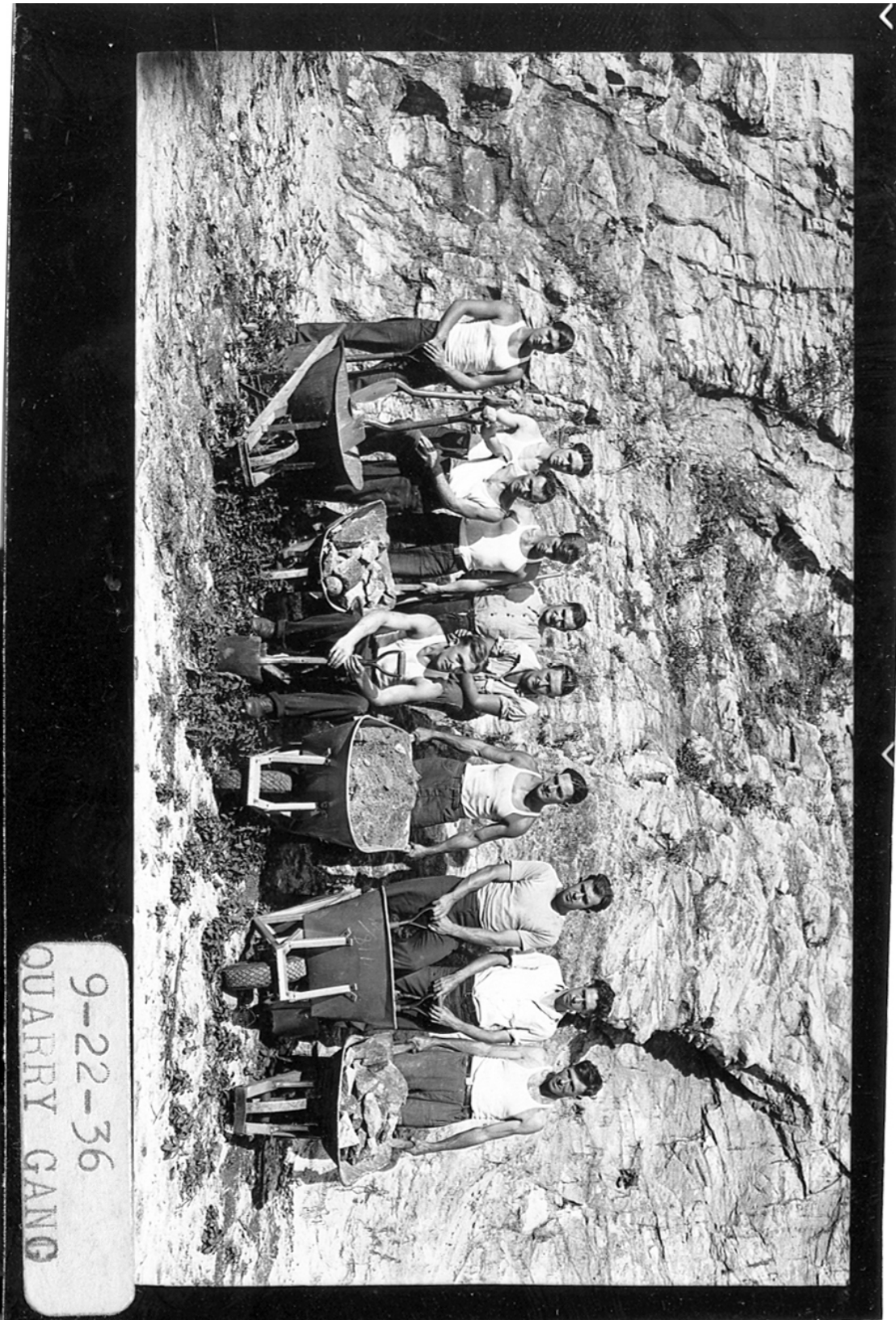


**Appendix 4: Historic Photos and Newspaper Articles from Hasting Historical  
Society Archives. Photos By Arthur C. Langmuir, 1934-7.**

















## County's First Quarry Park To Be Developed In Hastings

**Dr. Langmuir Reveals Intention To Transform Abandoned Tract Into Garden Spot—Will Present Finished Wood To Village—Work Is Under Way**

Special to The Herald Statesman.  
HASTINGS - ON - HUDSON, Mar. 31.—In his recent purchase of the abandoned quarry south of Washington Avenue, Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir revealed today that he expects to develop the site into Westchester's first quarry park and probably the first of its kind in the Eastern part of the country.

Not only will Dr. Langmuir, the village's unofficial park commissioner, beautify the five and a half acre tract, a section of which adjoins his property on the west, but in a few years he expects to dedicate the "finished" enclosure to the village.

By that time, using the quarry parks in Paris as models, Dr. Langmuir plans to have gardens cultivated on the level areas, hundreds of shrubs and evergreens thriving, walks laid out, and the lake beautified, which is expected to attract birds and possibly be a bird sanctuary as well.

The historic quarry is designated as a future park area on the "official village map" which Dr. Langmuir as a member of the Planning Commission helped to draw. Because of the expense attached to the construction of Ravine Park and the Parking Plaza in 1931, the village could not afford to develop its park areas further. Both of these improvements were advocated by Dr. Langmuir.

The sale of the quarry to Dr. Langmuir was consummated in the past few days in a deal arranged through William A. Whittaker, manager of the Anaconda Wire and Cable Company, owner of the site. As members of the Hastings Rotary Club and having interests centering on park development the two men arranged the transaction, Dr. Langmuir said.

### Price Not Disclosed

The Anaconda firm still retains the water rights. No figures were divulged as to the sale price. The property is assessed at approximately \$5,000. The tract has a 900-foot frontage on the Croton aqueduct on the west and borders Draper Memorial Park, the Draper estates and the properties of Dr. Langmuir and Lawrence Tasker, former division manager of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, on the east side.

Dr. Langmuir is having a six-foot cyclone fence erected around the entire tract. Another fence, five feet in height, will be built at the top of the cliff from where there is a drop of 150 feet into the lake filling the base of the quarry. The lake receives the water in a natural drainage area from 10 to 15 acres of surrounding property. It measures 100 by 50 feet and is 20 feet in depth.

Dr. Langmuir hopes that with

cultivation the property will produce a reasonable supply of shrubs and trees to be transplanted in other sections of the village and that the park can contain the "village nursery."

Small plants are to be placed with shrubs, holly, hemlocks, evergreens, dogwood, forsythia, Japanese quince, small trees, vines to cover the jutting rocks and other innumerable assortments.

When he presents the park to the village, Dr. Langmuir will only request that it be maintained properly. He will suggest that a custodian be assigned there. Since the site offers a splendid view of the river as far north as the highlands, Dr. Langmuir said he might place a sunhouse on the cliff.

Sloops carried marble quarried here to various parts of the country. The Customs House at Charleston, S. C., and the Public Market at New Orleans were built of Hastings marble.

Many of the old substantial stone houses here were built of Hastings' marble. Among those still in existence, Dr. Langmuir recalled, are Lovat, the home of the Fraser family on South Broadway; the Bille Burke Ziegfeld house at Burkley Crest; Longue Vue, a former estate; the Longstreet home, and others in the vicinity of Marble Terrace, and his own home.

Approximately 100 years ago, a man named Harvey owned the quarry site, but most of the quarrying was done under Cronwell, his successor. A road between the quarry and the river allowed the marble slabs to be transferred easily on the sloops docking here.

Quarrying was halted in 1870 when a heavy blast rocked the home of Dr. John W. Draper, scientist, who obtained a court injunction that halted further blasting and stopped operations.



← Note the man, removing Porosin Ivy.

Looking North across the Lake in the Quarry.



Looking South into the Quarry from Draper Park. The cliffs are at this time, June 1936 covered with Porosin Ivy which was all removed during the Summer.



## Hastings To Get Quarry Park As Eventual Gift From Owner

Thousands of Trees, Bushes and Shrubs Planted by  
Dr. Langmuir, Who Plans To Turn Site Over  
To Village—Plot Draws Birds 1936

Special to The Herald Statesman  
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON, July 31.  
—Thousands of trees, bushes and shrubs have been planted in Quarry Park by its owner, Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir, who plans eventually to turn the site over to the village. Nature will now have to take its course in beautifying the grounds, the owner said. The entire area which adjoins Dr. Langmuir's estate and Draper Park has been enclosed by a sturdy fence to allow the plantings to grow unhampered.

The abandoned quarry site is already attracting more birds and eventually the area will be a bird sanctuary, Dr. Langmuir said. He pointed out that there is more food available, the place is quiet, there is no shooting and no one to trespass within the fence and hurl stones at the wild animal life within the five and a half acre enclosure.

The entire upper area has been grubbed over, Dr. Langmuir said. Three tree nurseries have been laid out. He has already planted 2,000 small trees, 1,000 rose bushes and 800 shrubs.

In the Fall plans will be made to transplant the small trees. Dr. Langmuir deplored the condition of the park now without any evergreens. To beautify the lake at the south end of the property and 200 feet beneath the cliff, Dr. Langmuir has cleared the underbrush and is having stone steps carved in the quarry rock.

Eventually the site will serve the village as a nursery. Dr. Langmuir has opened the area only to recognized and controlled groups. The Hastings Garden Club held a recent pilgrimage there and the Hastings Rotary Club will inspect the premises in September.

A gang of six men has been working steadily on the premises for the past four months under Dr. Langmuir's employ. At times, however, he has increased the number to ten men.

Wherever possible nature's master creations are being emphasized. An amphitheatre has been constructed at the north end of the Quarry. It juts out from a natural grotto of marble which ceilings it.

A walk, one morning this week with Dr. Langmuir, up and down the newly made paths disclosed the amazing amount of work, skill and thought that has already gone into the development of the park which Hastings will one day point to with great pride.



*Before*  
apr. 1936

*The Quarry*



*From the same position. The fence is along the Nye-Draper property*

*after*  
aug. 1936

## Here There And Everywhere

By Gertrude Willen Sept 18 1936

Have you been walking on the aqueduct these recent mornings? Yes? Then have you noticed the heavenly blue morning glories climbing all over the quarry's wire fences like bright, spirited children frolicking in the September sun?

The morning glories are only a colorful introduction to what one may see in several summers hence behind the fences. For in back of those enclosures civic-minded Dr. A. C. Langmuir, with his own funds, is developing Quarry Park, which he expects to present to the people of Hastings once his work has been completed.

Already rambler rose bushes, five feet apart, have been planted close to the fence and these will ramble over the wiring in June as a prelude to the fall morning glory. As if inspired a crew of vigorous young men are obeying Dr. Langmuir's instructions and are building walls where necessary from the quarry's stones. They are clearing paths, removing poison ivy and are planting trees and bushes.

A nursery, filled with 2,000 infant trees and shrubs, is rearing pines, spruces, hemlocks and roses for transplanting at planned points.

Creation of garden spots throughout the park is being left to Mrs. Langmuir, whose success in growing flowers and grouping colors is enviable.

The high point of the entire scene is the majestic mountains of marble which rise above an emerald lake.

All this, we hope, will be Hastings' own one future day. May she deserve, preserve and keep it from harm.



## Hastings Rotarians And Wives Are Guests At Saturday Lunch

1936

Special to The Herald Statesman  
HASTINGS - ON - HUDSON, Sept.  
28.—Twenty-five members of the  
Hastings Rotary Club and their  
wives attended a luncheon at the  
home of Dr. and Mrs. Arthur C.  
Langmuir on South Broadway Sat-  
urday afternoon.

After the luncheon, Dr. Lang-  
muir led his guests on a tour of  
inspection of Quarry Park, a tract  
of land surrounding an abandoned  
quarry which Dr. Langmuir has  
purchased and is landscaping in  
preparation to presenting it to the  
village for a future park site.

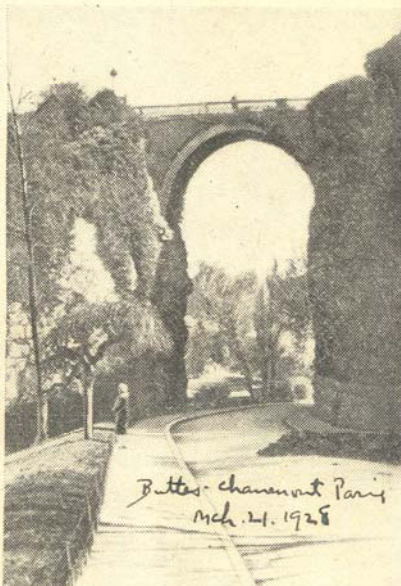
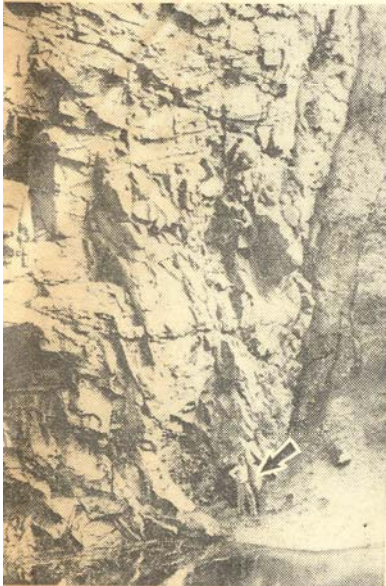
His guests were taken for a row-  
boat ride in the skiff, "Queen  
Mary" on "Lake Superior," a small  
body of water at the base of the  
quarry. Among the guests were  
Thomas F. Reynolds, Parkway  
Safety Director, and an honorary  
member of the Rotary Club; for-  
mer Mayor Henry D. Cochrane and  
Frank Copley of New York City,  
a former member of the club.



WESTCHESTER—BRONX SECTION OF THE NEW YORK EVE

# TO FIGHT U. S. INTER

ap 5. 1936  
QUARRY 'FACIAL' BRINGS PARIS HERE



Buttes Chaumont Paris  
Mch. 21. 1928

## HASTINGS QUARRY TODAY <sup>Paris</sup> 1926

Paris will be brought to Westchester when Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir converts an abandoned quarry in Hastings-on-Hudson into a replica of famous Buttes Chaumont Park. The two pictures represent the

## HOW IT WILL LOOK IN PART

plans of Dr. Langmuir to beautify his town. The photo on the right shows one of the beauty spots in the Paris park. Arrow on left points to man at bottom of quarry. Pictures from International News

## Engineer Changes Quarry Into Garden

Dr. Arthur C. Langmuir, retired chemical engineer and brother of Nobel prize winner, Irving Langmuir, visited Paris recently and was struck by the beauty of the Buttes Chaumont Park and the abandoned quarry that had been transformed into a bird sanctuary and public garden.

Today Dr. Langmuir was transforming one of the worst eyesores in Westchester into the same type of park. He purchased the old quarry south of Washington ave., in the center of Hastings-on-Hudson, where he lives, and after completing the development will give it to the village.

"Westchester is filled with old quarries that nobody seems to

know how to handle," Dr. Langmuir said.

"If my experiment is successful I believe many of the horrible appearing places will be taken over by villages and cities for transformation into parks of extraordinary charm."

Marble was first taken from the Hastings quarry more than a century ago. It was used to erect the nearby home of the late Florenz Ziegfeld and some was used in building as far distant as the public market in New Orleans and the Customs House at Charleston.

In 1872 operations were halted because a village had grown around the site and a blast wrecked the home of Dr. John W. Draper, scientist and traveler.

Dr. Langmuir, whose philanthropic interest in Hastings affairs has been previously demonstrated, proposes to spend thousands of dollars before turning the property over to the village.

He obtained five acres and workmen today were erecting a high fence around it.

"We must keep dogs and destructive children out for a while if we are to grow things," he said.

"In the center is a lake that will be developed. Around it we shall have flowering shrubs, evergreens and plants of all kinds. Vines will be trained to grow on the high jagged cliffs."