

# MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY

of BLACK HILLS

Rapid City, South Dakota



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

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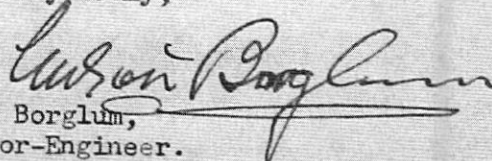
Dear Mr. Hawes:

I carried your letter with me yesterday, regarding the desire that I speak at the unveiling ceremonies July 8th. I think I have answered the question in my inability to be present.

I regretted yesterday to hear that the time for clearing up the park was very much shorter than the days and that regulations would interfere with proper sodding and better appearance.

Regarding my unwillingness to be photographed yesterday, I did not wish to appear abrupt about that, but it struck me as strikingly ridiculous that a man in my position now more than a year and making an effort to do the one important subject related to the Celebration, should have aroused no interest whatever in your press. What I mean is interest in the cause of the Memorial at all. Of course I realize that your publicity is simply for the stirring up of general interest, not dealing very much with the fundamental fact of the celebration.

Yours very truly,

  
Gutzon Borglum,  
Sculptor-Engineer.

1814  
301  
2115  
85

June 29th, 1938

Mr. Outson Borglum  
Metropolitan Club  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Borglum:

Your letter of June 28th is received, and I believe you will be interested in knowing that the crew will work every day until the night of July 7th, including Sunday and July 4th. The grounds around the group will be sodded.

I must admit that the last paragraph of your letter is not clear to me. If your meaning is that we have neglected publicity in connection with the memorial and your connection with it, we respectfully submit the record.

We still believe it fitting and proper that you should be here, and should speak on July 8th, and do not believe that personal likes or dislikes should enter into a matter which is far beyond personalities. Place upon the program will be made if you wish to reconsider your refusal.

Sincerely,

H. H. Hawes  
Executive Director

BHH:MC

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

# WESTERN UNION

1201

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

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Received at 217 Putnam St., Marietta, Ohio. Telephone 1152

JM32 72 GOVT COLLECT XC  
RAPIDCITY SDAK 16 1133A

1938 JUL 16 PM 200

E M HAWES, EX DIRECTOR NW TERRITORY CELE COMM

RE TELEGRAM BRUNO HAS PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT CONTINUING CARVING BUT  
 IF YOU WISH TO TAKE THESE MEN OFF THE JOB IT IS FULLY YOUR RESPONSIBILITY  
 STOP I CANNOT RETURN TO MARIETTA TO GIVE TIME TO UNNECESSARY SUPERVISION  
 AND IF THE JOURNEYMEN CRAFTMANSHIP IS STOPPED IT WILL MEAN POSTPONING  
 FINISHING THE WORK INDEFINITELY STOP IF YOU LAY OFF BRUNO AND HIS  
 ASSOCIATES ASK THEM TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME. I DONT WANT MILLER

GUTZON BORGLUM.

*Handwritten:*  
 Add to give the carving of the final groups such attention  
 as may be necessary to make it a work just equal to  
 his known work.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

July 18, 1938

Mr. Gutzon Borglum  
Rapid City  
South Dakota

Dear Mr. Borglum:

We have your wire of July 16, which could not be answered until I could talk further with Mr. Bruner.

Last week Mr. Bruner told me that the group could not be finished without your presence or that of your accredited representative, and this was agreed upon also by the other carvers. This morning Mr. Bruner says he has instructions up to a certain point--a week's work--and that you or your representative should be here the first of next week--July 25--in order that they may proceed.

We have every desire to accommodate your convenience so far as possible, but we cannot accept responsibility for supervision of the carvers, and by permitting the men to go ahead this week on the instructions you gave Mr. Bruner do not so do. Nor can we hold the carvers idle pending adequate supervision for their work.

Your telegram came collect, and you will realize that the latter part of it in no way relates to commission matters. The amount is trifling, and we only mention it in view of the strict government regulations in this regard. Neither you nor we care to become subject to criticism on such a detail.

We will expect you or your representative the first of next week.

Very sincerely yours,

E. M. Hawes  
Executive Director

1206-A

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	CABLE
TELEGRAM	FULL RATE
DAY LETTER	DEFERRED
NIGHT MESSAGE	NIGHT LETTER
NIGHT LETTER	SHIP RADIOGRAM

Patrons should check class of service desired; otherwise message will be transmitted as a full-rate communication.

# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CHECK
ACCT'G INFMN.
TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

JULY 20, 1938

*McKesson  
OK's*

MR. GUTZON BORGLUM  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

CARVERS WAITING FOR YOU. STATE HAVE GONE FAR AS CAN BECAUSE MODEL DOES NOT PERMIT FINISHING FROM. W.P.A. HAS TODAY SERVED NOTICE WILL NOT ALLOT FUNDS FOR WORK PAST JULY THIRTY-FIRST UNLESS WE HAVE DEFINITE SCHEDULE AS TO WHEN CARVING COMPLETED. APPLICATION FOR AUGUST FUNDS MUST BE MADE MONDAY. YOUR PRESENCE OR COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE HERE VITAL BY MONDAY.

E. M. HAWES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NORTHWEST TERRITORY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

WESTERN UNION MESSENGERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE DELIVERY OF NOTES AND PACKAGES

# MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL COMMISSION

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Charles M. Day, Vice Chairman  
John A. Boland, Secretary  
John A. Boland  
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Fred W. Sargent  
Lorine J. Spooner  
Margaret S. Strawn  
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A. K. Thomas, Treasurer  
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M. A. Wesser, Clerk

## EXECUTIVE OFFICES

Rapid City, South Dakota



July 22, 1936.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

John A. Boland, Chairman  
William Williamson, Secretary  
D. B. Gurney  
L. B. Hanna  
Fred W. Sargent

## COMMITTEE ON DESIGN AND PUBLICITY

Gutzon Borglum, Sculptor and Engineer  
Lorine J. Spooner, Secretary  
Charles M. Day  
Margaret S. Strawn

E. M. Hawes, Esq.,  
Executive Director,  
Northwest Territory Celebration Commission,  
Marietta, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Hawes:

I have your letter of the 18th answering  
my wire of the 17th.

Mr. Bruner was given instructions to  
carry out a certain part of the work. I imagine he  
has completed this - or will complete it - as he can,  
according to my orders.

Yours truly,

*Gutzon Borglum*

Gutzon Borglum.

*Mr Bruner has done all he can. He stated  
in following out your instructions & stated this  
morning that ~~fast~~ tomorrow - Tuesday night - there  
would be nothing the carvers could do without  
further instruction.*

*The enclosed confirmation of wire sent you  
today states our position.*

*The carvers state that the model is not a  
finished model at least as to the three figures  
in the back; that getting them into touch  
the heads & ~~and~~ it is impossible to proceed*

July 26, 1938

Mr. Gutzon Borglum  
Rapid City  
South Dakota

Dear Mr. Borglum:

Mr. Bruner has done all he and Mr. Slinkard can do in following out your instructions and stated this morning that past tomorrow--Tuesday night--there would be nothing the carvers could do without further instruction.

The enclosed confirmation of wire sent you today states our position.

The carvers state that the model is not a finished model, at least as to the three figures in the back; that Matty told them not to touch the heads. It is impossible to proceed without sculptor's supervision and everything needed is at your disposal and completion depends entirely upon you.

Very sincerely yours,

E. M. Hawes  
Executive Director

EMH:mb  
Enc.

## CLASS OF SERVICE

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# WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

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## SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

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## Received at

JH26 190 NL COLLECT

1938 JUL 24 AM 8 43

RAPIDCITY SDAK JUL 23

E M HAWES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NORTHWEST TERRITORY CELEBRATION COMMISSION

WIRES RECEIVED THERE HAVE BEEN SO MANY WOLF CALLS FROM MARIETTA I HAVE ANSWERED WITHOUT OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY ON THE WORK PROPERLY THAT I MUST TELL YOU THAT YOU ARE QUITE AT LIBERTY TO DO WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE CARVERS I CANNOT LEAVE PRESSING AND MORE IMPORTANT WORK CONTINUOUSLY NOW FOR OVER A YEAR WITH EMBARRASSMENT TO THAT WORK NOR CAN I AGAIN GO TO MARIETTA EARLIER THAN THE FIFTEENTH STOP GROSS MISMANAGEMENT OF THAT JOB HAS EMBARRASSED ME FINANCIALLY AS IT HAS EMBARRASSED OTHER WORK NEVER CONTEMPLATED STOP IT IS YOUR BUSINESS TO SUPPLY CARVERS FOR THE WORK IF YOU SEND THEM AWAY NOW YOU WILL HAVE TO RETURN THEM WHEN I AM ABLE TO GO TO MARIETTA. I CANNOT HANDLE YOUR BUSINESS OR ADVISE WHEN NO ATTENTION WHATEVER IS PAID TO THAT ADVICE AS HAS BEEN THE CASE FOR MORE THAN A YEAR THE EARLIEST CERTAIN DATE FOR ME TO REACH MARIETTA IS ABOUT THE EIGHTEENTH OF AUGUST I CAN BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT THAT LATER AND THEN ONLY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF FINISHING AND ASSISTED BY CARVERS TO COMPLETE WHAT REMAINS OF THE GROUP

GUTZON BORGLUM.



JULY 25, 1938

MR. GUTZON BORGLUM  
RAPID CITY  
SOUTH DAKOTA

WE ARE NOT NOW INTERESTED IN ANY MUTUAL RECRIMINATION. THE QUESTION IS ONE OF GETTING MEMORIAL COMPLETED WHILE FUNDS AND MEN ARE AVAILABLE. YOUR CONTRACT SAYS YOU WILL RENDER SUPERVISION AND CARVERS SAY HAVE GONE AS FAR AS THEY CAN WITH PRESENT MODEL AND INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN WITHOUT FURTHER SUPERVISION. W. P. A. WILL NOT LAY OFF MEN AND THEN RESUME AT LATER AND UNCERTAIN DATE, AND WHERE YOU HAVE OFFERED THESE CARVERS OTHER WORK WHICH WOULD MAKE THEM UNAVAILABLE HERE. WE INSIST UPON YOU OR YOUR ACCREDITED AND COMPETENT REPRESENTATIVE COMING HERE THIS WEEK WHILE CARVERS AND ALL EQUIPMENT HERE AT YOUR ENTIRE DISPOSAL. IMMEDIATE SUPERVISION IS ESSENTIAL TO COMPLETION OF MEMORIAL AND THEREFORE OF YOUR CONTRACT. GOVERNOR WHITE JOINS IN THIS WIRE.

NORTHWEST TERRITORY CELEBRATION COMMISSION  
E. M. HAWES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

Conference with A. T. Williamson, P. S. Rovegno, Messrs. Bruner, Slinkard, Miller and E. M. Hawes, July 25, 1938.

This conference was brought about because of the refusal of Mr. Borglum to come here by July 18 or later and by the fact that W. P. A. insists upon a date for finishing before allotting any more money to this project. They have also refused to suspend the project unless the present carvers will be available for it, and there is no certainty of this in view of the fact that Mr. Borglum has offered these men a chance to go to Mount Rushmore to work.

In the course of the conference the carvers reiterated what they have said many times before; i.e., that the model is not a finished model and, therefore, past general roughing in, it is impossible to go further without the supervision of the sculptor. They pointed out that the faces and features are incomplete and, as they call the model, it is a sketch model so far as the three back figures are concerned.

Matty Reilly told the carvers, so they say, that they were not to touch the heads of the figures and the carvers say that today and tomorrow will finish up everything they can do until further instructions are given to them. They claim that if Mr. Borglum would finish the model that they could go ahead and finish the Memorial.

It was also brought out very clearly that, if Mr. Borglum has finished, as he contracted to do, a full size model, the carvers would have been able to use a pointing machine and a tremendous amount

of their labor would have been saved. Mr. Borglum's contract specifically provides for a full size model, which certainly has never been brought to Marietta.

The carvers say that it is impossible to give an estimate as to when the job will be completed if Mr. Borglum insists on changes as he has in the past; but that if the group were to be finished with no material changes from the present model three weeks should complete the job. This, is three weeks after they have Mr. Borglum's supervision.

They also say that Matty told them the last thing before leaving here not to put any wash on to the base before Mr. Borglum gets here. Mr. Schooley was here last week and said that the wash should go onto the base. In view of the fact that Mr. Borglum has not been any party to the base, except as Matty assisted Mr. Schooley in its design, we have issued instructions that the wash is to go on.

All three carvers, that is, Bruner, Slinkard, and Miller, stated emphatically to us this morning that neither Rovegno nor myself nor anyone representing the Commission had ever in any way interfered with their work or caused them delay. They state that there were probably between 200 and 400 man hours lost in working on stone which proved to be defective; but they also say that there is practically always a loss involved in cutting stone through defects which do not appear on the surface.

They make the statement that had there been a full sized model the group could have been carved in four months time by three men.

They attribute to Reilly the mistake in figures which made it necessary to recut the base stone.

It develops that there were many changes in carving and re-carving necessary due to changes of orders from Mr. Borglum. For instance, they state that on the eagle stones there were three different sizes of base cut.

The result of this conference is a wire which is being sent to Mr. Borglum. today.

August 2nd, 1938

Mr. Gutzon Berglum  
Rapid City, South Dakota

Dear Mr. Berglum:

I did not know until Saturday that Governor White had had any reply from you in response to our wire of July 25th. At that time I talked to the Governor on the phone, but the copy of the telegram had been put into the mail, so it was yesterday when I learned its contents. The Governor had expected that you had sent carbon of it to this office. Yesterday the Governor was in town for a few minutes, and he is so busy with his campaign that I hesitated to intrude any of our affairs upon him.

The facts of the situation are as follows: Messrs. Slinkard and Miller have gone home--leaving last Saturday. Mr. Brunner is still here, and told me this morning that he would leave on Friday. He says that you wrote him that you would be here on August 6th, and in a later letter said August 18th.

The exemptions for these men have expired, and W.P.A. will not give any more exemptions until we can tell them how long it will take to complete the job. These exemptions have to come from Washington, and can not be gotten through on short notice. We have a peculiar situation applying, however, to all W.P.A. projects--these carvers are exempted men, and in order to keep them on at all we have to have common labor, that is in the usual W.P.A. classification, in a certain number so that the ratio of exempted labor to total labor is not over the W.P.A. percentage. We have money enough in the W.P.A. project to complete the works so far as carvers are concerned--if they are actually working. We do not have enough to have them lying around--nor do we have enough to maintain both the carvers and the necessary relief labor along with them, and until such time as you now indicate you will be here.

This isn't a case of what we want--or anything of the sort. It is just a W.P.A. regulation which we can't get around. In view of this situation the only way we can handle it is: First, if you can come here at once we have money enough to maintain the labor involved and complete the job. If you can not come here at once then the only thing we can do is to suspend the project entirely until such time as you will come here. Then, at that time it will be necessary to ask for new exemption, and if there be any material delay involved to get other carvers if those be then employed, and to get them classified, registered, etc., this brings us to the conclusion that if you can not come at once, and if you can not give us the time necessary to finish (within a week or so of being accurate) then we would prefer to suspend the project until such time this fall that you can come here, prepared to wait until exemptions can be secured and carvers can be gotten.

I am planning to leave here the 12th of August for a rest. If you can come here by the first of the week we can get the exemptions through on these particular men, and they are already classified. If this can not be done before I leave I would not want to burden Governor White with the details, and if he is nominated he would not want to be bothered with them. If you can not come by the first of the week, but can give us the time necessary to finish

EMH to Mr. Gutson Berglum, August 2nd, 1936....2.

for W.P.A. Administrative purposes, and if you will agree to be here definitely at a certain date we will try to have the exemption through so that you can have these men--even though I am not here while you are working.

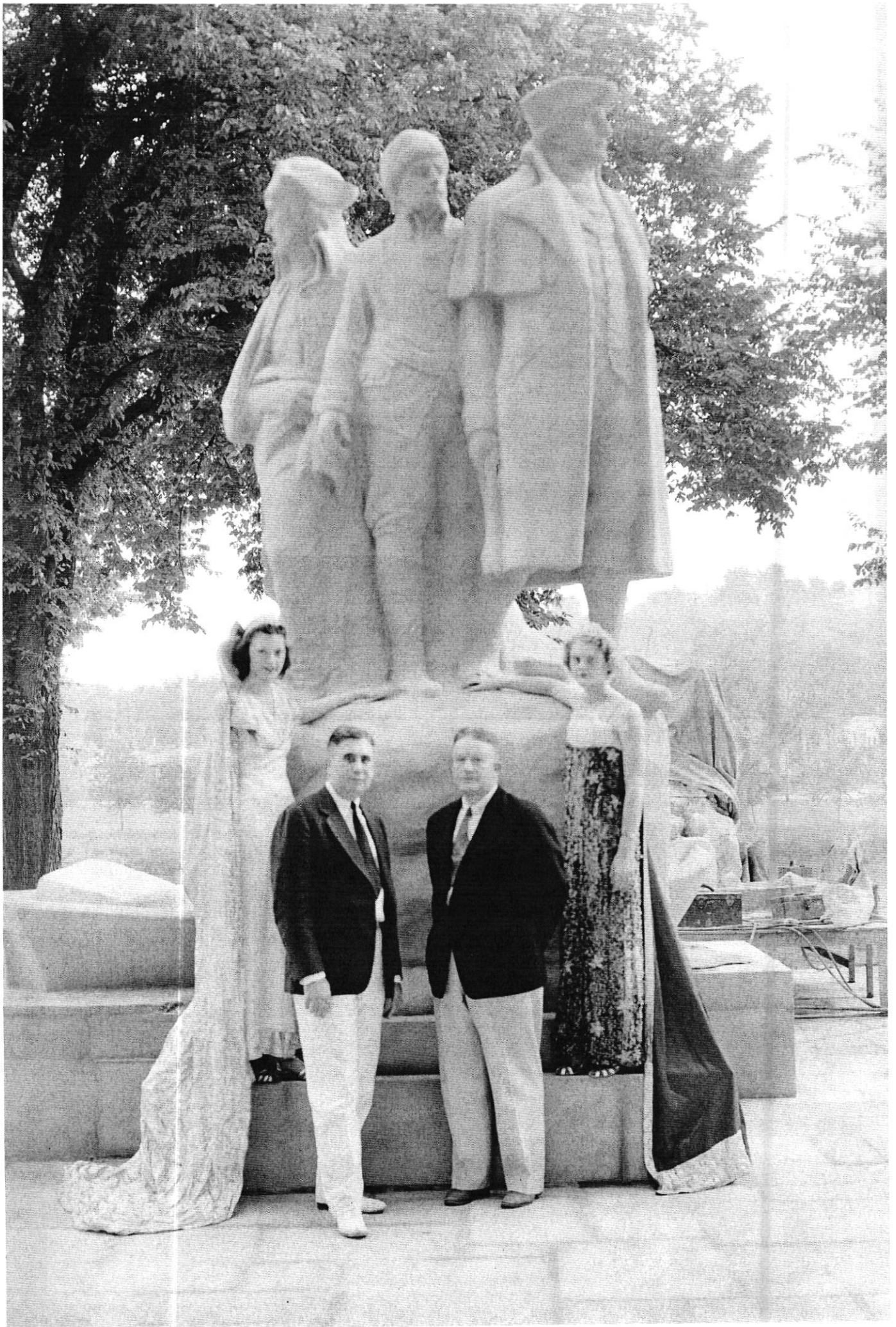
Will you please let us have your reply by return mail, or by wire?

Sincerely,

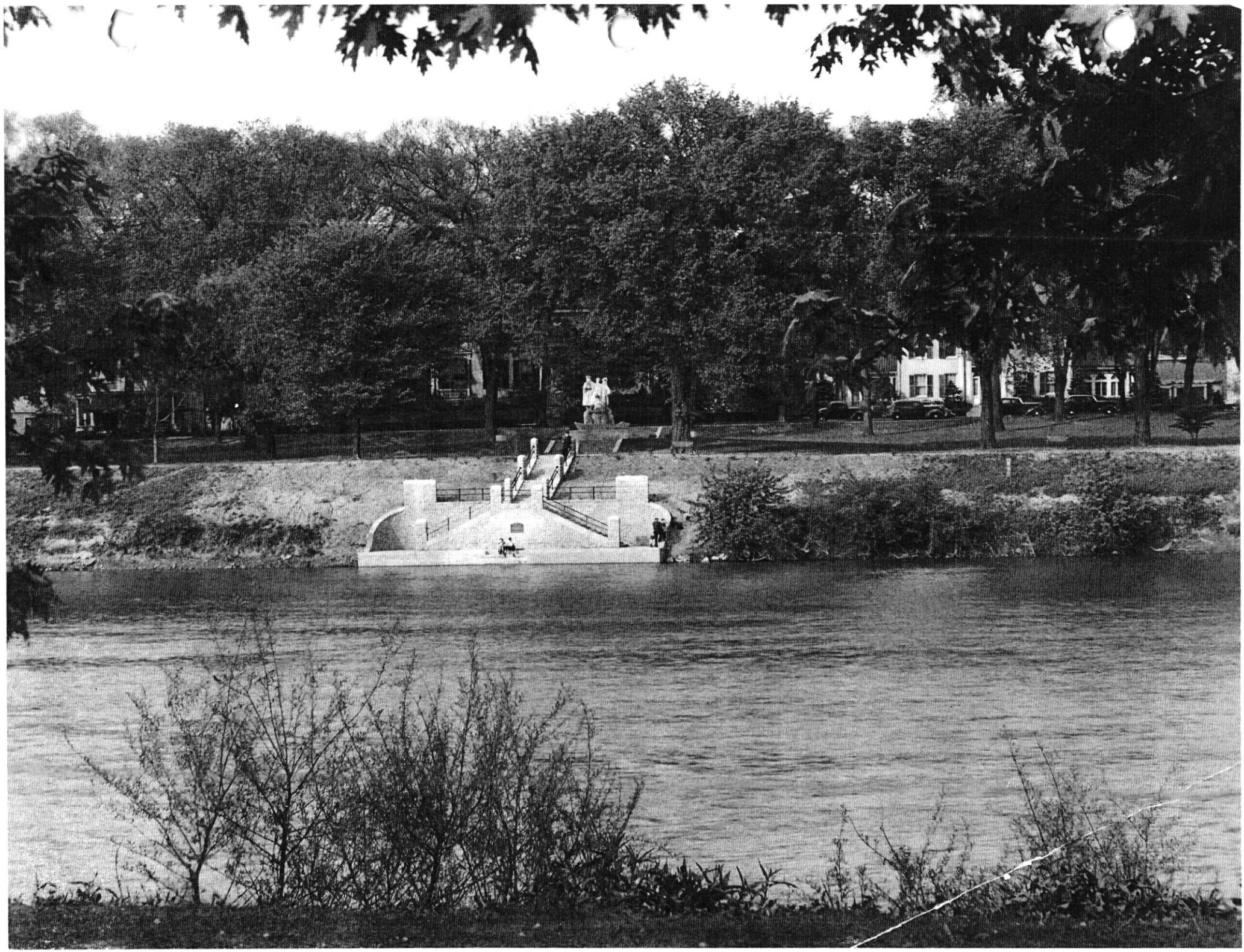
E. M. Hawes  
Executive Director

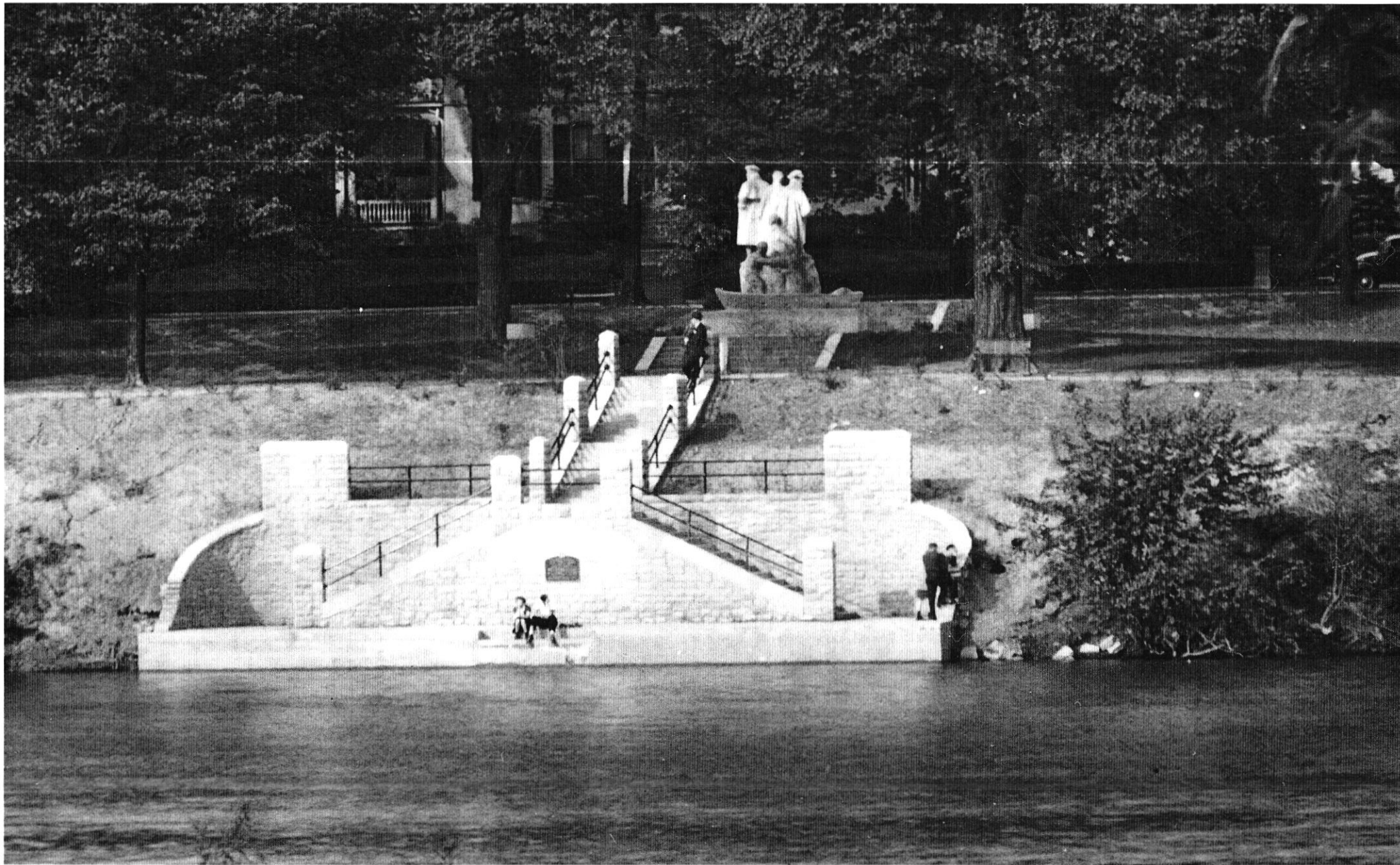
EMH:MC

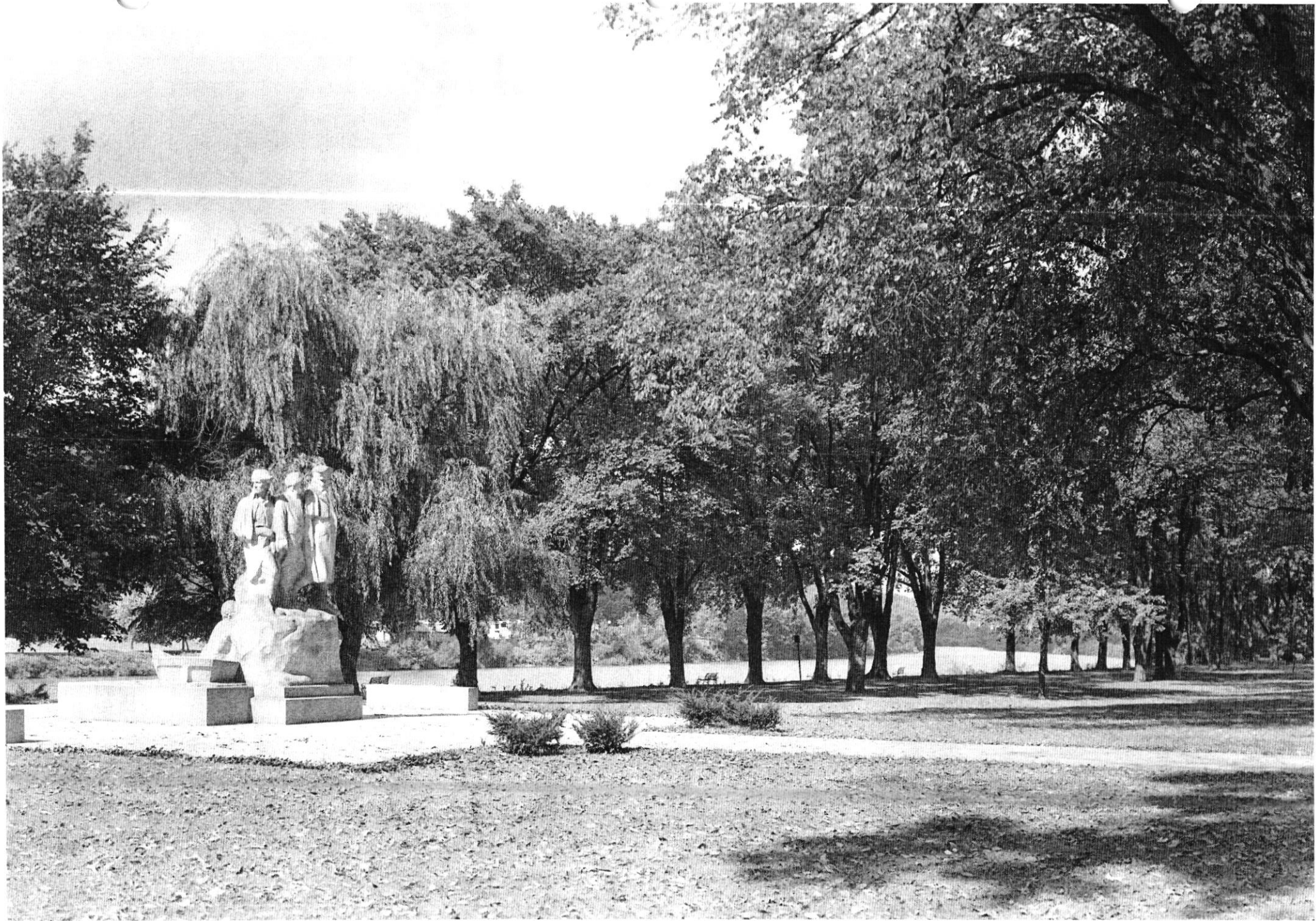














GEN. ARTHUR ST. CLAIR  
HERE INAUGURATED  
FIRST GOVERNOR  
OF THE NORTH WEST TERRITORY  
JULY 15, 1788

# GUTZON BORGLUM DISPLEASED WITH STONE IN MARIETTA WORK

## Famous Sculptor Predicts "The Start Westward" Will be Unrecognizable in Three Generations

## Finishing Touches Being Applied by Creator of Monument Dedicated by Roosevelt in July

By NANCY WAMSLEY  
Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of the monumental group "The Start Westward" which was dedicated in July by President Roosevelt in Marietta in connection with the

sesqui-centennial of the Northwest Territory, is not pleased with the stone from which the statue is carved he said yesterday as he put the finishing touches to the piece.

"When you are a great-grandmother, you will point to three little stumps of stone standing in the park and tell your descendants that they used to be three men in a boat and they won't believe you," the nationally known artist told a Sentinel reporter, expressing the view that the defects in the stone will cause it to deteriorate. Mr. Borglum denied that he had selected the stone himself, and declared that the group should have been made in bronze.

### Admires Valley Scenery

Though not impressed with the stone in this section of the Ohio valley, Mr. Borglum is greatly impressed with the beauty of the river. He asserted that it is the most beautiful he has ever seen in his travels throughout the country. He had never previously had much occasion to visit this area, he said, but he has learned to like it. Though he prefers California where he has one of his two homes and which he describes as "the state

God made after he practiced on Ohio."

The sculptor was engaged in cementing cracks along the base of the boat which fits onto the pedestal of the statue yesterday. A special cement is used, mixed with dust from the stone. Just what type of stone it is, Mr. Borglum said he was at a loss to know although he expressed the belief that it resembles grindstone more than anything else. He is in the habit of using native stone when suitable, he revealed, but said he would have insisted on importing stone for the Marietta work had he known the poor quality of that which occurred there. He also commented that the statue would have been finished long ago had it not been for the incompetence of one of the supervisors.

### Explains Absence from Dedication

"The Start Westward" is not the first of his monuments to be dedicated before it was finished, Mr. Borglum said, revealing that that happens frequently. He explained his absence from the dedication by saying that he had been asked to make a speech and that he didn't want to compete with the president. He said he had wired the president that he would be unable to be there.

### Easily Recognizable

Mr. Borglum is easily recognizable from his pictures, though yesterday he was wearing a rather broad-brimmed gray felt hat which obscured his face as he bent over his work. He is a large, well-built,

active-looking man with a weather-beaten, tanned countenance, gray hair which shows no signs of thinning and light but piercing blue eyes. He told of a girl who came looking for him when he was working on the Mt. Rushmore memorial in the Black Hills recently. "Have you seen Mr. Borglum?" she asked Mr. Borglum. He replied, "Yes, he was around here a little while ago. He ought to be back shortly." Whereupon the girl sat down for a chat with him and talked for about twenty minutes without discovering his identity. Finally the sculptor said, "I have to go now, but you wait for Mr. Borglum right here. He ought to be back anytime." An hour later, he returned and found the girl still waiting. "I suspected you all the time," she said; but Mr. Borglum commented, "She kept her suspicions well hidden."

# BEACOM SENDS HOLT LETTER

## Asks Governor to Change Mind About Not Attending Young Dems' Convention

A letter was made public in Huntington last night in which J. Patrick Beacom, state president of the Young Democrats, asked Governor Holt...

**HOW LONG, ALETHIA,**  
will you keep neglecting your complexion? Help bring out its natural loveliness with Cuticura Soap and Ointment. Wonderful for pimples, blackheads, roughness and other externally caused irritations. Soap 25¢, Ointment 25¢ at your druggist's. FREE sample, write Cuticura, Dept. 82, Malden, Mass.

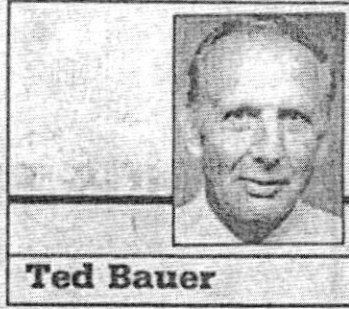
At Patton & Neal's...

Area residents were witnesses to quite a moving experience 50 years ago this week.

Involved was the problem of moving a partially carved 20-ton block of sandstone from Briggs Station, between Marietta and Belpre, to Marietta's Muskingum Park. There the carving would be completed by famed sculptor Gutzon Borglum and would become the centerpiece of the Memorial to the Start Westward.

More than 50 stone workers had been employed in cutting the selected chunk of Ohio sandstone at the Holmes quarry. Borglum and his assistants began fashioning the statue group at the quarry. Then the huge chunk of stone was wrapped carefully and securely fastened to massive beams for a 10-mile roundabout journey to its final resting place in the park.

State officials helped obtain a low-



**Ted Bauer**

slung 16-wheel trailer for the tedious trip. A Mack truck provided the power for the move.

Probably no one was more nervous about the project than engineer Pete Rovegno. He was in charge of the loading, moving and unloading of the stone.

In 1938, Marietta's sesquicentennial year, there was no Fort Harmar Drive, Washington Street

Bridge or Skyline Drive. Ohio 7 was a two-lane highway that hugged the bank of the Ohio River below Marietta. At Mile Run, just outside the city, the highway went beneath the B&O Railroad overpass. Then it continued over Virginia Street, turned north on Franklin Street and crossed the Putnam Street Bridge.

Slowly and cautiously, the trailer and its cargo moved along the highway. Men stayed ahead of the truck to make sure it didn't encounter any holes or bumps that might cause the stone to shift.

At Mile Run, the truck and trailer had to make a dangerous detour, for the railroad overpass was not high enough to permit the uncompleted hunk of sculpture to pass beneath it. The load was routed over Stage's Hill to Watertown Road, then into Marietta and down Maple Street.

The next challenge was the

Putnam Street Bridge, which that day would be subjected to possibly the heaviest load it ever would carry. It was close clearance, with only nine inches of daylight between the stone and the bridge. Once across the bridge, the cargo was within sight of its destination.

After the load arrived at the park, supporting jacks were put beneath the trailer until the stone could be unloaded the following day. In the morning, planks were installed to protect the sidewalk and the load was carefully rolled from the trailer on solid steel rollers.

A few weeks later, the completed Borglum creation was unveiled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

■ ■ ■ ■

Besides the journey of the Start Westward monument, May of 1938 saw many sesquicentennial-related activities in Marietta. The state convention of the Knights of Columbus