall was built on the Missouri. The Yankton tribe sold much of its land in 1858, the year after Sioux Falls was founded. In 1859, Yankton and Vermillion were permanently established. Dakota Territory was proclaimed in 1861, although settlement was confined to the small southeast triangle.

Then came the Sioux uprising in Minnesota as the Santee responded to late annuities and encroachment on their reservation with a bloody war. The news frightened the frontier in 1862, and hundreds of square miles of territory west were abandoned by settlers, including the town of Sioux Falls. Before the uprising was crushed military detachments occupied the townsite, but not until 1865 were settlers allowed to return.

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

After the Civil War the tide of white settlement began to surge. From 1868-1873 rain, good crops, and the westward edging of the railroads encouraged settlement during the first Dakota boom.

Many of the new Dakota homesteaders were immigrants. By 1870 there were nearly 12,000 white settlers in eastern South Dakota. After 1873 the first boom ended with drought and grasshoppers scourging the farms, but in the west, on the Great Sioux Reservation, events and people were coming together to bring to flood tide the push of settlement.

In 1874 General George A. Custer led a military ex-

pedition into the Black Hills and reported back the discovery of long-suspected deposits of gold. His report triggered fever in a nation struggling through a depression, and by late 1875 prospectors were inundating the Black Hills.

The Black Hills Gold Rush irreparably shattered the existing treaty with the Teton Sioux. War was inevitable; the Sioux fought passionately under Crazy Horse, but lost in the end to the winter and the relentless pursuit of the U.S. Army, despite their greatest victory in the Little Bighorn mountains of Montana over Custer.

In 1879 the Great Boom began, and lasted until 1886. Between 1878 and 1887 the population of the southern half of Dakota Territory increased from 80,000 to 325,000.

The summer of 1887 came and drought baked the Plains as it became obvious that rain had not followed the plow. Cold wind and driving snow froze the dream of western empire and commercial metropolises in January, 1888. A catastrophic blizzard in that month killed thousands of cattle, hundreds of people, and began the destruction of the open range cattle industry.

The dry summer of 1887 had been the beginning of a ten-year cycle of little rain and searing summers. Gilbert Fite says, "The farmers who stuck out farming through the mid-1890's were really the true pioneers." By then South Dakota was a state, having entered the union in 1889 in tandem with North Dakota and in order to strengthen Republican representation in the U.S. Congress.

President Theodore Roosevelt secured rights for the contsruction of the Panama Canal in 1903.

Although the new state's population dropped somewhat between 1890 and 1895, it rose to over 400,000 by 1900. That rise reflected the impact of immigration as much as the end of drought and depression. By 1910 this influx had reached its maximum; nearly 55 per cent of South Dakota's 548,000 people were immigrants and their children.

In the first decade of the Twentieth Century agriculture flourished. Homesteaders began breaking the western range in the early 1900's, but severe droughts in 1910 and 1911 brought the land rush to a halt. The Black Hills had been linked to eastern South Dakota by the railroad in 1905.

South Dakota achieved high tide during the third decade of the Twentieth Century, although the state wasn't aware of that. The surge of settlement had carried a tidal wave inevitability about it as it crashed on the Plains and plowed them for farms.

On October 1, 1925, South Dakota celebrated its optimism at the dedication of Mount Rushmore, the gigantic memorial to be carved in the Black Hills by Gutzon Borglum. The Rapid City Daily Journal editorialized, "The carving of Rushmore is not a thing of today but of the ages . . . It is the most stupendous undertaking of its kind in all history . . . It is epoch marking."

Perhaps the dedication did mark an epoch. Farm income had begun a sharp decline in the early 1920's. When the state counted 693,000 people in 1930, it was already in serious trouble, aggravated by the national depression. During the early 1930's, the Great Plains took their retribution.

Droughts, grasshoppers, and dust storms from eroded, mismanaged soils wreaked havoc with the vital farm economy. Despite national efforts, recovery was slow, and hundreds of farms stood vacant to the prairie winds which blew over the receding tide of people.

In 1944 the U.S. Congress authorized a comprehensive program of flood control and water resource development along the Missouri River.

Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown was started in 1944; in September, 1948, the largest of the series of four dams in South Dakota was begun with ground breaking for Oahe Dam, sited just northwest of South Dakota's capital, Pierre. In August, 1962, Oahe Dam was dedicated, and in 1966 Big Bend, the last of the four Missouri dams in South Dakota, was finished. (Gavin's Point Dam had been constructed near Yankton.)

Fluctuating currents of population indicate the changes in the character of South Dakota since its pioneer days, yet paradoxically emphasize its potential as a still-existing frontier of people rather than geography. Tides of humanity across the Plains of South Dakota had changed the land; in the millenia before the technological revolution, the changes had been scratches. But since then heavier tides and more efficient tools had altered the land, with farms replacing wild prairie, great dams creating vast artificial lakes, and a monument to commemorate the whole nation carved for the ages.

The first president of the United States, George Washington, gazes from the granite shoulder of Mount Rushmore. His stone eyes will look far into the future across the South Dakota Plains, perhaps to remind people of a vision he penned in 1787: "Extent of territory and gradual settlement will enable (the American people) to maintain something like a war of posts against the invasion of luxury, dissipation, and corruption. For, after the large cities and old establishments on the borders of the Atlantic shall, in the process of time, have fallen a prey to those invaders, the western states will probably long retain their primeval simplicity of manners and incorruptible love of liberty.

The lesson of America holds that great principles call forth great people. In South Dakota that lesson teaches the necessity of new frontiers as a challenge for those people.

MARK A. YOUNG

VISION, ENTERPRISE, ACCOMPLISHMENT

by Mrs. Gutzon Borglum

A nation's memorials are record of its civilization and the artist who builds them is the instrument of his time. He is inspired by the same forces that influence the nation's destiny — the greater the period, the greater the art. The artist cannot escape his destiny. Like the "Hound of Heaven" it "pursues him down the years," forces him to leave his home, to go into exile, to combat mountains even, to accomplish what he must.

How else can we explain why a man should abandon a comfortable way of life, among pleasant surroundings, to hurl himself against a gigantic rock, to cling like a human fly to a perpendicular peak, to struggle with hostile human nature, in order to carve against the sky a record of the great experiment in democracy on this continent — a record which will live on and be an inspiration to future generations, a shrine to be visited, even after the thing it commemorated may have passed.

This is the history of Rushmore told in a few words. The contributing factors are of interest and should be related but two outstanding facts are that a few kindred souls, giants in their day, fostered a form of democratic government and established a great nation and that a hundred and fifty years later another group of Americans realized the importance of making a record in the granite for all time of what manner of men they were and what they achieved.

The initial step in this great enterprise was taken by Doane Robinson, state historian of South Dakota, who had heard of the monument being carved in Georgia by Gutzon Borglum to honor the heroes of the South in the war between the states and thought it would be a fine idea to have a similar patriotic shrine in South Dakota to bring that state to the attention of the nation.

Doane Robinson, former South Dakota state historian, who first conceived the mountain memorial in the Black Hills.

Mr. Robinson invited Mr. Borglum in 1924 to visit the Black Hills to see what could be done. The first thought was to carve the likeness of Washington and perhaps of Lincoln in one of the granite upthrusts known as the Needles. The stone, however, was not suitable and there was no special reason for memorializing Washington and Lincoln as individual presidents in South Dakota.

Then Mr. Robinson told the sculptor of a lead tablet discovered by children playing near old Fort Pierre, which had been planted there in 1743 by Verendyre, an emissary of Louis of France, sent to establish French territory behind the English. This fired his imagination. Here was a subject for the great memorial he wanted to carve in the Hills.

South Dakota lies in the heart of the old Louisiana Territory, purchased by Jefferson in 1803, in order to control the mouth of the Mississippi, which marked the first step away from the Atlantic seaboard colonies in the expansion of the little republic. That step led to the establishment of Texas, the conquest of California, the acquisition of Oregon and Alaska and the spanning of the continent from ocean to ocean by the empire called the United States.

This was a subject worthy of a mountain — a monument to a nation, to its philosophy of government, its ideals and aspirations, its great leaders. Here in this remote spot, protected by its inaccessibility from the vandalism of succeeding generations, would be carved a Shrine of Democracy, as an imperishable record of a great people.

Mr. Borglum paid a second and third visit to the Hills and camped among them for two weeks, exploring

and examining every rock large enough to suggest a monument, with the result that the huge granite upthrust called Mount Rushmore was selected as the only stone sound enough to be suitable for carving. Another reason for choosing Rushmore was the important consideration of lighting. It was imperative that the cliff on which the figures were to be carved should face the east in order to get the maximum amount of sunlight all the day long. Washington's face is so placed that it catches the first rays of light in the morning and reflects the last ruddy glow in the evening.

That autumn a group of Rapid City women put on a pageant of flags, designed by Mr. Borglum, on the top of the cliff to show the different epochs through which the territory had passed. Thus was Mount Rushmore officially dedicated to the Memorial.

The Mount Harney Memorial Association was authorized in 1925 by the state legislature to undertake the project on Mount Rushmore. No funds were voted for the purpose. Contributions were obtained from the three railroads serving the state, from the Homestake Mine and from private individuals, among them Mr. Charles Rushmore, a New York lawyer, after whom, quite accidentally, the cliff had been named.

The work went on slowly, with considerable opposition, until President Coolidge's visit to the Black Hills in 1927. He made a splendid speech at a picturesque ceremony held at Rushmore, immediately following which he took Mr. Borglum aside, inquired about the financing and urged him to come to Washington for help. It is doubtful whether, without this impetus given by President Coolidge, the carving would ever have been accomplished.

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission came into existence as the result of a Congressional Bill, passed on Washington's Birthday in 1929. The act carried an appropriation of $250,000 for the memorial, which was to be matched on a fifty-fifty basis by private subscriptions; it designated Gutzon Borglum as the sculptor and designer of the four figures and provided also for an inscription on the mountain.

The first ascent of the mountain was made up the canyon on a wooden stairway. After the initial survey was made, pine trees with branches cut off and cleats nailed at right angles to the trees were laid in the crevices to serve as ladders. Heavy ropes were then carried by hand to the top and a small winch was carried as far as possible by pack horses and then carried to the top by hand. After this winch was fastened on the top of the mountain, it in turn was used to pull up the heavy cable that became the tramway from the ground to the mountain top.

Building material was pulled up and shelters built for the men. A small studio was also built to house the plaster reproductions of the master models that were

Gutzon Borglum poses with his models in an early conception of the sculptured mountain.

in the studio at the foot of the mountain. These reproductions were used for measurements to save time required to go to the studio 1500 feet away and 500 feet below. In some cases these models were hung over the side of the mountain so that they could be consulted and compared with the measurements as the actual stone work progressed. By this method it was possible to save considerable time and labor.

The work of fitting the figures into the cracked granite upthrust called Mt. Rushmore was a constant struggle between composition and finding solid stone for each of the four heads.

In the first design Jefferson was placed at the right of Washington and Lincoln on his left, and Theodore Roosevelt occupied the position now occupied by Lincoln. However, serious flaws developed in the stone on this side of Washington; and it therefore became necessary to change the design and place Jefferson to Washington's left. This made it necessary to place Theodore Roosevelt between Jefferson and Lincoln, and the stone had to be removed to a depth of approximately 120 feet from the original surface to get back far enough for the Roosevelt face.

As each head was started its center was located, and at this center point on the top of the head a plate was located. This was graduated in degrees 0 to 360 degrees, and at its center a horizontal arm was located that traversed this horizontal arc. This arm was about 30 feet long, in effect a giant protractor laid on top of the head. The arm was graduated in feet and inches so that at any point we could drop a plumb bob from this arm, and by measuring the vertical distance on this plumb line determine exactly the amount of stone to be removed.

Close-up of Lincoln with model suspended on cables to guide the artist. Workmen used scaffolding, suspended from cables, as work benches for much of the project.

After determining this master center point on the mountain, we set a smaller arc and arm on our model in the same relative position. With this small device we could make all our measurements on our model and then enlarge them twelve times and transfer them to the large measuring device on the mountain. Through this system every face had a measurement made every six inches both vertically and horizontally. These measurements were then painted on the stone and it was through this means that men totally unfamiliar with sculptural form were able to do this undertaking. In fact, all the men employed on the work were local men trained by the sculptor.

Pneumatic drills were used for drilling and the compressed air was provided by large compressors located on the ground . . . conveyed to the top of the mountain by a three-inch pipe.

The men were let down over the face of the stone in leather swings similar to bos'n chairs used on ships. The men were lowered to their place of work by hand-operated winches, taking with them jackhammers or pneumatic tools and other necessary equipment. A call-boy with a microphone and loud speakers at each of the winches relayed the messages for raising or lowering the workmen to the winchmen.

Steel used in the drilling was used over and over again, taken to the blacksmith shop on the ground via the cable car, heated, sharpened, re-heated and tempered and sent back to the mountain again. About 400 of these drills were dulled and re-sharpened each day.

The problem of finance was always acute in connection with the work of the Rushmore Memorial. The economic hardships of the country made it increasingly difficult to match the Federal appropriation, without which the carving could not go on. The sculptor made repeated trips through the state and beyond its borders to arouse interest in the undertaking. He succeeded in raising some money by publishing a small book about Rushmore.

There were never enough funds for as much power or as many men as he would have liked to use. There were long months when work was stopped altogether. Finally the government took over the whole burden of financing and the work continued regularly, after 1938, being halted only by weather conditions. The sculptor was at last able to employ one or two trained stone carvers to do the finer work of finishing.

Roughing out the face of Theodore Roosevelt. The strong chin and mouth are already visible. The mass of stone at the top will be carved away to form the mustache.

Mr. Borglum was always scrupulously careful to protect his men from harm and it was his boast that in all his years of hazardous mountain carving no worker was seriously injured. He took no care of himself, however, and physicians said that undoubtedly the strenuous work of carving at that altitude weakened his heart and in March, 1941, it stopped beating.

The carving was practically finished; there remained only the finishing of the hands and hair of the four figures and the Rushmore National Memorial Commission entrusted that work to the sculptor's son, Lincoln Borglum, who had been with his father from the beginning of the work.

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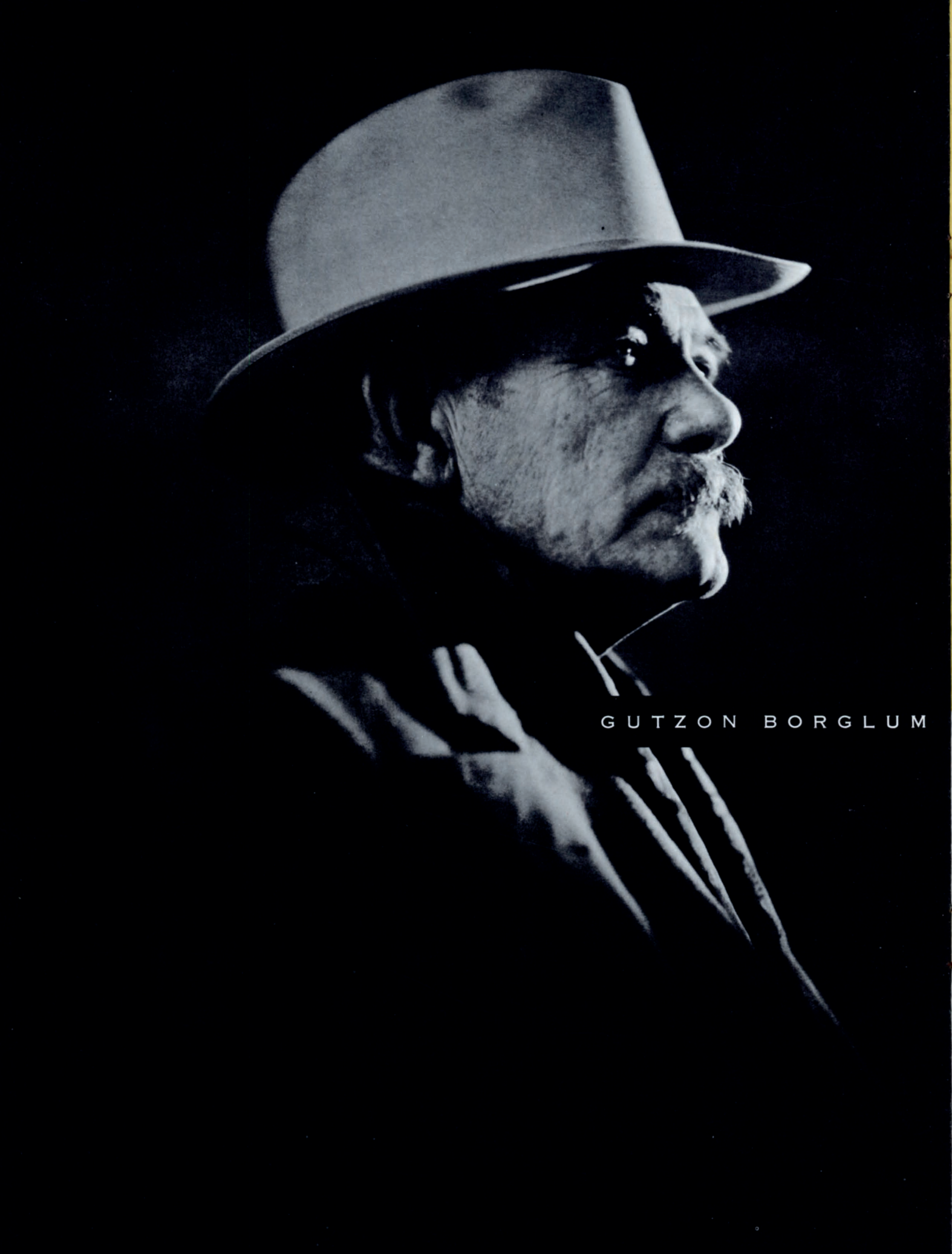

GUTZON BORGLUM

Spirit and Execution Unsurpassed . . .

THE MIGHTY WORKS OF GUTZON BORGLUM

by RUPERT HUGHES

How big is great? How high is up?

In the wide and numberless fields of creative art, size is a matter of spirit rather than of material bulk. A sonnet may be a masterpiece, and an epic rubbish; or an epic may be sublime, a sonnet petty.

It is only affectation to confine one's praise to small things. Because a poet delights in a brook chuckling through a thicket of birches he need not therefore despise Niagara.

The Shakespeare of the sonnets wrote also "Hamlet" and "King Lear." The Beethoven who wrote the giggling "Scherzos" wrote also the titanic Ninth and added its mighty chorus. Michelangelo did statuettes and sonnets, but also his "Day of Judgment" and his prodigious horned Moses.

To the sincere artist it is the idea that is vital. Once that has inflamed him, he seeks only to give it the shape and the size that its nature dictates.

So Gutzon Borglum, being sensitive to all the moods of life, a born poet, with an innate love of form for its own sake, quick to glow with inspirations of every kind and determined to give each its unique and eloquent shape, has painted and carved without fear or favor the exquisite and the tremendous with equal fidelity.

His genius shines in the little bas-relief of a nymph; in sardonic gargoyles; in the tiny yet epic statuette of the dying Nero; in the suave portrait of the seated Ruskin; the pathos of the old Boer warrior; in the billowy rush of the stampeding "Mares of Diomedes"; in his colossal head of Lincoln; in his war memorial for Newark with its marvellously composed forty-two figures and two horses; his magnificent plan for Stone Mountain, whose thwarting is one of the great tragedies of art; and finally in his supreme achievement, the Mount Rushmore Memorial, where he brought his art to the mountains and left there the four great faces for all eternity.

This unparalleled accomplishment seems to have been not so much the carving of those vast heads upon the peaks as the beating away of the veiling, smothering stone and the releasing of the imprisoned statesmen so that they might look out upon the world and utter their lofty messages in a silence more pervasive and sonorous than any trumpet-tone.

The heads stand up there against the clouds like cloud-gods. Yet they are not offered as gods, but as plain men who glorified the plain man. Each of them is greater in magnitude than the Egyptian Sphinx. None of the giants, ancient or modern, has approached the size of the greater work of Borglum.

This carver of mountains was himself a mountainy

man, born in the mountainous state of Idaho on March 25, 1867. His full name was John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum. His parents had come over from Denmark. His father became a physician and surgeon, also a breeder of horses on a 6,000-acre ranch.

He had no money to give his children, but he gave them a love of form and a knowledge of the horse that not only inspired Gutzon Borglum to some of his most magnificent work, but also made a splendid career for his younger brother, Solon.

Gutzon's indomitable will carried him from the Idaho ranch to an art school in San Francisco, thence to Paris. He began as both painter and sculptor and was accepted as both by the French salons. In England, critics and royalty heaped honors on him. After painting a series of murals for a big hotel at Leeds and another series for a concert hall at Manchester, he began to abandon the brushes for the chisel, and to turn out statuary in almost every field and almost every imaginable form.

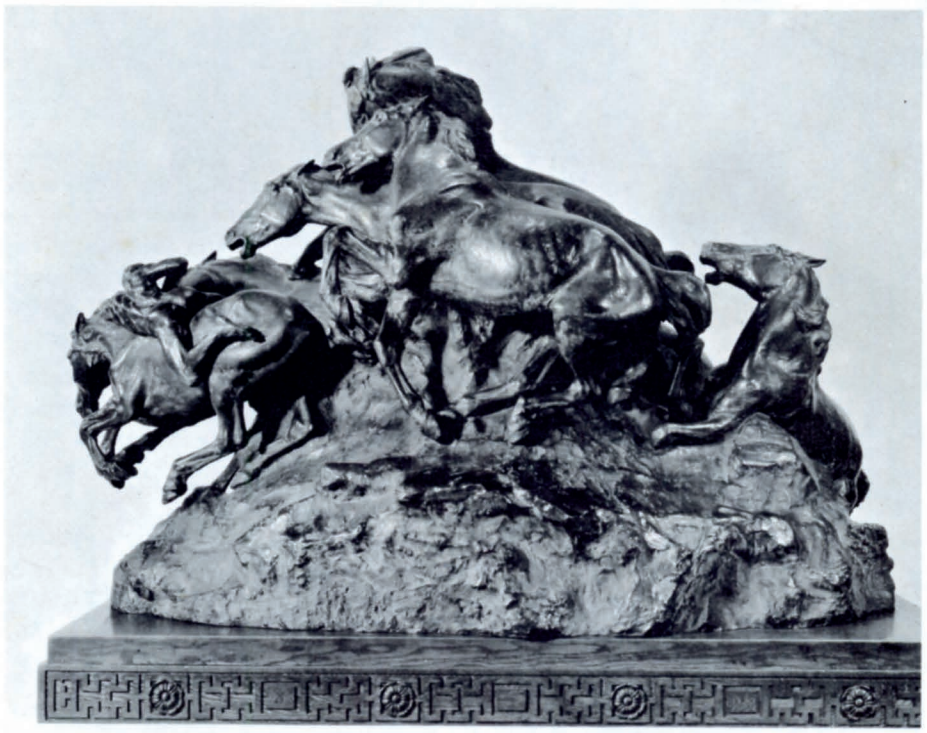
From the first, his works won the highest honors. The Metropolitan Museum brought his "Mares of Diomedes" at once and the French Government promptly purchased a partial replica of it for the Luxembourg Gallery. Commissions rained on him and there was never any repetition in the spirit or the treatment of his responses.

There is not space here for even a catalogue of his triumphs. He also wrote much and well. He was an engineer and an inventor, overcoming by his own skill supposedly unconquerable problems involved in the construction of his larger works. He was an orator of eloquence with a practical skill in politics. At times he was a statesman and the close associate of Paderewski and Masaryk in the re-creation of their lost republics. During the first World War he investigated and exposed the causes for a mysterious and dangerous failure in American aircraft manufacture. His career has a strange kinship in its versatility with that of Leonardo da Vinci.

In 1909 he married Mary Montgomery, a distinguished scholar in ancient Oriental lauguages, and a translator of cuneiform inscriptions. A son and a daughter blessed this union.

It was in 1907 that I first met Gutzon Borglum while preparing an article on his work, to which I paid complete homage. This was the beginning of a lifelong friendship of which I wrote him while he was glorifying the South Dakota mountains:

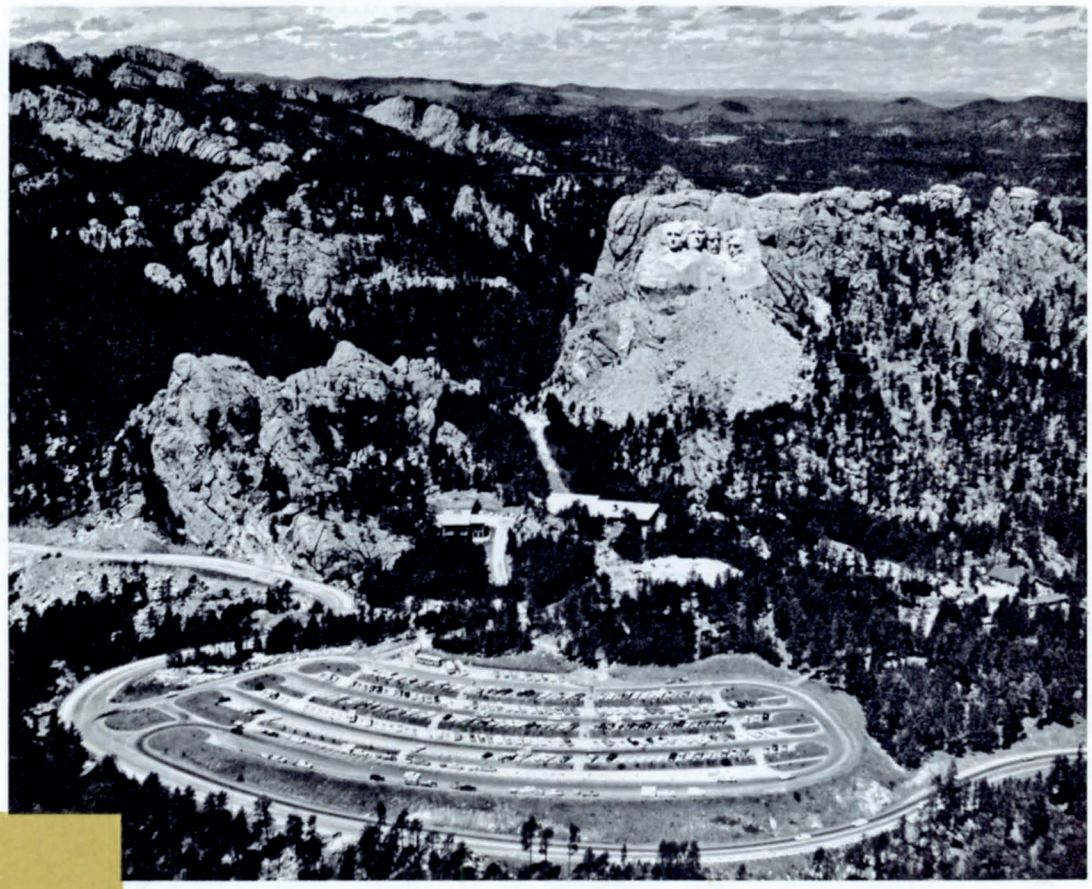
"I have always had an awe and a reverance for you that fought with my love for the simple, jovial, twinkling-eyed friend you always were."



Mares of Diomedes — Metropolitan Museum of Art

He answered: "You have said your say about me and it is a wet eye that reads through the letter. You know how vandalism in the name of Civilization raids the tombs of our ancestors and destroys the records of History. One of my motives in this work was to carve these records of our great West-World adventure as high into the heavens as I could find the stone."

As man and as sculptor he was passionately American and he has not only given to his country monuments of art that equal the greatness of other nations, but he has given artistic expression to the ideals that make America America.



EACH YEAR

TWO MILLION VISITORS

Doane Robinson's vision, Gutzon Borglum's sculptoring genius, the United States government's helping hand and South Dakota's abiding faith were the active components which combined to make the Shrine of Democracy a reality.

Officially instrumental in the monumental work from a state standpoint has been the South Dakota Department of Highways. It has made it possible for nearly two million visitors each year to drive over a hard-surfaced, all-weather highway to the summit of Doane Mountain to view the sculptored heads.

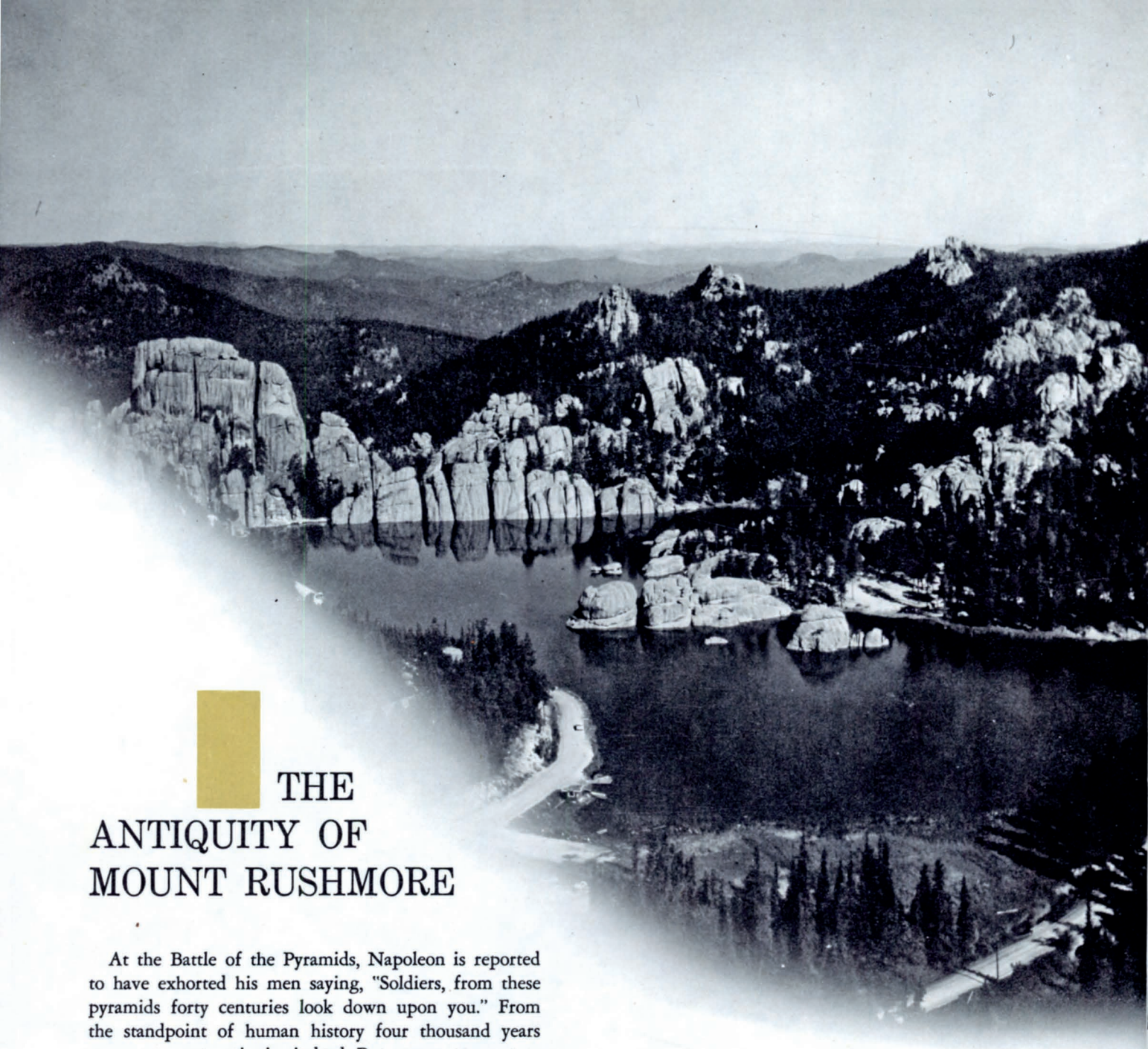
The good roads that Borglum said would be necessary are now a reality — a far cry from the crude logging trail which was the only access to the base of the sculptor's operations when work began.

The first real road up the mountain was started in 1927 when President Coolidge dedicated the work. Coolidge was greeted with a presidential salute of 21 dynamic blasts which simultaneously removed stumps from the right-of-way of the proposed road. The President still was forced to ride horseback to the program.

The access road was laid out by another great and good friend of the Memorial, Peter Norbeck, governor and later U. S. Senator from South Dakota. He commandeered highway funds for the new road, which was completed in 1930 and the Highway Department given responsibility for its maintenance.

In 1965, the U. S. Forest Service began the construction and realignment of the Horse Thief Lake Road, and in 1967 it became a main east-west arterial highway linking the mountains with the plains.

Mount Rushmore has received an unofficial ranking — second only to the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco — among the "Seven Manmade Wonders of the USA". This pre-eminence was determined in a poll conducted by the United States Travel Service, Department of Commerce, in 1974. Others of the first seven in "Manmade Wonders" were the Astrodome in Houston, the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, Hoover Dam in Arizona, Walt Disney World in Florida and Gateway Arch in St. Louis.



THE ANTIQUITY OF MOUNT RUSHMORE

At the Battle of the Pyramids, Napoleon is reported to have exhorted his men saying, "Soldiers, from these pyramids forty centuries look down upon you." From the standpoint of human history four thousand years represent great antiquity indeed. But as one gazes upon the rugged slopes of Mount Rushmore, he is face to face with antiquity beside which the age of the Egyptian pyramids seems but a moment.

How old is the granite of Rushmore? Not far from the mountain, in a subsidiary mass of granite, there was found a small piece of coal-black, lustrous mineral known as pitchblende or uraninite. If we submit the specimen of pitchblende to chemical analysis, determine how much lead it contains, how much uranium is still left, it is a comparatively simple calculation to determine from the known rate of change, the number of years that have elapsed since the pitchblende came into existence.

That experiment has been performed and the result is 1,465,000,000 years. It represents the age of solid granite.

But, although the granite of which the mountain is composed dates back to a period almost inconceivably remote, Mount Rushmore itself is much younger.

Field evidence indicates that fairly early in the Tertiary period, approximately thirty million years ago, erosion had carved out the topography of the Black Hills into much the same stage as we see it today. Perhaps Mount Rushmore was not fully born in that period; its

form may not yet have been completely sculptured under the chisel of time, but we know that its age must be measured in millions of years and not in centuries.

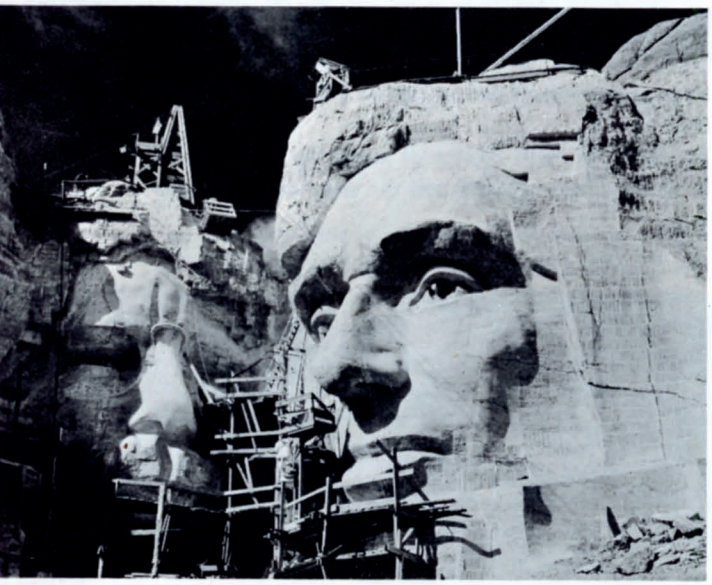
Mount Rushmore is a child of weathering and erosion. They brought the mountain into being and gave it form. But those relentless parents will not be content to leave their child as they fashioned it. They will continue their work of disintegration on the surface of the rock and along the cracks, until eventually they will completely destroy the mountain they formed. Two processes will tend eventually to destroy the memorial, chemical weathering and physical disintegration.

Chemical weathering will take place very slowly, so slowly that if it were the only destructive process we had to consider, we could with some confidence say that the memorial would endure for hundreds of thousands of years.

Physical disintegration is somewhat more to be feared. When water gets into the cracks and pores of the rocks and freezes, it exerts enormous pressure, a pressure that will spall off flakes and blocks of rock. The artist and his associates, fully aware of this hazard, have guarded against it. All cracks and fissures have been carefully avoided in the sculpturing so far as possible. Such as have been impossible to avoid are being sealed to prevent the ingress of water, thus inhibiting to a very large extent both frost action and chemical weathering.

"How long will the memorial last?" I can do no better than to quote the late Dr. C. C. O'Harra at the unveiling of the head of Washington.

"How long will Mount Rushmore last? Many millions of years. The number nobody knows. The time at any rate will be long, far longer than we can readily comprehend. And this doubtless will abundantly suffice."



MILESTONES *in the sculpturing*

1923	Colossal sculpture in Black Hills suggested by Doane Robinson, then director of South Dakota Historical Society. (December 28)
1925	Federal government and South Dakota authorize sculpture in Black Hills. (March 3 and 5)
1925	Dedication of Mount Rushmore as a national memorial with flag ceremony by Rapid City women's clubs. (October 1)
1927	First drilling for sculptures after President Calvin Coolige formally presented tools to Sculptor Gutzon Borglum.
1930	Dedication of Washington figure. (July 4)
1936	Dedication of Jefferson figure by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. (August 30)
1937	Dedication of Lincoln figure as part of South Dakota's Golden Jubilee celebration. (September 17)
1939	Dedication of Roosevelt figure. (July 2)
1941	Final drilling at Mount Rushmore under supervision of Lincoln Borglum. (October 31)

A MASTERPIECE *in the National Park System*

In the Black Hills of South Dakota the likenesses of four giants of American history are carved in proportions symbolic of greatness. This memorial, the artistic creation of the late sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, is more than the expression of one man's genius—it is more than sheer size. To nearly two million visitors each year the memorial represents the birth of our nation; the shaping of our political philosophy; the welding together, and expansion, of the nation we know today.

The idea, which later became a great national memorial, was born in the fertile mind of Doane Robinson, the state historian of South Dakota. On December 28, 1923 this imaginative man suggested that a colossal sculpture be undertaken in the Black Hills. Gutzon Borglum, who was then carving Stone Mountain in Georgia, quickly seized upon the idea and by 1925 both men had been able to get authorization from the state and federal governments to proceed with the carving project.

The following years were anxious years for the men who envisioned such a grand sculpture. Private interests were either hostile or apathetic and money for the project was difficult to obtain. By 1927 enough interest had been engendered to have President Calvin Coolidge come to dedicate the beginning of work on the project. Coolidge, who had been greatly impressed by the program, opened the way for federal support. Initial funds were raised through popular subscription and private donations, but in the end the federal government appropriated about 80 per cent of the total amount.

In 1938 Congress designated not more than 1,500 acres of federal lands in Harney National Forest to be set aside for the memorial, and in the following year responsibility for the administration of the memorial was turned over to the National Park Service. Thus, the memorial joined a great complex of superlative natural, historical and recreational parks in the National Park System.

The National Park System is made up of over 270 areas, which taken together, tell the story of this nation,

New visitor center allows viewers to more clearly understand the steps in development and the significance of the Shrine of Democracy.

Spiraling attendance figures necessitated construction of the present Memorial View concession to serve the traveling public.

and the continent we live on, from their earliest beginnings. Mount Rushmore National Memorial has its place in the telling of the national story — especially the growth of the nation during its first 150 years.

There is a need in every citizen of the United States to view the great memorials to their historic past, and through them obtain a more thorough understanding and appreciation of their national heritage.

Today, this need is greater than at any other time in our history. Subjected to the unrelenting threats and tensions of an uncertain world, Americans are being drawn in increasing numbers to re-establish contact with the nation's past. From this contact with the past they seek and are able to find the reassurance that through the centuries the United States has weathered every manner of upheaval. From the Revolutionary War, and internal strife during the Civil War; through two great World Wars and continuing strife, it lives on today — strong and steadfast.

Each year increasing numbers of visitors come to Mount Rushmore to stand and contemplate the greatness of our land and leave refreshed and comforted — their patriotic "batteries" recharged — ready to face once more the challenges of this age.

The steady increase of visitors to areas of the National Park System has created conditions which threaten the preservation and continued use of recreational and inspirational areas. To meet the demand of ever-increasing visitation and to provide facilities for the burgeoning numbers of outdoor recreation enthusiasts, the National Park Service has a continuous development and conservation program which will assure the wisest and fullest use of public lands within the park system.

At Mount Rushmore new and future developments include the utilization of new transportation concepts to relieve congestion during the peak travel season and a continuous program of up-grading the Memorial's interpretive and visitor services programs by incorporation of the latest media, such as closed circuit television.

ADMINISTRATION

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

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources". The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States — now and in the future.

William Williamson, second president of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society.

"... DRAWN FROM AMERICAN SOURCES, MEMORIALIZING AMERICAN ACHIEVEMENT."

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY

OF BLACK HILLS

When the inspiration for Mount Rushmore was born in the mind of State Historian Doane Robinson, he counted strongly on the innate pioneering spirit of South Dakotans to win it vigorous and sustained support. He was not mistaken.

After recovering from some early misgivings about carving nature's handiwork, the State of South Dakota and the community of the Black Hills have, with undiminished zeal, accepted a not inconsiderable moral and financial responsibility in the evolution of the Shrine of Democracy.

Through successive stages of locating, planning, sculptoring, maintaining and publicizing Mount Rushmore, a liaison with Gutzon Borglum and his son, Lincoln; the President, the Congress and the Department of Interior has been maintained through the instrumentalities of three non-profit corporations.

The Mount Harney Memorial Association was first authorized to "carve a memorial in heroic figures" under an act of Congress, approved by President Coolidge on March 4, 1925. Brought into being through a bill passed by the South Dakota Legislature, the Association entered into a formal contract with the sculptor and work was commenced in 1927.

Subsequently in 1929, when Federal funds were appropriated for matching purposes, the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission was created, consisting of twelve members.

Appointed by President Coolidge to serve on the Commission were John A. Boland, Rapid City; Charles R. Crane, New York; Joseph S. Cullinan, Houston; C. M. Day, Sioux Falls; D. B. Gurney, Yankton; Hale Holden, Chicago; Frank O. Lowden, Oregon, Ill.; Julius Rosenwald, Chicago; Fred W. Sargent, Evanston, Ill., and Mrs. Lorine Jones Spoonts, Corpus Christi, leaving two vacancies to be filled by his successor.

The two vacancies were filled by Herbert Hoover shortly after he became President by the appointment of

Bust of John A. Boland, an original member of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission and first president of the Mount Rushmore Society, occupies a prominent place in the Memorial View concession building.

A monument in dimensions commensurate to the spirit and ideals of this nation.

Royal C. Johnson, Highmore, S. D., and William Williamson, Rapid City.

At the invitation of President Hoover, the Commission met at the Cabinet room of the White House on June 6, 1929, and organized by electing officers and appointing five of its members as an executive committee. Mr. Cullinan became the first president of the Commission and the executive committee organized by electing Mr. Boland as chairman and Mr. Williamson as secretary.

Except for a brief period beginning in 1938, Mr. Boland was to continue his active affiliation with the Memorial until his death October 9, 1958. His unselfish contributions to the development of the Memorial are legend. He exercised great patience and wisdom in the business-like administration of the funds used in the development of the Memorial.

It was the Memorial Commission which assumed financial responsibility for the sculptoring, taking over all property and contracts from the Mount Harney Association, employing a staff for the sculptor and disbursing federal and private funds during the course of construction.

It was also the parent organization for the present Mount Rushmore National Memorial Society of Black Hills, incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia in 1930.

Mr. Williamson, South Dakota's representative in Congress from 1921 to 1933, a past president of the State Historical Society and a prominent Rapid City corporation counsel, succeeded Mr. Boland as president of the Society. John A. Boland, Jr., followed Mr. Williamson in the president's chair and was succeeded in turn by Hoadley Dean, Rapid City businessman.

Initially as concessionaire and, since 1968, as the recipient of a percentage of the concessionaire's gross sales, the Memorial Society, between 1950 and 1974, paid $679,339 to the federal government in concession and franchise fees . . . invested $345,406 in capital improvements, maintenance and repairs . . . funded $40,712 in National Park Service projects for which no Congressional appropriations had been made, and . . . spent $147,620 in the promotion of visitations to the Memorial and in educating the public — school children in particular — in the significance of the mountain carving.

Exceedingly high standards are maintained in the food service, gift and souvenir concession at the Memorial, which is operated by the Mountain Company, headed by President Kay Valdes, under lease from the National Park Service. Over 100 people, mostly college students, are employed at the concession during the summer tourist seasons.

Big Bend — one of four Missouri River dams creating the Great Lakes of South Dakota.

Rugged contours of the Badlands National Monument.

A RECORD FOR FUTURE CIVILIZATIONS

A majestic Hall of Records, that in Sculptor Gutzon Borglum's words would delineate "the power that freedom has given America," remains in an unfinished state — an inherited challenge to the boldness and audacity of future conservators of the Shrine of Democracy.

A start on the Hall of Records, located about two thirds of the way up the mountain in a comparatively small gorge to the right of the carved faces, was made in the 1930's, and the granite excavated to a depth of 70 feet before work was halted.

Using the present tense to describe the massive vault as it existed in his mind's eye, Borglum wrote:

"The facade to the Hall's entrance is the mountain wall 140 feet high; supporting pylons cut into the mountain, flank the entrance. The entrance door itself is 12 feet wide and 20 feet high; the walls are plain, dressed granite and of a fine color."

The mountain carver planned to finish the inner entrance wall in mosaic of blue and gold lapis (an opaque semi-precious stone).

"The floor of the Hall will be 100 by 80 by 32 feet to an arched ceiling," Borglum wrote. "At the height of fifteen feet an historic frieze, four feet wide, will encircle the entire room.

"Recesses will be cut into these walls to be filled with bronze and glass cabinets, which will hold the records stamped on aluminum sheets, rolled separately and placed in tubes. Busts of our leaders in all human activities will occupy the recesses between the cabinets."

"The records of electricity, beginning with Franklin, which has given us light, heat, music, the radio, the telegraph, the telephone and controls in power the extent of which we can hardly imagine, must be here, together with the records of literature, the records of travel, immigration, religious development and also the record of perhaps the largest contribution that we have made to humanity, which has been free controlled peace, a government of the people, by and for the people."

Envisioning the entrance to the Hall, Borglum said, "Small, carefully modeled bronze figures of historic importance from Columbus and Raleigh to the present day will ornament the doors or be modeled into the supporting frame. The walls of the entrance will carry in gilded bronze . . . ancient Indian symbols; British, French, Spanish and American seals."

Borglum proposed that the Hall "be reached by a monumental flight of steps varying from 15 to 20 feet in width, which will ascend the mountain in front, a little to one side of the sculpture, rising from a great granite disk or platform in the canyon below.

A re-examination of the desirability of completing the Hall of Records has been undertaken by the National Park Service with encouragement from Lincoln Borglum, the sculptor's son who brought the monument to the present stage of completion following his father's death in 1941.

"This is the only monument, as far as we know, built by a government to its founding, laws, preservation and expansion," Lincoln Borglum points out. "Without some record that will last as long as the heads themselves, it can easily become another puzzle to future civilizations, as witness the unexplained monuments in Central and South America, Easter Island, Egypt and the Mid and Far East."

In carving the head of George Washington, Mr. Borglum was confronted by an extraordinary problem. He had undertaken to place his sculpture on a mountain peak 5700 feet above sea level. His face of Washington, tall as a five-story building, was to be far up in the sky "where the clouds fold about it like a great scarf, where the stars blink about its head, and the moon hides behind a lock of hair." As Borglum himself pointed out, it was the practice of the sculptors of history, immediately they departed from the normal dimensions of men, to conventionalize and simplify their faces and to generalize the portraiture. Such methods had no appeal to Borglum. The faces he placed upon the mountain must be true, great and noble faces, and that of Washington would be the gauge of all the rest. Borglum spent thirteen years digging into every corner of Washington's life. He made an extensive study of his character and was deeply impressed by the picture presented by Thomas Jefferson in the following letter to Dr. Walter Jones, dated at Monticello, January 2, 1814:

"INTERWOVEN IS THE LOVE OF LIBERTY WITH EVERY LIGAMENT OF THE HEART."

GEORGE WASHINGTON ★★★★★

I think I knew Gen. Washington intimately and thoroly; and were I called on to delineate his character, it should be in terms like these.

His mind was great and powerful, without being of the very first order; his penetration strong, tho not so acute as that of a Newton, Bacon, or Locke; and so far as he saw, no judgment was ever sounder. It was slow in operation, being little aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion. Hence the common remark of his officers, of the advantage he derived from councils of war, where hearing all suggestions, he selected whatever was best; and certainly no general ever planned his battles more judiciously. But if deranged during the course of the action, if any member of his plan was dislocated by sudden circumstances, he was slow in readjustment. The consequence was that he often failed in the field, and rarely against an enemy in station, as at Boston and York.

He was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern. Perhaps the strongest feature of his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw a doubt, but when once decided, going thru with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed.

His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known, no motives of interest or consanguinity, of friendship, or hatred, being able to bias his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the words a wise, a good, and a great man. His temper was naturally high toned; but reflection and resolution had obtained a firm and habitual ascendancy over it. If ever, however, it broke its bonds, he was most tremendous in his wrath.

In his expenses he was honorable, but exact; liberal in contribution to whatever promised utility; but frowning and unyielding on all visionary projects and all unworthy calls on his charity. His heart was not warm in its affections; but he exactly calculated every man's value, and gave him a solid esteem proportioned to it.

His person, you know, was fine, his stature exactly what one would wish, his deportment easy, erect and noble; the best horseman of his age, and the most graceful figure that could be seen on horseback. Altho in the circle of his friends, where he might be unreserved with safety, he took a free share in conversation, his colloquial talents were not above mediocrity, possessing neither copiousness of ideas nor fluency of words. In public, when called on for sudden opinion, he was unready, short, and embarrassed. Yet he wrote readily, rather diffusely, in an easy and correct style.

On the whole, his character was, in its mass, perfect, in nothing bad, in few points indifferent; and it may truly be said that never did nature and fortune combine more perfectly to make a man great, and to place him in the same constellation with whatever worthies have merited from man an everlasting remembrance. For his was the singular destiny and merit of leading the armies of his country successfully thru an arduous war, for the establishment of its independence; of conducting its councils thru the birth of a government, new in its forms and principles, until it had settled down into a quiet and orderly train; and of scrupulously obeying the laws thru the whole of his career, civil and military, of which the history of the world furnishes no other example . . .

George Washington—President of the United States 1789-1797

"... the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty, and the destiny of the Republican model of Government, are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."

First Inaugural Address, April 30, 1789.

"PEOPLE ARE ENDOWED WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS . . ."

THOMAS JEFFERSON ★★★★★★

Writing just a century ago, and a few years after Jefferson's death, one of his earliest biographers said that it had been that statesman's fate "to be at once loved and praised by his friends, and more hated and reviled by his adversaries than any of his compatriots." The fact that much of the same could be said of the writing about him today merely shows that the man is still alive in so far as his influence is both felt and feared. So is his great antagonist Hamilton. These two exponents of contrasted philosophies of government, though dead, yet live and are in the thick of the fight today. The issues for which they fought with all their strength are not yet settled. Indeed these issues have broadened and deepened until one in especial has become perhaps the most burning of all in a bewildered and angry world, the question of whether the people can govern themselves or must be governed.

Perhaps the most widely read man of his time in America, Jefferson had a broader range of interests — political, religious, economic, agricultural, aesthetic and scientific — than did any other of the leaders. His curiosity was insatiable, but in spite of what has so frequently been asserted, usually by his enemies, although sometimes by his friends, he was not a mere theorist. He kept his feet on the ground. It was the practical application of ideas and their practical effects which appealed most to him and not the ideas in themselves as viewed by a philosopher. Even when he could not use the touchstone of experiment in such matters as his belief in the common man or religious freedom, he was never a doctrinaire. He not only believed but said over and over that government and institutions had to be suited to a people of any given time and place and could not be true or good everywhere and always.

We do not look to Jefferson for a theory of government of the state. To a great extent the things he had to say about government, and the things for which he strove in his active political life, were based on the America of his day and the slowly developing agricultural one which he envisaged in the future, writing as he did, before the machine age. What gave Jefferson his profound importance in his own day, as it does now, was his view of human life. He was, and still is, the greatest and most influential American exponent of both Liberalism and Americanism.

It may also be noted that even in his native Virginia, Jefferson antagonized many of the most important interests and families by what was considered his undermining of a social order. His struggle to break down entail and primogeniture, to free religion from the fetters of a State church, and his well-known opposition to slavery, have not even yet been forgiven by many Virginians who feel that the downfall of the, in many ways, charming and delightful society of the eighteenth century was due to one whom they consider a renegade from his own order.

Europe, in the early days of our country, was filled with restraints and barriers. Jefferson felt that the America of his day offered a unique opportunity in the annals of mankind to try out the great experiment of self-government on an unprecedented scale. His Americanism, written in part into the Declaration of Independence, which he preached throughout life by word and act, grew out of his personal experience of America itself. In so far as those qualities of the American people which we group under the word "Americanism" have been fostered by any one man, in addition to the natural forces of the American environment, Jefferson is beyond question that man.

The struggle going on almost everywhere today, in our own country no less than in some of those others which have already lost their liberties, is the struggle between the conception of a strong centralized state controlling the lives of the citizens for the sake of economics and national power, and the conception of personal liberty affording the greatest possible scope for the individual to live his life as he wills. The old questions which Jefferson and Hamilton fought over were who is to rule, why are they to rule, what is the object of their rule? These are now being fought out again, as they always have been, but with increasing bitterness among vast masses of populations. That is why both men are living today and why it is worth while to consider again the life particularly of the one who laid more stress upon freedom and toleration for the individual than on the strength of national power.

JAMES TRUSLOW ADAMS

Thomas Jefferson — President of the United States 1801-1809

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776.

Carlyle once said to Holman Hunt: "I'm only a poor man, but I would give one third of what I possess for a veritable, contemporaneous representation of Jesus Christ. Had those carvers of marble chiseled a faithful statue of the Son of Man and shown us what manner of man he was like . . . I for one would have thanked the sculptor with all the gratitude of my heart for that portrait as one of the most precious heirlooms of the ages."

Remarkable as it may seem, were it not for photography and one life mask, this, with equal truth, might be said of a man who, as the ages run, has hardly gone from among us.

Lincoln, one of the greatest of observers, was himself the least truly observed. God had built him in the backyard of the nation and there, wrapped in homely guise, had preserved and matured his pure humanity. He was heard, but seems rarely, if ever, to have been truly seen. The reports we have of him do not satisfy, do not justify, are inconsistent. The eastern, old-world eye could not read beyond the queer hat, bad tailoring, and boots you could not now give away — and he was so long he fairly had to stoop to look the little world in the face. Never has bad tailoring, homely, deferential manner, so completely hidden seer, jester, master of men, as did these simple accoutrements this first great gift of the West.

Lincoln is a comfort and a reality, an example, a living inspiration to every mother and every son in America. No mask will satisfy us; we want to see what we care for; we want to feel the private conscience that became public conduct. We love this man, because he was all in all one of us and made all the world peers. Now we begin to see him truly. Within his coming the West has steadily rolled back the East, and of his ways the world has many. The silk hat, the tall figure, the swing, the language and manner have become American, and we all understand.

Official Washington was shocked by his address. Men, who could have given us master pictures of a master man, remained unconvinced until he had passed away. The great portrait was never drawn, and now it is too late; we must wade through mountains of material and by some strange divination find in fragments the real man, and, patiently, lovingly, yet justly, piece them all together.

It was speculation of this kind that gradually led me to a careful analysis of Lincoln the man. The accepted portraits of him do not justify his record. His life, his labors, his writings, made me feel some gross injustice had been done him in the blind, careless use of such phrases as *ungainly, uncouth, vulgar, rude,* which were commonly applied to him by his contemporaries. These popular descriptions do not fit the master of polished Douglas — nor the man, whose intellectual arrogance academic Sumner resented.

I believed the healthy, powerful youth and frontiersman, the lover, lawyer of spotless record, legislator, the thrice candidate for President, had been falsely drawn. I believed if properly seen and truly read, the compelling and enduring greatness of the man would be found written in his actions, in his figure, in his deportment, in his face, and that some of this compelling greatness might be gotten into stone.

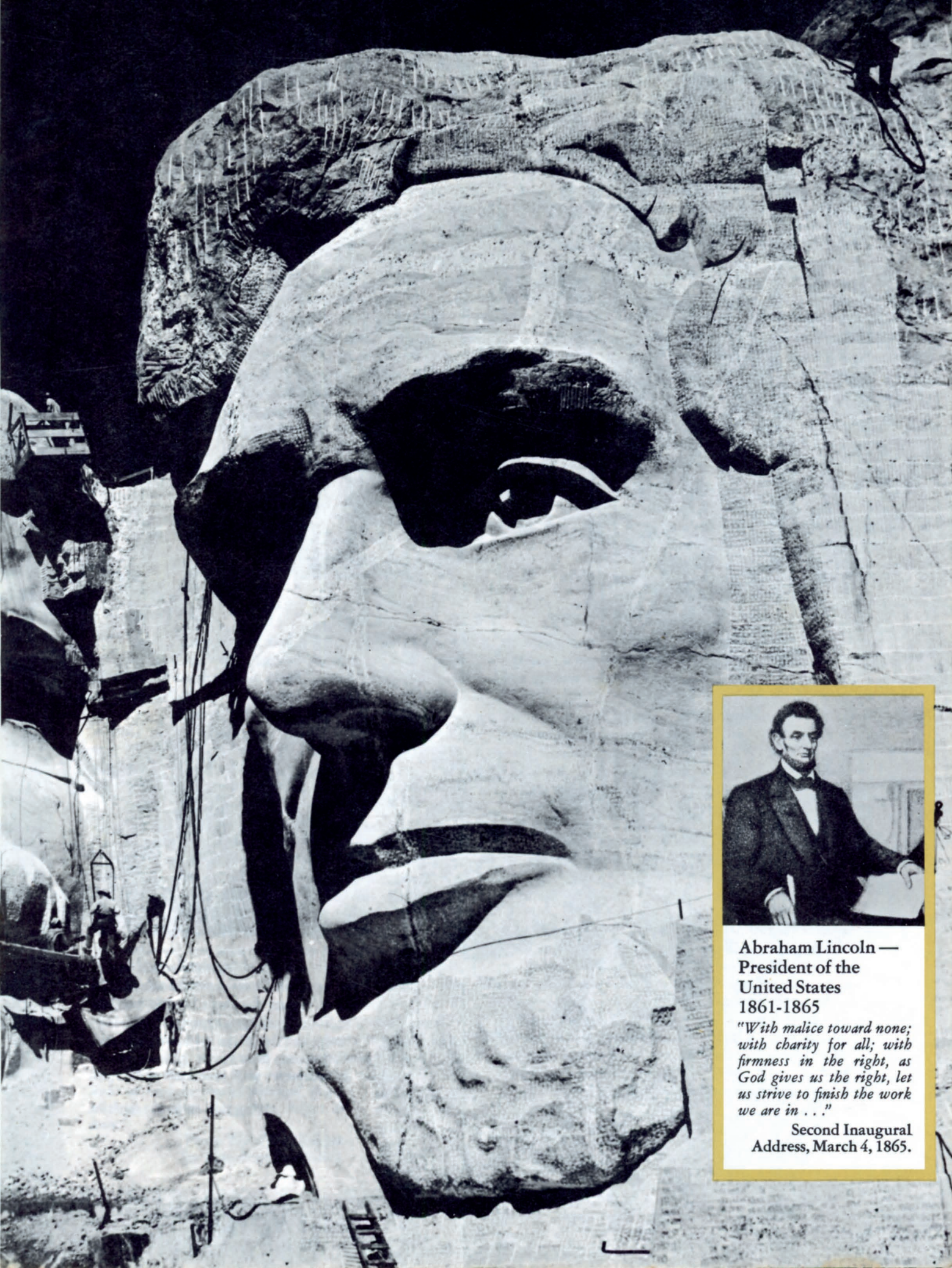
Whether Lincoln sat or stood, his was the ease of movement of a figure controlled by direct and natural development, without a hint of consciousness. Chairs were low for him and so Lincoln seemed when he sat down to go farther than was quite easy or graceful. His walk was free and he moved with a long but rather slow swinging stride. His arms hung free, and he walked with an open hand. He was erect; he did not stoop at the shoulders. He bent forward, but from the waistline. His face was large in its simple masses. His head was normal in size; his forehead high, regular and ideal in shape. His brow bushed and projected like a cliff. His eyebrows were very strong. His mouth was not coarse or heavy.

You will find written in his face literally all the complexness of his nature. We see a dual nature struggling with a dual problem, delivering a single result — to the whole. He was more deeply rooted in the home principles that are keeping us together than any man who was ever asked to make his heart-beat — too great to become president, except by some extraordinary combination of circumstances.

GUTZON BORGLUM

"GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, AND FOR THE PEOPLE ."

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Abraham Lincoln — President of the United States 1861-1865

"With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in . . ."

Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.

"SPEAK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG STICK."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT★★★★★

Fromentine said of Peter Paul Rubens, one of the greatest masters who ever used brush and paint to interpret human character: "He is systematic, methodical and stern in the discipline of his private life, in the ordering of his work, in the regulating of his intelligence, in a kind of strong and sane wholesomeness of his genius. He is simple, sincere, a model of loyalty to his friends, in sympathy with every one of talent, (and) untiring and resourceful in his encouragement of beginners . . ." The same might have been said with equal truth and propriety of Theodore Roosevelt.

Of all the great leaders of this country, he was the most typically American. The grief and melancholy that seized him following the death of his first wife drove him into Dakota. Here upon the range he found surcease from sorrow and sufficient time off from his duties as manager of his ranch to write about the West. This work won instant recognition and not only established his place among the literary men of his day but made him the idol of the Great West. The cowboys with whom he rode the night herd liked and admired him, and even the roughnecks soon learned to respect his cool courage and resourcefulness.

But he was more than a frontiersman and writer. He represented all that was best in the home, in business and in government. He was energetic, intelligent and purposeful. He had an aim in life and drove hard and steadily toward his goal. His enemies seldom outmaneuvered him and he knew how to strike when a bold stroke was required to accomplish a desired end. His association with men of all types and his keen observation gave him an insight into men that enabled him to distinguish quickly and accurately the spurious from the real.

* * *

He was by instinct and inclination a reformer and sought to improve all that was best in public morals, both spiritually and politically. No man struggling as mightily as he could escape making mistakes, but he was great enough to recognize them and fair enough to seek to rectify any injustice that has resulted. His enthusiasm, zeal and sureness of himself sometimes led him to pursue hopeless and occasionally ill-considered causes that he later had reason to regret, but by the large he was a most useful and inspiring personality.

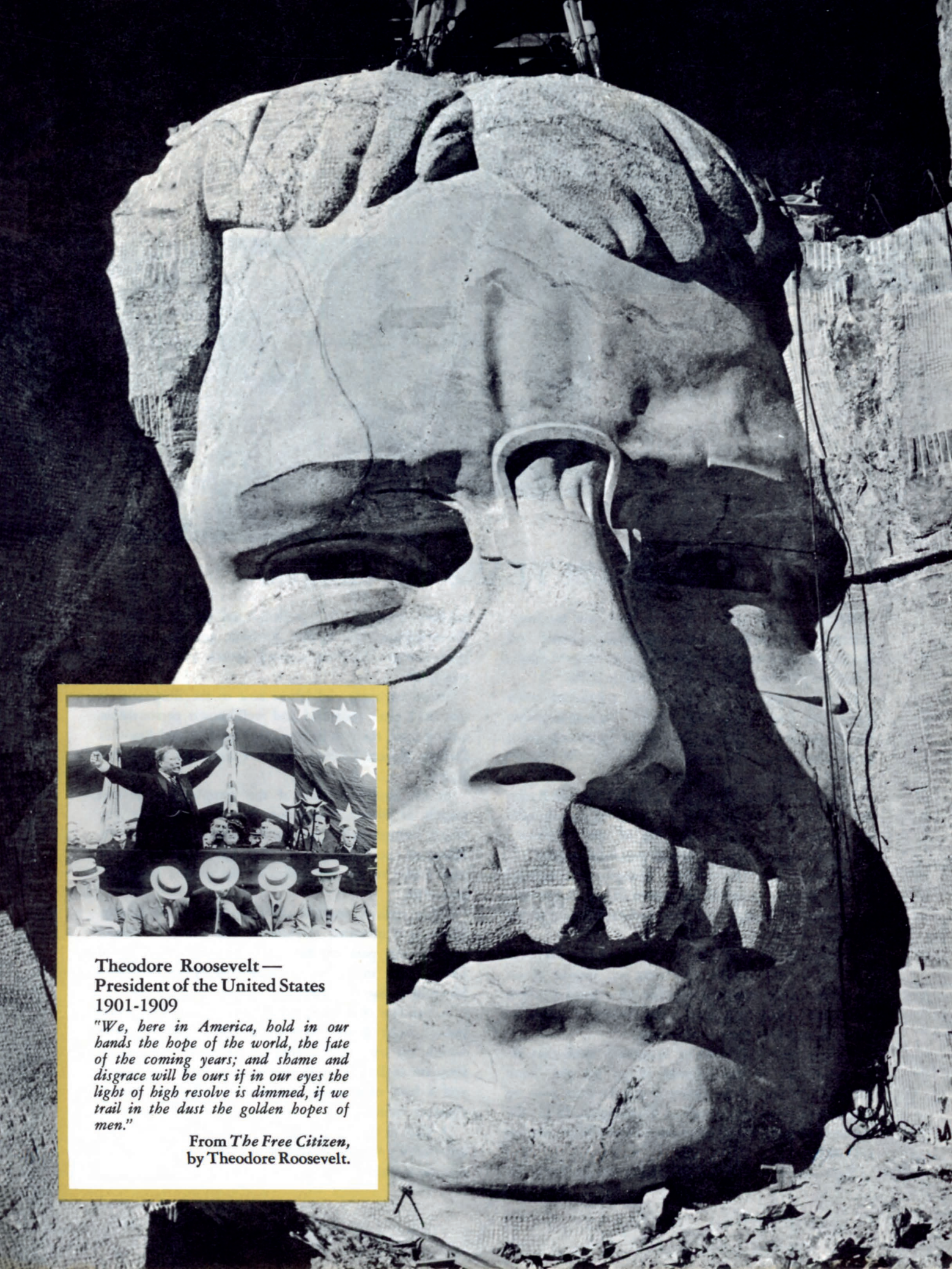
Two outstanding achievements stand to his credit. One of these was the building of the Panama Canal, an accomplishment of transcendent importance to the American people. It is the link that binds the East to the West by water and has helped to make this country one of the great commercial and industrial nations of the world. The canal is also of first importance from the standpoint of national defense and has added greatly to the mobility and usefulness of our Navy.

The second was the injection of morals into our politics and the insistence upon the square deal for every American, be he small or great. It was this characteristic more than any other that endeared him to the ordinary man and made him one of the most powerful political figures and one of the greatest moral forces that has taken possession of the hearts and minds of men in any age.

As a lone fighter he was without a peer in his day and generation, and had the impetuosity and zeal required to arouse a mighty following in any cause which he espoused and upon which he had deep convictions. Every word that he spoke and every manifestation of his personality left a profound impression upon all those who came into contact with him either personally or upon the hustings. While he may never be loved as Lincoln was loved, or rise to the stature of Washington, his example, fortitude in adversity, and fight for the betterment of his fellow men will ever be like a beacon going before to inspire men and women everywhere.

It was President Calvin Coolidge who said to Sculptor Gutzon Borglum that among the immortals to be carved upon Mount Rushmore a place must be found for Theodore Roosevelt, "because he was the first president to say to big business, 'thus far you shall go and no farther.' ". Washington is there because he was the trusted leader that made these United States possible, and was great and strong enough to refuse a crown and lay down the scepter when his work was done. Jefferson stands at his side because of his contribution to the rights of man as set forth in the bill of rights; Abraham Lincoln because he saved the Union from division by his own martyrdom and his infinite compassion for those who suffered, and Theodore Roosevelt because he was the greatest moral force for clean government and the square deal of modern times.

WILLIAM WILLIAMSON



Theodore Roosevelt—
President of the United States
1901-1909

"We, here in America, hold in our hands the hope of the world, the fate of the coming years; and shame and disgrace will be ours if in our eyes the light of high resolve is dimmed, if we trail in the dust the golden hopes of men."

From *The Free Citizen,*
by Theodore Roosevelt.

BORGLUM YEARS RE-VISITED

Nestled in the rolling foothills near the southeast entrance to Custer State Park is the Borglum Ranch and Studio, the quiet sanctuary the mountain sculptor established early in his residency in the Black Hills.

Here in a beige stucco studio and a spacious ranch home, the man whose innumerable accomplishments ran the gamut from painting to politics, from sculptoring to theology, found the ultimate release for the creative spirit that epitomized his work.

Restored and opened to the public in 1973, the Ranch and Studio and the priceless collection of memorabilia allow visitors to recreate the era of the 1930's — a decade when vicissitude spawned greatness in men.

Important art works which brought international fame to Gutzon Borglum are shown in the characteristically-opulent studio and the authentically-furnished home.

A dynamic story unfolds as you read the clippings and see the old photos, mementos and movies of an American family working together on a project which was a first in human history — the making of a masterpiece of man's art from a mountain.

Visitors see a collection of Borglum's work that includes models of the original design for the Stone Mountain Memorial in Georgia; the Lincoln bust on display in the capitol rotunda in Washington, D. C.; the statue of General Philip Sheridan, and of Christ calming the waters.

Here also you will find Borglum's design for a jet airplane, done in 1917; architectural drawings for the Breckenridge Park in San Antonio, and the busts of many noted American authors, artists, physicians and statesmen.

There are cards and letters sent to the Borglums by that era's most respected and well-known personalities, among them the two Roosevelts, Theodore and Franklin Delano, Robert Lincoln, Ignace Paderewski and Helen Keller.

In the studio portion of the complex are several models of Mount Rushmore, including an early one which features only Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln. Miniature scaffolding and blasting equipment have been added to a large replica of the present mountain memorial.

Other statuary, models and drawings are on display. There is a mounted cowboy in one corner, a model representing part of the full sculpture called "Trail Drive," now in finished form at the Witte Memorial Museum in San Antonio.

A statuette of Tom Paine, fiery American Revolution radical, looks on and there are models for the gargoyles which are on the Princeton University campus. A statuette of Salome totes the head of John the Baptist and a bust of Gutzon, executed by his son, Lincoln, observes visitors.

A visit to the Borglum Ranch and Studio is truly an opportunity for a nostalgic re-visit to a singular era in American history.

South Dakota 1976
USA BICENTENNIAL