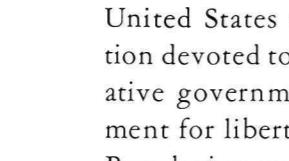


Mount Rushmore

*National Memorial*

SOUTH DAKOTA

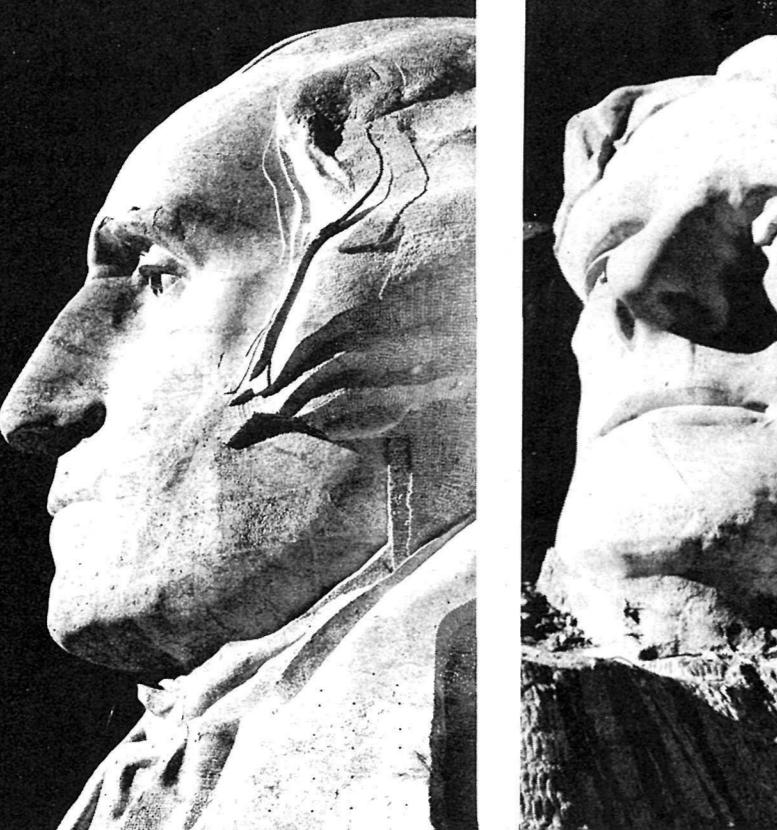
# Mount Rushmore NATIONAL MEMORIAL



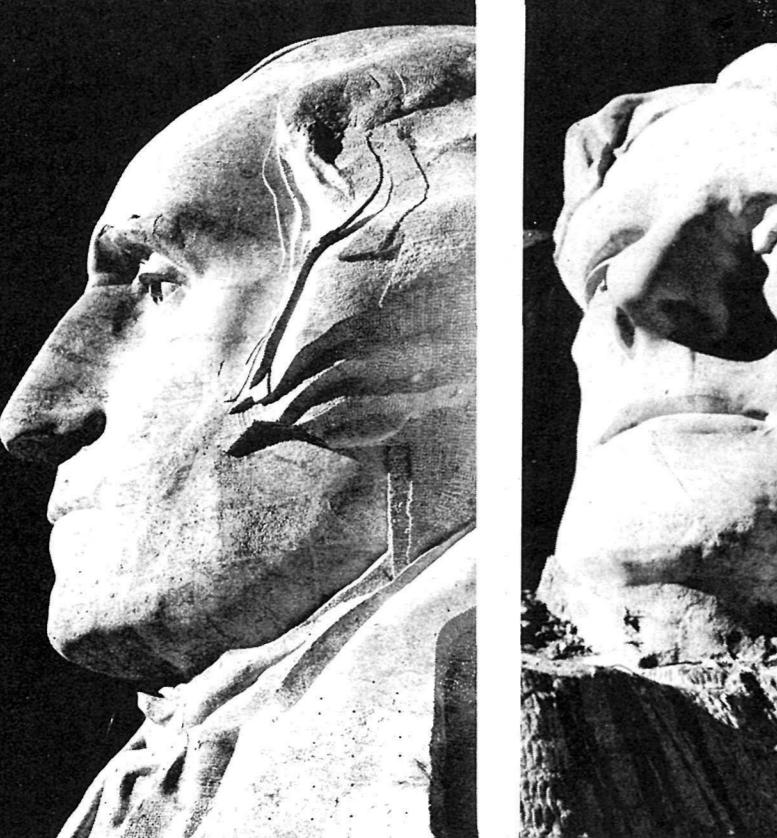
United States Department of the Interior, J. A. Krug, Secretary  
National Park Service, Newton B. Drury, Director

*Here, in lasting granite, carved in proportions symbolical of greatness and attesting the gratitude and admiration of the people, are memorialized four giants of American history: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt.*

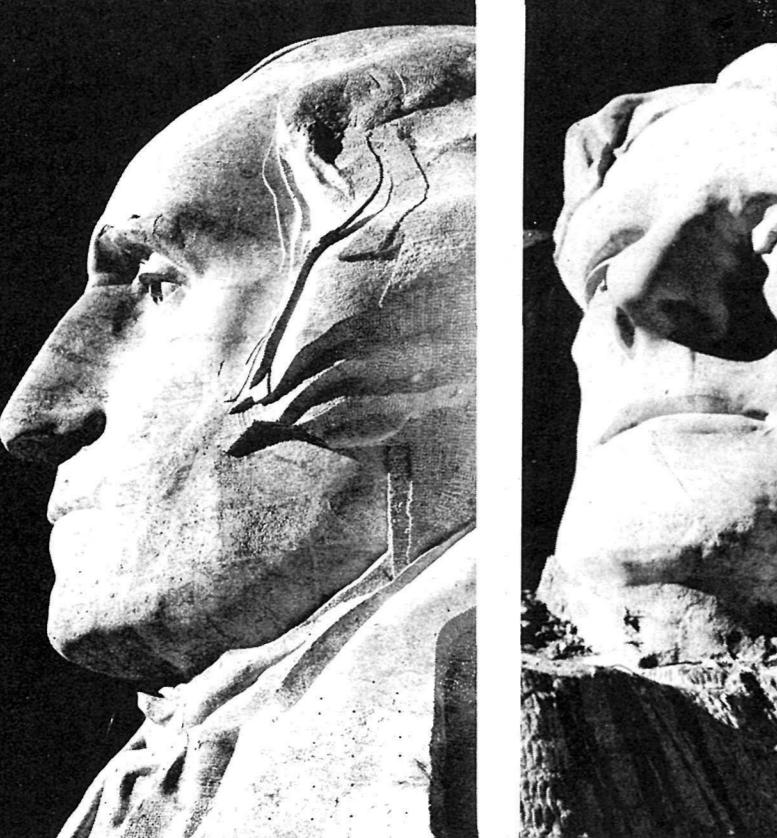
At the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, in the Black Hills of South Dakota, portraits have been sculptured by Gutzon Borglum on the side of Mount Rushmore to commemorate four outstanding contributors to American democratic progress and national development. The sculptured likenesses of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt constitute a national memorial, established by act of Congress and placed by order of the President under the administration of the National Park Service. Each portrait is carved out of solid granite and is about 60 feet in height from chin to forehead. The finishing of the Washington portrait as far as the shoulders adds to the over-all dimensions, making the group one of the largest undertakings of the kind ever attempted. It compares favorably with the great Sphinx of Egypt, which has a total height of 70 feet, a human head of 30 feet from forehead to chin, and a lion's body 189 feet long. The great size of the sculptured figures of the four Presidents results from Borglum's conception that a monument's dimensions should be determined by the importance



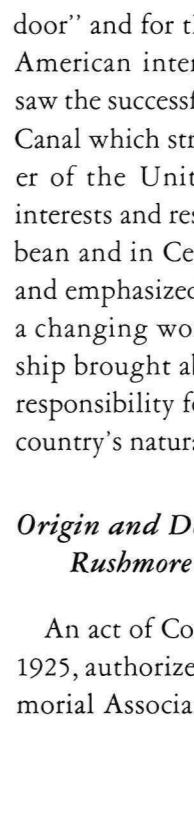
George Washington



Thomas Jefferson



Theodore Roosevelt



Abraham Lincoln

United States as an independent Nation devoted to principles of representative government. In him the movement for liberty during the American Revolution was incarnated. The magnetic qualities of his personal leadership; the typical American piety that he exemplified in the darkest hours; his skill as Commander in Chief of the American armies; his personal integrity and firm devotion to the American cause gave inspiration to the thirteen American colonies and enabled them to obtain outside assistance and to triumph over the many obstacles that had to be overcome before freedom was achieved. In the period of peace following the success of the American Revo-

to civilization of the events commemorated. The work is colossal because it was his purpose "to carve an epic."

Of the four great national heroes shown on the side of Mount Rushmore, George Washington stands out above all others because he was the founding father of the

lution, Washington continued to be the national leader. He led the movement for a more efficient instrument of government to supersede the Articles of Confederation and presided over the Constitutional Convention that drew up the Constitution of the United States in 1787. As the first President of the United States, he successfully launched the new Nation on a sure and steady course. A practical statesman, the strongest feature in his character was prudence. Action was not taken by him until every circumstance and consideration had been maturely weighed; but when decision had been reached he carried out his purpose despite obstacles. The later reappraisals of historical scholarship have not dimmed his greatness but have only added to his stature as a national hero. He remains "first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, by that act alone would have been great; but he is included among the immortals of American history because of his humane qualities and because he typifies the inherent birthright of every United States citizen to rise from the most humble circumstances to a position of the highest national honor and public service. The emancipation of the slaves, a consequence of the struggle for the maintenance of the Union, is inseparably connected with his name.

Theodore Roosevelt captured the imagination of the American people of his own day by his varied career as political reformer, "trust buster," conservationist,

structures and the molding of the political forms of the Republic. The most notable achievement of his two terms as President was the purchase of the vast Louisiana territory. The "Louisiana Purchase" more than doubled the land area of the young Nation. It opened new fields of economic opportunity for men of all classes and degrees of wealth, perpetuated for three-quarters of a century the constructive influences of the democratic frontier, and guaranteed the physical greatness and strength of the United States.

Abraham Lincoln will forever rank among the foremost of American Presidents because he, more than any other one man, preserved intact the United States when the Union was threatened with dissolution in the dark days of the War between the States. It was due largely to his wisdom and ability that the Nation

had a new birth of freedom and that the United States "Government of the people, by the people, and for the people" did not perish from the earth. He stands among the immortals of American history because he gave a new emphasis and impetus to democracy in the United States. Foe of all kinds of human tyranny, as evidenced by his authorship of the statute of Virginia for religious freedom and his opposition to the laws of primogeniture and entail, he fostered a democracy with a broader base and greater opportunity for higher education, mindful of the interests of the common man.

He was an idealist, an architect and builder whose creative genius comprehended both physical

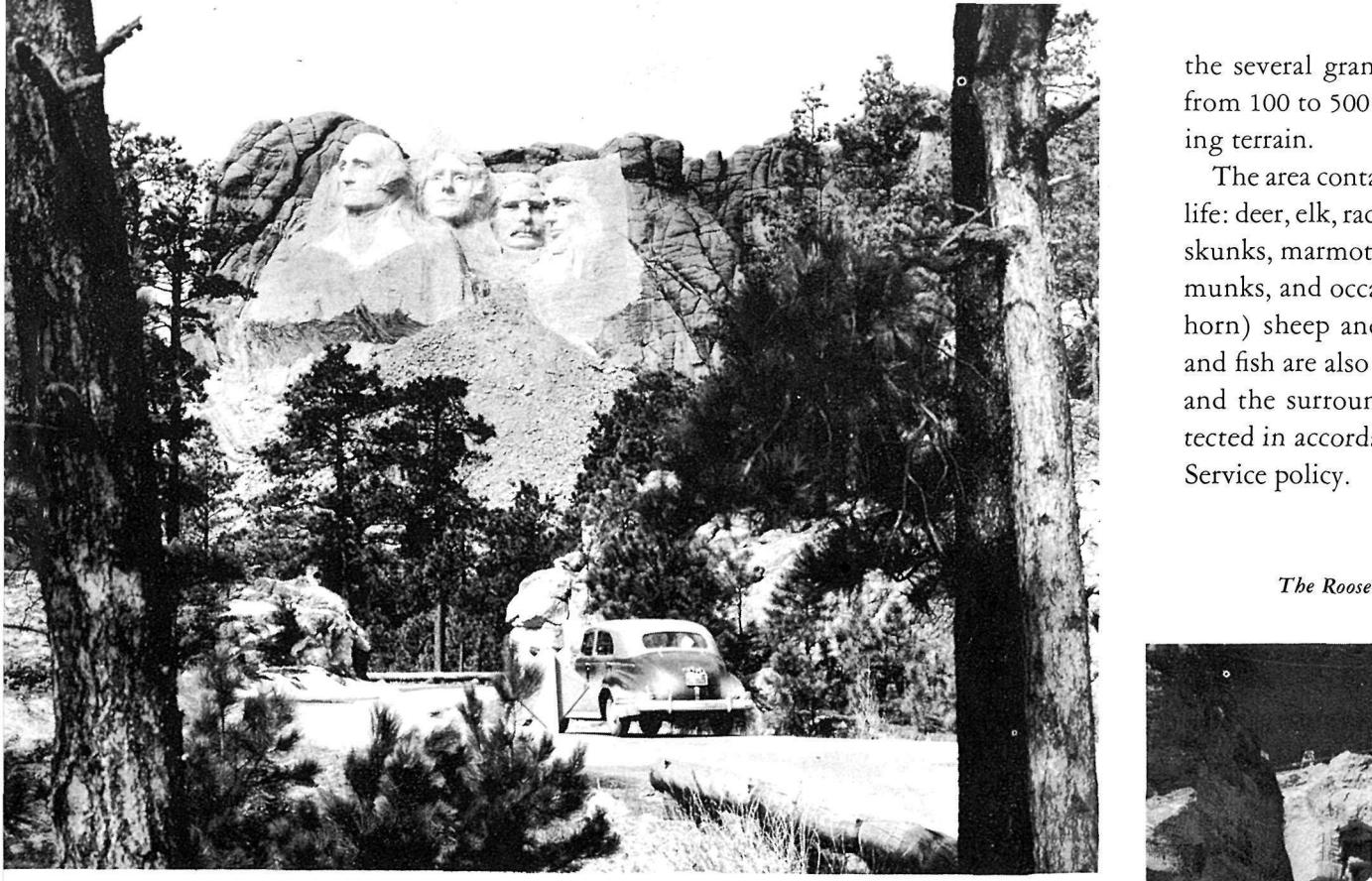
civilization of the events commemorated. The work is colossal because it was his purpose "to carve an epic."

In the field of domestic politics, Theodore Roosevelt furthered a more equitable democracy; abroad he stood for the "open

in heroic figures commemorative of our national history and progress upon a suitable exposure of the Harney Mountain Range" within the Harney National Forest located in South Dakota. A subsequent act approved June 15, 1938, authorized the designation of not more than 1,500 acres of land within the Harney National Forest immediately surrounding the Mount Rushmore National Memorial to be reserved for the purposes of the Memorial. This act was amended by the act of May 22, 1940, increasing the number of acres to 1,800. The administration of the Memorial area was transferred to the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, on July 1, 1939, pursuant to the President's second plan of Government reorganization transmitted to Congress May 9, 1939.

Gutzon Borglum, the noted sculptor, was selected to execute the carvings and commenced the sculpturing of the mountain-side immediately after the dedication of the Memorial by President Coolidge on August 10, 1927. Control of disbursements incident to the carving of the colossal portraits in stone was at times under the respective jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior, and the Treasury Department, and to some extent the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission. The latter was created by Congress on February 25, 1929, the members holding office under appointment by the President of the United States.

The gigantic task of sculpturing the huge figures of the four former Presidents was largely completed in March 1941

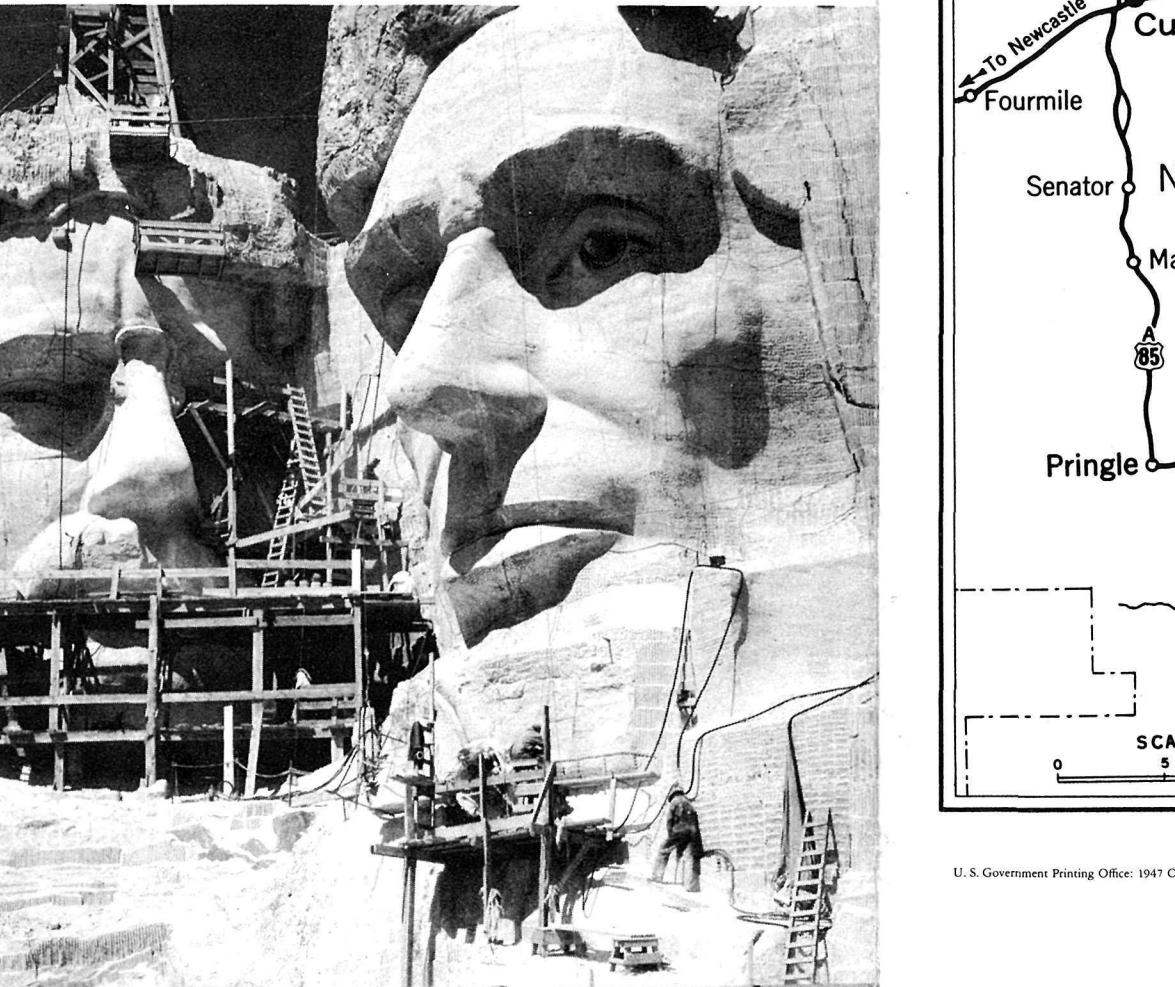


The Memorial from a distance. The natural granite formations in which the portraits are carved may be seen at the right and left of the figures.

when Gutzon Borglum died. The head of Washington had been unveiled in 1930, that of Jefferson unveiled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1936, Lincoln in 1937, and Theodore Roosevelt in 1939. Since March 1941, Gutzon Borglum's son, Lincoln, who had assisted in the earlier phases of the project, has carried to completion some details of the work outlined by his father.

#### The Memorial Area

Public attention is captured by the heroic scale of the sculptured figures of



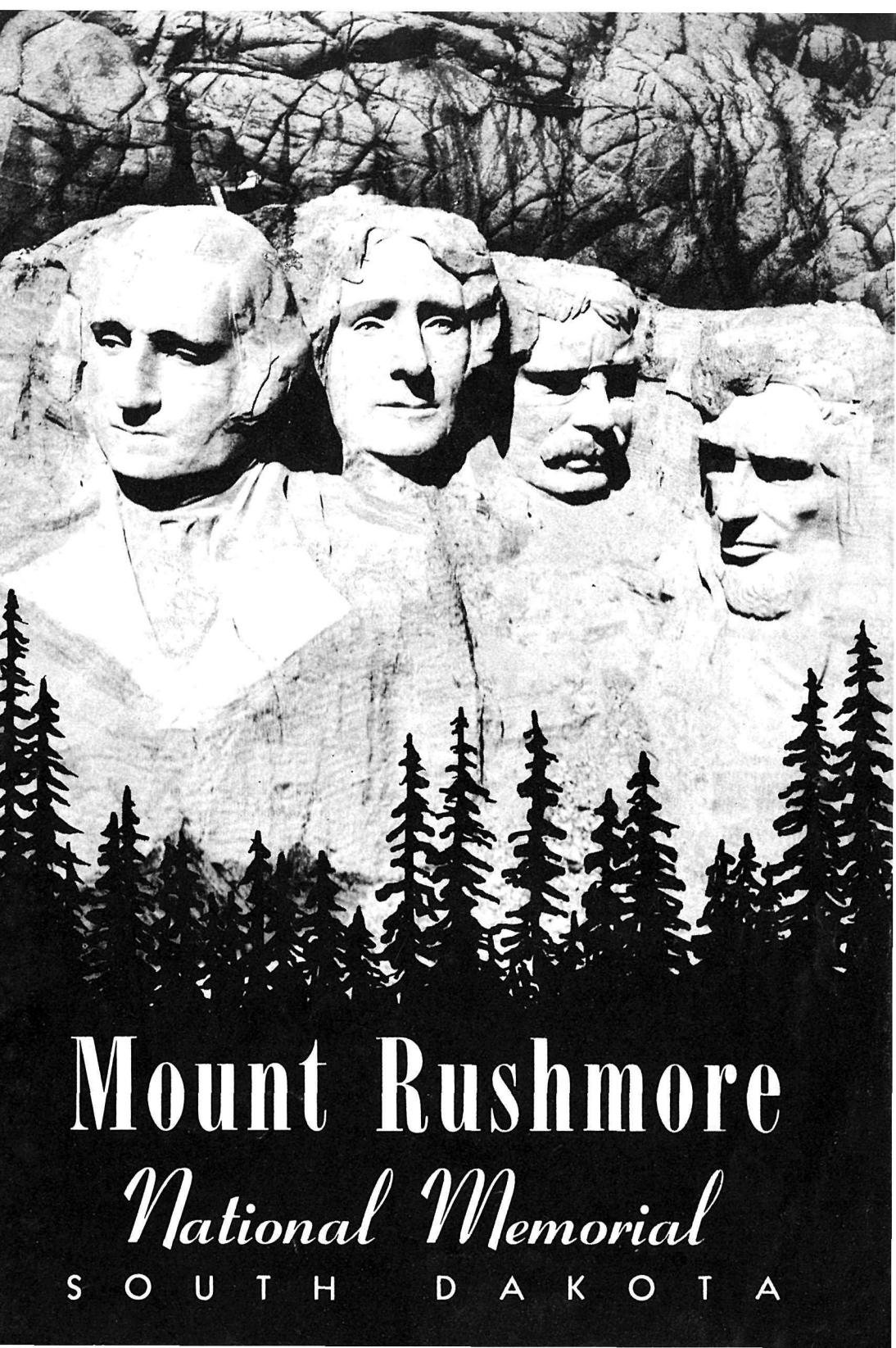
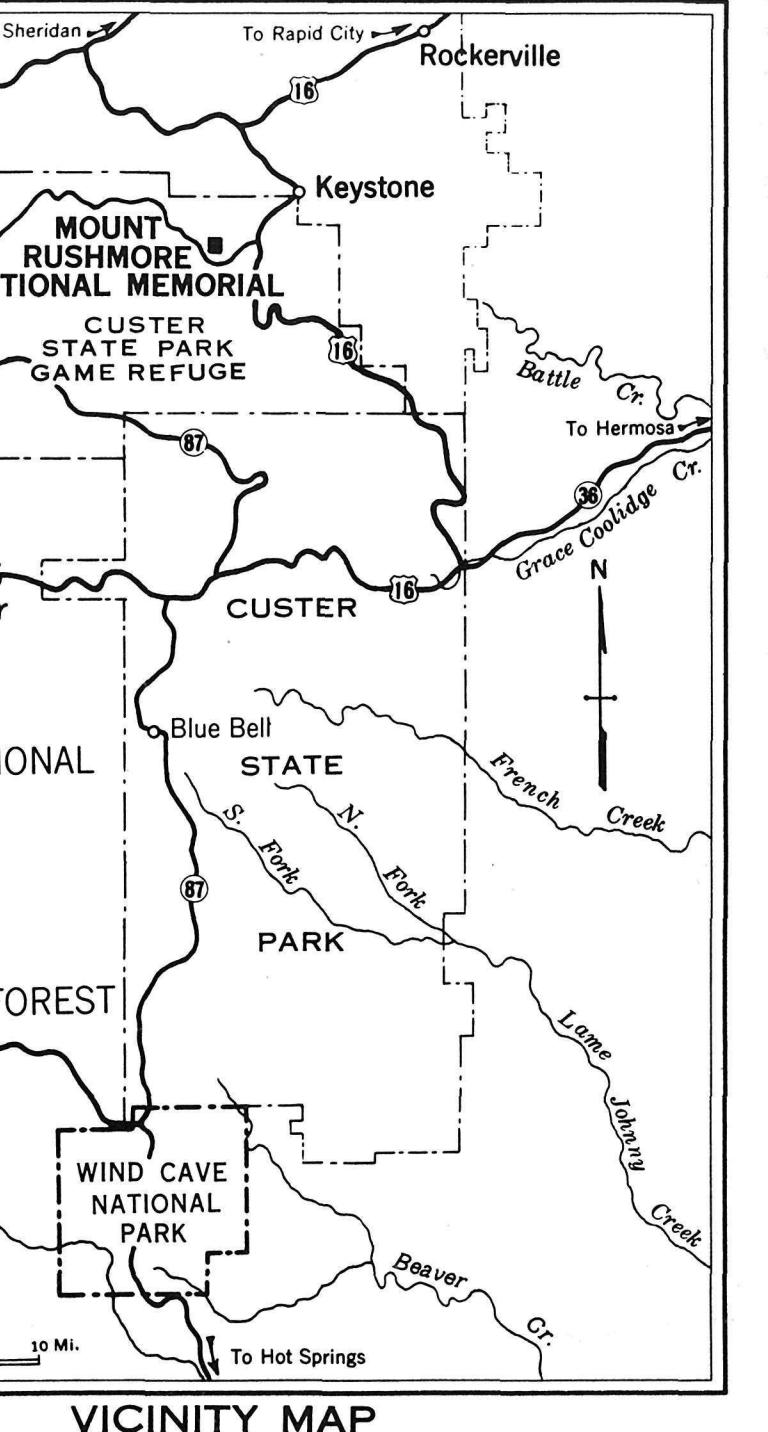
the several granite domes which extend from 100 to 500 feet above the surrounding terrain.

The area contains many species of wildlife: deer, elk, raccoons, beaver, porcupine, skunks, marmots, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and occasionally mountain (big-horn) sheep and mountain goats. Birds and fish are also numerous. These species and the surrounding landscape are protected in accordance with National Park Service policy.

The Roosevelt and Lincoln portraits as they appeared in 1940, showing the scaffolding and methods of work.

#### Location

Mount Rushmore National Memorial is 3 miles southwest of Keystone, S. Dak., on a paved road 2 miles from United States Highway No. 16. It adjoins Custer State Park and is only a short distance from Wind Cave National Park. The Memorial is under the immediate supervision of a superintendent and is open to the public throughout the year. Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Keystone, S. Dak.



Mount Rushmore  
National Memorial  
SOUTH DAKOTA