NOV

1954

DEC

### A CAUSE FOR REJOICING

In Bible times, so kings might understand
That treasure stolen from a foreign land
Would not bring lasting good, but grief to all,
A message, written on the palace wall,
By Daniel was explained, proclaiming doom,
That changed a scene of gaiety to gloom.

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And so in joyous seasons such as this,
A simple question may not be amiss:
Is plenty at the price of other's toil
Who serve, or build, or cultivate the soil
Deserved I ask, in either peace or war?
False claims like these, all just men must
deplore.

If true, what each one earns should be his gain,

Is not the social lesson also plain:
As common need for land creates its worth,
Its value should be shared by all on earth.
When this is done, and nations heed, at last,
The warning sent Belshazzar in the past,
We may acclaim with, great festivity,
The rule of freedom and equality.
On Christmas then and other holidays,
A hymn of universal thanks we'll raise.





# sage

### Sages' Pages

"Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power." H.G.

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Sage's Pages -- Published every other month by the Society for the Advancement of the George Economy, Inc., 50 East 69 Street, N.Y. 21, N.Y.

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Opinions expressed in SAGE'S PAGES do not necessarily reflect the views of S.A.G.E. Inc.

### LOOKING BACKWARD

We Georgists have our biggest days still to come, and so we keep looking forward. Once in a while, however, a backward glance is befitting.

First-looking back over the year 1954 should give Georgists a sense of gratification. It was a year of special efforts in honoring the 75th Anniversary of that incomparable book, Progress-and-Poverty. I believe that all the extra work done this year by our good friends everywhere our movement has moved two notches higher instead of one toward the final goal of universal acceptance.

Secondly-to look back at that year when Progress and Poverty was written -1879 certainly was an eventful year. So many big things happened that year that are still with us today that it seems highly appropriate that the book we revers made its appearance then.

Here are some 1879 events that have come to my attention:

Edison's first electric light;
Mergenthaler's linotype machine;
Birth of Albert Einstein;
First N.Y. Telephone Directory;
F.W. Woolworth's first store;
Davega Stores started;
First appearance of Ivory Soap;
United Hospital Fund of N.Y.;
Jacob Riis "declares war" on N.Y. slums;
Founding of U.S. Geological Survey;
California Constitution adopted;
Treaty between Germany and Austria;
Founding of Old Vic , London.

There were lots of other events too. In 1954 it seemed that everytime I turned around I saw a reference to some 1879 event. In fact 1879 is a year selected by some historians to date the awakening of the American Conscience to social problems.

We have paused a moment for a glance at the past--now let us move forward again with eyes on the future.

\* The parson preached a sermon on the evil of the TRUST Denouncing it in terms severe as SELFISH and UNJUST. Foretold the country's rain through this consuming VICE, This cutting down of WAGES and putting up of PRICE.

The "Old Man" got excited and forgot where he was at and shouted out in meeting from the place wherein he sat, "You bet the TRUSTS will get it where the CHICKEN got the AX When the PEOPLE get their SENSES and adopt the SINGLE TAX."

A. NONYMOUS

From a poem. THE PROPAGANDIST, sent in by Mrs. E. Stirlith.

On the night of October 26th old echoes have been awakened in the historic hall of Cooper Union by the frequent repetition of the name of Henry George, for he was one of the many distinquished men, who, in former days, made the walls of that well known edifice resound with his eloquence for the cause in which he spoke, and which he evoked the audience for his leadership.

The October rally in this popular meeting place was held as one of the celebrations organized in honor of the Diamond Jubilee of the publication of Progress and Poverty. Not only were many New York Georgists present, but also a goodly number from nearby vicinities.

During the course of the evening references were made by speakers to the fact that it was here, once in 1886, and again in 1897, that Henry George, delivered-his acceptance speeches as candidate for Mayor of New York City, arousing great enthusiasm on both occasions.

Our Henry George School Director, Mr. Robert Clang introduced the chairman of the evening, Mr Arthur Startz, professor of Economics at Cooper Union, who, in turn, introduced the special speakers of the evening-----Mr Raymond Moley, Editor and Contributor of Newsweek, --- and Dr. Charles A. Barker of Johs Hopkins University, who just completed a new book giving many details of Georges life hitherto unpublished. Dr. Moley praised george for his high ethical standards, while Mr. Lawson Purdy, president of the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, in presenting Mr Startz with a copy of one of the Foundation's ----new editions of Progress and Poverty, declared, that the underlying principles of Land-Value-Taxation, as advocated by George, was spreading more rapidly than many people supposed. Unless they were already aware of the fact no one listening to Mr. Purdy's eloquent remarks would have suspected that he was over ninety years of age and knew George personally.

Mabel L Rees

LETTER FROM Mr Henry S. Hubbell. A Correspondence Student.

This looks as though I had reached the end. I have enjoyed it and appreciated the opportunity to have become familiar with Henry George. I have wondered about his for fifty years and regret that I did not sooner read PROGRESS AND POVERTY and his POLITICAL ECONOMY.

I never felt I had a satisfactory course in college and now I feel the reason was that there was none available anywhere.

### MEMORIAL

#### OBSERVANCE

It rained October 30:::
It was the date set aside for two important events:
A visit in the early afternoon to Greenwood Cemetary,
Brooklyn, where Henry George and Tom L. Johnson rest side by side:--1954 marks the 75th anniversary of publication of "P & P", and also the 100 th anniversary of the birth of Tom Johnson, one of Henry--George's unswerving friends; and a SAGE HALLOWE'EN DANCE, in the evening.



As you can see from the picture at the right, a group of loyal Georgists, assembled in the cemetary inspite of the heavy rain. Brief Memorial Exercises were held for both civic leaders. Mr Clancy, our school's director, concluded his remarks by reading the following lines from a poem by Edmand Vance Cooke:

\* Beyond his party and beyond his class
This man forsook the few to serve the mass;
He found us groping leaderless and blind,
He left a city with a civic mind.

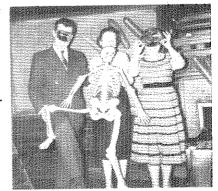
He found us striving each his selfish part. He left a city with a civic heart; And ever with his eye set on the goal, The vision of a city with a soul!

### DANCE

By 8:30 P.M. the rain had subsided. The SAGE DANCE, was a great success!!! Mr Joe Gurghi, a faculty member, and his partner won the WALTZ CONTEST. Mrs Belle Franke, sold the raffle tickets on the floor for a set of glass-

es, donated to Sage, by Mr Sy Winters. The drawing took place —it turned out that non other than Belle Frank won the prize: It was Bob Clancy's niece Lois, who picked the winning number—for her. Miss Jane Niegood,——a talented member of SAGE,——gave us a lovely dance performance. Many thanks to all who—contributed their efforts to make the dance a success.

\* Written in honor of---TOM L. JOHNSON.



Sunday, November 14, was the day of the important S.A.G.E. meeting for the nomination of officers for the year 1955.

In the absence of the president, Mr. A. David Jackson, Miss Roma Bianco presided at the meeting. Mrs. Rose Rafkind, chairman of the moninating committee for offices for the coming year, read the names of candidates proposed for the various positions. They are as follows:

President - Norman Casserley Vice-President - T.O. Bohee Sy winters

Treasurer - Roma Bianca

Recording Secretary - Vivian Killian-Rodney

Corresponding Secretary - Elizabeth Griffiths

Following the nominations, Mr. Frank Bang and Miss Elaine Weiner, reported on the financial and social activities, particularly concerning the Halloween Dance.

After a short intermission for refreshments in the Coffee Shop, the members returned to the auditorium where the guest speaker, Dr. Edmund Hillpern, Moderator of St. Martin's Discussion Group, spoke on the theme, "A Time for Greatness", in conjunction with a documentary film of "The Quakers' Idea for Peace". Dr. Hillpern stressed the importance of continuing and persistant negotiations tending toward the reduction of armaments, and the elimination of poverty as a cause of war.

Many interesting questions and enthusiastic discussion followed. The discussion closed with the suggestion by Dr. Hill-pern that some plan might be devised whereby, in the future, both the American Friends Service Committee and the Georgists might work more closely together as many of their ideals are the same.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Elementary, secondary and junior college teachers who are also Georgists no doubt know that the International Educational Exchange program of the State Department has teaching posts available abroad for 1955-56. Teachers interested in availing of this

opportunity to further their profession abroad and at the same time doing a little pioneering on international Georgist frontiers can find further information in a publication just issued by the U.S. Office of Education or by writing to this column.

### INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Other people, we know, can produce certain goods more cheaply and efficiently than we, or goods which we cannot produce at all. Clearly, both we and they stand to gain through equitable exchange of their products for the ones which we produce best. Through trade both our lives and theirs become richer and more protective.

But when tariff and other barriers have been raised against such exchange, two results have occurred; either our goods have pileduy on our side of the barrier and theirs on the other; or we simply gave them the goods or money to "buy" the goods; in either case, we both have been the poorer.

American ingenuity and productivity need no artificial protection or tariffs in trade with free peoples. Competition itself has forced great advances in efficiency.

The National Catholic Rural L i f e Conference, therefore, stands for the gradual and progressive removal of tariff and other obsticles to trade among free nations.

When the removal or lowering of tariff barriers causes severe and unavoidable hardship to certain

American groups, then the nation as a whole, which benefits from the change. should offer assistance in adapting the capital free labor to more efficient uses. Where damage might be done to an industry or occupation which is vital in national defense, then aid should be in the form of direct subsidy rather a tariff. Thus the American taxpayer would know where and how his tax dollar is being spent and what he is getting for it.

Farm produce of necessity moves in international channels. Our country produces more food and fiber than we can now use, while some other countries, without the natural resources and technical know-how which we enjoy, are hard put to keep their people from starving.

The self-respect of peoples demands the opportunity of earning their own way. This cannot be accomplished unless we are willing to accept their goods in exchange for ours.

God does not intend that any country should consider itself a sort of Paradise within which it enjoys the best of His material blessings while the rest of mankind struggle outside for meagre existence."

Extract from the Official Policy adopted by the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, 32nd Annual Convention, '54

## INTERNATIONAL

### PAGES

Morman S. Casserley

\*South America, the U.S.S.R., slums of the U.S.A. \* and. before we know it. we wondering about \*application of Full Land Taxation Free \* Value and \* Trade the whole world.

International \* Secretary for the HGSSS. is job to explore the of spreading ⊾ nossibilities \*Full Land Value Taxation and Trade to countries \_outside of the U.S.A., . Canada and England. purpose in writing here is of the many to answer some questions that people such you ask me about social the world economics onEverybody question and wants to be in the project, it seems. Is Full Land Value Taxation and Free Trade universally applicable? Is it practical. and timely, to spread it to other countries? Do other people want it? Are people s on other continents interested in the land, land reform. oragrarian reform? Are WE really interested i n peoples abroad? What are conditions abroad really like from our viewpoint? What like Tito's dictatorships Yugoslavia, Franco's Spain. the U.S.S.R? How are first contacts abroad made? we have the names of penfriends? How can we help?

Every time your latest Sage's Pages arrives, turn \* to these middle two pages the answers to these and more exciting questions Then do me a favor. Write me a word or two (whether "Good luck" "You're or crazy") or a long manuscript Ιn about your pet ideas. this way, the task will be vours and mine, not just mine alone. Every communication will be answered during Sage time, of course, not during work time at the School .

international The started off project has but satisfactorily. slowly There is nothing very concrete to build on. individuals have been contacted on all the known (!) continents - South America, Australia, Africa, Europe. Countries Asia. in which ground is being prepared are, Italy, Japan, Belgium, Isreal, Germany, the Gold Tasmania, Basutoland, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Yugoslavia, Existing Georgists Burma. been re-contacted in and Argentina, and stronger links are being forged between International Headquarters and existing Schools in England, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

movement Georgist with political party that in 1950 increased its number members in Parliament from 6 to 12. It is called the Justice Party and has youth division, the Justice Youth Party. which is good contact with us through personal representatives who visit us from time to time. abroad Among those whose reactions to us so far have not been unfavorable Hindu Prince, a European Baron, two university presidents and a secretary Asian trade union. to anEnglish speaking group An and a Spanish speaking group students are of about to start in Habana. Cuba. group of 12 is at the same stage in Karachi, capital of \*Pakis**tan .** A 300-student group has received its first correspondence course lesson in Formosa and another 500-Formosa student group inasked for enrollment has cards.

as Sagers are far this news concerned. mean not only possibilities of increase in Sage memberand anexpansion of ship activities into Sage international sphere but necessity also the to prepare NOW, in advance, for such expansion.

Spreading the into international field does not  $^st$ mean merely making a mathe- $^st$ matical increase in present \*activities. It also means overcoming both practical \*and intangible problems not \*met with on the national \*scene home. at It may be \*advisa**ble** to set-up an

that can later be developed into an international comif mittee warranted future expansion. Studying\* the psychology and tactics of the international scene\* itself provide\* would in than enough activity\* more for such  $\mathbf{a}$ post. example, published material\* for abroad, such as Sage's\* Pages. mav have to studied more carefully with\* respecting\* to incidental sentiments far-off lands that may not coincide with\* always incidental sentiments home. especially in denomand \* inational religion party politics. Foreign activities may have to be studied from foreign viewpoints, if possible, before \* publication of opinions on \* foreign affairs.

It may be possible to present articles in Sage's Pages in simple language \* for new foreign students \* with only a beginner's \* knowledge of English. Even occasional articles in foreign languages may be advisable.

As a practical example. in which you can help right now: It has been 'suggested \* that we refer less often to \* Henry George as "America's \* greatest economist" and. \* instead, call him "One of \* world's the greatest \* economists", Anyone read- \* ing this page can help the \* cause right now be sending \* a few lines to this column \* expressing a viewpoint one \* way or the other on this stquestion. All communicat- \* ions will be answered. 

PERSONAL GLIMPSES

OF

HENRY GEORGE DAY

im Arden

by Meva Bianco



It was August 26. The summer of 1954 was almost over. Most important of all it spelled the end of my free week-ends. My thoughts naturally turned to arden Delaware, where Henry George's birthday would be celebrated August 28th in the Community's Field Theatre.

It was so easy to pack my grip and go! As Joseph Stockman of Philadelphia often says, "All you need when, you go to a Georgist function is the suit of clothes you are wearing and a tooth-brush." So on August 27th my sister and I boarded the train at Penn Station and just 3 hours later we were in Wilmington, Delaware. After a restful night at the Hotel Rodney opposite Rodney Square, we took a bus to Arden.

#### Arden

Arden is a unique community. It was founded in 1900 by a sculptor, Frank Stevens and an Architect, Will Price. They were both ardent Georgists believing both in his economic reform and his philosophy of freedom. in its early days Arden was made up of artists and writers—later crafts developed. Now it is noted for its community theatrical work. Its outdoor theatre forms settings for many of Shakespear's plays and modern productions of George Bernard Shaw's dramas.

Arden is located 6 or 7 miles north of Wilmington-just about one mile below the Pennsylvania Delaware state line. It covers 164 acres. The land is held in a deed of trust and 3 trustees see that the provisions, of the deed are observed. No one owns his lease-hold, in arden. Each one has a 99 year lease and pays annual rent to the community for the use of the land. He pays no tax on his improvements or school tax or state road tax, etc. He pays his personal income tax and "hidden-taxes." The trustees pay Federal, State, and Community-taxes on Real Estate. The balance of the fund is spent on communal projects that will not benefit one individual above another.

We were very fortunate to have a special invitation from Mrs Anne Ross, a resident of Arden, and a fine Georgist, to meet on her lawn before the ceremony. It was there that we exchanged friendly greetings with her sister Mrs Katherine Ross--Sagers will remember that Mrs. Ross kept her appointment to speak at the S.A.G.E. sponsored friday at Eight Program, inspite of a blinding snow and wind storm---she came all the way from Arden. Soon our little group grew. We were joined by Joseph Stockman and his young daughter Eleanor, Lu Cippoloni, and Julian Hickok---all from Philadelphia and by Mr and Mrs Frank Stirlith of nearby Wilmington; Readers of the July--Angust issue of Sage's Pages, may recall that Mrs. Elizabeth Stirlith was the heroine of an article entitled, A SIMPLE ROAD TO HENRY GEORGE. It is also of interest to note here that through her husband's efforts an extract of this article was reprinted in the WILMINGTON-LABOR HERALD, credit for it given to SAGE.

In the early afternoon we assembled in the Field-Theatre-a treat in itself-the sun smiled on the natural setting--to celebrate neary George's birthday; an annual custom in Arden. Don Steven, son of one of the founders of Arden, welcomed as with a brief account of the history of Arden-Town and the newest community-Arden-Croft. Mr Hamilton Ware, a trustee of Arden, appealed to the Henry George School, to appoint a group of its graduates to make a study of Land-Values in Arden for the purpose of aiding them in their work. Mr Stockman, reviewed the high-lights of both the California and Ohio Conference held this year.

The speaker who interested me most was Mrs. Kitty Ross; ---- I take the liberty to quote from her speech:

"One of the most important lessons to be learned from the past is that mere edict and command cannot last, anymore than planning, regulations andrestrictions which together with the loss to society of its Rent for the use of land so violently upsets the peace and progress of the world today. For these things are unnatural; they interfere with the inherent rights of the individual, and they are not in harmony with the natural laws, that should govern our relations with the natural earth that succors us. Besides, we should get down to FUNDAMENTALS, together than the succors are principles, if we hope to survive, and lay the foundation for a new day."

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Picture taken at Field Theatre before ceremony-seated-Kitty Ross, Mrs E. Stirlith, Neva Bianco; second row--Mr Frank Stirlith and Joe Stockman. Excerpt from a Recent Real Estate Newspaper Advertisement.

### REMEMBER ?

A FEW GOOD LAND INVESTMENTS ARE WORTH A LIFETIME OF EARNINGS : "

The exclamation point appearing above was added by our editorial board. Her we have one reason, but a significant one for belief in rising rents.

### TR55

### RENT

1954

By Mabel L. Rees

In 1855, in a little volume called "Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver", a number of stories written by school children in Public School 20, in what was then Ward 15 in New York City, were collected by the school authorities for publication.

One of these compositions, "Distress for Rent" describes the sad plight of a widow and her children being forced from their home because they were unable to pay the rent. by one nearly all household articles are sold and yet there is not enough to meet the land-"At length, " lord's demands. we read, "the dreaded quarterday came round and with it came punctually the hard-fisted, cruel landlord. He raved and threatened -- gave them but 3 days to meet the rent deadline and then came back with the heart-hardened sheriff. monster in human shape looked upon the disaster before him as a trick to cajole .... while the landlord saw only dollars, or the place where they should be. A home in the streets was the only alternative".

But, at this critical juncture the tale continues, "a stranger appears upon the sad scene", who later turns out to

be none other than a philanthropic trustee of the school attended by the unfortunate children. He pays the overdue rent, and the day is saved.

Now, in 1954, almost a hundred years later, we sometimes meet with similar situations. We have Welfare Departments and private charitable institutions to step into the breach and mitigate such hardships, and of course, not all landlords are like the one described by the school boy. Georgists, however, have no quarrel with landlords as individuals, but do oritio-ize the system which permits the private collection of the publicly created land value, which is in economic terms what constitutes "Rent", and which, being created by all, should be used for the benefit of all.

On the other hand, amounts paid for the occupancy of an apartment, office, factory, or store, properly called "interest" justly belongs to the owner of the same.

The actual labor of building or payment for the improvement under a Georgist plan, out of earnings saved from the expenditure of effort in other lines, makes this income justifiably his. If this distinction

tion were made, landlords as a class would not be subjected to such general opprobrium, even when they, themselves, are kindly disposed.

That rents still tend to rise out of proportion to wages is corroborated by the fact that for years government found it necessary to enact rent controls, while labor unions, on the other hand, through legislative action and other means, extend their efforts to compel the payment of adequate wages to meet the rising cost of living, due not only to higher prices for commodities but for rents as well. Even yet we are not entirely free of rent controls and taking a world-wide view, George taught us, we should in any consideration of political economy, if there is not still

a demand for speculative rents, why are to many poverty stricken people still suffering for the lack of land?

Another thing to bear in mind when considering certain statistics on this subject which tend to lead to an opposing conclusion, is the question as to whether only a small rather than a large percentage of the full economic, or ground-rent, is being collected for public, rather than for private use. If. New York City, for instance, a just amount of the land value is now taken for community purposes, how is it possible that there are still so many slum and inadequately improved sites.particularly when some of these are found in areas like those bordering upon such valuable developements as those of the United Nations?

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### A "P&P" CORRESPONDENCE STUDENT WRITES 1 -

Dear Mr. Murphy:

Since the beginning of the course, I have been tempted to turn to the back of the book, and see just how the problem was to be resolved...(in effect, "who got the girl")...and as I have progressed in the lessons, the temptation grew even stronger. But I did not skip ahead, rather have taken it step by step with the lessons.

But the question was there....with every page I read.....and at odd times of the day, I have tried to figure an answer for my-self. I never did. I was prepared for some complex and even bizarre system....so that when I got to that part of the book which said....."tax the land, and collect the tax through the existing machinery".....it was so simple that I was astounded. I have talked this course over a bit with friends who do not get interested. Most people are just too busy to be concerned with what should be of primary concern. After this lesson, with its sensible solution, I shall talk about it even more. I may not get any new students for you, but I shall start the idea wherever I can.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Sterling

### "THAT WOULD BE MICE..."

### By Dale Breaden

I have been attending the University of Kentucky for four months, and during that time I have had several debates concerning economics and the Single Tax with a number of very interesting but ill-informed individuals. The most intelligent reply I have received from any college student concerning the question of Land-Value taxation is, "That would be nice---if they would just take it in one chunk and let it go at that." The boy may have missed the point of my argument but at least he was agreeing. I must say that that was not the case with others. They had no inclination to agree.

I must side with George in his statements concerning the teaching of economics in colleges. It is truly a poor excuse for education when a man spends four years being taught modern marketing, cut-throatism, and econ-omics and has never heard the word Justice mentioned by his professors. In fact these four year men, who claim to expert in a field I could (according to them) not know anything about, cannot, when challenged, define any of those terms which a Georgist considers basic to his education and understanding.

These people have been trained in reactionary tradition of " fanatic nationalism," and they seem to find -it impossible to see beyond California, Canada, Mexico, and the eastern Seaboard as concerns economics. They deny emphatically the necessity for International Free-Trade, claiming that it would destroy our infant industries. -- ( If this is true, then it seems that our industries are destined to remain "infant" as long as Orphan Annie has) They do not logically refute Free--Trade, but merely refuse to see the interdependence of one nation upon another. No analogy will suffice to persuade them.

Education is a <u>marvelous</u> thing for in it lies power but our Universities are mis-handling it terribly. The world today requires, even demands, an answer to the Land-Question and yet we graduate <u>men and women supposedly trained</u> in economics who have no conception of the importance of this greatest of social problems. They know how to show a profit to business, but not how to show profit to mankind. What's more————they will, in general, never know. I honestly feel that they are so well indoctrinated that they will never learn———that they will never see the Torch of Liberty, however brightly it may shine.

It is not in economics "majors" that we shall find our aid and our comfort—it is in those who think as the one who I before mentioned thought, that, "That would be nice...", that we shall find our future. These people, who constitute the mass, are willing to see the torch—they are willing to learn——they will learn——if we teach them.

We have no George now to be our living spirit---We must make our own way in the darkness. As the crowd thickens the spirit will grow and from the darkness will emerge a renaissance of justice, achieved by those who thought, "That would be nice...!!"

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### International Correspondence Bureau

Due to special efforts of B.J. Meeks. Ph.D., D.D., in the U.S.A., and Miss Anna-Maria Braun. professional pen-friend maker, you can now do something else positive and concrete to spread the true science of social economy and at the same time provide yourself with an enjoyable pastime and new friends. If you to Miss Braun at write Lindwurmstrasse 126a, Munich 15, West Germany, marking your envelope International Correspondence Bureau", she can put you in contact with many kinds and types of interesting English speaking people who wish to make new friends and learn about new ideas. Miss Braun knows university students and teachers especially interested in writing to similar students and teachers.

The service is free for obtaining pen-friends Germany, but Miss Braun would appreciate 10 international postal coupons (obtainable at post office - make sure to have them dated at post office) to cover forwarding postage should you wish for pen-friends in foreign countries other than Germany, for 12 letters from you. Should vou wish her to contact non-English speaking pen-friends for you, she suggests 20 coupons for 12 letters.

Miss Braun's own professional pen-friend work is not attached to any governmental, political, or religious movement. She has ten years' licensed experience at this interesting type of activity.

Norman S. Casserley

COVER -- Poem by Mabel L. Rees.