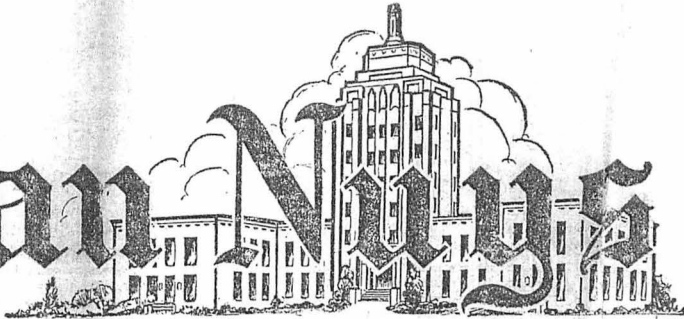


# The Van Nuys News



**64 PAGES**

**and VALLEY GREEN SHEET**

**Established**

**LEADS IN CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 1960**

**LEADS IN HOM**

# PARK PLAN IS STUDIED IN CAPITAL

## Federal Department Checks Proposal for Cahuenga Pass Site

By HAIG KEROPIAN

San Fernando Valley's seven-year dream for a park and monument to honor great personalities and events of the past on a historic strip of land in Cahuenga Pass along the old El Camino Real (King's Highway), currently is under study by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

This was disclosed to The News yesterday by Mrs. Francis Muir Pomeroy, president of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society which is spearheading the project.

### News Is Hopeful

Mrs. Pomeroy, who has left no stone unturned in her long crusade to make the park a reality, said news of the study was revealed by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst in a directive to Sen. Clair Engle.

A copy of Secretary Ernst's letter and an encouraging message from Senator Engle were received by Mrs. Pomeroy.

It was disclosed that the study was authorized by Ernst, despite the fact that the Advisory Board of the National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments contends that Cahuenga Pass does not have enough national interest to be considered for a national park.

### Seeks Continued Aid

The hope-giving excerpt from Ernst's letter reads "In view of your request and others we have received from Reps. Edgar Hiestand and Joe Holt, we will take steps to have this site studied further and reconsidered."

And in turn, Mrs. Pomeroy sent letters of appreciation with pleas for continued aid to both Secretary Ernst and Senator Engle.

She expressed her desire to see joint national and state effort toward establishment of the park and monument which she said is adjacent to Campo de Cahuenga — "the most important landmark west of the Mississippi River."

### Started Era of Growth

Reference was made to the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga over 113 years ago on the Campo de Cahuenga site in North Hollywood by Lt.

Continued on Page 16

# U.S. Studies Plan to Help With Cahuenga Pass Park

Continued from Page One  
Col. John Fremont and Gen. Andres Pico.

It was this document that ended hostilities between the American and Mexican Armies in California and launched the state on its golden era of peaceful growth and development.

Mrs. Pomeroy pointed out that the treaty also gave the United States an area covering five western states.

In her letter to Secretary Ernst, Mrs. Pomeroy stated that "many Americans are unable to see our national parks and monuments because they are located away from the populated cities."

## Writes to Ernst

She said a park in Cahuenga Pass with a statue of the venerable Indian Chief Cahuenga and other features of historical significance could be seen by millions of people.

In part, Mrs. Pomeroy's letter reads as follows:

"As there is immediate probability of costly buildings being constructed on this historic strip of El Camino Real in the famous Cahuenga Pass just east of Lankershim Blvd., we hope you will take favorable action soon.

## Expresses High Hope

"The City of Los Angeles purchased a few acres of land recently near the east end to

clear out unsightly structures for a park, but are unable to purchase the rest of the land at this time.

"Thanking you for giving the project further study, and hoping one day that millions will enjoy a national park there."

The narrow segment of land is located between Hollywood Freeway and the original route of picturesque El Camino Real, and Lankershim Blvd. on the west and Barham Blvd. on the east.

## Feels State Should Help

Mrs. Pomeroy's plans for the project include installation of a miniature El Camino Real on the property and planting of the California poppy, Los Angeles' official flower, the bird of paradise, and peach and other native trees of the area.

Senator Engle's letter to Mrs. Pomeroy expressed encouragement over Secretary Ernst's comments. At the same time Engle expressed belief that the project should be handled on the state or county level.

"I am hopeful that your efforts to establish a park in Cahuenga Pass will be successful. Should further word be forthcoming from the Department of Interior on this subject, I will write to you again," Engle's letter concluded.

## Appeals to Engle

Excerpts from Mrs. Pomeroy's letter to Engle set forth:

"While you state that you feel the State of California should help, we want to say that we have been seeking the state's aid, and feel encouraged that in time they will help as a result of the following statement from Will Rogers Jr., chairman of the State Park Commission: 'I share with you the hope that we can preserve our historical monuments and especially that part of El Camino Real in the Cahuenga Pass.'

"May I suggest that you confer again with Mr. Ernst and suggest he write to Mr. Will Rogers Jr. to see if joint efforts of the National and State Park Commissions can save this most important landmark west of the Mississippi."

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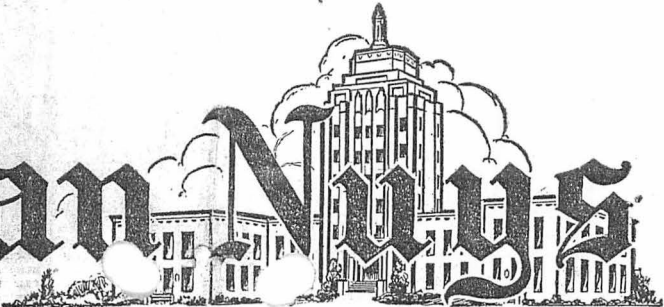
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# The Van Nuys New



**64 PAGES**

**and VALLEY GREEN SHEET**

**Established**

**IN CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1960**

**LEADS IN HOME**



**GRIM BUSINESS** — Kindertion creates solemn moment for 16901 Calahan St., Sepulveda, ev D. Dahlstead, of Balboa Blvd. Sch

## Eisenhower Aid Sought on Park Plan

By HAIG KEROPIAN

President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Vice President Richard M. Nixon have been urged by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society to lend their support and assistance toward the realization of a national and state park on a historic strip of land along the old Cahuenga Pass.

### Refers to Friendship

This was disclosed to The News yesterday by society president Mrs. Francis Muir Pomeroy, who said letters stressing the importance of the project to Southern California's teeming population, were sent to the nation's two highest officials.

This action follows recent word from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior Roger Ernst that the request for national assistance toward the establishment of the park, will receive further study and consideration by his department.

In her plea to the President, Mrs. Pomeroy stated that the proposed park would create goodwill, friendship and unity with our good neighbor south of the border.

### Will Inspire Millions

She said her plans call for the erection of statues of Lt. Col. John C. Fremont and Gen. Andres Pico shaking hands on land close to Campo de Cahuenga where the two officers signed the Treaty of Cahuenga back in 1847.

It was this treaty which ended hostilities between the

Continued on Page 18

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# Eisenhower Aid Sought on Park Plan

Continued from Page One  
American and Mexican forces in California.

In part the letter reads as follows: "The project would have a salutary effect on the millions of motorists who pass through this gateway to our city.

"You will see by the enclosed front page story of The News that the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments is now giving our project for a scenic historical park in the Cahuenga Pass some further study.

## Cites Supporting Groups

"A personal word of approval from you would be exceedingly helpful and might mean success for the preservation of this landmark for which we have worked for seven years."

Mrs. Pomeroy also informed the President that the park proposal to date has received the support of the California Federated Women's Clubs, Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West, Chambers of Commerce.

## Hear from Wisconsin

Also coordinating Councils, Ministerial Associations, service clubs, historical societies and other civic and community groups.

A similar plea and message was contained in the plea to Vice President Nixon.

The News also was informed yesterday that from

Madison, Wis., the American Association for State and Local History has urged Secretary Ernst to give favorable consideration to the local project.

Signed by association director Clement M. Silvestro, the

river

letter Secretary Ernst reads as follows:

"It is my understanding that the project has the approval of Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Mr. Will Rogers Jr., chairman of the State Park Commission, and that California Representative Edgar W. Hiestand has asked the Federal Advisory Board of the Society's proposal that Cahuenga Pass be included in the national park system.

"As the national organization of state and local historical societies and agencies, this association is very much interested in projects which aim to preserve America's rich historic heritage.

"While we do not have the full particulars, it does seem that this case has considerable merit. We hope therefore that you will give the proposals to preserve the historic Cahuenga Pass area serious thought and consideration."





**SHE READS THE PAGES OF THE PAST**  
Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy is chief historian of Valley.

★     ★     ★     ★     ★

## BACK TO STAGECOACH

# Valley Historian Recalls Old Days

By **ALAN FITZGIBBON**  
Valley Times TODAY  
West Valley Bureau

Once upon a time the Valley was a very, very small world.

It took two jolting hours to reach Los Angeles by stagecoach over the dusty, old Cahuenga Pass Road.

The owner of the Valley's first automobile bought his gasoline in quart cans at Fred Weddington's general store in North Hollywood.

North Hollywood, Burbank and San Fernando were the only villages in miles and the West Valley's property owners were jack rabbits.

These are some of the memories of Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy, the Valley's chief historian, who lives at 11332 Otsego St., North Hollywood. She is the president of the San Fernando Valley Historical Society.

"Those days before World War I were our Golden Age here," she reminisces in a small living room crowded with mementoes and scrapbooks of the Valley's history.

"The bell calling us to school could be heard all over North Hollywood, the air was full of peach blossom aroma, we could leave our doors unlocked at night and there were no free-ways."

But, like most of today's Valley residents, Mrs. Pomeroy is not a native. She came here in 1907 with her parents from Farmington, Wash., her birthplace. For many years her father operated a 20-acre fruit ranch between what are now Mag-

nolia and Chandler boulevards.

After she graduated from Lankershim Elementary School she went on to Hollywood High School, to which she commuted on the old Pacific Electric trains. A teaching credential at the predecessor of today's UCLA on Vermont avenue in Los Angeles completed her education.

Today Mrs. Pomeroy devotes most of her time to the Valley Historical Society and the history and landmarks committee of the North Hollywood Women's Club.

"Our principal interest is in maintaining the landmarks we now have and in establishing new historical monuments," she says. "We have about five projects at the present time to buy historically important sites, but unfortunately the state and federal governments won't always appropriate the necessary money."

The society's 65 members are currently conducting a letter-writing campaign to persuade the Department of the Interior to buy land atop Cahuenga Pass for a monument commemorating the exploits of Gen. Andres Pico and Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, two of Southern California's leading historical figures.

"We are hopeful that President-elect Kennedy and Vice President Nixon, to whom I have written, will realize the cultural and spiritual potential of this project," she says.

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# Urge Selection of Cahuenga Strip for Mexico Memorial

San Fernando Valley Historical Society today had urged eight members of the United States Senate to consider a strip of historical land in Cahuenga Pass as the site for a memorial proposed by the senators to mark the anniversary of Mexico's 150 years of independence.

The society commended the senators for introducing legislation calling for the federal government to finance the project as a step to further cement the bonds of friendship with our neighbor south of the border.

Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy, society president, stressed the historic significance of the Valley site.

She said it is located along the old El Camino Real (King's Highway) and is near the spot where the Treaty of Cahuenga was signed more than a century ago.

## Reasons Are Given

Directing her plea to Sens. Thomas Kuchel, Clair Engle, Barry Goldwater, Wayne Morse, Jacob K. Javits, Dennis Chavez, Ernest Gruening and Ralph W. Yarborough, Mrs. Pomeroy said:

"As we understand that the location and design for this memorial is not yet decided, may we ask you to consider our idea for the erection of a statue of Gen. Andres Pico shaking hands with Lt. Col. John C. Fremont in the historic Cahuenga Pass where these two gentlemen signed the Treaty of Cahuenga.

"It was this treaty which started the lasting friendship we enjoy with our neighbor today.

"The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments is at present giving study to our

proposal for a scenic historical park in the Cahuenga Pass.

"We suggest that you confer with them, and also suggest to our new president that this is a wonderful opportunity to promote the idea of friendship and unity with our neighbor south of the border to the millions of motorists who will travel through the Cahuenga Pass and view the two historic figures shaking hands."

## Seek Brown's Aid

At the same time, Mrs. Pomeroy sent a plea to Gov. Edmund Brown urging him to voice his support of the local site for the memorial in letters to President John F. Kennedy and the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments.

Earlier, the society had sent a letter to the Los Angeles City Council protesting a proposed commercial development on the Cahuenga Pass property.

## Efforts Are Lauded

It disclosed to the Council that its action has the support of the California Federation of Women's Clubs, ministerial associations, coordinating councils, historical societies and other community organizations.

For its seven years of effort to preserve this property as a historic landmark, the society is the recipient of letters of praise from former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, former Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Gov. Brown.

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11332 Otsego Street,  
North Hollywood, California,  
February 3, 1961.

Hon. U.S. Senators  
Kuchel, Engle, Chaves, Goldwater,  
Gruening, Javitz, Morse, and Yarborough:

Dear Senators:

We wish to commend you for your introduction of legislation authorizing the U.S. government to give a memorial to the Mexican government on the 150th anniversary of its independence. As we understand that the location and design for this memorial is not yet decided, may we ask you to consider our idea for the erection of a statue of General Andres Pico shaking hands with Lt. Col. John C. Fremont in the historic Cahuenga Pass where these two genial gentlemen signed the Treaty of Cahuenga which started the lasting friendship which we enjoyed with our neighbor, Mexico.

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments is at present giving study to our proposal for a scenic, historical park in the Cahuenga Pass; so we suggest that you confer with them, and also, suggest to our new president that this is a wonderful opportunity to promote the idea of friendship and unity with our neighbors south of the border to the millions of motorists for all time to come who will travel through the Cahuenga Pass, and view the two historic figures, clasping hands.

The news story from the Valley News of Nov. 22, 1960 with the heading "Ike Commends Local Efforts to Establish Cahuenga Park" will give you an idea of our plan for this historic site in the Cahuenga Pass; and the letter in the Valley Times of Feb. 2, 1961 portrays our present problem with the heading, "Opposes Commerce in Cahuenga Pass."

We shall appreciate any help you can give in our efforts to Preserve the Cahuenga Pass for a scenic historical park.

Cordially yours,  
Frances Muir Pomeroy.

RECEIVED  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON OFFICE

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3437 Adina Drive  
Hollywood 28, Calif.  
February 6, 1961

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FEB 9 1961

Department of Interior  
Advisory Board of the  
National Park Services  
Washington 25, D. C.

*John Kahler*  
*John Kahler*

Gentlemen:

It has been brought to my attention that a 20 acre strip of land adjacent to the Hollywood freeway between Lankershim Boulevard and Ione Drive has been abandoned by the Los Angeles Recreation and Park Department for a park, as previously approved by the voters of this community at a recent election.

It is unfortunate that the proposition approving acquisition of certain land for park purposes, did not envision the spiraling cost of land in this area, and therefore the funds that were allocated for this particular acquisition were insufficient.

This area is not only desirable for a park, situated as it is in a long narrow strip along the freeway, and in the midst of a heavily populated residential district, it is also a landmark of historic significance, familiar as you may be with the history of "El Paseo de Cahuenga".

Abandonment of plans to utilize this area as an historic and scenic park would result in a severe deterioration of the surrounding residential community, and truly a great loss to the citizens of the district.

I am joining those of my community in seeking your consideration of this strip of land for a historic landmark and center of recreation and culture. As one alert to the fine prospects this area offers for such a development, I urge you to give me the pleasure of your recognition of this request, and await your favorable reply.

Most sincerely,

*M. Gerst*

M. Gerst



ED SERVICE  
OFFICE

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L58-IBH

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 7, 1961

FEB 14 1961

FEB 15 1961

For U.S. Government Use Only

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director, Region Four

Subject: Recommendations on the Campo de Cahuenga Park  
at Los Angeles, California

We believe that the Campo de Cahuenga Park, owned by the City of Los Angeles and situated at 3919 Lankershim Boulevard in North Hollywood, California, fails to meet any of the six criteria established by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments for use in evaluating the historical importance of historic sites and buildings. Our specific comments follow:

Criterion 1. Structures or sites at which events occurred that have made an outstanding contribution to, and are identified prominently with, or which best represent, the broad cultural, political, economic, military, or social history of the Nation, and from which the visitor may grasp the larger patterns of our American heritage.

The "Special Study of Campo de Cahuenga," dated January, 1961, has established the following conclusions in regard to the site:

(a) The capitulation or treaty of Cahuenga played no part in the negotiation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and it was by means of this latter treaty that Upper California and New Mexico were actually added to the United States. The treaty of Cahuenga was therefore not important in our diplomatic history.

(b) The capitulation of Cahuenga marked the end of a brief and limited revolt. American control over northern California was never seriously threatened by the rebellion of the southern Californians.

(c) The surrender at Cahuenga did not represent an important military victory for the Americans. The Californians had previously been defeated and were incapable of offering further serious military resistance by January 13, 1847.

(d) The treaty of Cahuenga did permit the remaining army of 100 to 150 Californians who had broken their parole to return in safety to their homes and also to retain their property.

In the light of these conclusions, we find that the historical significance of Campo de Cahuenga, at most, is of State level and is certainly not of sufficient significance to justify its designation as having exceptional value under Criterion No. 1.

Criterion 2. Structures or sites associated importantly with the lives of outstanding historic personages.

We believe that John C. Frémont can probably qualify as an outstanding historic personage in American history. Frémont played a useful and important, but not decisive, role in the conquest of California. Frémont's renown is not associated importantly with Campo de Cahuenga; his true claim to fame rests on his great explorations of the American West prior to his entry into California in 1846.

Criterion 3. Structures or sites associated with important events which are symbolic of some great idea or ideal of the American people.

There is no important event or series of events to which Campo de Cahuenga can be related as a motivating or contributing influence. The conciliatory terms under which Frémont allowed the Californians to surrender had no effect on the negotiation of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; it was this latter agreement that legally and finally secured to the Mexican-Californians their rights and property within the United States.

Criterion 4. Structures which embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen, exceptionally valuable for a study of a period style or method of construction; or a notable structure representing the work of a master builder, designer, or architect.


There are no surviving surface remains of Casa de Cahuenga, a building which archeological research has shown was a typical ranch house of the period. There are a number of excellent architectural examples of Californian Spanish Ranch houses still standing; it is therefore evident that Casa de Cahuenga is not of architectural significance.

Criterion 5. Archeological standards are not applicable to this site.

Criterion 6. Every historic and archeological site and structure should have integrity - that is, there should not be doubt as to whether it is the original site or structure, and in the case of a structure, that it represents original materials and workmanship. Intangible elements of feeling and association, although difficult to describe, may be factors in weighing the integrity of a site or structure.

Furthermore, the location of the original Casa de Cahuenga foundations, situated in part on privately owned Lot No. 15 and the remainder protruding across the sidewalk out almost into Lankershim Boulevard, would seem to preclude ever attempting to reconstruct the building on its original site. Similarly, hemmed in on all sides by the bustling Hollywood Freeway, the busy Lankershim Boulevard, commercial structures and private homes, the restoration of the larger historic scene has been rendered an impossibility. The site, in our opinion, has lost its integrity and historic atmosphere.

In the light of the foregoing analysis, we therefore believe that Campode Cahuenga fails to qualify as a historic site of exceptional significance, and we further recommend that the site not be included in the National Park System.

  
Regional Director

R/W 22575

RECORD OWNERS

Parcel 1 as shown on map

VESTEE:

Junior Realty Co., a corporation  
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Parcel 2A as shown on map

VESTEE:

Junior Realty Co., a corporation  
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New parcel approximately 300 feet in width consisting of the easterly portion of Parcel 1 and the westerly portion of Parcel 2A.

VESTEE:

John B. Kilroy, a married man, as his separate property.  
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Parcel 2B as shown on map

VESTEE:

City of Los Angeles, a municipal corporation  
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Parcel 3 as shown on map

VESTEE:

Munsingwear, Inc., a corporation  
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Parcel 4 as shown on map

VESTEE:

Robert V. Uhlik and Elizabeth V. Uhlik, husband and wife,  
as joint tenants.  
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# White House Gives Report on Study of Cahuenga Pass

San Fernando Valley Historical Society today had received a directive from the White House reporting that the special study to determine whether or not historic land along the Cahuenga Pass is important enough for a national park site is expected to be completed within the next few months.

This was announced by society president Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy, who said information on the study was sent to her by Frederick L. Holborn, administrative assistant of President John F. Kennedy.

## JFK Checks Status

In part the directive reads as follows: "The President has asked me to ascertain what consideration is being given within the federal government to the possibility of commemorating Cahuenga Pass in California.

"Our inquiries into the matter reveal that the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior has currently in progress a special study on the historical significance of the site.

"It is expected that this study will be completed in the next few months. It will then be evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments with a view to determining the significance of Cahuenga Pass in United States history.

## Consideration Assured

"The Advisory Board will submit its recommendations in the matter to the secretary of the interior who has a responsibility concerning the

preservation of outstanding national historic sites under the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

"In view of the studies now in progress and the manner in which they will be reviewed and evaluated, we believe you may be assured of a careful consideration of the merits and claims of Cahuenga Pass."

Mrs. Pomeroy also informed The News that she had received word from the office of United States Sen. Thomas H. Kuchel, that the location for the proposed monument to mark the anniversary of Mexico's 150 years of independence will be in Mexico.

## Appealed to Senators

Ewing Hass, administrative assistant to Sen. Kuchel, informed Mrs. Pomeroy that the location has been agreed upon by the State Department and the government of Mexico.

Hass' letter was in answer to a request to Sen. Kuchel and seven other members of the Senate to consider the Cahuenga Pass property as the setting for this memorial.

The eight senators had introduced legislation calling for the federal government to finance the project as a step to further cement the bonds of friendship with our neighbor south of the border.

## Outlines Plan

Mrs. Pomeroy, who has worked on the proposed Cahuenga Pass Park project for seven years, urged all residents in the area to write immediately to new Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall urging the preservation of this historic strip of land for a historical park.

Her proposed plan calls for a statue of the venerable Indian Chief Cahuenga, a statue of Lt. Col. John C. Fremont and Gen. Andres Pico shaking hands and the planting of California poppies and peach trees.

## Receives Praise

It was the signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga in January 1847 by Col. Fremont and General Pico that ended hostilities in California between the Mexican and American forces.

To date, Mrs. Pomeroy's work has been commended by community leaders and government officials including former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, former vice President Richard M. Nixon, Gov. Edmund G. Brown and many senators and congressmen.



# Cahuenga Pass Proposal Given



FRANCES M. POMEROY  
Woman of the Week

## WOMAN OF THE WEEK

### Frances Muir Pomeroy, An Impetus To Valley Growth

By ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

It is hard, in the year 1958, to picture San Fernando Valley, which has become one of the great "Suburbias" of the world, as a vast expanse of wheat fields and fruit orchards, but such a picture is still strong in the mind's eye of Frances Muir Pomeroy of North Hollywood, daughter of Valley pioneer, Margaret A. Muir.

Mrs. Pomeroy grew up in one of the Valley's fruit orchards, near the spot where North Hollywood High School now stands, and began her community experience by playing the piano and teaching Sunday school in the pioneer church primary department.

#### Studies Procedure

Following her marriage to Hugh R. Pomeroy, native of Burbank and then member of the California State Legislature, she studied legislative procedure first-hand before returning to school and the Southland where she taught a term in a Los Angeles City school.

Her activities for world peace as a member of the American Association of University Women brought her recognition in the British publication, "Principal Women of America." She also is included in several other lists of notable women, including "Who's Who in California."

#### Council President

As president of the Coordinating Council in Tujunga, she assisted in securing a recreational clubhouse and a six-acre addition to Sunland Park while keeping active in church work and writing historic and religious plays for children, which were dramatized in the home of John Steven McGroarty, California's late poet laureate.

Her daughter, Helen Margaret, was graduated from North Hollywood High School in 1942. Now married to Denis E. Sullivan, she has a daughter named Mary Frances after her prominent grandmother.

#### Helps Needy

While serving as a director of the church vacation school of North Hollywood First Methodist Church, she encouraged the children to send milk goats to help the needy overseas. She is a member of the church WSCS and the Wesleyan Service Guild.

With her pioneer background, Mrs. Pomeroy has been a leading force in California historical circles, promoting Admission Day programs, pioneer picnics, serving as landmarks chairman for both the San Fernando Valley Historical Society and the North Hollywood Woman's Club and has been regional vice president of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

The Historical Society has further recognized her service and contribution to its aims and ideals of preserving Valley landmarks and mementos by electing her this year as president.

#### Community Figure

Among other actions she has supported have been preserva-

tion of the John Steven McGroarty home and surrounding land as a recreation center; moving to Knott's Berry Farm of pioneer Burbankian, Jim Jeffries' barn, and its restoration there; endorsement of a movement to create a scenic and historic park in the Cahuenga Pass; and her current crusade for planting of California poppies along the route of the Golden State Freeway.

The success that has attended her past efforts promises that, thanks to Frances Muir Pomeroy, those driving the smooth lanes of this super highway in the future may well enjoy the moving spectacle of millions of these "California orange" blossoms during their springtime excursions just as Valley pioneers once enjoyed the natural fields of this state flower.

# Women

FRANCES DEWBERRY, Editor

6

VALLEY TIMES, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1958

# Park Okay

## Poulson Urges Land Purchase

Establishment of a historical park in Cahuenga Pass has won the endorsement of Mayor Norris Poulson.

The park has long been sought by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society headed by Mrs. Frances Muir Pomperoy.

It would be located diagonally opposite Universal Studios between the Hollywood Freeway and Cahuenga Blvd., extending from Lankershim Blvd. to Barham Blvd. on about 18 acres.

The mayor's office made public letters Poulson sent to California Senators Clair Engle and Thomas Kuchel and to Congressmen James C. Corman and Edgar W. Hiestand.

"The city of Los Angeles is enthusiastically cooperating in this project," wrote the mayor.

He asked their support before the National Park Service at its meeting May 14-19.

"The historical society desires that the National Park Service buy plots 1 and 2A to provide the space necessary for an effective park," the Mayor stated.

He added that the proposed site for the historical park is not contiguous with the Campo de Cahuenga site.

"I would like to point out that the parcels in question are in the same historical area and that such a park will add to the cultural and educational growth of Los Angeles," said Poulson.

# San Fernando Valley Historical Society

FOUNDED AT CAMPO DE CAHUENGA, JULY 4, 1943

OAK OF GOLDEN DREAM  
1842

CAMPO DE CAHUENGA  
1847

SAN FERNANDO MISSION  
1797

36 Campbell Street,  
Waldwick, New Jersey,  
Mothers' Day, 1961.

*May 14,*

FOUNDER  
Hon. John Steven McGroarty  
PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
Mr. Lincoln Hart

PRESIDENT  
Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy  
11332 Otsego Street,  
North Hollywood.

1st VICE PRESIDENT  
Mrs. Leota Symonds  
Landmarks and publicity

2nd VICE PRESIDENT  
Mrs. Elva Meline  
Library and literature

3rd VICE PRESIDENT  
Mr. William S. Magginiti  
Dramatic Arts

RECORDING SECRETARY  
Miss Elizabeth Genrich  
Newhall, Calif.

PARLIAMENTARIAN  
Mrs. Ethel Palmer

TREASURER  
Mr. Edwin Dabney

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
Mr. Walter J. VanderVort  
12743 1/2 Oxnard Street  
North Hollywood

HISTORIAN  
Mrs. Ada Dabney

PRESS BOOK CUSTODIAN  
Mrs. Harriet Peters

SUNSHINE CHAIRMAN  
Mrs. Lelia Prince Myers

PHOTOGRAPHERS  
Mr. and Mrs. Gaylord V. Kilgore

HOSTESS  
Helen Anderson

## ADVISORS:

Mr. Fred Weddington  
North Hollywood

Mr. Paul Knapp  
Burbank

Mrs. Henry H. Dace  
Northridge

Miss Ethelwynne Fraisher  
San Fernando

Mrs. Elsie S. Holloway  
Van Nuys

Advisory Board to National Parks  
Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments,  
Department of the Interior,  
Washington, D.C. attn. Mr. Masland, Ch.

Gentlemen:

We herewith submit a sketch in water color by a talented artist and member of our historical society, Mrs. Agnes V. Dow. It portrays our ideas for the development of the historic Cahuenga Pass into a beautiful scenic and historical park. You will find inclosed also, photographs of the models of the Indian Chief Cahuenga, and of Generals Pico and Fremont. These statues were made by the noted sculptor, Mr. Henry Van Wolf, who is a member of our society. They will give you an idea of the potential cultural and spiritual influence they might have. We feel they could equal the inspirational value of the Statue of Liberty.

We suggest that the statue of Chief Cahuenga be placed near Barham Boulevard because history indicates that that is where the Chief and his braves rescued Salvador from bandits. And it is near Mt. Cahuenga where Indian relics were found. (Also, a "Boulevard Stop" there would enable motorists to see it better.) The raised right hand of the Indian Chief expresses the fact that the Indians were peace loving and friendly.

The statue of Gen. Andres Pico, shaking hands with Col. John Charles Fremont should be placed near Lankershim Blvd., to point out nearby Campo de Cahuenga where these two historic figures signed the Treaty of Cahuenga on Jan. 13, 1847 - later ratified at Guadalupe, Hidalgo in Mexico by which California and territory equivalent to more than six of our Western States were ceded to the United States. This attitude of friendship between these two figures so prominent in U.S. history is authentic for that time because previously Col. Fremont had spared the life of Jesus Pico, the nephew of Gen. Andres Pico, and the day before the Treaty signing, while Col. Fremont was resting at the San Fernando Mission, Jesus Pico went to his uncle, and persuaded him to capitulate with no one but Col. Fremont. This statue, if erected, will

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continue to promote this friendship with Mexico and good will towards Spanish speaking peoples living in the United States. For all time to come it will have an uplifting influence upon the millions of motorists who will pass through the historic Cahuenga Pass.

As this proposed park is along an important segment of "El Camino Real," a miniature Mission Trail is suggested, and our artist has indicated the start and the finish by drawing in San Diego Mission near Barham and San Francisco Mission near Lankershim Boulevard, with the planting of the California live oak in the South and the Redwoods in the northern part of the King's Highway. Appropriate planting might be done around each little mission, and this "Pathway of the Padres" could be bordered with California poppies, lupines, and other wild flowers.

We hope to restore the Mission Bell which was placed at the corner of Lankershim and Cahuenga Boulevards, under the direction of the eminent historian, Mrs. Armitage S.C. Forbes to mark the turn off to San Fernando Mission and to Campo de Cahuenga, which was a little chapel.

A mission fountain would add to the beauty of this park. The flowering peach tree lane is indicated to commemorate the "peachy" pioneers who came later, dug their own water wells, planted the Valley to fruit trees, and raised their families in the era of wood stoves, coal oil lamps, churns, and horned phonographs.

This proposed scenic, historical park in the Cahuenga Pass on the "island", of land between the Hollywood Freeway on the North and Cahuenga Blvd., on the South, and from Lankershim Blvd., on the West to Barham Blvd., on the East has the support of many civic and service organizations - some of the largest groups being California Federation of Womens Clubs (in convention), Native Sons of the Golden West (in convention), Ministerial Association, and North Hollywood Community Coordinating Council which is composed of over 100 organizations like Parent-Teacher Associations, Chambers of Commerce, etc..

We have worked for this scenic, historical park in the Cahuenga Pass for over seven years, and we earnestly urge you to advise the Federal government to acquire this land to carry out these ideas for the building of a better and more beautiful America. As a mother and former teacher, I feel that its greatest potential value lies in the

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opportunity it affords to build better citizenship and character in our children. I hope that some day school children may be conducted on a hike thru the area, and they will be told of the friendship of Generals Pico and Fremont, of the faith and fortitude of the Franciscans, of the patience and perseverance of the pioneers, and of the courage and kindness of Chief Cahuenga.

Hoping that you will help to make our dream become a reality, I am

Cordially yours,

*Frances Muir Pomeroy*  
Frances Muir Pomeroy.

P.S.

As the second step, we suggest the acquisition of the property on the West side of Lankershim Boulevard North a short distance to Campo de Cahuenga. This will provide a location site for landmarks which would otherwise be demolished, a space for parking, and a location for a much needed museum.

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OBJECTIVE: TO PRESERVE OUR RICH HISTORICAL HERITAGE



# Sculpture for Park Created by Van Wolf

Master sculptor Henry Van Wolf of 14101 Chandler Blvd., Van Nuys, has created sketch models in clay in connection with the proposed National Park of the Cahuenga Pass, sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society.

Indians, known for their friendliness.

The other sketch shows Gen. Andres Pico shaking hands with Col. John C. Fremont commemorating the signing of the historical peace treaty between the two armies, resulting in California becoming a state.

These statues will be two to three times life-size, and when erected will be among

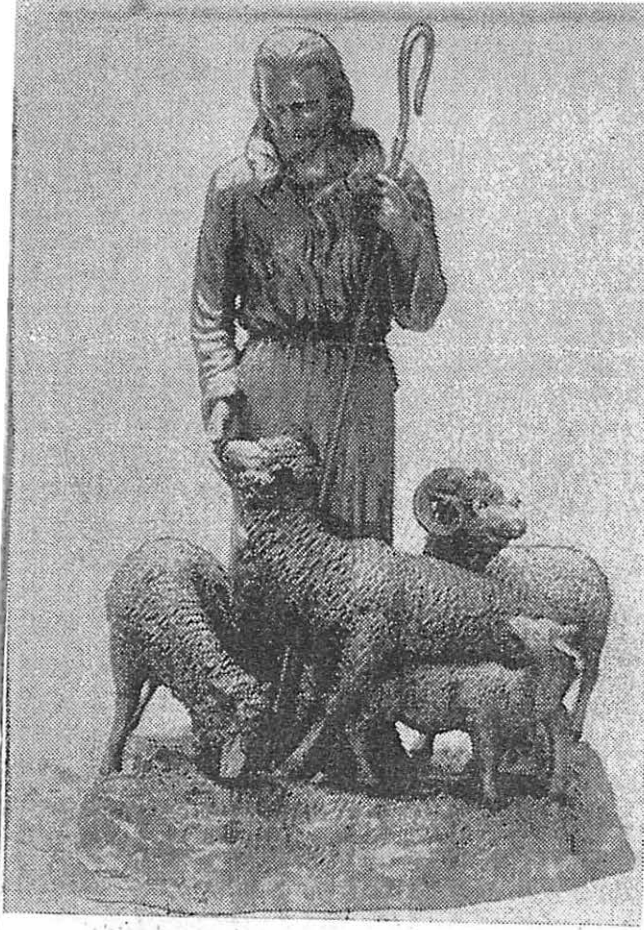
the country's finest attractions it is stated.

Agnes V. Dow, the sculptor's personal representative, has been requested by the San Fernando Valley Historical Society to make the colored layout designs in landscaping for the proposed park of Cahuenga Pass, which will also be shown with Van Wolf's sketches in Washington, D. C. *by Mr. Kahler*



PERSONAL CALL is made by Mayor Norris Poulson, left, on master sculptor Henry Van Wolf in his Van Nuys studio, to view clay models of historical statues created by Van Wolf for proposed National Park of the Cahuenga Pass now under consideration in Washington. Joined by Agnes V. Dow, sculptor's personal representative, the Mayor and Van Wolf look over sketch of design for park, including vantage sites for the sculptured works.

Grant Studio photos



FIRST PUBLIC SHOWING is scheduled of bronze sculpture, the Good Shepherd, titled "Peace on Earth" by master sculptor Henry Van Wolf who designed and executed massive work. Van Wolf opens his Van Nuys studio tomorrow through Monday for display of his productions, with public invited to attend.

## PUBLIC IS WELCOME

at the San Fernando Valley Professional Artist's Guild,



# Sculptor Van Wolf Opens Four-Day Exhibition Here

The internationally known sculptor, Henry Van Wolf, invites the public to an exhibition to be held in his studio, 14101 Chandler Blvd., Van Nuys, tomorrow through Mon-

(now known as the Valley Artist's Guild). For three years the Guild held its meetings in his studio.

Van Wolf has received many important awards. In 1939 he won a government contract in a national competition, the designing and execution of a sculpture decoration titled "Harvest," for the Fairport, N.Y., Post Office. Van Wolf is listed in "Who's Who in American Art," "Who's Who in the West," "Showcase America," in the California Blue Book and many others.

## Busy on Creations

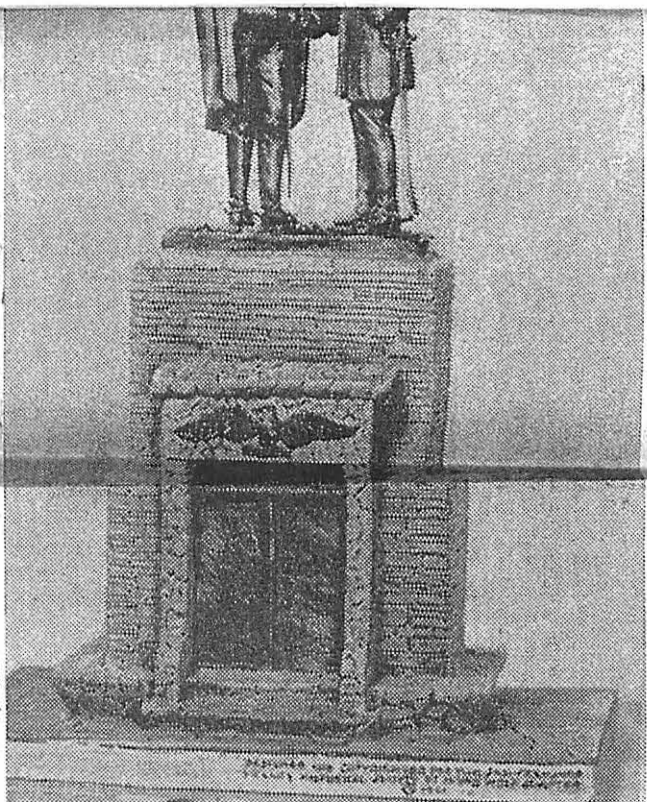
Van Wolf is at present a very busy artist. He just finished sketch models in connection with the proposed National Park of the Cahuenga Pass. One sketch shows Col. John C. Fremont shaking hands with Gen. Andre Pico, and the other sketch shows the Indian Chief Cahuenga.

At present Henry is working on a large high relief titled "Eve," for a newly-formed company bearing his name, "Van Wolf's Creations," specializing in very exclusive fountain, garden and patio sculptures.

Van Wolf also designs and executes the original master models for Artistic Brass Inc. of Los Angeles. In San Fernando Valley, Henry is best known for his large sculptured bronze doors for the St. Nicholas Episcopal Church in Encino.

## Boy Soprano Sings

This work, done in high relief, is called one of the world's finest sculptured bronze doors. He is also



**HISTORIC EVENT** is commemorated in clay model of Gen. Andre Pico and Col. John C. Fremont at Campo de Cahuenga, when Pico delivered California into U.S. hands. Model is by Henry Van Wolf, designed for proposed National Park in Cahuenga Pass.

known for his large and expressive Einstein bust which will be erected in the campus of the California Institute of Technology.

On the fourth and final day of the exhibition, May 29, at 3:30 p.m., Van Wolf will give a special lecture on hand-hammered (repousse) sculpture in sterling silver. He did work for the best known silversmiths in this country, when they had commissions for very special work in Cellini's style. Among these is the famous Swedish silversmith Edward Bohlin, of Hollywood, for whom Henry

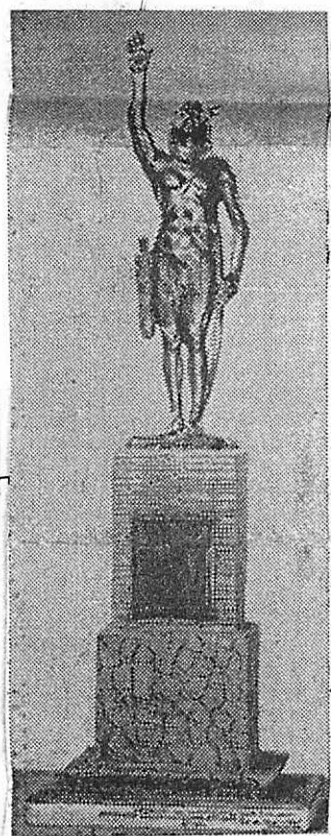
hammered out many figurative ornaments in gold and silver.

William Oliver Dow, boy soprano, will be heard in a group of solos during this program. He will sing Carl Bohm's "Still wie die Nacht," Gounod's "Ave Maria," "Kaddosh," traditional, and "Come Back to Sorrento" by Ernest de Curtis.

## Admission Is Free

Throughout the four days of the exhibition the sculptor will be working upon the unfinished high relief panel "Eve."

The exhibition is open to the public and there is no admission charge.



**INDIAN CHIEF CAHUENGA**  
On Display Here

day inclusive. During that time the studio will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This will be the first public showing of the finished bronze sculpture, the Good Shepherd, titled "Peace on Earth." This work was acclaimed by experts and art critics in Europe, during its final steps in bronze casting, as one of the finest ecclesiastical sculptures in existence.

Born in Bavaria, Van Wolf was raised and educated in Munich, at that time the art center of the world. He studied art from childhood, until he was qualified to create professionally, for which he was so richly endowed by nature. The head of the Munich Board of Education, Dr. Kerschenshtainer, and Henry's teachers called him "the little Albrecht Durer."

## Holds Many Awards

At the age of nine Henry won third prize in a sketching competition for all Munich schools, in which all students between the ages of seven and 18 participated. Van Wolf studied with the well-known sculptor Prof. Jakob Bradl, and also studied and worked six years with the world-famous sculptor Ferdinand Von Miller.

Henry came to America in 1928. He has been a Valley resident since 1943. He founded the San Fernando Valley Professional Artist's Guild,



EDGAR W. HIESTAND  
21st DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D. C.

June 16, 1961

658  
COMMITTEES:  
EDUCATION AND LABOR  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
DEFENSE PRODUCTION  
134

INTERIOR DEPT.

JUN 21 1961

Assistant Secretary Honorable Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Stew:

I am writing to set before you a further  
plea on behalf of the creation of the Cahuenga Pass  
National Historical Site, in southern California.

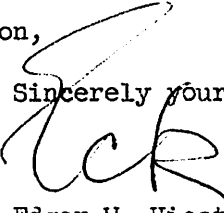
It is felt that the preservation of this  
tremendously significant landmark -- commemorating the  
signing of a most important peace treaty with our neighbor,  
Mexico -- would have a priceless historic value, both  
nationally and internationally.

May I point out that the property is in the  
same historical area as the Campo de Cahuenga site -- and as  
such, would add greatly to the cultural and educational  
growth of the entire nation.

I hope you will agree that it is eminently  
qualified for preservation and national historic recognition -  
and can see your way clear to reconsider the recent recommenda-  
tion of the Advisory Board.

With deep appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

  
Edgar W. Hiestand, M. C.

J

JUN 20 1961

JUL 19 1961

L58-IBH

*Letter 7/17/61*  
*Appelman 7/17/61*  
*P.D. 7/17*  
*Reard 7/17*  
*Qms 7-18*

Hon. James C. Corman  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Corman:

We have given careful consideration to your letter of July 6 in which you enclosed a letter from Mrs. Wilkie T. DeMartel and one from Mrs. Frances Muir Pomeroy regarding the establishment of a national park at Cahuenga Pass in California.

You are correct in your statement that the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments will meet in September. As you may recall, the Advisory Board considered Cahuenga Pass at its 42nd meeting, March 21-23, 1960, but did not recommend it as suitable for development by the National Park Service, and then again at the request of Mrs. Pomeroy and others, the Secretary asked the Board to reconsider the merits of the proposal. This the Board did at its spring meeting in May, and passed the following resolution:

The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments at its 44th meeting, May 15-19, 1961, has carefully considered the additional data supplied by the National Park Service and the supporters of the proposal and noted in particular (1) that the City of Los Angeles now owns most of the site where the Casa de Cahuenga, the six-room adobe house built in 1845, stood and in which Fremont and Pico signed the Treaty of Cahuenga; (2) that the present proposal involves a tract that is not contiguous or adjacent to the historic Casa de Cahuenga site, but is an elongated area nearby between Hollywood Freeway and Cahuenga Boulevard.

The Board reaffirms its previous findings that the area does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Park System.

Usually the Board reconsiders such proposals only when new evidence or additional material is presented to bear on the question. From the letters of Mmes. DeMartel and Pomeroy, it does not appear that any new material nor evidence that has not previously been considered by the Board has been submitted.

We sincerely hope that through the efforts of Mrs. Pomeroy, and of civic and cultural groups which have endorsed the site, that a means can be found by which the City of Los Angeles and the State can preserve and develop this area.

We are returning Mmes. DeMartel and Pomeroy's letters to you.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) HILLORY A. TOLSON

Acting Associate Director

Enclosures

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:llg 7/14/61