

Meredith cont. from p. 3

Then later that month, on March 26, 1951 the California Assembly Interim Committee on Crime and Corrections issued an official report [that concluded](#) that if she had been “properly defended in a court free of prejudice she undoubtedly would have been proven innocent.” The report noted there was evidence “the crime itself was a hoax” and that she was “the victim of a ‘frame.’” The report charged Meredith’s case is “a mockery of investigation, of defense counseling, of trial procedure, and of justice itself.” The report stated that if Meredith had been “properly defended in a court free of prejudice she undoubtedly would have been proven innocent.” The reported detailed, “...nor are the tactics of the prosecution above reproach. That witnesses were intimidated is a matter of court record. There is shocking evidence of perjury, suppression of evidence and an almost unbelievable reluctance on the part of defense counsel to



Madge Meredith outside of the Teahachapi Woman's Prison after her release on July 16, 1951 (Frank Q. Brown, LA Times)

investigate the cause of defendant Meredith.”

Meredith was released on her thirtieth birthday, July 16, 1951 — the day after Governor Earl Warren commuted her sentence to time served.



Nick Giancalis evicted (LA Times)

attributes of a scenario.”

Giancalis had never vacated the Hollywood Hills house because of Meredith’s legal woes. After her release she enforced the 1947 judgement and Giancalis was evicted. He appealed the 1947 ruling upholding her ownership of the house and he requested a new trial. On August 27, 1953 the California Court of Appeals [affirmed the](#) trial court’s ruling and dismissed Giancalis’ appeal.

Giancalis, an immigrant from Greece in the 1930s, was later denied U.S. citizenship because the judge determined he had failed to establish good moral character by perjuring himself during Meredith’s trial, and for failing to appear for his immigration hearing.

Meredith’s acting career was revived after her release from prison. From 1952 to 1964 [she appeared in](#) several movies, and many television programs. She was 43 when her last acting role was for a 1964 episode of the television series, “The Littlest Hobo.” Her last appearance on film is believed to be Kevin Costner’s “Water World.” She was

Gov. Warren action was based on the California Assembly report that determined she had been framed, and her conviction was the result of a biased judge, a vindictive prosecutor, and an incompetent trial lawyer. Gov. Warren’s [commutation stated](#): “This is a bizarre case, perhaps more fantastic than any moving picture in which the defendant acted — but certainly having many of the

living on the island of Hawaii where part of the movie was filmed, and she appeared as an uncredited extra.

Meredith married, and gave birth to a daughter on July 10, 1955.

Actress Zasu Pitts was one of Meredith’s most loyal friends, and Meredith’s case is written about extensively in Gayle D. Haffner’s biography of Pitts — *Hands With A Friend: The Personal Biography of Actress Zasu Pitts* (Outskirts Press, Inc. Denver, 2011).

Madge Meredith, born Marjorie May Massow on July 15, 1921 in Iowa Falls, Iowa, is now 95 years old. She is living in Hawaii.

The three-bedroom house at 8444 Magnolia Drive in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles that was built in 1929, and which Meredith bought for \$10,000 in 1946, now has a market value of \$2,432,097 according to [Zillow.com](#). That doesn’t include the value of the two adjoining vacant lots that were included in her purchase price. Tax records show she no longer owns the property.

Sources:

[Hollywood Cinderella](#), Part 1: Deranged LA Crimes, By Joan Renner, March 13, 2013

[Hollywood Cinderella](#), Part 2: Deranged LA Crimes, By Joan Renner, March 17, 2013

[People v. Klinkenberg, et al., and Marjorie May Maslow, et al.](#), 90 Cal. App. 2d 608 (Cal. Court of Appeal, 3-15-1949) (Affirming all convictions)

[Massow v. Giancalis](#), 120 Cal. App. 2d 24 (Cal. Court of Appeal, 8-27-1953) (Affirming trial court’s ruling that the house belonged to Marjorie Massow.)

8444 Magnolia Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90046, [Zillow.com](#)

[“Baker’s Tune Film at Harris Has New Romantic Team”](#), *Pittsburgh Press*, August 28, 1944, p. 10.

Madge Meredith, [IMDB.com](#)



Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin Issues 192 Marijuana Possession Pardons

On January 3, 2017 Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin [issued a pardon](#) to 192 people convicted prior to 2013 of misdemeanor marijuana possession.

In 2013, Gov. Shumlin signed a law decriminalizing possession in Vermont of less than one ounce of marijuana. Before the law was changed in 2013, possession of less than one ounce of marijuana was a misdemeanor crime. Under the decriminalization law an individual convicted of minor marijuana possession law can file a motion to expunge their conviction and seal their case record.



Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin (Pat Bradley - WAMC)

A pardon in Vermont [affects a person’s punishment](#): it can result in the release of an imprisoned person, or termination of their probation/parole. However, a Vermont pardon has no legal effect on a person’s conviction: neither authorizing expungement of the conviction or sealing of the case.

Furthermore, a misdemeanor conviction in Vermont does not affect a person’s right to vote or serve on a grand or petit jury, and it does not affect a person’s right to own or possess a firearm under Vermont or federal law.

Consequently, Gov. Shumlin’s pardoning of the 192 people had no effect on their civil

rights, and it had no legal effect on their criminal cases because their sentences are completed. The running of a criminal background check by a prospective employer, landlord, etc. to investigate any of those 192 people will result in disclosure of the same information about their conviction as before Gov. Shumlin’s pardon was issued.

If those people want to eliminate possible career or housing consequences from their conviction, they could have bypassed the symbolic pardon process, and filed a file a motion to expunge their conviction and seal their case record.

Sources:

[Gov. Shumlin Issues Nearly 200 Pardons](#) for Minor Marijuana Convictions, Press Release, Office of Governor Peter Shumlin, January 3, 2017

[Vermont: Restoration of Rights, Pardon, Expungement & Sealing](#), Collateral Consequences Resource Center, [www.ccrsourcecenter.org](#)

