

# MESSENGER

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## CITY ACCEPTS PLANS OF ARMENIAN SHAFT

By Irene H. Grimes

Tempers flared and there were professions of both brotherly love and hate Monday night during a 3½-hour public hearing which ended with the City Council giving 4-1 approval of a \$75,000 Armenian Memorial at Bicknell Park — but holding up approval of the wording of the dedicatory plaque.

Financed by the Montebello

Armenian Memorial Committee and to be deeded to the City on its completion, the Monument is proposed to be "dedicated to the more than 1,500,000 Armenians, nearly one half of the nation, who were massacred in 1915 in a premeditated act of genocide by the Ottoman Turkish government." It was the word "genocide" which halted approval of the dedication wording, with

protest being raised that the word is too strong, and that it is a new word which came into use many years after the 1915 massacre. Councilman Joe Spada insisted that the Council is not in a position to determine "genocide."

### Many Observers

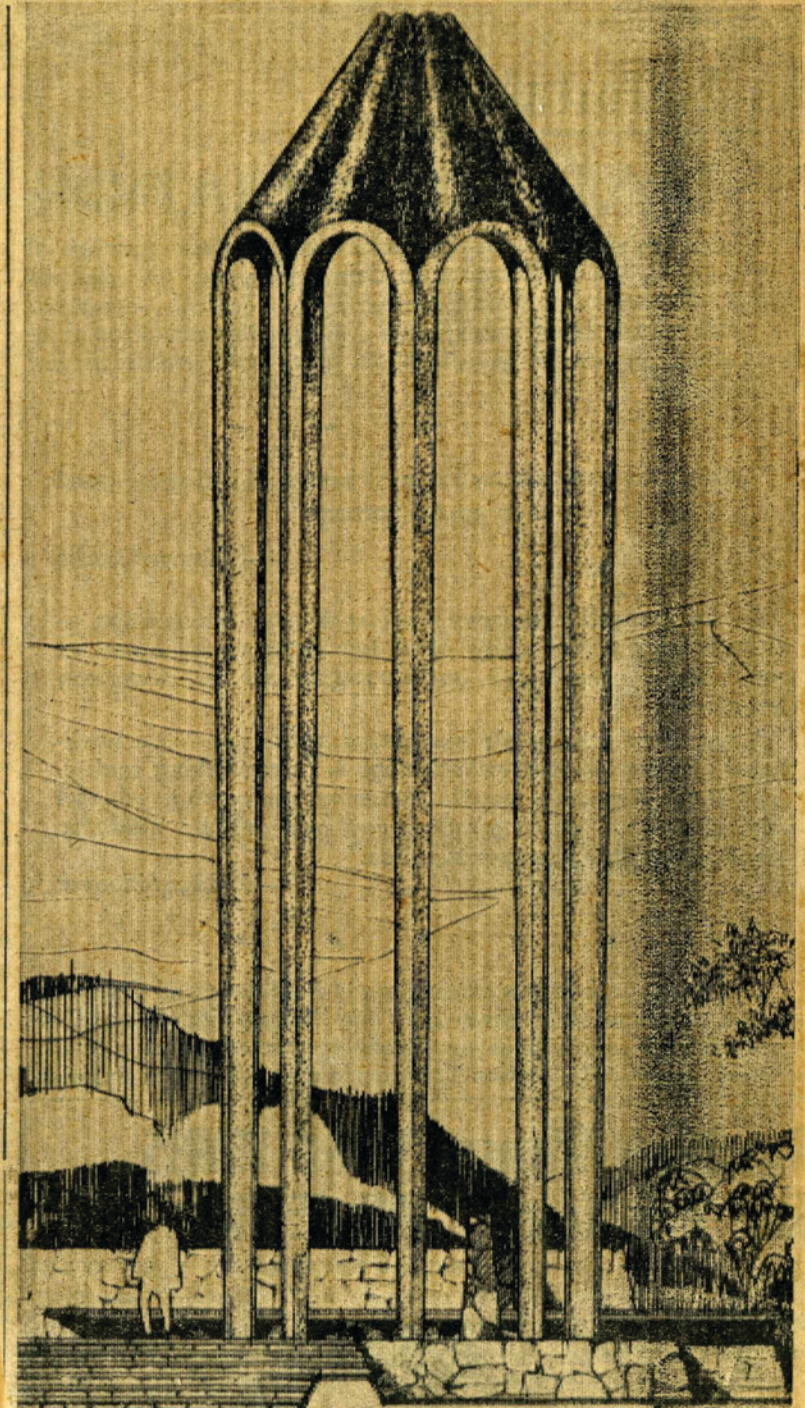
The Council Chambers were jam packed for the hearing which saw a parade of witnesses, including a professor and a lecturer from UCLA (they spoke in favor); the Honorary Consul General of the Turkish Republic for the State of California (he spoke against); a trucker from

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ter has been considered nearly a year and that they thought the more than 200 persons on hand were entitled to hear a verdict that night. Odou asked if he could ask questions of two persons before voting but neither of the two (John A. Gabriel and John Ainilian) was present by that time and so the matter went to vote.

One of those speaking in opposition — Retired Army Major Myron Goldsmith, the Honorary Consul General of the Turkish Republic for the state of California — said as he left the meeting he believed an injunction would be filed to stop erection of the memorial shaft.

During the Council deliberations it was brought out that



ARMENIAN MEMORIAL — Bicknell Park will be home of this \$25,000 Memorial to Armenians who died 50 years ago