

Borglum's Statue Near Completion For Celebration

Gutzon Borglum, internationally known sculptor commissioned by the government to execute the massive "Start Westward of the United States" for the Northwest Territory Celebration, has arrived in Marietta to resume his work on the memorial.

Nearly all of the stone to be used in the heroic memorial has been quarried. Due to the enormous weight of the stones, one stone being used in the statuary group weighing more than 100 tons, and another 60 tons, the group is being roughly carved at the quarry to reduce weight in moving. Labor for the quarrying and carving operations is being supplied by WPA.

The 60 ton block from which the ten foot heroic figures are being carved is nearing completion, and will be moved to the site shortly to receive finishing touches.

The memorial is being erected in Muskingum Park, the river front commons dedicated by the Ohio Company pioneers forever for public use, and will occupy the exact spot where the first civil government west of the 13 original states was established. The park will also be enframed by four stone pylons capped by conventional stone eagles, also sculptured by Mr. Borglum at the quarry-studio and will provide a lasting commemoration of our nation's first footprint west of the Alleghenies and its westward march to the other sea.

Dedication will take place July 15 designated as United States Day by the Northwest Territory Celebration Commission, amid appropriate ceremonies with national officials participating.

TIMES RECORDER (Zanesville)

28 January 1938, p. 3, c. 1

100-100000-100000

May 26, 1938

As to the fourth paragraph of Mr. Borglum's letter, I have in
mind the fact that we have not yet received the models which
you mentioned in your letter of May 24. It is our policy to
not make any statement as to the determination of the date of
the models until we have had your advice. In other words, as you
know, we determined long ago to not have Mr. Borglum's design or
inject any of his ideas, as we know, until it became necessary to do
so. We are sorry for us to inject any ideas of our own, but we are
naturally of your own wishes of intention.

May 26, 1938

Mr. George White
Marietta
Ohio

Dear Mr. White ;

Pursuant to our discussion of Mr. Borglum's letter of May 24
this morning, we wish to give you the following details as supported
by our files.

As to the first paragraph of Mr. Borglum's letter stating that
the models were made over a year ago, the models were delivered here
early in July. Our files show a letter from Mrs. Borglum dated July
1, saying that the models would be shipped soon. They were placed in
the basement of the Post Office upon receipt here and our files show
a wire from Mr. Borglum from Chicago, under date of July 13, saying
that he was leaving that afternoon, which would presumably bring him
here July 14.

Our records further show that the big stone for the group was
out of the quarry August 1.

As to the second and third paragraphs, there is no comment
which we can make with which you are not already familiar. We are
working with W.P.A. labor and I can get just as provoked as anyone
at its slowness and seeming inefficiency at times. It has been known
from the very beginning that we were going to work with W.P.A. labor,
and, as a matter of fact, for our man-hour purposes we took the
estimates of Mr. Borglum and Mr. Schooley and doubled them. I think
it is only fair to say that, so far as I can observe, there has been
an equivalent delay or an amount of extra time employed on the carving
itself as compared with the straight stone cutting under Mr. Rovegno's
direction.

As to the fourth paragraph of Mr. Borglum's letter, I have no figures in mind whatever except those submitted by Mr. Borglum because, as you know, it has been the determination of both of us to hire the best sculptor we could and pursue his advice. In other words, as you know, we determined long ago to not butt into Mr. Borglum's design or inject laymen's ideas. At no time, until it became necessary in Mr. Borglum's absence for us to inject any ideas of our own, have we ever interfered, or given any evidence of interfering.

In fact, we were not interfering when we determined the way the group should set or the height of the group. We were merely following information which Mr. Borglum had given us in writing at various times. It is perhaps desirable to support this point with quotations from the file, which I have examined in its entirety and find nothing to change these instructions. When Mr. Borglum was here in January, 1937 with the sketch model, he dictated to Miss Baesel a write-up explanatory of the model. Carbon of this write-up is attached hereto. You will note the underscored sections reading as follows:

"Their leader would be pointing to the west or directing their attention to what lies west. To their back would be the figure of the feminine part of the family--a mother or wife with the younger people--a boy and a young woman-- and to the lower of the back of the group I plan to have two men representing the members unloading a boat, which they have used to carry supplies from the main vessel, supposedly lying in the river."

"All the upper figures will be in one piece and the part below, just under the foot of the leader, will be another block."

Mr. Borglum did not sign this typed memorandum, but did initial the stenographic notes, which are in our possession. Mr. Borglum, on his last trip to Marietta said that the idea of the group facing the west was my idea and not his. I entirely disclaim this thought. The only suggestion which I recall ever having made in this regard was after Mr. Borglum had stood in the park with you and me and perhaps others and shown us how he figured this main figure should be pointing. (At a later time he told us that he had done away with the pointing figure on account of danger to the stone in time of flood.) I did have a thought about showing the mass movement to the west in the idea of having footprints of men and of animals in the stone; that is, as if it were made of concrete and you could actually imprint the white man's foot, the Indian's foot, the horse's foot, the buffalo's foot and so on, while the concrete was still damp. This was discussed with Mr. Borglum and he explained that it was not practical. My thought in this was to present the mass movement, to which Mr. Borglum refers in his letters. This was a nation--a people--going west and not two or three men. This is

EMH to Mr. George White, May 26, 1938

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is the only idea of which I am conscious of having had. I did fall in with the idea as suggested by Mr. Borglum and confirmed by his write-up above quoted, because this is obviously a national Memorial and is not merely a decorative piece of statuary for the City of Marietta.

Under date of February 23, 1937, Mr. Borglum wrote from San Antonio, Texas:

"I am sending you two prints showing the dimensions of the upper and lower blocks necessary for the group. I am including the small skiff or flat boat at the bottom of the group. This greatly enriches the composition and explains to the observer that a party of people have landed. On the yellow paper enclosed I have shown a drawing of how the upper block and the lower block should be taken out."

We have in the files the yellow sheets referred to. These are pen sketches on yellow second-sheet paper. Dimensions are given on one of these sketches with the following quotation:

"In height it should have a single block of stone 12 feet. I can add three feet below the joint and join the carving when set in place."

This drawing clearly shows the piece under the group itself, including the boat. According to these sketches, which are the only authentically signed sketches signed by Mr. Borglum, the boat is approximately three to four feet in the air. The other sketch submitted at the same time shows the same thing, although no dimensions are there on.

Under date of February 20, 1937 Mr. Borglum wrote as follows:

"--in looking over the contract, to my utter amazement, I find that the dimensions are not given for the full size and for the sake of protecting the committee and yourself, I am suggesting that this letter form part of the contract as supplement: that is, that the figures shall be at least eight feet from foot to top of the head and that the group to the water line, where the boat sits, shall be at least fourteen feet. At the sculptor's option, he may make this larger if he chooses, which is now running in my mind."

Under date of February 23 we answer this letter, quoting from that answer as follows:

"As to the contract, I think your point is undoubtedly well taken, although your having written the contract and we having quite thoroughly understood the nature of the discussions we had had, as to size, it never entered our minds. We will, however, attach your letter to the contract."

Mail to Mr. George White, May 26, 1938

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Sometime this spring Mr. Borglum told us that he was not going to try to use the big stone--that he could build the lower stone out of several stones. I have never had any written confirmation on this, nor have I ever thoroughly understood just the changes he spoke of making in the model. He was on the job himself at the time and, again in the spirit of not interfering, I did not press for technical explanation. The fact remains that the group sitting on the present concrete base is not in height according to anything which we have in the files. It is totally impractical to now discuss raising the height of the surrounding walks to bring the group up to the proper height. Mr. Borglum saw the base and, in fact, the files show that he told Mr. Rovigno how high to make the base above the old level of the park. Upon Mr. Borglum's request there was a stone base added of some 26 inches, as I recall it. The drawings submitted by Mr. Borglum clearly indicated a base below the sculptured group. Furthermore, again in Mr. Borglum's dictated memorandum of January 12, we quote the last sentence:

"The entire group mass should represent about 15 feet above the dimensional stone which will form the base."

If I get the figures right from Matty, the group is 12 feet, 9 inches high. We have instructed Mr. Rovigno and Matty to put 32 inches of base under the group. That will give us a height over all from the surrounding wall of 15 feet, 5 inches, which certainly conforms to Mr. Borglum's write-up and makes the entire group conform also to the total height agreed upon by Mr. Borglum, Mr. Schooley, yourself and me when we got a leveling rod and held it up in the park.

When Mr. Borglum was here he was highly wrought up over something. It was not exactly easy to listen to him say that he had never had the idea of having these figures pointing west and that it was my idea, nor to have him condemn the height of the surrounding walks which he had personally okayed and which he personally requested. We have been and are anxious to follow Mr. Borglum's expressed thoughts and wishes. I came home before I was supposed to come home to meet Mr. Borglum, although he had been advised that you would not be here and I would not be here until Friday, May 20. He was not in a good frame of mind and, I presume, was worried over his situation in Washington. So far as I can see, I do not see how he can reverse the plan which he outlined to us and I think when he is reminded of what that plan was, as is shown by our files as well as by our memories, he will feel that the steps we have taken are proper.

Sincerely yours,

E. M. Hawes
Executive Director

EMH:mb
Enc.

Metropolitan Club
Washington, D. C.
May 28, 1938.

My dear George:

Thank you for your letter. I must have agreed, or been in agreement, rather, with Hawse and your thought about the group looking west; the only thing I am thinking about is that I never determine anything like that positively without the work itself in hand; it's foolish, and very bad judgment. I'm very conscious that I fell in with the general idea, but I could never have advanced the scheme that turned the back of the group on the town and the boats away from the river.

I suppose the confusion is in that my mind remains free and flexible because I'm dealing with an art production, and Hawse's mind is fixed and mechanical, and was thinking of the work in terms of a structure.

I have just written Riley, my man there, and am enclosing a copy of the letter to him. I have a very definite feeling that I have made an awful blunder in interesting myself in this work at all beyond cutting the group when the stone was provided for me, and my only excuse for it is the utterly incompetent situation I found in the work and in all control of it, and my personal regard for you, as I once expressed myself, I would see to it that there was no failure there. That voluntary aid should have met with very different support from what the office and the people office control have given me; so I have told Riley to get clean away from the work; stay at the hotel in readiness, to do the carving when the group is set the way you all want it. I am very glad that Agnes is well. Got a nice note from Mary.

The country is swinging your way and I am praying for you, but by no means on my knees.

Very sincerely yours,

R. B.

Gutzon Borglum
Sculpture-Engineer.

Hon. George White,
Marietta, Ohio.

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY

of BLACK HILLS

Rapid City, South Dakota



Metropolitan Club
Washington, D. C.,
May 28, 1938.

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Dear Mr. Hawes:

Your letters, quotations, hearsays, etc. received. If I had allowed the thoughts, hearsays, conversations indulged in as we speculated on the location of heads, of Mount Rushmore, we would have had nothing on that mountain but a trail of stupidities and illy considered, illy thought out plans, and it would not have endured, and could have endured the criticism of a century or two, muchless the judgment of ten thousand years.

I have blundered terribly in trying to help you all to be extricated from as tangled and incompetently directed a mess as I ever got mixed up in. I may tell you I did it solely to help Governor White from embarrassment and disappointment, I saw more than six months ago ~~would~~ ^{the} result in the way you insisted on things should go. The matters of real importance in my letter you have not answered at all; nor is it necessary that you should. I am simply telling you that the whole work must be re-directed, or you are coming to grief, and be subject to the severest public criticism.

The question of whether the figures should be turned to the West and the boats coming down the hill; whether the group should be raised, on a higher foundation; the boats hanging in the air, is entirely within our province, and I wash my hands absolutely of any direction in it. When you have set it, as is the duty of your Committee and workmen, notify Riley whom I will keep at the hotel waiting, as we have been doing for more or less a year, watching the delay, and when in shape and satisfactory, ~~he~~ will return and direct the carving.

Sincerely yours,


Gutzon Borglum
Sculptor-Engineer.

Mr. E.M. Hawes,
Marietta, Ohio.

June 1, 1938

Memorandum as to Position of Memorial Group

It being necessary that some competent person make some final plans for the base under the Memorial, I called Mr. White in Columbus, asking him to contact Mr. Schooley and have him come to Marietta that day if possible. Both Mr. Schooley and Mr. White came in mid-afternoon.

Mr. Schooley felt that the group as then faced (west) would be out of balance and that, as designed, there was nothing else to do but face the three main characters toward Front Street. I objected, but Mr. White followed Mr. Schooley's suggestion and the group, on their instructions, is now faced toward Front Street. I presented all the arguments I could, but, being over-ruled, am going ahead to do the job and get it done if possible. However, I feel so strongly on this matter that I wish my position to be a matter of record.

Mr. Borglum, in every way known to me, had never had any other idea than facing the group west, until he came here about a week ago. Then he was all upset, and disavowed any intention at any time of facing them westward. He said it was my idea, which is too absurd to even discuss.

It is well known to both Mr. White and myself as to what Mr. Borglum's conception, as expressed to us at various times, was. But even more final is his write-up, dictated in this office on January 12, 1937 when he brought the sketch model here and from which write-up we quote:

"---a group of men (two in the present composition, I plan to put three) in the forefront looking to the west. Their leader would be pointing to the west or directing their attention to what lies west."

Mr. Borglum reserves the artist's right to change his mind, and I would follow this, if changes did not affect fundamentals agreed upon, and if those changes are made in an orderly manner, with advice to affected parties.

During the talk about the sketch model I recall that Mr. Borglum seemingly did not remember that "west" in Marietta was catacorner with the river and Front Street. When the model on the table here in our office was faced toward the river, I called his attention to its being out of position and he said that that was easy to fix--that he would merely turn his figures slightly.

I have never claimed to be an artist and have never, to my knowledge at least, sought to suggest to Mr. Borglum as to artistic treatment. However, I have all the right any man has to form a personal judgment, and in this case have a far greater responsibility than does the casual observer.

My objections to the present position (facing Front Street) are as follows:

1. This is a national Memorial. It is not a Marietta Memorial. Nor is it merely a statue decorating a park in Marietta. It has not, as so many laymen imagine, any exact related

significance to the forty-eight pioneers who landed at Marietta. Both Mr. White and I know that the Federal Commission would not, under any circumstances, have approved a Marietta statue, or one of the forty-eight pioneers. As the thing now sets, it is a Marietta statuary group, without any real significance, as I see it.

2. Purely from an art angle, I do not agree with the position of Mr. Schooley and others who favored "symmetry" of the design, in the sense of geometric balance. To me such symmetry tends toward "prettiness" rather than either strength or character.

Nor do I believe that the group would have been impossible to arrange in good balance, still facing west. Determination of the artistic, center of gravity would have been easily possible, and so far as I can see would not have been off base center very much. As it is, I think the group has lost its meaning; that we will be subjected to a great deal of criticism from an artistic point of view; and very cogent criticism from those who understand the history involved and of which the group is supposed to be symbolic.

I have lost my interest in it, except as a piece of statuary--done by Butzon Borglum--and stuck into a park about as we would plant a heterogeneous statue in our home town.

Regardless of this, I shall do everything possible to get it finished by July 8, for the way it faces.

June 8, 1938

Since the group has been turned to face Front Street I have not heard one good word for its appearance and have heard general and spontaneous complaint as to its loss of character in the turning.

I am not holding out for this facing west just to be stubborn, but believing a thing so sincerely I restate my position.

In this connection it may be well to point that Mr. Borglum's sketch model shows seven figures, while his plaster model shows but six. This may be in the interest of better art, but it should be here noted. Also, that his recommendation, when last here, was that there should be no base, although his contractual specification was (as his request to supplement) that it should be fifteen feet high at least, and to do this a base is absolutely vital.

June 3rd, 1928

Mr. Gutzen Berglund
Metropolitan Club
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Berglund:

I think you will be interested in knowing that Mr. Schooley was here Wednesday, and has designed the base to go under the group. Also, that the group will face the street, and--lastly, that I am going to spend a considerable part of my time actually on the job in the Park. I do not think this means much, because I have never had, nor claimed, any technical ability along these lines.

It will probably also be pleasing to you that we are to have a new postage stamp for July 15th, and on this stamp will appear a view of the memorial. The stamp will be regular three cent size, not the commemorative size.

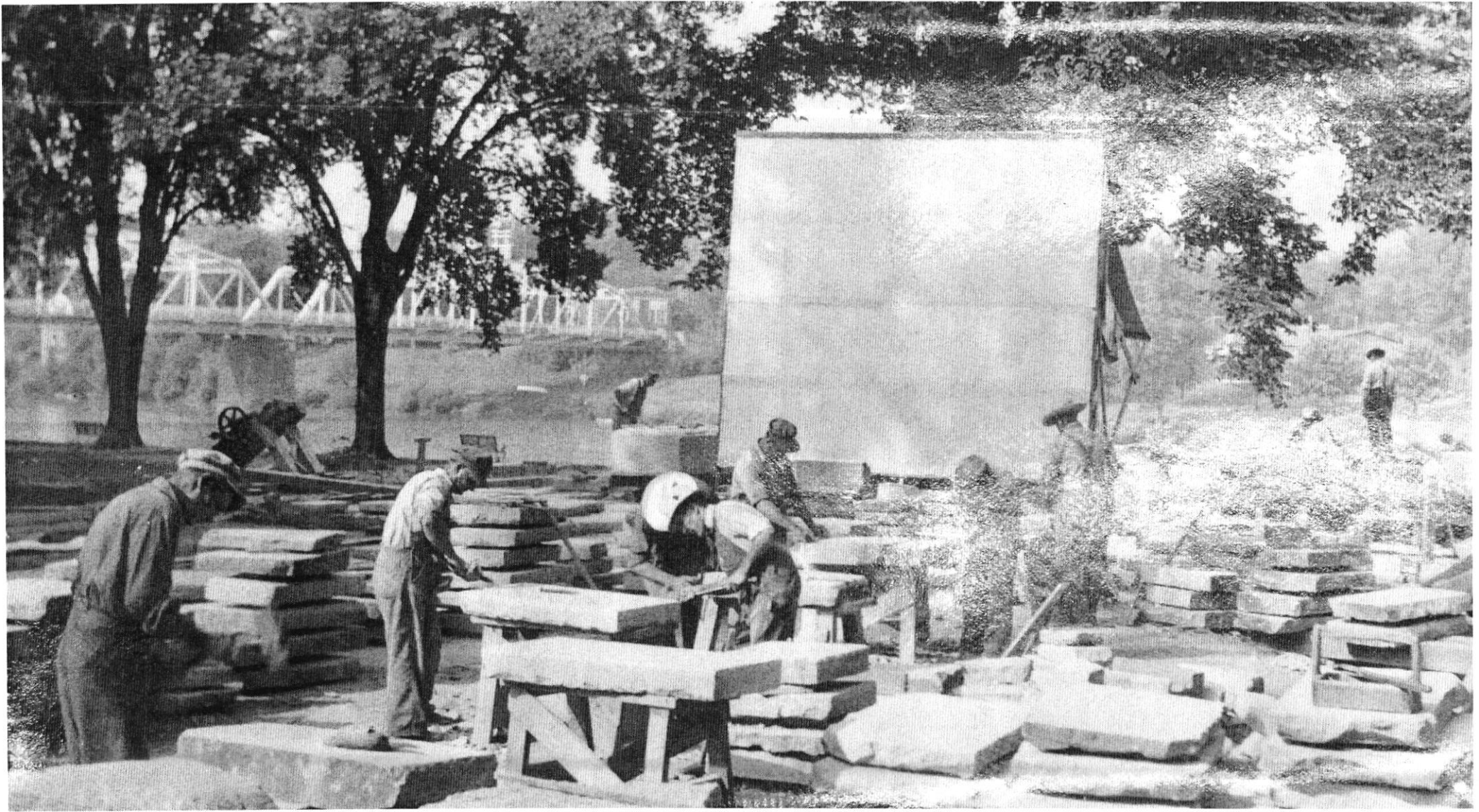
Yours very truly,

E. M. Hayes
Executive Director

EMH:MC















Hotel Lafayette

Marietta, Ohio

RENO G. HOAG

S. DURWARD HOAG



100 ROOMS - MODERN FIREPROOF

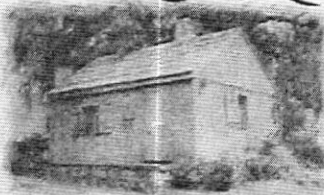
June 23rd

My dear Mr. Haves's.

I have today worked down over the joints and figures in ground. These will be entirely completed by tomorrow evening - the boat stone will also be set and some work on the boat and back figures done - there lacks stone for the third figure in the back and I advise that we avoid for the good of the stone and the granite setting in an upper block - finishing the two figures - if in, I'll give instructions to Bourne - how to do this.

I am leaving Monday and shall take Mr. Kelly with me as our work was long since done:

Bourne will work under my instruction in completing what ever remains - when he is through he is coming



THE OHIO COMPANY LAND OFFICE - 1788



THE PREHISTORIC MOUND



THE BLOCK HOUSE - 1758

VISIT MARIETTA, OHIO'S OLDEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY
NUMEROUS POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

ON THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER



Hotel Lafayette

Marietta, Ohio

SEND NO COIN

SEND NO COIN



100 ROOMS - MODERN FIREPROOF



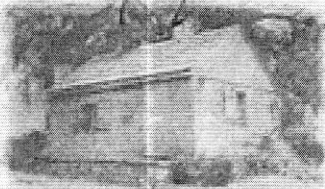
I see Mr. Hunt - Rushman -
also two or more of the others who
will be out of work -

there remains \$2,500. due
me on the work. \$1,000. of that I
want to pay the Bank so you
can make such arrangements as
you wish.

Sincerely

Ward Proctor

I have no Secularity will you please have
a copy of this made and send one here -
WJ



THE OHIO COMPANY LAND OFFICE - 1789



THE PREHISTORIC MOUND



THE BLOCK HOUSE - 1798

VISIT MARIETTA, OHIO'S OLDEST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL CITY
NUMEROUS POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

June 25, 1938

Mr. Gibson Borglum
Hotel Lafayette
Marietta, Ohio

Dear Mr. Borglum:

Since writing you this morning, I found that Mr. White is in town and have discussed with him the matters brought up in your letter of yesterday.

The points at issue and our comments thereon are as follows:

1. Proposed Elimination of third figure from the back of Group.

This is the first intimation we have had from anyone as to any such proposal and we do not understand why stone was not left in position for this figure when the group was roughed out. The stone was obviously not removed as the result of any instruction from this office or from the W.P.A. office.

The model, as approved, shows this figure and we desire that it be included as planned. If it has become necessary to set in another block of stone in order to have this figure, will you please advise us at once as to the size and so forth?

2. Supervision during your absence.

If you wish to take Mr. Rielly with you, we offer no objection, so long as you have here a satisfactory representative of yourself. If you wish to place Mr. Bruner in charge of

EMH to Mr. Gutzon Borglum, June 25, 1938

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your part of the work, that is acceptable to us; but, if so done, Mr. Bruner cannot remain on W. P. A. payroll.

At this stage of the Memorial it is quite apparent that you or your representative should be on the job during working time, and it is not acceptable to us that you should attempt to supervise by mail and from a distance of a thousand miles.

3. Payment of balance of money.

According to your contract with the Commission, the terms of payment were as follows:

"The Owners on their part agree to pay to the Sculptor the sum of \$15,000 for his work, these payments to be divided in the following manner: \$2,000 on the approval of the sketch model; \$2,000 when the large group has been laid up and definite information communicated to the Commission that the large group has been in hand in its full dimensions; \$5,000 when photographs have been furnished the commission, proving that the large group has been finished in accordance with the approved plans of the small sketch; the balance on the completion of the work. This balance may be divided as may be convenient to the Commission-- one-half of it when the full size model is delivered in Marietta and the balance when the stone work is completed and the full Memorial is completed."

We do not know just how much of the remaining carving can be done before July 7th. There are now six carvers available to you, although on May 18th you said no more than the four you then had were needed. Besides this we have hired still other carvers to do the pylon lettering per drawings by Mr. Schooley.

We should like to get the Memorial completed by July 7th, of course, and are not holding you responsible for the walks and steps.

EMI to Mr. Gutzon Berglum, June 25, 1958

page 3

As provided in the contract, as soon as the Memorial is completed as planned, we will issue voucher for the balance due you.

We believe you will appreciate the fairness and the necessities of our position.

Very sincerely yours,

L. M. Hawes
Executive Director

EMI:mb

MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY

of BLACK HILLS

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June 26, 1938

Mr. E. M. 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.

3 - Mr. E. M. Hawes, Marietta, Ohio - June 26, 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 Carvers 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~~ 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 80 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 Queler

North West Building, Cleveland

Marietta Ohio -