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Society for the Advancement of the George Economy, Inc.

50 EAST 69th STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

VOLUME I - TENTH ISSUE

AUGUST 1949

calendar

THURSDAY - AUGUST 4 - REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY - AUGUST 7 - SWIM-PICNIC AT "FROOKS FARM" - See Inside

THURSDAY - AUGUST 18 - REGULAR MEETING - 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY - BEACH PARTY - ALL DAY - See Inside

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Entertainment: - The Peekskill Picnic on July 4th! - One thing about SAGE social affairs, it is rarely ever known who will be on hand to participate, and whether there will be a predominance of males or females! It is a mystery, which produces some interesting conjectures. The Peekskill outing reflected the same unknown until train time, then what glad surprises! The male turn-out was quite amazing; they just over-whelmed the girls. But then, that is exactly what was needed for a forceful Pushball Team. Of course the five girls attending were in their glory, as which girl wouldn't be with such a galaxy of male attention! Perhaps the vying for attention of this modified number of "ladies fair" generated the extra bit of energy which was needed to practically nullify the power of the opposing push-ball team. We really gave those heavyweights a fight; in fact, we resisted so effectively that neither side was able to score! Our team won only by default for they were so bushed a few minutes before the time period that they walked off the field. They probably didn't know that we were kind of limp, too!

It was a grand day for us. The country air was delightfully pungent with the odor of the river intermingled with the earthy smell of the country side. Every now and then a gentle breeze would waft a scent of new mown hay, which was nearby, in our direction, as we lounged and picnicked in the shade of the trees which lined the drive and ball field. It was delightful. When any of us felt like cooling off, out to the little lake we went for a dip, a swim, or a lazy drifting on the rafts. When that squall came up refuge was taken in the dressing cabin, where there was card-playing, singing and general conversation with the "general" being omitted when a serious discourse was being eschewed. All-in-all a wonderful time was had by all comer-outers. We thank Miss Dorothy Fooks for her kind invitation and her charming graciousness in making our trip and visit pleasant and memorable. We look forward to a repeat outing at the Fooks Farm on August 7th.

We regret that Sunday, July 17th brought with it rain, for many of us were looking forward to getting in a day of relaxation and fun on the sands and in the waters of Orchard Beach. An opportunity for being done to an extra turn under the rays of Old Sol and a cooling off in the placid waters of the Sound inlet, is rarely missed by some of us; but then, if Nature conspires to do us out of an "open Sunday", we just do the next best thing and plan another! And that leads us to the SOCIAL CALENDAR FOR AUGUST!

AUGUST 7TH: - Picnic and Swim Party at Fooks Farm, Peekskill, N.Y. Meet at Information Booth in Grand Central Station at 8:10 A.M. sharp, Daylight Saving Time Train leaves station at 8:32 A.M. Group fare can be obtained at a discount; be on time so that we can take advantage of this. Bring food, swim suit, camera, (soft-ball, somebody, please) and anything else to make it a grand day. Next train leaves at 10:15 A.M. At Peekskill Station take bus to Fooks Farm. This repeat invitation and acceptance was the result of the mutual joy experienced on our first visit to Fooks Farm on July 4th. Everyone had such a grand time that a repetition was inevitable. Glorious country, ample facilities, lots of room, bathing wonderful, no mobs, and gay companions will make the early rise well worth the effort! See you there!

George Musalino, Chairman

Pedro says: "We cannot inspire in others what does not exist within ourselves"

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Recently a special notice went out to all dues-delinquent members. Though most members are paid up, there are a goodly number who owe for the current quarter, and a few members who are very much in arrears, owing for two and three quarters. Please take care of this little matter promptly, by enclosing your remittance in the self-addressed envelope provided.

Should our records not correspond with yours, please don't become annoyed; just call the matter to my attention and adjustment will be made accordingly.

Thank you.

Val Hallgren, Treasurer

NOTES ON THE CONFERENCE

As you all know, the Annual Conference was held in the Henry George School (and its environs) in New York City over the week-end of July 22-24, and while your Editor was unable to cover as much "territory" as she would have liked, we are giving you a few "high-lights" culled from this most interesting and enlightening experience, and one of the items we thought worthy of your note was the Opening Address by Mrs. Eva Maxwell, affectionately and well-known to us all:

"Directors, Secretaries, Teachers, and Graduates of the far-flung Henry George School; it gives me great pleasure to greet you, you who are the "Economists of America". Mr. Clancy is the official welcomer, so this is just my own little personal welcome to my friends. Whoever knows the things we teach, and is working to further the process of education, is my friend, whether I have met him or not!

I have been delegated a few moments at the opening of this Conference to discuss "The Opening of New Extensions". Though I spend much time, keeping records of extension work, sending materials to expedite extension work, write letters to help keep up morale in organized extensions, and bolster the efforts of those who are trying to get classes started in new locations, still our problems, yours and mine, are very different, except where they meet, in one straight and strategic point. You are primarily interested in expanding the educational program in your locality. I am primarily concerned with the opening of new extension classes. Letters, and letters, and more letters are written for that one purpose, but largely to no avail.

I know how to start an Extension, all right. I learned it a long time ago. It is like making bread. That I learned when I was yet so short that I had to stand on a chair to get enough leverage to knead the springy mass of dough! First you must assemble the materials. A quantity of flour, some salt, and water or milk, and proceed to mix and knead. In any town or city are all the ingredients for making an Extension of this School. First there are the people, harried and worried, ground between the upper millstone of high taxes and high prices, and the nether millstone of inadequate income, unemployment, frustration, so they bear about as much resemblance to what an independent, resourceful, indomitable American might be as the flour before you bears to the wheat! In each town and city you will find plenty of the milk of human kindness, which will bind these people into classes. Plenty of the salt of common sense intelligence which will give flavor and pep to the class, but still, if you have not something else, the dough will not puff up to form the loaves, nor will the classes expand to become an extension, so we must put in a starter.

In bread making, that is a small pat of the dough from the last baking, added to the new batter before it is mixed into a tough dough. It contains the life that will grow in that sodden mass and make it spring up into loaves of bread!

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Continued:

In our school work, it is a man or woman, who, having learned these things, will not rest unless he is giving to others the chance to also learn this Philosophy of Freedom. And right there, in that man or woman, is where our interests meet! Where can we get these determined and inspired people, except from your classes? It is for you to kindle their enthusiasm, promote their understanding, bolster their determination to "do something about it", that gets us our new leaders. What Mr. Tiedeman started in Chicago, blossomed into a new Extension in Oak Ridge, Tenn. From a class in New York City comes the start of an Extension in Albany; from a correspondence course comes the leadership in Ohio. And so we might go on. Though much of your seed will fall on shallow soil and stony places, still some seeds will always find the rich depth formed of a good mind, a strong conscience, and tireless energy. May this Conference help you in that great work, is our prayer.

Mrs. Eva Maxwell

"AFTER GRADUATION"

The afternoon session of the "Fifth Annual Conference" held in the auditorium of our own Henry George School here in New York, and entitled "After Graduation", was opened by Miss Dorothy Sara, Chairman, before a more than capacity audience. The gathering represented many cities and states and spilled over into the hall and on to the broad staircase, with all listeners eager to hear the speakers and participate in the discussion, in spite of a temperature of over ninety that might well have liquidated all enthusiasm! In a short, rapid-fire speech, Miss Sara told the group that the educational program of the movement had now jumped from the proportions of "The Little Red School House" to that of "Big Business", and that she intended to outline what she had to say somewhat in the form of a fairy tale. Like parents with quickly growing families, she declared the schools must meet the desire of the increasing number of graduates to become active in the cause. To bring this about, not only must the schools offer advanced courses but they must help plan to organize the students so that their efforts and talents may be utilized to the best advantage. With irresistible good humor and sound advice she advocated cutting the "Silver Cord" between the classes and their first teacher of 'P&P' so that the pupils might advance more independently and be given something else to do than "lick stamps and address triplicate postcards". Miss Sara then introduced Mr. Verlin D. Gordon, Director of the Henry George School in Ohio, whose topic was "Volunteers-Mainstay of the School". Mr. G. opened his remarks by quoting some of the most inspiring passages from Henry George's works, emphasizing "the clarion call to the battle of justice". The earnest study of George's writings, he pointed out, attracted many who were already practicing "associated equality" in furthering the true philosophy of head and heart to be found therein, in an expanding educational program, thus "sublimating the desire for a premature splash into politics". "We have seen the same star", Mr. Gordon concluded, "and are on our way toward a world permitting both greater personal and social advancement". Following Mr. Gordon, Mr. Nathan Hillman, Director of the Henry George School of Hartford, Conn., spoke on the question: "What Can We Expect of Graduates", and began by reversing the query to read "What Can Graduates Expect Of Us?" Working with such students as displayed a real understanding of the vital Principals advocated by George, he urged organization on a national scale so that they should become a force to be reckoned with. "There should be representatives in Washington, D.C." he said, "to make our views known on tariff and taxation problems so that our program may become a means to an end and not merely an end to further the means".

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Continued:

Our own Mr. Joseph Rose taking as his theme, "S.A.G.E. and the Graduates", was then given an opportunity to tell how he and his fellow-workers already had been able to organize "The Society For The Advancement Of The Goerge Economy" with its abbreviated title as significant as it is easy to remember. This fellowship, Mr. Rose related, had been started in 1947 and was now duly launched with a constitution, by-laws and charter providing for the formation of branches throughout the country with headquarters in New York. Said Mr. Rose: "Our program is broad and designed to appeal to all age groups - teachers as well as students. We advocate giving dances, holding picnics and arranging for the distribution of books, leaflets, economic stickers, postcards and films; also the device of displaying in thoroughfares, buses and subways the cover of "Progress & Poverty" - even on other books, just to stimulate inquiries regarding the fateful interplay of these two forces. That will give us a chance to show how much we are interested in such vital issues as housing and the high cost of living. As his final word, Mr. Rose expressed optimism by reminding his hearers that "on looking through the bars, one man saw the mud, the other saw the stars". A barrage of questions and comments followed the conclusion of the panel addresses and the meeting was adjourned while the tide of interest was still running high, only to give due time for other scheduled events of the conferences.

Mabel L. Rees

Editors Note: - As a result of our President's speech at the Conference, all the Directors received the kits distributed and are going to start SAGE groups in their own locality to federate with SAGE in New York. We are now forming a national organization - more about this in next issue.

SPEAKERS BUREAU: - The theme for the Speaker's Bureau campaign for new members is
"W H Y - H E S I T A T E"?

The Bureau needs your help. We need the time and effort of all those not working with other committees, and above all we need those who would dare show God-implanted will and courage.

Our theme was taken from this poem by E.R.Taylor, quoted by Henry George in P & P:

"Why hesitate? Ye are full-bearded men,
With God-implanted will, and courage if
Ye dare but show it. Never yet was will
But found some way or means to work it out,
Nor e'er did Fortune frown on him who dared.
Shall we in presence of this greivous wrong,
In this supremest moment of all time,
Stand trembling, cowering, when with one bold stroke
These groaning millions might be ever free? -
And that one stroke so just, so greatly good,
So level with the happiness of man,
That all the angels will applaud the deed"

E.R.Taylor

Harold Sager, Chairman
