

SAGE'S PAGES

SOCIETY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GEORGE ECONOMY®

NOV. DEC. 1952

The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends--those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of Truth.

--Henry George

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Sagers:

There comes a time when debts can no longer be put off. They must be paid. And so we wish to pay our debt to a few of the Sagers for services rendered.

Distribution of term announcements was a tremendous success due to the efforts of Nellie Wester, Irving (Have a Card) Faust, Elaine & Anita Wener, Steve Cord, Kathy Shoaf, Margaret Norman, Joan Downey, Dave Goldstein, and Bob Clancy.

Our Dances have been successful as a result of the efforts of Lydia & Nina Kirchen, Val (The Coffee Maker) Hallgren, James Azrak, Ruth Atkins, Benny Gellman, Frank Markey, and Ed Diering.

We must also commend Bennett Challis, Stanley Sinclair, Apostolas Papadeas, and William Dunsing for making our October Lecture Meeting on Valun interesting.

We appreciate the efforts of these people and of others who I haven't mentioned. It is these people who are instilling a new spirit into SAGE, which has manifested itself in the success of our recent activities.

Don Gilmartin

EDITORS' REPORT Anyone close to SAGE these past two months could not help but notice that the tempo of our organization's activities has definitely picked up. A new spirit is prevalent, our activities have been successfully handled, there are new one-night-a-week volunteers.

New plans have been put forth: see page 6 for an optimistic report on coming meetings, see page 7 for committee reports on progress accomplished, see page 12 for information on our new Membership Committee, come to the SAGE Office to hear about new plans which, to be activated, need only new volunteers.

We can report to you that things are being done, accomplished. Progress is being made in the only way that progress can be made - in small and specific steps.

FORUM: VALUN THEORY

ED. NOTE - At a recent interesting SAGE meeting, Valun, a monetary theory alleged to obviate inflation, was discussed. Briefly, the Valunists advise the substitution of a "Valun" unit to replace the dollar in our present checking-account practice of paying for the things we buy. Because Valuns would come into circulation only as purchases were made or credit was extended, it is claimed the ratio between goods in the market and money in circulation would remain reasonably constant. Thus, they say, government would be excluded from the issuing and lending of money and inflationary pressures would be removed. The following is a pro & con discussion:

MONETARY EMANCIPATION - Ivan Firth

The Valun Universal Money System - of, for, and by private enterprise - will resolve the monetary problems that beset business by replacing the false concept that money must be sponsored and regulated by the State, with the Natural Law restricting the issuing of money to free enterprisers.

Trade is the surest road to peace and social advancement, and money was historically devised by traders to split barter into two halves (buy & sell), permitting an intrinsically worthless token to be offered by the buyer, provided that he subsequently redeem its face value with goods or services to balance the transaction. This natural law of money redemption has been abrogated by governments "legalizing" their issues of counterfeit money (not redeemable with goods), which mix with the true money of free enterprisers (redeemable), while citizens are unable to distinguish between the good and bad issues. Thus, through deceptive and coercive methods, governments are debauching all the currencies of the world and gradually enslaving the people.

Free enterprisers can initiate the Valun by simply having their banks keep 2 sets of books, one for the national unit (subject to political manipulation), and one for Valuns, from the issue of which all governments

Major Firth is a leading figure in the Valun Institute for Monetary Research, 226 E. 26th St., N.Y. 10, N.Y.

would be excluded, rendering the Valun inflation-proof.

Thus, within domestic economies, the Valun would automatically meet the market-basket cost-of-living indexed national units, eliminating labor strikes for cost-of-living raises; whereas, in international trade, neither importer nor exporter would be concerned with any foreign currency, and the markets of the world would be open to free enterprisers, regardless of political affiliation or foreign currency controls.

Only American free enterprisers still possess sufficient freedom to execute this giant stroke for the emancipation of healthy money from the insidious poison of inflation.

MONETARY DREAM - Stanley Sinclair

When very young and very wise, I was sure the world's ills could be cured by simplifying its problems. Now with tarnished wisdom, simplification seems no longer analgesic. Further, implicit faith that all things can be reduced to a least common denominator has waned.

This might seem merely a sophist's answer. Nonetheless I cannot escape the fear that the Valun system is too much a simplification of our mosaic economic enigma.

The issuance of money and the attendant extension of credit are distorted, I agree, by the interference of government. Money is simply a tool of trade which permits the swapping of goods to be extended over many miles and through days, perhaps months. One puts his goods or services into the market and receives money in exchange so that one may later withdraw other goods from the market on presentation of the money.

Let the buyer issue money when making his purchase and redeem that money when he offers goods or services. So say the Valun advocates. In this way, they contend, the amount of money in circulation will remain in rough balance with the goods and services available in the market. Inflationary pressures will disappear, they say.

This is again an over-simplification. It attributes to the quantity theory of money a universality that does not occur in practice. There are other inflationary pressures: what happens when speculative land market prices exceed the economic rent, for instance? What results when private organizations over-extend credit?

Simply attempting to by-pass governmental authority without legislative safeguards is not only impractical, it fails to offer a complete solution to the problems of inflationary pressures.

Stanley Sinclair is an instructor on Monetary Economics at the Henry George School, and is on the editorial staff of the Journal of Commerce.

OTHER VIEWS ON THE VALUN THEORY

BENNETT CHALLIS - felt that Valun was the best monetary theory he had encountered because it harmonized with the natural concept of money, that currency should be issued by purchasers only.

"It's basic principle of value for value - no money issued except for the exact amount of goods or services - is as sound natural as the law of gravitation, and as little subject to government or other human interference and manipulation."

Mr. Challis feels that the Valun theory harmonizes with the natural law as much as does Georgism.

APOSTOLOS PAPADEAS - felt that Valun could not work and that "it was not in accord with the functionalization of the utilities"; which is to say that it could not adequately satisfy the necessities of all types of business exchanges.

WM. J. DUNSING - felt that although Valun was noble in purpose in its efforts to abolish money speculation (or inflation) it could not accomplish it's purpose, principally for the reasons listed in the latter part of Mr. Sinclair's article. "Possibly it might work

"Possibly it might work under ideal condition which never exist, i.e., a society of moderate, intelligent, responsible, and provident people, in which case our present monetary system would work as well."

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MEETINGS

At our Oct. 12th Meeting the Valun Monetary Theory was discussed. About 50 people attended and the discussion was very lively, to say the least. We were glad to see the very many instructors of the School who were in attendance.

Valun was described and supported by the originator of the idea, Mr. E. C. Riegel, and by his very close friend, Major Ivan Firth; and Mr. Spencer Heath (1).

In accordance with our new policy, the business affairs of the organization were handled quickly (45 min.) and more than an hour was devoted to informal social discussions in the Coffee Shop. Free refreshments were served. That is the theme of our future meeting: more authoritative & interesting lectures, less business, more informalities.

The next meeting is on Nov. 9th; Mr. Harvey Dawson, an authority on semantics and an instructor at the School, will speak on "Semantics And Its Relation to Economics". Those of us who know how extraordinarily interesting he is when talking on Semantics, a subject to which he attaches great importance.

Nominations for 1953 will be held at this meeting.

On December 14th, Mr. Art Fleming, also an instructor at the School and an accomplished magician, will entertain. Mr. Fleming has a comedian's reputation, but it is simply not true that when he last entertained a SAGE gathering, there were 30 people rolling in the aisles, so don't worry.

Final elections will be held at this meeting.

As you can see, we have an interesting meeting scheduled ahead of us.

What! Your man was not elected to the presidency of the United States! Well, there are other elections coming up, and your vote will play an even more decisive role since the balloting will not be as heavy. We're speaking of the election of SAGE officers to be held at the Dec. 14th meeting. Don't forget to be present and vote for your candidate. --T.G.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our financial condition is better than it has been for a year now, and seems to be improving each month. This is because of successful dances and because members are really cooperating of late by paying their dues promptly. What about you? Remember, repeated billing is bothersome to you & expensive for us.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Elaine Wener, with Joan Downey's help, has been providing the impetus here. Dance posters and SAGE material has been distributed throughout the School and volunteers for various SAGE activities have been obtained. If you have some limited free time contact this Committee.

FRIDAY NIGHT COMMITTEE

Our editorial thanks to Nina Kirchen for the wonderful job she's done in getting interesting movies for the Friday night lecture series. For instance, on Dec. 5th we will have "What Makes Us Tick" & "Every Seventh Family", easy-to-take films on economics, and Dec. 19th we will have the entertaining "Naughty Marietta". But now, due to personal obligations, Nina will positively need a co-chairman; who will volunteer to help us out?

DISTRIBUTING COMMITTEE

The increasing number of volunteers for this most important activity of SAGE is responsible for the outstanding success of its most recent campaign, just concluded: 89 out of 538 students came to the School after having received a term announcement card from a SAGE distributors, some of whom are listed in Tom Gilmartin's article on page 2, deserve our enthusiastic praise.

The next distribution campaign starts Dec. 1st; we plan to distribute more cards than ever before—success should follow proportionately. Help us out—volunteer for this important activity. Distribution parties are genuinely enjoyable and are good for at least 50 laughs per evening.

TO HENRY GEORGE-----IN MEMORIAM

Say not that he is dead whose work lives on
To make the kingdoms of this world more fair
Than any yet extolled in verse or song,--
With men the chance of self-support aware
By winning equal right to Nature's good.
In this they find reward for strength and skill,
Assuring each a worthwhile livelihood;
With none deprived of work against his will,
And none through idleness to reap a gain.
The House of Wealth, the House of Want, George saw
And never rested till he could explain
The way to Justice through the moral law.
Then said, if he had seen a star, he knew
That others, looking up, would see it too.

MABEL L REES

(This poem was written in commemoration of the 55th anniversary of Henry George's death, and was read by the author at the Nov. 1st ceremonies at George's grave in Greenwood Cemetery.)

SAGE COMMENTS

Here's wishing Eileen Kearns an editorial Best Wishes and Congratulations on her recent marriage; Mr. Charles Pearson is the lucky fellow. This will take her away from her job as Night Registrar at the School office, and we will miss her. But she says she will soon be showing up again for SAGE activities.....The sale of dance tickets prior to our SAGE dances is very often frightfully low, but comes the dance and SAGERS and friends show up in gratifying numbers (usually more than 100). Still, this procedure is rough on the nerves of our dance organizers.....Plaudits to Rose Celi & (SAGE's) Carmen Miranda, who have really helped out by doing important volunteer office work in recent weeks.....Some coming issue of Sage's Pages will contain an anti-Georgist article written by someone from the Socialist Rand School, with of course a SAGE rebuttal.....COVER: The quotation comes from P&P, appears on Henry George's gravestone, and therefore is especially appropriate as Oct. 28 is the 55th anniversary of his death.

SQUARE DANCE HELD OCTOBER 20th

To say this last dance was a success, is quite an understatement! We think we can safely say that there wasn't a person who attended, that did not have a rip-roaring good time.

However, there is one thing we are sorry about. We are truly sorry for the folks who couldn't make it!

Hank Green the caller, and his wife were wonderful, and kept activities moving smoothly. This dance was successful in every possible way:

- 1- It made money.
- 2- It brought new faces to the school.
- 3- Guests had a grand social time.
- 4- It interested many new people in the P & P course.

Everybody connected with this dance worked very hard for its success and the result of all this effort was very gratifying. We are all looking forward to the next dance on December 6th, and we are sure that with the wonderful cooperation of the ENTIRE membership the next one will be just as successful as the last.

REMEMBER, it is just as important for you to attend your organization dance as it is to send \$2.00, and it is just as important to introduce your FRIENDS to the school, through the dance, as it is for you to attend yourself.

Come on out and have fun!

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

Saturday, November 1, 1952 was a pleasant Indian Summer day and it provided ideal weather for the ceremonies held at Greenwood Cemetary, Bklyn., in commemoration of the anniversary of Henry George's death. Appropriate comments were made by Rev. Woodbury, Father Duffy and H.B. Goldstein. Robert Clancy directed the proceedings and V. Peterson and Agnes DeMille added words which brought out the significance of the occasion. After the ceremonies, luncheon was had at Michele's Restaurant, and Bklyn. points of interest were visited. Mabel Rees was instrumental in arranging the program and activites, and she was ably assisted by Rose Raskind, Roma Bianco, and Neva Bianco. --T.G.

SPOTLIGHT on IRVING FAUST

Easily one of the more important persons connected with the George Movement in New York is SAGE's own Irving Faust. There are many of us who talk a lot and get nothing done, but Irving talks, yet in addition accomplishes tremendous and specific results for Georgism.

A measure of his worth is that the Distribution Committee, of which he is the chairman and guiding dynamo, is responsible for obtaining the registration of one out of every seven students attending the Henry George School here in New York. During the past registration, 89 out of 538 students came to the School as a result of the Distribution Committee's efforts.

Personal history: Irving was born in Cooper, Texas; he had a definite religious background and studied for the ministry at several schools, receiving a BA degree from Trinity University in Waxahachie and doing graduate work at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. But soon after this, he abandoned the idea of religious work -- he felt that whereas it's emphasis on ethics was commendable and whereas it instilled the proper emotional feeling in the individual, it did not have the complete answer to the problems of life.

After some years at various jobs Irving settled in New York and for the last 14 years he has been working as a social service investigator for the N.Y.C. Dept. of Welfare. After a day's work at this, let no one tell Irving that poverty is not a real problem today.

Irving also has a passionate interest in music (when Irving has an interest, it's passionate). He sings well, participates in many choral groups, is working with a group collecting Armenian folk songs, and is editing a yet-to-be-published anthology on religious hymns. All this in addition to his Georgist work!

It was in 1946, at the urging of Miss Gertrude Shaw, a co-worker in the Welfare Dept., that Irving took his first course at the School. To use his words: "It opened up a new world to me. Disconnected facts fell into place and the Georgist philosophy gave me a new meaning to religion and life".

Irving is a man of unbounded enthusiasm — and optimism, and idealism, and energy. This happy combination is tremendously effective with the people he talks to about Georgism. Sales resistance melts before his torrent of inspired fervor; who can take offense at such sincerity?

Thus, as a master of the personal approach, Irving has found his exact niche in Georgism as head of the Distribution Committee. For a month before each quarterly semester, Irving is "out on the firing line" every weekday night, handing out cards on busy street-corners, bringing in new students, doing more than his share in promoting Georgism.

Measured by the results he accomplishes, or measured by his warm personal qualities, he stands high in the estimation of his fellow SAGERS.

The following is an excerpt from a letter received from one of the correspondence students at the School by Miss Margaret Vitarrius, correspondence instructor:

"I'm really very glad that I've started this courseThe credit for informing me of the Henry George School belongs to a man who was standing outside the Academy of Music one night last March. A recital was just over, and I was coming out, alone, when he stepped in front of me and handed me a card containing notices of a new spring term. When I took it, I merely glanced at it, and thought it was an appeal of some kind. It was not until the next morning that I read it and became interested in the contents..... I wonder what chance of fate made our friend (I guess he is affiliated in some way with the School) give me a card? At any rate, you may be glad to know that his vigil was not in vain, and that I shall always appreciate the service your school is doing for inquiring minds."

Due to an oversight, we regret that Mrs. Ada Shafer's name did not appear after her excellent poem, "Only God Can Make A Law", which was printed in the last issue.

Neva Bianco-Ed.

SCHEDULE

- Nov. 9- Sunday 3:30 - Meeting - Mr. Harvey Dawson on "Semantics & Economics"; also nominations for officers and refreshments & a social hour in the Coffee Shop.
- Dec. 6- Saturday nite 8:30 - Leap Year Dance.
- Dec. 14- Sunday 3:30 - Meeting - Mr. Art Fleming & his amazing feats of legerdemain; also election of officers and refreshments & a social hour in the Coffee Shop.
- Jan. 11- Sunday 3:30 - Installation Dinner - purely social with installation of new officers. At the Coffee Shop.

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All above activities take place at the School. Some activities, social & otherwise, are not listed; for these consult School & SAGE offices. Be seeing you!

NEWS NOTE: Joan Downey & Margaret Norman are heading the new Membership Committee, the purpose of which is to a) make new members feel more at ease in SAGE activities, and b) to take charge of the SAGE 'sales presentation' to F&P graduates at the School's quarterly Completion Exercises, which presentation should result in quite a few graduates joining SAGE. Good luck!!

* S. A. G. E. *
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WHAT YOU CAN DO

You have studied Economics at the Henry George School and have become aware of a great moral truth. You have discovered the reason for poverty and want in the midst of wealth, and the remedy for this has been pointed out.

Now, perhaps, you want to know what you can do to make the Georgist philosophy an active force and an eventual reality. If so, you will be interested in SAGE.

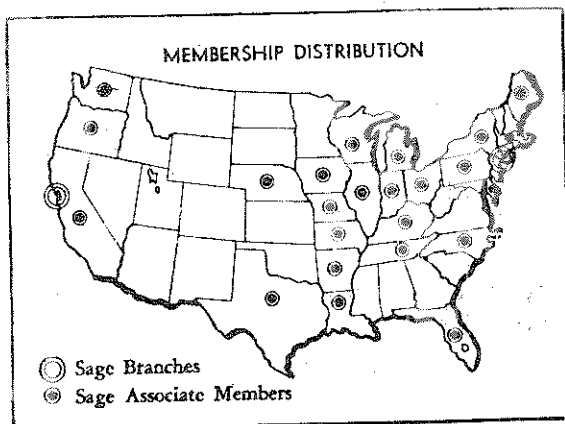
WHAT SAGE IS

SAGE (Society for the Advancement of the George Economy, Inc.) is the alumni organization of the Henry George School. Its two main purposes are:

1. To promote Georgist education.
2. To conduct meetings and social affairs for graduates.

SAGE was formed in April 1948 by a group of active graduates, and is now incorporated under N.Y.S. law as an educational organization. Membership grew from a mere handful into hundreds. A typical activity has been the initiation of a very successful Speaker's Bureau, which is now handled by the School itself, and which send Georgist lecturers to schools and organizations throughout the city.

SAGE has over 350 members throughout the world.



WHAT SAGE DOES

The following committees handle SAGE's various activities:

Distribution - organizes card distribution parties for SAGERS at the beginning of each School term. Course announcements are passed out at public places. A good time is generally had by all, but most important, a surprisingly large number of students come to the School as a result of this activity: almost 1 out of 5 of the School's enrollment!

Social - organizes dances, theatre parties, picnics, socials, theatricals, etc.

Movie-Night - This SAGE committee makes the necessary arrangements for the showing of motion pictures on alternate Fri-

day evenings during the School lecture season.

Steering - When there is a special job to be done, this committee obtains the necessary volunteers. In general, it sees that the organization runs smoothly.

Publications - Edits SAGE's Pages, SAGE's bimonthly magazine, and handles all brochures, printed publicity material, and all radio announcements.

Then there are the administrative committees, such as the Finance, Membership, and Poster Committees, and also the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries.

PROJECTS FOR THE FUTURE

There are many more ways in which SAGE can promote the grand cause of Georgism. Important projects are in the blueprint stage, awaiting only new, capable, and sincere SAGERS to put them into effect. Some of these projects are:

1. Henry George Day - We hope to work toward getting Henry George Day, Sept. 2nd, officially declared in New York City, as has been done in many other cities. SAGE's educational work would be made much easier.
2. Henry George High School - The same would be even more true if we could have a high school named after Henry George.
3. Monthly Letter - Think of the inesti-

mable value of a multigraphed letter giving Georgist views, sent monthly to about 30 leaders in the religious, labor, or business fields!

4. Publicity - Our efforts in the radio field have been increasing but we need new fresh ideas.

5. Musicale - Sponsoring evenings of chamber-music could become a regular and important SAGE activity, bringing publicity and new visitors to the School.

SAGE MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3:30 except during the summer months when they are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30. Consult the SAGE or School offices for details.

At these meetings business matters are briefly handled, after which there is an authoritative lecture or forum on controversial subjects, followed by a social hour in the coffee shop. All graduates are invited to attend.

HOW TO JOIN

It is not enough to see a great evil and to know how to correct it. If you are a graduate with a social conscience, you will want to do your share in bettering the society you live in; you will want to join others who are impelled by the same motives.