

HOT SPRINGS STAR

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LARGEST CIRCULATION IN COUNTY



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Dec. 6, 1924

Mr. Doane Robinson, State Historian,
Pierre, S.D.,

Dear Mr. Robinson:-

I am taking the liberty of answering the letter you recently to Mr. Johnson, as I edit the star and am responsible for the editorial which called forth your letter as well as other comment which you have no doubt read in this week's issue.

I can echo your opening sentence in asking your pardon if my editorial was "too ironical;" words sometime gallop away with us, as you know.

But I cannot truthfully say that I believe I can ever feel at all differently about any piece of carving, no matter how inspired, that would be placed in the needles region, whether actually carved on one of the needles or on some other rock that would be visible to those who look at that most awe-inspiring scene. Any human touch in the way of ornamentation or whatever you might call Mr. Borglum's conception would forever ruin, in my eyes, the effect which is now so absolutely cosmic. There is a place for sculpture, but it is not in such a scene as that.

I think I get your idea of the unique character of such a carving in such a place but the fact that it would be unique and on a stupendous scale would by no means justify it in my eyes. It would be something like the spirit college youths display in risking life, limb and official punishment in order to plant their class emblem in a higher or more unexpected place than it has ever been carried before, or than any other class emblem is taken. We look tolerantly on their scrambling, knowing that they will learn in time to differentiate between physical altitude and real accomplishment. But we do not emulate them.

As to the consideration of increased revenue from tourists looking for the unique, I think we would have less commendation from them than we would have disapprobation. And even though it would draw more people here than will the natural grandeur of that scene, I would still oppose it. There are some things, you know, that can't be done for money if you want to keep your self respect.

I am sorry that we disagree so entirely on this subject, but as each of us is sincere we must feel free to take our own means of furthering our respective aims.

very truly yours,

Corra B. Johnson
(Mrs. A. T. Johnson)

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

DIVISION OF GENERAL SCIENCE

BROOKINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

October 16, 1924

Dear Mr Robinson:

Those of us who know well your fine devotion to everything fine for South Dakota, and those of us who appreciate the great value of your many and varied services to our state, feel rather sure that the correspondent to the Sioux City Tribune is misquoting your words and sentiment in reference to a desecration of the natural beauty of the Hills. Mr Borglum may have done well for the rather bare piece of rock rising out of the somber plain in Georgia, but surely such an artist would not venture to mutilate the exquisite and perfect beauty of the Needles or of the majestic rocks around Harney. Some of us, although motorists ourselves, have deplored the scar on the Needles caused by the state highway; please assure us that there is to be no further injury.

With great confidence in your genuine devotion to fine things for a fine state, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Frederick S. Young

HERO SHRINE WOULD BRING RICH RETURN

Borglum Shows Pictures, Touches on Economic Phase of Project

Photographic slides of the proposed American Memorial to be carved on Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills, by Gutson Borglum.

Mr. Arthur L. Humphrey, Pittsburgh, president of the Westinghouse Airbrake company, and director of the United States Chamber of Commerce, concluding an address before the Lions' club this noon, turned to Gutson Borglum, sculptor, and said: "Mr. Borglum, I am completely sold on the proposition for a national memorial on Rushmore Mountain and I pledge to you every assistance in my power. When I have returned to Pittsburgh, call upon me and I will give you all the assistance it is possible for me to render."

sculptor, were thrown on the screen before a large throng of Rapid Cityans last evening at the Auditorium theater. Talks by Mr. Borglum, Senator Peter Norbeck and Doane Robinson were given.

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Hero Shrine Would Bring Rich Return (From Page One)

The purpose of the meeting was purely informational.

"One of the first requisites for the Memorial," said Senator Norbeck, "is the building of three miles of road from Keystone to Rushmore. I am more confident than even in the project. The purpose of this meeting is to report progress, to get every one a little more interested and to say we're going to see it through."

"Italy has been reaping for centuries the financial harvest of the work of a single generation of artists," declared Mr. Borglum, in touching upon the economic value of the memorial to South Dakota. "The tourist is her biggest crop. The same can be true of South Dakota. Rockefeller's gold will long have disappeared before the interest in character delineation of America's great men, founders and saviours of our country, rendered immortal in stone, will pass away. My interest is only in one thing—that of building a great national monument in which national character is portrayed.

"If you build the statues of Washington, father of his country, and of Lincoln, saviour of his country, on Rushmore, you will have bequeathed a whole gold mine to your children for the wealth of dollars it will bring into your state. The Stone Mountain project diverted the entire road system of Georgia and made over its railroad schedules. As soon as the carving on Rushmore

is commenced, Rapid City will be embarrassed by the jam of tourists which will throng this Gate-way funnel to the Black Hills."

Mr. Borglum paid rare tribute to Senator Norbeck as a man of courage, grit and brains.

"I am convinced that just as soon as good will is shown in South Dakota and a clear resolute start made, the nation will fall behind and put it across," he said.

"I assure you that if you keep your interest in the memorial, there will be no danger of its falling by the wayside," said Mr. Norbeck. "It won't come easy. Things worth while don't come that way. But they're worth going after."

Doane Robinson told of the attitude of the sponsors of Stone Mountain toward Mr. Borglum at the recent unveiling of the bronze monument to "The Wars of America," at Newark, N. J.

The committee appointed by the governor of Georgia to provide a statue of Alexander Stephens for the Hall of Fame at Washington sent a telegram of congratulation to the mayor of Newark announcing that the commonwealth of Georgia has commissioned Mr. Borglum to carve the statue and concluding "Georgia has never considered any other artist than Gutson Borglum for this important memorial."

"This is the final answer to the charges about Stone Mountain," declared Mr. Robinson.

A windlass and other necessary machinery has been ordered from Denver and is expected to arrive tonight. It will be used to lower Mr. Borglum and assistants over the side of Rushmore to make accurate measurements of the granite face for the Memorial statues. This will probably begun tomorrow, according to present plans.

The slides, despite difficulties in the use of the projecting machine, were well received by the audience and drew much applause as the pictures of the statues in various stages of completion were thrown on the screen. Pictures will be on display at the Commercial club rooms and the slides will be shown at other theaters in Rapid City. It is expected. A movie film of the pictures has been made, Mr. Borglum announced.

Mt. Harney Memorial Association

CHAPTER 232.

(S. B. 283.)

CREATING MT. HARNEY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

AN ACT Entitled, An Act Creating the Mount Harney Memorial Association and Defining Its Powers.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of South Dakota:

Section 1. The Mount Harney Memorial Association is hereby created, to consist of such citizens as shall subscribe to its by-laws. It shall have an executive committee to consist of the Chairman of the Custer State Park Board and two others to be chosen by the Association at a meeting to be called for the purpose. Such Association shall have authority to fill vacancies in the executive committee as the same may occur. Said Association shall function without cost to the State of South Dakota and shall have no power to involve the State of South Dakota in any contract or in any risk of any character.

Section 2. Said Mount Harney Memorial Association is hereby granted permission to cause colossal statues of Washington and Lincoln to be carved from a ledge of granite near the top of Mount Harney, the location for the same to be approved by the Governor; it being understood that the title control of such statues when completed shall vest in the State of South Dakota, and in the carving of such statues such association shall preserve the natural beauty of the region unimpaired.

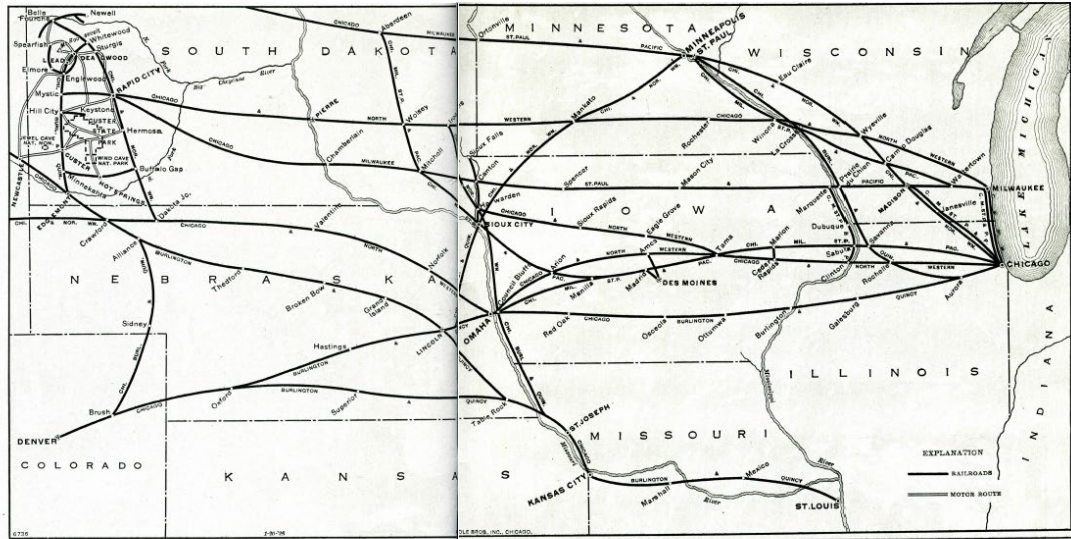
Section 3. The said Mount Harney Memorial Association is hereby clothed with power to do any and all things necessary in carrying out the purposes of this act, provided that no expense or responsibility is incurred on behalf of the State of South Dakota, or for which the State can be held liable.

Section 4. Said Mount Harney Memorial Association shall continue in being until such statues are completed and dedicated when its books and effects shall be turned over to the Custer State Park Board and the said Association shall cease to exist.

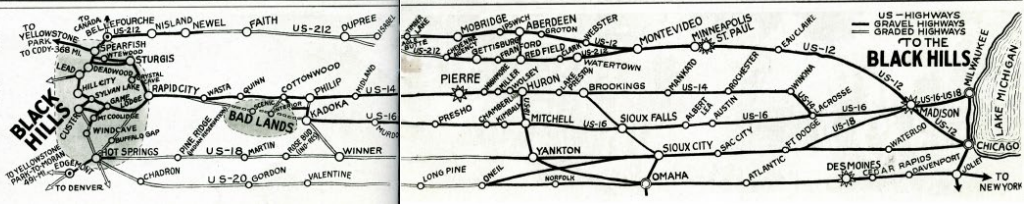
Approved March 5, 1925.



THE MAP INDICATES HOW DIRECTLY The Black Hills Region IS SERVED BY THE GREAT RAILWAY SYSTEMS SHOWN



STANDARD OIL SERVICE
THE RED CROWN ROUTE
WILL BE FOUND AT ALL TOWNS EN ROUTE



March 7, 1924

J. B. Green, Secretary,
Rapid City, South Dakota.

My dear Mr. Green:

I thank you sincerely for yours of the 6th and for the amendment of the guide. It is especially important that road numbers be included. I am also including the golf and trout items. All of your suggestions are good and will be used.

About the sculpture, I am quite fixed in my conclusion. When I first made it I had not given it serious consideration but I have thought a lot about it since and all of my thinking leads me to the belief that such an enterprise is possible and desirable. I was not responsible for a lot of loose talk put out by the newspapers. I have known from the first the character of the granite and it is all the more desirable for that reason. A sculpture in soft rock will soon weather out.

I have not cared to take issue with the Hills people for I knew they had got a "bum steer," and that when they had seriously considered the matter they would gladly support it. They will laugh themselves, when they come to think that if the granite should assay five cents a ton in gold, they would unanimously subscribe to a machine to grind up the needles and wipe them off the face of the earth. I do not want to harm the native beauty of the Needles at all, but I would find a bunch of them some where in a location, that would be reached by a special side trip and there I would set Outson Borglum, or some artist of his class, at work upon a great historic pageant, and when it is done the result will be worth a lot more in cash than would another Homestake, and it will not grind up its material and pass away, but for a thousand years would continue to bring its annual harvest of gold. With such a sculpture in the Hills no eastern man would think of going west for pleasure without passing through the Hills enroute.

Our biggest business is to sell the Hills to the east. We must first have the roads. They are coming on finely and another year will give us gravel from Rapid to Chicago and on to the Atlantic. Then the Hills will begin to come into their own. The commercial interest of the eastern part of the state in accomplishing this end is almost equal to that of the Hills people.

Tourists soon get fed up on scenery, unless it has something of special interest connected with it to make it impressive. You have no doubt observed this as I have. Having passed through Rapid Canyon, they would not go far to see another of equal beauty, but they would drive a hundred miles to see Wild Bill's grave. We must have many definite things to play up and work upon the imagination of the tourists.