

# A L U M N I

JAN

FEB



## In Freedom's Shrine

That freedom from a foreign king  
So long ago was won,  
Is due unto the leadership  
Of Gen'ral Washington.

In pain and strife of Civil War  
The slaves, at last, were freed,  
When Lincoln took his pen in hand,  
And thus it was decreed.

The greatest foe of liberty  
By Henry George made clear,  
Consists in widespread poverty  
Prevailing far and near.

And since George found the remedy  
To overcome this shame,  
Some day his bust will surely be  
Within the Hall of Fame.

M.L.R.

# 1957

11963

# ALUMNI BULLETIN

Dear Reader:

This year the Henry George School celebrates its 25th anniversary. Its first quarter century has been marked by great strides and it launches its second quarter-century with a realization that even greater strides are needed.

In 1932, when the School was founded, there were serious problems indeed. A depression had settled over the entire world like a black pall. In Germany, the Nazis were getting ready with their solution to the problem. In this country, welfare-statism was gathering its forces.

Much has happened since then. And the world of 1957 is quite different from the world of 1932. A terrible world war has eliminated the Nazi method of violence as an answer to economic problems. The welfare state, on the other hand, has conquered the civilized world. We can be grateful that the Nazis didn't get any farther with their "solution" - but we Georgists do not exactly rejoice at the triumph of the welfare state. We think there's a better answer - namely, the way pointed out by Henry George to increase economic opportunities without dependence on giant government.

The world of 1957 still has grave unsolved problems which are not so very different, after all, from the problems which have bedevilled the world; lo, these many years. The spectres of war and poverty still stalk the earth.

The Henry George School has a big job ahead of it. Your help in the great work of education will be decisive in the years to come.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert Clancy*

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Alumni Bulletin--Published by the Alumni of the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 East 69 Street, New York 21, New York.

Roma Bianco, Chairman; Sumner Bohee, Neva Bianco, Vivian Kiliaen-Rodney, Larry Kobak, Rita Kobak.

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# STUDENT'S SPEECH

There seems to be a tendency today, to fail to distinguish, to discern, to 'segregate', if I may use the word in its non-sociological sense. The general trend appears to be a viewing of the Whole, the Entirety, at the expense of the parts. Allow me to explain:

Let us suppose we have a wheel, a large wagon wheel with spokes. The present-day of looking at things limits perception to seeing only the whole wheel. But the wheel has spokes --and although they are components of the whole wheel, simply parts of the wheel, each spoke is nevertheless an entity in itself, a separate entirety. The spokes may exist separate from each other. But the wheel cannot exist without the spokes. If its parts were missing, it would no longer be a wheel.

Today, in certain quarters of political thinking there is the tendency to view the State as supreme. But a State, like a wheel, has components: people, institutions made up of people, and land in the broad Georgist sense. Now these people, components of the State, can exist independent of the State --although, like the dispersed spokes, they would not travel very far. Thus we see that essentially it is the individual who counts, not the State; that the State is dependent for its being on the people. Still, there is the tendency to view the State as some supreme Over-All, to turn as it pleases and carry what load it pleases independent of the strength of the spokes, i. e. of the people. What happens is obvious. The components crack under the strain.

Today the tax abomination which is presenting itself to the people of New York is becoming a strain. But people are not spokes, they do not wait until they crack under the strain. Because there are other places where the fiscal policy is less severe, people are quitting New York City. Institutions, i. e. large business houses are planning to establish themselves outside the State. There have been overt threats of this sort printed in our newspapers. And those who leave the State will be the more sensitive, i. e. the cream of the crop. It most likely will be the less able who remain, and thus the State will move on a path where it will lose financial leadership.

It appears plausible to say that the only method of alleviating the trend of migrating from the city, to preserve the commonweal is a change in the ponderous, nuisance-ridden tax system. We must admit that the city, as well as the State does need the money, but the methods of raising it are proving to be annoying. If the present trend continues, it is feasible to say the city (and state) will suffer through migration. If the tax system can be modified, there is a good possibility that people and business will stay.

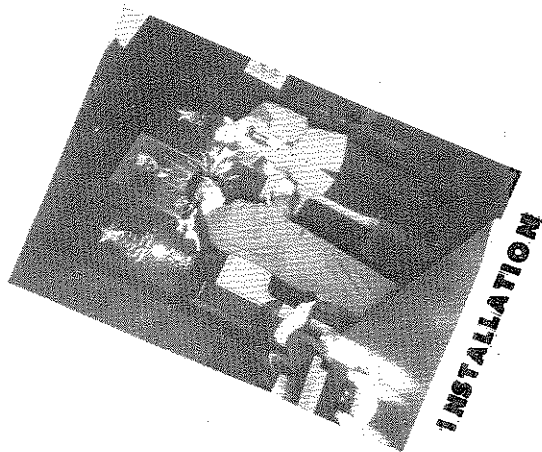
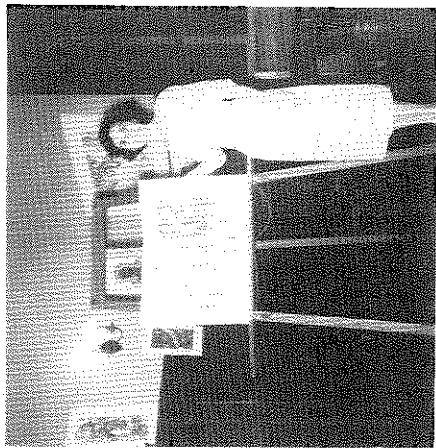
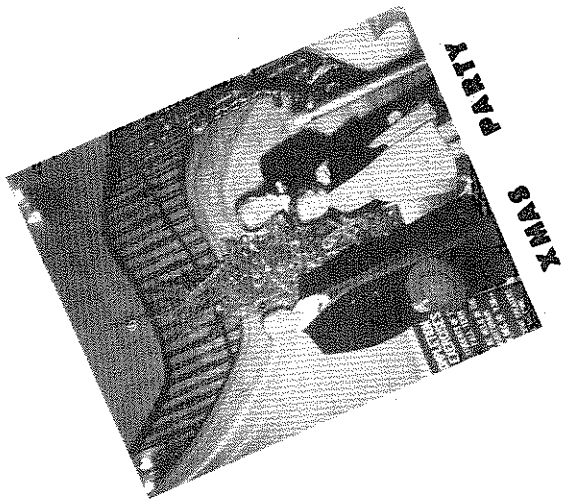
Thorne Mackenzie

# NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY



Scenes from the New Year's Party held at 50 E 69 St., on Dec. 31, 1956 to usher in the 25th year of the founding of the Henry George School by Oscar Geiger. Above are 3 scenes from party. Mrs. Rose Glancy was first guest to arrive--picture shows her being greeted by Larry Kobak. Other two pictures show dancers under the spell of the Light House Orchestra.

# ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



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Snap shots taken at 1956 Alumni Christmas Party held at the School. We were lucky to have Sid Evans of San Diego, Calif. with us. He posed with Young Debbie Roy and Neva Bianco in front of school's tree.

Elaine Wener opened her art exhibit at Christmas Party. Paintings were displayed in conference room next to library.

Robert Glancy officially installed Larry Kobak as Alumni secretary at Dec meeting.

## **IDEALS AND COMPROMISES IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION**

**S. T. BOWEE**

The close of the 19th century emphasized certain tensions and problems which were not resolved, and have been carried over into the mid-20th century period.

The stress engendered by these problems has been modified considerably by an atmosphere of balance and compromise. This has produced something like a moderate, political democracy, a moderate nationalism-individual enterprise, balanced by strict moral codes and conventional religion. As a result we have encouraged scientific advances and stimulated industry, material inequalities, and have created a higher standard of living for the "proletariat", along with some intellectual and artistic achievement.

At the present mid-20th century period, culture in the west seems to reflect a feeling of independence and self-sufficiency. The basis for this attitude may be found in the magnetism of western values for the Eastern world, especially with regard to material progress.

Despite the pessimistic conclusions of Spengler, and other self-appointed undertakers to western civilization, certain favorable generalizations may be offered. First, the natural sciences have flourished in the west, as in no other culture. The emergence of intellectual freedom and the decline of superstition and dogma have contributed to these advances. Moreover, science, the servant of all mankind, has broken thru the barriers of separation;- the territorial and political barriers, and the nation-states. In this respect science has shown the way to religion, and commerce.

A further gain, and one of vast importance is the acceptance, without dissent, of what is called the dignity of man, or as phrased by Walter Lippman, 'the inviolability of the human person'. Men may not be treated as things (in the western world) and their souls at least, are in equality before God.

However, all is not idealistic and without conflict. The gap between the ideal and the real, like the horizon, is just as broad as ever. Conflict in the contemporary culture centers around values:- what values to choose, and what to emphasize. At one end of the scale, the ancient, but not quite modern, Christian ideal would embrace the ascetic, the non-worldly, the resignation of strife and desire, for the atmosphere of peace, unity and contentment. It would be unkind no doubt, to suggest that these ideals are better suited to a life after death, rather than to a mortal world where statics is a concept without meaning.

## Ideals and Compromises

At the other end of the scale (and perhaps the weighted end) is the familiar 'ikon' of the western, dynamic culture - the passion for perfection - or shall we say, the passion to excell. Unfortunately the fanatical drive for superiority is not too choicy in its selection of ends. The all out drive for superiority of any kind is regarded as favorable, if only it is a measure of superiority as such. The juvenile baseball enthusiast for example is spurred to extreme effort, even it produces a detrimental psychological effect on his immature personality.

These are the extremes in the conflicts of contemporary culture. The concept of the golden mean and the principle of compromise seems the wiser course. There is a responsibility, however, that rests upon the 'enlightened' minority. The 'unenlightened' majority, at the base of the western cultural struggle, has rushed to feast, without restraint, at the banquet table of materialism. No longer are they restricted to the crumbs that fall from this banquet table, but they now take their places as a matter of natural rights.

It should be remembered that this overwhelming preference for the material over the cultural, emanates from the pecuniary aristocracy of our contemporary age. It is the royal power elite that worships acquisition for its own sake, and makes use of power and privilege, not merely to perpetuate their position, but to secure the legal sanction to protect these rights. Small wonder then, that the one-time styled 'proletariat' imitates and envies this privileged aristocracy, and strives to bridge the gap between one economic level to another.

Will the high priests of 20th century culture assume the task of refining and educating the value preferences of the barbarian groups in high and low levels? The ideal cultural end is not merely a self-sufficient, economic man, armed with property and the vote, but a cultured man, who has been inculcated into all the values of his environment - a man who has been educated, not necessarily to create, but to contemplate, - to speculate, and to enjoy all of the cultural offerings of his society.

Such is the challenge of the mid-20th century civilization.

## Photographers: Attention

We are preparing a collection of still photographs of land speculation in New York for our visual aids program. Any photographs which you might care to send in would be appreciated.

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## Did You Know?

The Correspondence Department is now giving courses in Fundamental Economics in Spanish and French. Preparations are also being made to offer the course in German and Italian.



To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits of it. White parasols, and elephants mad with pride are the flowers of a grant of land.--Sir Wm. Jones's translation of an Indian grant of land, found at Tanna.

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The widow is gathering nettles for her children's dinner: a perfumed seigneur, delicately lounging in the Oeil de Boeuf, hath an alchemy whereby he will extract from her the third nettle, and call it rent.---Carlyle.



## SCENE AROUND

LARRY KOSAK

### Attention Teachers

Actually, opportunities for teachers at headquarters (50 E. 69th) are limited. Although several teachers would have liked to teach two classes this term, the limited number of available classrooms would not permit this. There were also many teachers who didn't get to teach at all because of the limited number of possible classes. However, Irving Faust is teaching three classes and Bruno Eichert is teaching two. How is this possible? Well, they are not teaching at headquarters but at locations, such as libraries, which are situated near their homes. Once the bounds of the limited number of classrooms are thrown aside (as they are when we use the facilities of libraries, Y.M.C.A.'s, etc.) the potential for expansion increases to infinity. Any teacher who feels that he would like to increase the number of classes he teaches need do no more to implement this desire than contact me at the Henry George School. (Locations are relatively easy to secure and are adaptable as to possible hours and days of the week for the class.)

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### Farewell.....Welcome

Michael C. Finken, Librarian at International Headquarters, is doing something about becoming international himself. He has accepted a job as a Librarian for the U.S. Air Force which will take him to France for two years.

Habitues of the school will miss Mike Finken and recall his ready smile and keen sense of humor. No need to dispair, though, Mike is only taking a leave of absense and will return to the school in 1959.

Filling in for Mike Finken as Librarian, will be Miss Muriel Fuller. As you may remember, Miss Fuller held the postion of Henry George School Librarian prior to our Monsieur to be's tenure. Bon voyage -- Mike Finken. Welcome -- Muriel Fuller.

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### Sales Manual

Interested in getting more students for the school. Then polish up your sales technique. Noah Alper, Director of the St. Louis School, has prepared a "sales manual", which the New York School is reprinting. This "manual" contains many good suggestions for improving your effectiveness as a promoter of the Henry George School. A copy may be secured by writing to yours truly.

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## **Bare Facts**

An answer to anyone who feels that a tax on land would be to the disadvantage of farmers in proportion to city land owners, may be found in the following statistic recently issued:

Almost half of the real estate value of New York State (50,000 square miles) is in New York City (350 square miles).

NEW YORK SUNDAY NEWS item on editorial page, in column "Voice of the People", over by-line "Fed-up": "Why, if this government is run by the people and for the people, can't the people have their income tax lowered when it is perfectly obvious that most of us are opposed to such high taxes?"

Section VI of the Clayton Act of 1914, still in force, represents the official policy of the USA in the following words "The labor of a human being is not a commodity or article of commerce."

## **Bargain**

Land and Liberty, the Georgist journal published in England by the United Committee for the Taxation of Land Values, is out in a new and more expensive format. This fact alone is big news but what shocked us out of our skins is the fact that they have reduced the subscription price from \$2 per year to \$1 per year. Those who are not already subscribers may send their dollars to the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 50 East 69th Street, New York 21, N.Y., which is acting agent for this informative publication.

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## **Clubmen and Clubwomen**

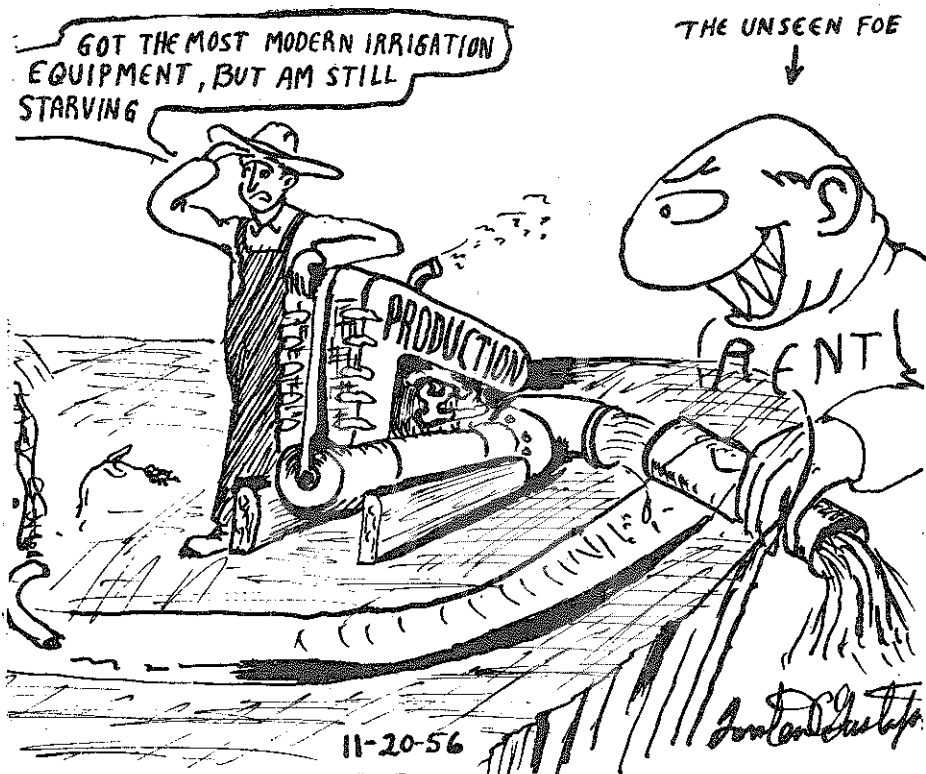
You may want to call the attention of the program director of your club to the following fact. The Henry George School supplies, without charge, expert speakers on topics relating to economics. Interested parties may write to yours truly for a brochure.

## **BEG PARDON \*\*\*\*\***

In the Nov-Dec issue of Alumni Pages we stated in error that Miss C. Lois Jessop Would assist Bob Rodriguez with his project to make a film of the Henry George School.

Very Sorry Lois.

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If invention and improvement still go on, the efficiency of labor will be still further increased, and the amount of labor and capital necessary to produce a given result further diminished. The same causes will lead to the utilization of this new gain in productive power for the production of more wealth; the margin of cultivation will again be extended, and rent will increase, both in proportion and in amount, without any increase in wages and interest. And, so, as invention and improvement go on, constantly adding to the efficiency of labor, the margin of production will be pushed lower and lower, and rent constantly increased, though population should remain stationary. Progress and Poverty H. George.

**Another Drawing From Sweden**

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