

STONE MOUNTAIN — GIANT CAMEO OF HEROIC SOUTH

SPLENDID in its magnificence, challenging the sculptural efforts of all ages by its very vastness of conception and execution, another section of the Stone Mountain Confederate Memorial will be unveiled in mid-June. At that time, shortly after the anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America, the completed heads of Davis and Stonewall Jackson will be revealed.

From the modest ambition of the Daughters of the Confederacy to pay tribute to Confederacy's military leader, Lee, to a panorama of military splendor carved in full relief, 1,350 feet long and containing about 700 figures, would appear a tedious evolution. But in reality it represents a single bold leap of the imagination of the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum.

His every creative instinct fired to the highest degree by the possibilities of the vast granite face of Stone Mountain, Borglum grasped a vision of sculptural magnitude which for a time all but staggered artist and layman alike. But in the unveiling of the head of Lee, on January 19, last, and the heads of Davis and Jackson in June, it is being given the world to really appreciate and grasp the gift of the South and of Borglum to memorial art of all time.

Mountain of Solid Stone
During all the ages since "the laboring earth disgorged it bare to sun and storm," time has produced no appreciable change in the face of Stone Mountain. Situated sixteen miles east of Atlanta, in De Kalb County, Georgia, it is as its name implies, literally a mountain of stone. The largest solid body of granite in the world, it is 5,000 feet long, seven miles around the base, and a mile to the summit up its sloping side. Its foundations underlie almost half the state of Georgia, and its substrata have been encountered 250 miles distant. It is across this mammoth page of granite that Borglum is engraving a perpetual and indestructible tribute to the men and women who fought and suffered for the ideal for which the Confederacy strove.

When in 1915 Borglum was invited by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to visit Stone Mountain and pass upon the suggestion that a colossal statue of General Lee be carved on the precipice, the real idea was given birth. Gazing upon the mighty background, looming a thousand feet above him, the sculptor received the instant impression that a single figure on such a vast expanse would be entirely too small.

With characteristic frankness Borglum gave the opinion which might have sounded the death knell of some vast business scheme. But he was dealing with a group who were urged on by a mighty ambition which would not be downed. They challenged him to produce a plan by which the face of the mountain could be made to tell of the grandeur and valor of the Confederate armies.

Panorama Recommended
Accepting the challenge, Borglum gave to the mountain a study which took into account every foot of its great contours. This study produced his startling recommendation for an heroic panorama in which would be portrayed a veritable cross section of the entire military organization of the Confederacy.

It was something more than a daring sculptural inspiration—it was an enormous engineering feat as well. And it is these same engineering phases, bringing into play the resources and ingenuity of men but little associated with the finer arts, that have centered upon Stone Mountain the attention and interest of a vast army of people to whom the purely sculptural aspects would have appealed but lightly.

Without the panorama of which it will be a part, the central group alone would outrival all other monuments of history. General Lee's figure, of which the head only has been completed, will be nearly 200 feet high from the crown of his hat to the hoofs of his horse. This is taller than a seventeen story office building. The head of Lee covers an area 30 feet square. The central group alone, composed of seven figures representing the Confederate high command, will cover an area of one and one-half acres, or 60,000 square feet.

Ingenuity of Borglum
The question that arises here is how are such vast figures being "roughed in," or laid out, on the perpendicular face of a granite mountain, hundreds of feet above ground. In solving that very problem Borglum proved his ability and ingenuity in fields not usually associated with art or sculpture. It was obvious that the outlines of the vast group and panorama could not be properly proportioned by men suspended from the summit of the mountain. Neither would it

of Borglum—the Confederate high command, mounted on gigantic horses proportioned to their riders. Another revolutionary step in sculpture had been taken. A problem that might have appalled a sculptor less versatile had been solved.

With the image held steadily to the face of the precipice, workmen with buckets of white paint were let down the mountain in slings. In the morning the outlines of the group appeared in white, and the work of engraving the images was begun.

The lantern projection method will be employed in outlining every step in the gigantic panorama.

With the completion of the heads of Lee, Davis and Jackson, the sculptor will address himself to carving the body of General Lee down to the saddle. Borglum's contract calls for the completion of the



Putting the finishing touches on the nose of General Robert E. Lee



Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor, in the harness which suspends him over cliff while at work.



The almost perpendicular cliff looking from the top and showing how the workmen are suspended high above the plain.

entire central group by the spring of 1926.

Hall and Amphitheatre
But the panorama is not all of the memorial plan. Two other features, either one of which would in itself constitute an unusual and tremendous monument, are Memorial Hall, to be quarried out of

rama will represent the Confederate armies mobilizing around their leaders. At the top will be the cavalry, appearing as if coming from beyond and dropping down over and to the left across the precipice in vivid procession of men, horses and guns.

Moving downward across the face of the mountain will next come cavalry in strikingly realistic motion, and in the center, where the precipice bulges forward, is being carved the central colossal group. Swinging away to the left of the central group will be column upon column of gray-clad infantry, truly symbolized in the gray granite of Stone Mountain.

To Portray Generals
In addition to the seven figures of the Confederate high command, there are to be sixty-five more individual likenesses in the panorama. These will portray sixty-five Confederate generals, selected by the thirteen states which composed the Confederacy, each state naming its five most distinguished generals.

It is Mr. Borglum's plan to distribute these sixty-five leaders wherever they naturally belong in the gray-clad ranks.

Depth of the figures will vary according to size. For instance, the figure of General Lee, at its shallowest point, in the hat, is carved to a depth of four feet, while at the chest of the horse the depth will be twenty feet. The depth of the smallest figure in the entire panorama will not be less than four feet.

The tops of the figures in the central group will appear 300 feet below the summit of the mountain while the hoofs of the horses will be 300 feet above the plain.

Vast Difficulties
Probably never before has sculpture been attempted under such

unusual conditions. Removal of the granite around the figures painted upon the face of the mountain is a straight quarrying job, but one of unparalleled difficulties. The quarrymen must take their stone out of the perpendicular precipice while suspended in slings from the summit. No explosives can be used, for fear of mutilating portions of the figures. The work must be done with the utmost precision, for once damaged, the material out of which the figures are being carved could never be replaced.

Since Memorial Hall is to be immediately below the central group, it will not be possible to begin its excavation until the seven members of the high command have been completed. At the present time there is a continual cascade of granite down the face of the mountain across the very frontage where the incisions for Memorial Hall are to be made.

Chamber in Solid Rock
Thirteen incisions will be made for removing the granite in the creation of Memorial Hall, and when finished these incisions will form the windows and central entrance, each opening being dedicated to a Confederate State. Running for a distance of 320 feet parallel to the face of the precipice, the hall will be 60 feet deep, and 40 feet in height from floor to ceiling. No building material of any description will be introduced except immense bronze frames and stained glass in the windows. A broad granite esplanade will sweep across the front, being formed by cutting a shelf into the mountain the length of the hall. Ascending to the entrance from the plain will be a majestic granite stairway.

To the right of Memorial Hall and at the base of the mountain, where a recess in the face of the precipice forms a natural sounding board of tremendous power, will be built the Amphitheatre. Back of a gigantic stage, in an incision in the natural recess, will be constructed the greatest pipe organ in the world.

of \$2,400,000. These tablets are being taken at the rate of from fifteen to twenty per month without a paid agent in the field. The shining band of tablets, each separately cast, will encircle Memorial Hall with a war record that will endure as long as Stone Mountain shall stand.

A great "Book of Memory," made of the most enduring parchment science can devise, will carry the "Children's Founders' Roll" down through the ages. This immense book will be bound in bronze, and mounted in a receptacle constructed

for the purpose in the conference Memorial Hall. Opposite the summit of each child will be recorded the name of any Confederate ancestor or kinsman the child designated.

Rapid Enrollment
Ten thousand children in all parts of the United States and in foreign countries have enrolled in the last sixty days, and the roll is gaining momentum in an astonishing manner. A statement of a million will be enrolled in the Book of Memory, and in addition, to such enrollment each child will receive a little bronze medal designed by Gutzon Borglum and a certificate showing the page and the number of the entry of his or her name.

Authority has been granted by unanimous vote of the House and Senate, and the bill approved by President Coolidge, for the issuance of five million Stone Mountain Memorial half dollars. Borglum is now making the design, which will be appropriate to the subject, and the coins will be out of the mint in a short time. Through the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta the Memorial Association will take them from the mint and pay cash for them. They will then be sold for one dollar each, being released simultaneously in the principal cities and towns of the United States. The coins will bring into the treasury of the Association \$2,500,000, less whatever nominal expense may be incurred in their distribution.

The estimated cost of the vast plan is \$5,000,000, and a highly significant feature of the raising of this sum is that it is progressing rapidly without the employment of paid agents in the field.

The Memorial fund was launched by the Stone Mountain Confederate Monumental Association on April 20, 1923, with a conference attended by the governors or their delegated representatives of all the states that composed the Confederacy. At this conference the support of the entire South was enthusiastically pledged, and an announcement that the organization was ready to begin the raising of funds brought substantial contributions immediately. Since that time the fund has progressed rapidly, and at no stage has there been the slightest doubt that the amount required will be made available with out the employment of any unusual solicitation methods.

There are three general methods of raising the fund. The first of these, known as the "Founders' Roll," is for individuals, family groups, patriotic organizations, civic clubs, business firms, municipalities, counties and other large groups subscribing \$1,000 each.

The second method is the "Children's Founders' Roll" for boys and girls up to eight

teen years of age, who contribute one dollar.

The third method is the sale of the Stone Mountain Memorial half-dollar, authorized by Congress, the coins to be sold as souvenirs for one dollar each.

Memorial Tablets
A "Founders' Roll" subscription carries with it a bronze tablet to be permanently bolted to the wall inside of Memorial Hall. On this tablet the subscriber has the privilege of inscribing the name and war record of any Confederate soldier or military unit. There is wall space for 2,400 such tablets, making a possible income from this source

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Herculean Engineering Task
Actual work on the vast memorial was started June 13, 1923. Little has been said here about the herculean engineering feature of the creation of the memorial, for this is a long story in itself. It is conceivable and possible that the work could have been done by suspending men from the summit of the mountain by steel cables, but such a method would have prolonged the work beyond the sculptor's lifetime. Therefore, hoisting machinery of unique construction and gigantic dimensions was designed to expedite the work and make possible its completion in six to seven years. This machinery was designed by a group of distinguished engineers whose interest in the Memorial was enlisted by Lester P. Barlow, a brilliant young engineer and inventor, of Cleveland, who has been a personal friend of Borglum for many years.

Five thousand holes were drilled into the face of the mountain in the first two weeks of work, to remove an immense quantity of granite, block by block, above the figure of General Lee, giving the necessary depth for carving the bas relief. For every figure in the vast panorama it will be necessary to perform this

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