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

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 “Baldhead” escarpment to the village.

By that time, using the quarry park as a model, Dr. Langmuir plans to have gardens cultivated on the level areas, hundreds of shrubs and evergreen bushes, 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 a new park and the Parkways in 1931, the village could not afford to develop this park area further. Both of these improvements advocated by Dr. Langmuir.

The sale of the quarry to Dr. Langmuir was completed in the past few days in a deal arranged by William M. Whelan, manager of the Anacoma Wire and Cable Company, owner of the site. As members of the Hastings Rotary Club and having interests centering on park development, the men arranged the transaction, Dr. Langmuir said.

Price Not Divulged

The Anacoma farm still retains the water rights. No figures were divulged as to the sale price. The property is assessed at approximately $5,600. The tract has a 500-foot frontage on the Creton aqueduct on the west and borders Draper Memorial Park, the Draper cottage 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-cement 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 100 feet into the lake filling the base of the quarry. The lake receives the water in a natural drainage area from 15 to 14 acres of surrounding property. It measures 100 by 50 feet and is 20 feet in depth.

Mr. 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 quarry.”

Small ponds are to be placed with shrubs, healthy heathers, evergreens, dogwood, ferns, Japanese white, small trees, vines, to cover the jutting rocks and other inaccessible situations.

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 must he might place a monument on the cliff.

Rocks, carved marble quarried here and at various parts of the country, the Cutler House at Charleston, R. I., 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 the Lawes, the home of the Fraser family on North Broadway; the White House, Ziegfeld house at Burley Crest; Lewis de Vere, a former estate; the Langmuir home, and others in the vicinity of Marble Terrace, and his farm home.

Approximately 100 years ago, a man named Harvey owned the quarry site, but most of the quarrying was done under Cornell, his successor. A 100 acre between the quarry and the river allowed the marble to be transferred easily on the slopes looking here.

Quarrying was halted in 1918 when a heavy blast ruined the home of Dr. John W. Draper, scientist, who obtained a court injunction that halted further blasting and stopped operations.
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

The Herald-Examiner
MIDHURST, July 11—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 Draymore Park has been enclosed by a sturdy fence so as
allow the plants to grow undisturbed.
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
birds win at the wild animal life within the five and a half acre
environment.
The entire upper area has been grubbed over, Dr. Langmuir said.
Three tree nurseries have been laid out. He has already planted 300
small trees, 1,000 rose bushes and 150 shrubs.

[Image: Before and After photographs, 1936]

The Wall plans will be made to transplant the small trees. Dr.
Langmuir declared that condition of the park now without any over-
growths. To beautify the lake at the south end of the property and
200 feet beneath the cliff, Dr. Langmuir has cleared the under-
brush and is having stone steps carried in the quarry rock.
Eventually the site will serve the village as a nursery, Dr. Lang-
muir has already cleared the area every 100 feet of enclosed and
controlled groups, The Hastings Garden Club held a recent pilgrimage there and the
Hastings Horticultural Club was inspecting the property in September.
A crew of six men has been working steadily on the project for the past ten months under
Dr. Langmuir’s employ. As time, however, he has increased the num-
ber to ten men.

Here There And Everywhere

By Gertrude Willey

Sept 6, 1936

Have you been walking on the southern hills of late? Yes? Then have you noticed the heavenly blue morning
glories climbing all over the quarry’s wire fences like bright, summer-colored fireflies sticking in the September sun?
The glory mountains are only a colorful introduction to what one may see in the hills behind the fence. For in
back of those fences 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 rambling rose bushes, five feet apart, have been planted to the fence and these will ramble over the
fence in June as a gesture to the fall morning glory. As if angered a
crowd of vigorous young men are obeying Dr. Langmuir’s instruc-
tions and are building roads where necessary from the quarry’s
stones. They are clearing paths, removing poison ivy and are
planting trees and bushes.

[Image: Close-up of garden]

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
rock which rise above the emerald lake.

All this, we hope, will be Hastings’s own future day. May
she deserve, preserve and keep it from harm.
Hastings Rotarians And Wives Are Guests At Saturday Lunch

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 Saturday afternoon.

After the luncheon, Dr. Langmuir 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 rowboat 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; former Mayor Henry D. Cochrane and Frank Copley of New York City, a former member of the club.
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 translating 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."