

## ALBERT S. CORWIN

(Recollection of daughter Irene)

Albert S. Corwin was born in Londonderry, Ireland, April 23, 1861. He came to America when 5 years old with his mother and father but because of ill health, his father was not allowed to stay in America. Dad's mother and he went to a farm in N.E. Pennsylvania. There the mother left him with a promise she would be back for him. She evidently worked hard for years and saved to give him an education and went back to get him. By that time, Albert, the boy, was so attached to the animals and farm life, he didn't think they could get along without him. He told me how his mother cried all that night and he couldn't understand why she cried. He felt badly because she left the next morning and he never heard from her again.



Albert S. Corwin  
at age five

Albert Corwin was born Albert Shannon - I don't know if the Corwins legally adopted him or not. Dad was an only child. He was quite a "loner", no brothers or sisters, and the family Corwins used him for all the work they could get out of the boy. I remember him telling, he was never allowed to play with the kids. He would take his sled after all the other kids had gone home and slide down the hill a couple of times.

Years later he was working in Peoria Illinois, at the Peoria Marble and Tile Co. and was sent to Havana, Illinois to do some stonecutting, lettering, and maybe some floral design on monuments. That is where Dad met Mother. Grandfather Breidert owned a monument shop, was in the business of making and selling tombstones. I remember Mother telling how she used to polish granite by hand.

Dad was the artist type. Brother Del remembers how he worked on charcoal sketches on large sheets of paper attached to the living room walls. The architects in those days didn't supply full sized details and Dad had to make clay models and full sized details of much of the work he did. He also produced some splendid water color painting.

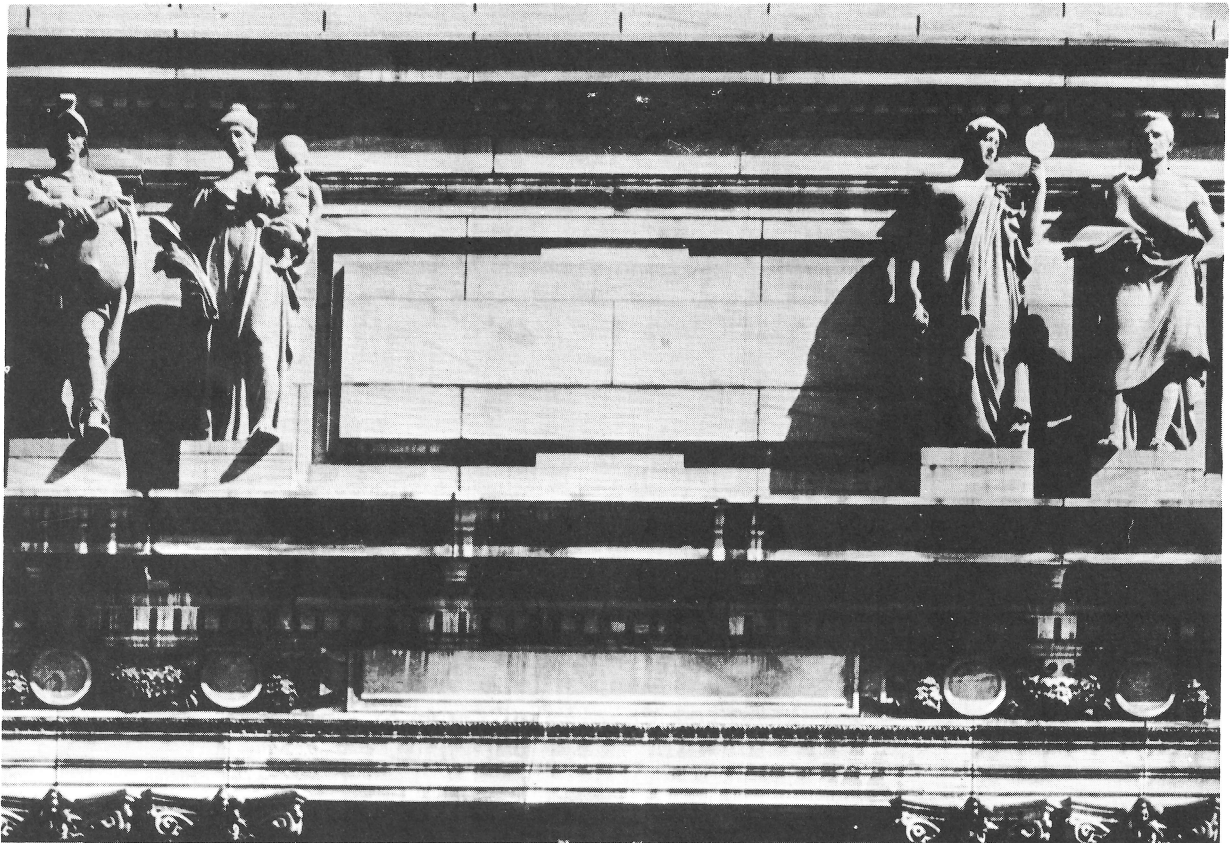
Dad's work required him to travel to many places throughout the United States and Canada. Large monumental buildings required Dad's type of skill and he ranked very high in the eyes of his contemporaries, in the performance of his work.

Brother Del recalls that he carved some of the figures in the fountain group in front of the Library of Congress Building in Washington D. C.

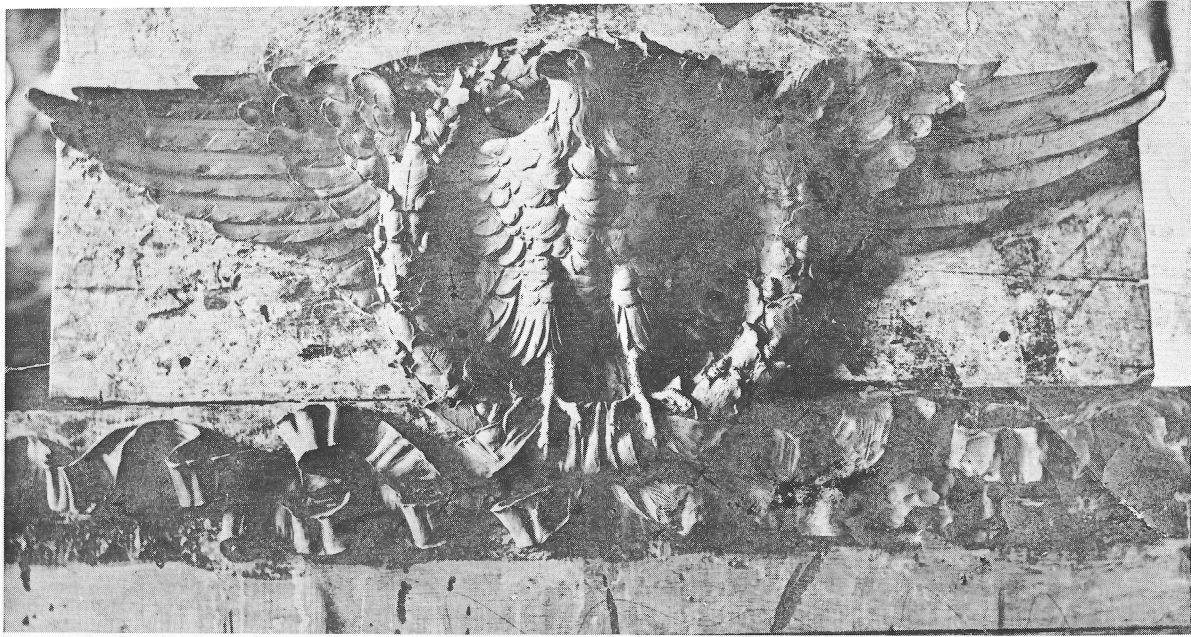
Dad moved his family to St. Paul as there was several year's work for him at the Minnesota State Capitol Building. He was selected to carve the

Key-Stone of the central portal of the main entrance and carved some of the 8 foot 6 inch symbolic figures over the main entrance. The Key-Stone was a very delicate piece of work consisting of a figure of winged victory with an extended arm holding a bronze olive leaf wreath. Dad mentioned that eventually the arm would be broken off from falling ice and snow and his prophecy was correct. Dad made frequent trips to Washington D.C., Winnipeg Canada, New York, Chicago, Denver as well as to the Indiana Limestone quarries, Carthage Marble and Georgia Marble quarries.

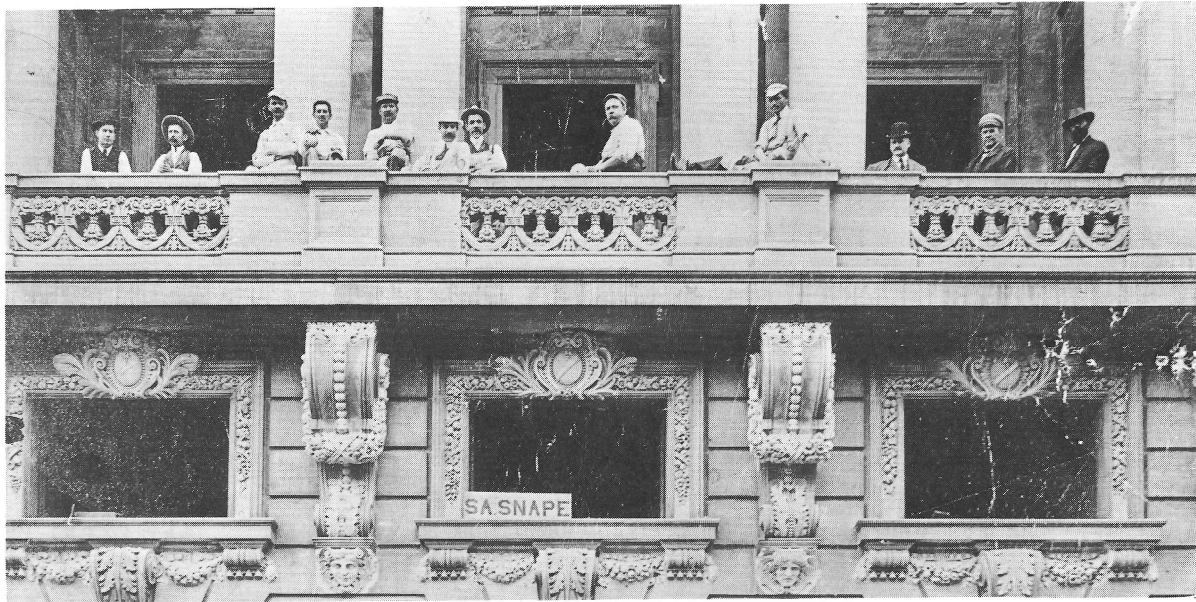
The following photos show Dad and some of his work.



SCULPTURE ON MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL



Dad carved this design in granite. The building was, I believe, the Minneapolis Gateway Building which was raised a few years ago.



Job picture, Minnesota State Capitol. Dad is fifth from the left.