

#1

The sad condition of the HP railroad station; neglected over the decades prior to its demolition. I would see from day to day the "progress" of the demolition, which may have taken over a month from start to finish to accomplish. I was 26 years old.

#2

Firstly, I took the figures because I felt strongly that they should be saved for Hyde Park. Permission was granted by the owner of the demolition company for one head at \$25.00. Having noticed that the demolition company saved another of the eight heads of Mercury for the company's owner, I asked him if he planned to keep the head for his collection. He said, "No, I have many pieces from demolished buildings on my property, and so have no desire to keep this particular piece." I replied, "What will happen to it?" He said, "It will be destroyed so that no one else can remove it from the site." I was so angered at this that I decided to take it upon myself to save this valuable piece of history, if I could.

During the weekend when the site was not active I brought a dolly to remove it. Some youngsters who were around the site were kind enough to give me some help with this task.

I eventually took some manageable pieces off the site; if anyone else did, I can't say. But, the demo co. had, I believe, a railroad security posted at the site from then on.

#3

I placed them in my backyard where I dug two holes for them to sit in. I estimated the weight of them to be approximately 300lbs each. The statues, which by the way, were not carved but poured from man-made sandstone from a master mold, fashioned from a master sculpture, probably done in terracotta by the head of a workshop.

I did repair the edge of a helmet on one statue with a piece from another badly damaged head of Mercury and glued it onto the edge.

#4

I have a few dozen. Some of the best were scanned and emailed to Barbara Wicker.

I am sure some friends thought I was eccentric, while maybe a few thought it was cool that I saved them.

#5 and #6

B. Wicker thinks it was about 1975 that I donated the heads to the library. On the other hand, she said she still has a document I dictated to her, at the time, which has such details as that which I can no longer remember.

The heads were initially placed on the side of the building where the library's new wing is. Nancy Hannon gave me a stipend to fashion a cradle to move them with the help of boy scouts to the side of the library where the children's garden was to be.

After that, I gave up my membership in the HP Historical Society and had no further contact with anybody about the statues.

Ed GonSKI