

# MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY

of BLACK HILLS

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June 26, 1938

Mr. E. H. Hawes  
Northwest Territory Celebration Commission  
Marietta, Ohio

Dear Mr. Hawes:

Receipt of your letter of June 25 is acknowledged. It will be difficult to put before you without undue feeling the consequences of the gross indifference, protecting utter building inability that has misguided, delayed and reprehensibly interfered with the stone end of your work. This burdening was grafting on the time and the good nature and expense of others in no way bound to protect your work against what seems definitely studied indifference; nor has anyone realized the piling up of costs on this job that should have been finished in one-third the time and at one-third of the cost to the American tax payer; the sole responsibility of this, of course, rests with you.

I have returned here for a few days to do what I could to make Governor White's presentation of the Memorial as presentable as possible. The condition of the work is far worse than I had expected it would be, and I find that in spite of my warnings to you last winter, you have neither the machinery nor the men to finish properly what you have in hand before another winter sets in, and I doubt the interest!

Seriously, Mr. Hawes, the utter incompetence and slovenly condition of the work itself, pylons and the steps of the walk to the Memorial, is sickening from a master artist's point of view, and it is far below the common standard of good stone work in Marietta.

I should be at the unveiling, of course, as the sculptor, that goes without saying--nothing on earth would induce me to be present or to witness what I am sure will be unhappily planned and unhappily managed, and I am sorry to note that when I suggest anything, it seems sufficient to be resisted.

I am under no obligations to either keep a man here interminably nor to be here myself, neither is it my duty, because I named one of the carvers to be in charge, to take over the payment of his wage. I could certainly not name your incompetent man Friday, nor permit ~~that~~ carver to be in any way under his guidance or subject to his thought. This is all a piece of the practice all through this work of loading onto willing backs responsibilities not a single man in your organization understands nor is in a position to assume and direct.

2 - Mr. E. M. Hawes, Marietta, Ohio - June 23, 1938

To return to Mattie and Bruno. My check-up the past three days warns me that to follow up my usual practices of the proposals in my letter, which would be the logical and practical procedure, would open the way for mischievous interference and possibly harm to come to the work itself, plus utterly indefinite period of conclusion, so I am leaving Mattie until the work is carried further to such a point as I shall determine. When I remove Mattie, I shall put Bruno on my own payroll and responsible solely to me and freed from and possible interference by your office or aides or any W. P. A. I am doing this, first, in order to keep him constantly on the carving and not to be removed as is the practice when I am away, using lines to do dimension work.

About the Carving and Work Generally.

My work is handled with efficiency and experience. I know how many hours any piece will take, with fair certainty, and as for this work, I have distinct record of the hours that have been spent on it. You would be surprised how few—how the men had were dragged away to dimension work. I have not had 4 carvers, nor have I now 6 carvers. That is idle nonsense, and has been nonsense all the time. Even today I tried to have 4 carvers on my group while I was here. 4 men were cutting stone, but it was dimension work. I don't like to use the word, but I am very much inclined to believe that a very nice little racket has been played on me all the way through. Regarding the 40 x 40 x 60 inches stone--there will be no need of quarrying that block. It might take another year if your aides would gain by it--certainly the rest of this year.

I shall handle the sixth figure in another way as I explained to Governor White last night. There is one other matter I want to call to your attention regarding the Memorial. As a piece of property, it is in your hands in the Park, and I want to call it to your attention as a warning that nothing must happen to it. You must take extraordinary care that the malice and annoyance of your incompetent men does not more than interfere with its completion, or in some way injure it.

Sincerely yours,

Gutzon Borglum  
Gutzon Borglum

E M Hawes =  
GB:k

Ericulus Duvall

North Westbury Clubhouse

Marietta Ohio -