

Blast from the Past



Capt. Cresap and 1847 Howitzer.

BE THERE: 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13, Campo de Cahuenga City Park, 3919 Lankershim Boulevard (across the street from Universal Studios and north of the Universal City Metro Red Line Station)



Carolina Russek Fiesta Dancers

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

Archaeological dig.

Re-enactment of signing of the treaty.

Actor Roberto Garza performs Gov. Pio Pico monologue.

Ray Herbeck's Frontier Legions appear in authentic uniform dress. Union soldier Capt. Cresap fires an 1847 Howitzer.

Celebration continues with Carolina Russek Fiesta Dancers; Yesteryear Dancers with Mademoiselle Irene and Company.

New archaeological findings at Universal City dig inspire commemoration of historic events at Campo de Cahuenga

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(Jan. 10, 2002) An archaeologist commissioned by the MTA to preserve the history of a national landmark has unearthed a section of the original foundation of the historic Campo de Cahuenga adobe where the signing of an 1847 peace treaty ended the Mexico-U.S War in California.

The archaeological site in the Campo de Cahuenga City Park is just a few yards away from the Metro Red Line's Universal City Station.

At that site on Jan. 13, 1847, Mexican General Andres Pico signed documents capitulating to U.S. forces, an act that laid the groundwork for California to become the nation's 31st state.

Archaeologist John Foster of Greenwood and Associates uncovered foundation stones and fallen roof tiles among other findings in a 6 1/2-square-foot excavation site in courtyard of the Campo de Cahuenga City Park.

Foster will unveil the findings at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13, during a commemoration staged by the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association to memorialize the historic events that occurred on the site over a century and a half ago.

Festivities will include a re-enactment of the meeting between Lt. Colonel John C. Fremont and General Andres Pico, in command of the Mexican Forces in California, which led to the cessation of

hostilities between the two countries and paved the way for California and other Western states to join the Union.

A team of archaeologists commissioned by the MTA unearthed and then preserved several portions of the original foundation and floor of the ancient adobe building in January 2000. In July, 1996, the archeologists discovered intact stone foundations, tile floors and various artifacts of an adobe building on the site. Recent research indicates that the adobe most likely was built in 1795.

The discoveries enabled the California Historic Preservation officer to determine that the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Campo de Cahuenga has been a Los Angeles city park since 1923

and was designated state Landmark in 1935. A building was constructed in the park in 1949 to memorialize the historic events.

The opening of the Universal City Metro Rail Station in mid-2000 has resulted in a dramatic increase in the numbers of visitors to the adjacent Campo de Cahuenga.

The MTA plans to build an interpretive public display in the park courtyard and parking lot. MTA has been responsible for safeguarding the buried past of the park since the mid-90s when construction on the adjacent Metro Red Line subway began.

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