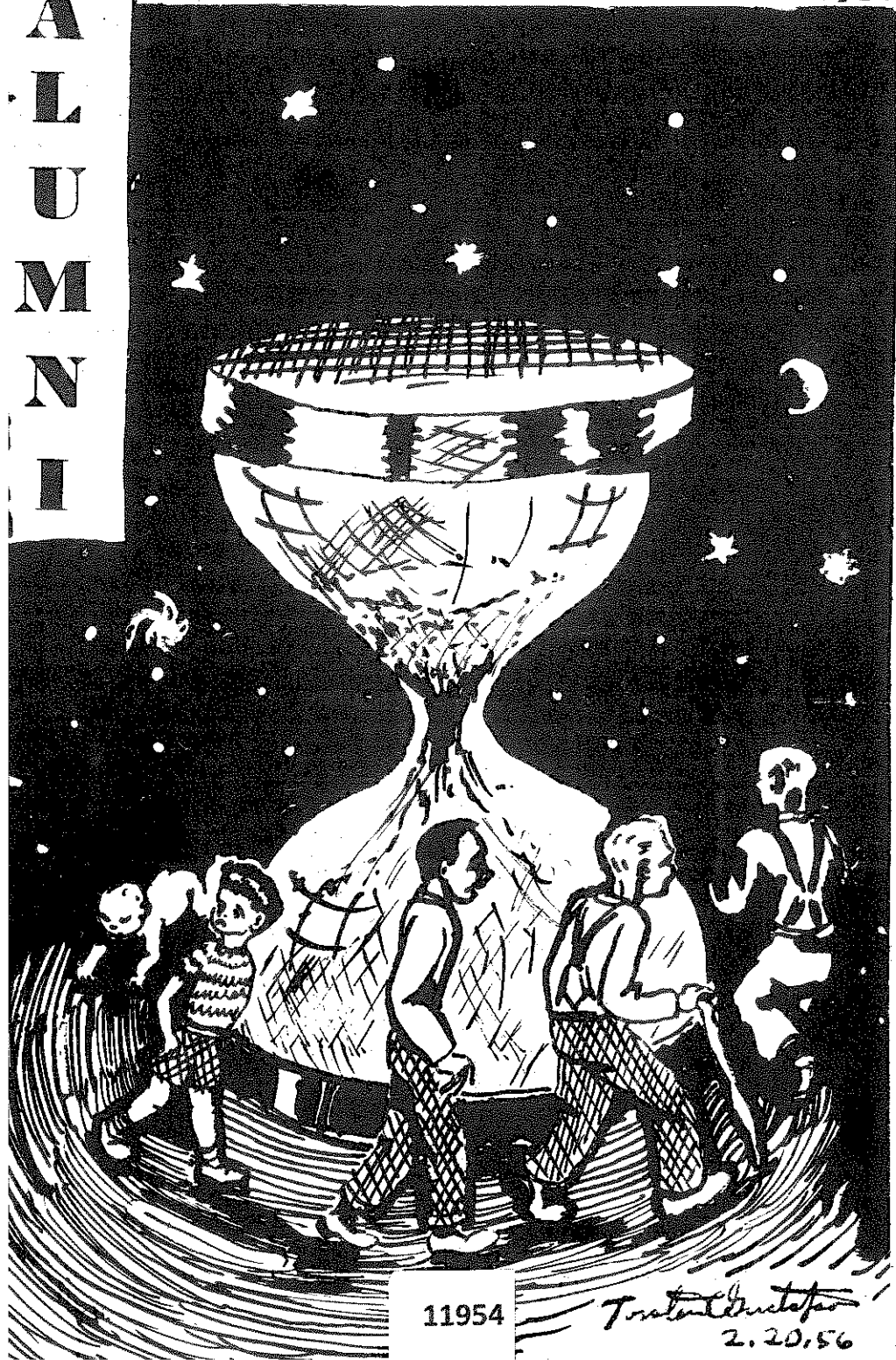


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# A L U M N I



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T. Gustafson  
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# ALUMNI PAGES

Dear Reader:

Here at 50 East 69th Street we always seem to be in the midst of current excitements. Very close to us is the Jewish National Fund building, and the people there have lunch at our School. We thus feel close to the Israel situation.

As you may know, the Russians have their UN delegation building just around the corner from us, and that alone provides many shows. The most recent are the parades in front of their building by angry Hungarian patriots and sympathizers. On November 8, the anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, the Russians were having a cocktail party inside, while a huge crowd of pro-Hungarian demonstrators surged outside. So large was the crowd that they spilled over into 69th Street and the street was barricaded by the cops. Our students had some difficulty in getting through, but got through they did. I visited our classes that night, and against the angry shouts heard from the street below, I saw our students earnestly applying themselves to the study of the solution to our economic problems. It brought to mind Henry George's comment: "Social reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting, etc. but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas."

Not that we don't heartily sympathize with the Hungarians and all other victims of brutal aggression. But these things have been a long time a-brewing. They are the result of deeds and deliberations that have been building up. They are not going to vanish just because an outcry is made. What we are doing at the Henry George School is laying the groundwork for the deliberations and deeds of the future. What we are doing is preparing the way for a better, saner, happier world.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert Clancy*

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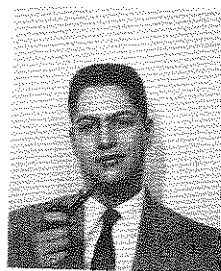
ALUMNI PAGES---Published by the Alumni of the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 East 69 St., N.Y.

EDITORIAL BOARD---Roma Bianco, Chairman; Sumner Bohee, Neva Bianco, Vivian Kilian-Rodney, Larry Kobak, Rita Kobak.

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## Meet

### The New Alumni Secretary



Larry Kobak is no stranger to readers of Alumni Pages, nor to visitors at 50 East 69th St. Larry does just about every kind of chore you can imagine. The only thing new about his current status is the title.

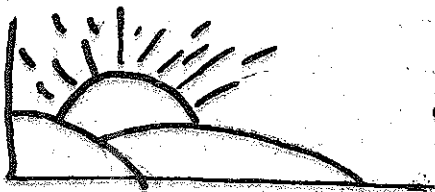
But --- just what is an "Alumni Secretary"? Well let's explain it historically.

When our former alumni organization, S.A.G.E. disbanded, Norman S. Casserley was its President. Norman was also on the Henry George School staff at the time as International Secretary, and his duties were enlarged to include alumni affairs as part of his School duties --- he became "Alumni Secretary". This meant carrying on just about the same kind of activities as were done by S.A.G.E. --- calling monthly meetings, initiating other alumni activities such as dances, excursions, etc., lining up volunteer help for the School, seeing that Alumni Pages gets published and distributed --- and, in general, keeping up with the School's alumni.

When Norman went on his round-the-world trip, Sidney Blitz served as Acting Alumni Secretary. When Norman returned, he carried on --- and we will long remember the September and October meetings he organized. Now Norman is on another trip, and Larry began by serving as Acting Alumni Secretary --- and he has now stopped the "Acting" in name, but certainly not in deed!

Incidentally, Larry Kobak also serves on the School staff as Regional Secretary. This means lining up classes in the New York area in locations outside Headquarters. And for good measure, Larry is also Chairman of the Speakers Bureau, meaning that he lines up our School speakers before outside groups, to lecture on a multitude of topics, relating to the George philosophy.

We bid Godspeed to our departing Alumni Secretary -- and welcome to the incoming one!



ONLY IN BROKEN GLEAMS AND  
PARTIAL LIGHT HAS THE SUN  
OF LIBERTY YET BEAMED AMONG  
MEN, BUT ALL PROGRESS HATH  
SHE CALLED FORTH. - HENRY GEORGE

# **A CHALLENGE TO MARXIAN PHILOSOPHY**

## **Science Or Speculation**

Is Marxism a true philosophy? Is the economic determination of history a valid theory? Is the economic factor, the only factor in social change, and are all other social forms mere reflections of the contemporary mode of production? An examination of these questions should indicate whether Marx's assumptions have a scientific basis, or are really adventures in metaphysical speculation.

Different social systems, and types of cultural activities, can and do flourish in similar economic structures. Social changes may lag behind economic changes,--sometimes the vogue of a particular set of economic circumstances may be too brief to exert influence on social institutions. Cultural developments, such as scientific research, precedes technological developments.

The fact is, that there is no one concept in which social phenomena can be interpreted and unified. The Marxian assumption of economic determinism commits the fallacy of oversimplification.

Marx's reasoning about the material as the only reality, is certainly open to question. Certainly, materialism does have a practical value. Man cannot live by bread alone--but he cannot live without bread. On the other hand, spiritual isolation has little impact upon society. The material is meant to be instrumental to the spiritual--so that there will be an intermingling of the two forces. Material satisfactions are essential, but they are not the sole satisfactions for human well being.

## **Marx And The Class Structure**

Marx contends that, at this point in history, only two dominant classes remain--the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. These two classes, he asserts are facing each other in a bitter class struggle. He predicts, of course, the eventual liquidation of the bourgeoisie, and the triumph of the proletariat. The class struggle will then come to an end, and the state will wither and pass away.

## CHALLENGE TO MARXIAN PHILOSOPHY

Is this a sound prediction? It may be useful to see who are the credited members of these two social forces-- In today's terminology, the bourgeoisie would be the idle coupon-clipping elite, --the active property-owning group, who control the means of production,--the professions and the white collar workers.

In the proletariat is included the great mass of industrial workers and the agrarian workers. Here at once, the agricultural worker presents a difficulty for this classification; for the peasants in Russia refuse to be assimilated by either class, and sturdily resist mass solidarity.

It is necessary to point out here that another class has arisen and flourishes in the collectivist system. This is the bureaucracy which has pre-empted power and prestige in the communistic orbit. This bureaucratic class shows little feeling, or identification with the proletariat.

The conclusion indicated here is that there is little identity of interest between the various classes of the proletarian group. The interests of the worker, the farmer, the mechanic and unskilled labor are far from identical, except that they --along with the bureaucrats--all reverence the the prestige of pecuniary power, and identify the conspicuous use of wealth as a primary social value.

Finally, there is the concept of the one party state. Is it, or can it be a durable social structure? Since the totalitarian regime tolerates the existence of only one party, there is evidently a distinction between the governors and the governed, and an inequality therefore, between the members of the proletariat and the political bureaucracy.

Out of this structure, inevitably arises the practice of nepotism, from the father to the son, and to the family, and a development of social stratification.

Only in a society in which there is an approximate balance of social forces--which is fluid in the structure of its classes--in which there is a practicing philosophy of fraternity and equality--and in which justice is distributed to all--only in such a society is there a basis for durability and a meritorious representation in the history of civilized nations.

By S.T. Behee

### SCENE AROUND

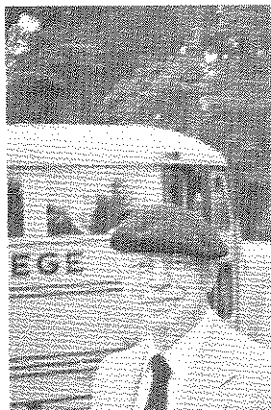
Art and frivolity met at the Henry George School this December 9th. It was the date of the alumni Christmas Party and the opening date of an exhibition of paintings by Elaine Wener.

# REMEMBER?

TWELFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

JULY

1956



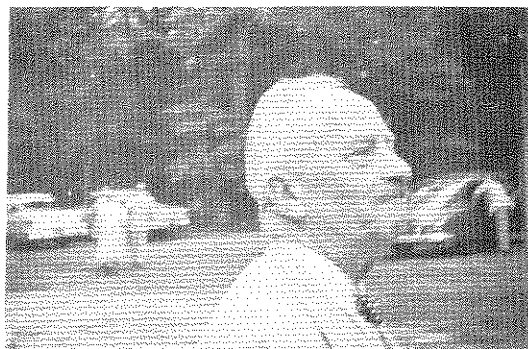
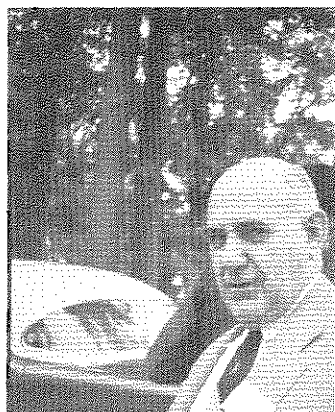
## COVER \*\*\*\*\*

What then is the meaning of life--of life absolutely and inevitably bounded by death? To me it seems intelligible only as the avenue and vestibule to another life. And its facts seem explainable only upon a theory which cannot be expressed but in myth and symbol, and which, everywhere and at all times, the myths and symbols in which men have tried to portray their deepest perceptions do in some form express. Henry George--Progress and Poverty--

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**HARCUM JUNIOR COLLEGE, BRYN MAWR, PA.**

**WED., JULY 4 - SUN., JULY 8, 1956**

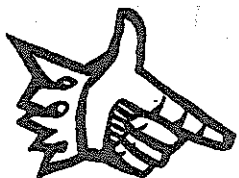


**DON'T FORGET:**  
**13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**JULY 6-13, 1957**

**WAGNER COLLEGE**

**Staten Island New York**

\*\*\*\*\*  
As this issue was going to press we were very lucky to receive the snapshots on pages 6 and 7 from our friend -- HARRY POLLARD, of the HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL of TORONTO, CANADA. Thank you very much Harry. EDITORS  
\*\*\*\*\*



# No More Slums

Every community has slums. In New York City, twenty thousand slum houses are so awful that they are boarded up and abandoned. The problem is how to clear them away and make it profitable to build new houses and unprofitable to own slums.

Why can't we produce new houses like other things, such as automobiles, clothes, boats and radios which, in normal times, are turned out in such vast quantities that it is difficult to sell them fast enough? Why not houses, also?

One reason is that you pay for a house twice; once when you buy it and again, in taxes, during its lifetime. For instance, you buy a new house for \$10,000 and it will cost you, during its lifetime, another \$10,000 in taxes. This burden can be removed by taking taxes off houses.

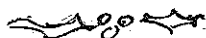
Another reason is that land must be bought before building. For example, if you invest \$500,000 in slum clearance, you must first pay \$100,000 for slum land, leaving only \$400,000 for new houses. This can be overcome by government taking, as nearly as possible, the entire yearly value of land in taxation; almost eliminating the selling value of land.

This is how it would work out on a \$500,000 investment.

Under the existing system, you buy slum land for \$100,000. Interest at 5% absorbs \$5,000 annually and the City tax of about 3% costs you \$3,000 annually: total, \$8,000. To this land cost of \$8,000 per annum must be added, under the present system, taxes of about \$12,000 per annum on the improvements. This means a combined annual charge of some \$20,000 before you can begin to earn anything on your investment.

Under the new set-up here proposed, the City would tax the land about \$7,500 yearly. This leaves \$500 to the owner, which is 5% on \$10,000 and this is all you would have to pay for the land, instead of \$100,000; a saving of \$90,000. You would pay no tax on the new houses.

It is just and right that the value of land should go to the community as it is made by the presence and activities of all of us. It is the difference between the various better grades of land and the poorest land in use. An acre, for example, may sell for a million dollars on Fifth Avenue and for fifty dollars in a village. It is not the soil that is bought, but the location. The more productive the



\* But who, and what IS Santa Claus,  
Did anyone e're see him?  
"Spirit of Christmas" is his name,-  
"YOU, if you wish, may BE him."



\* from a poem --Santa Claus--by Carine L. Rose--



## No More Slums

people and the better the public services (such as transportation, police, fire and water), the more land value. But, the value of a house is the cost of production, which is not materially different in a great city than in a hamlet. Land, however, has no production cost, as it is given to man, free, by nature.

It is interesting to know that the city of New York could raise about \$500,000,000 yearly if it collected the annual value of land and exempted houses from taxes. This is more than it receives now from the existing partial tax on both houses and land.

This reform would cut taxes about in half on slum clearance. It would reduce, by about 18%, the investment needed, by almost eliminating the purchase cost of land.

With this change, who can doubt that new houses would shortly be looking for tenants? That eager builders and workmen, normally idle much of the time, would erect as many buildings and as fine ones as the people could pay for? Slums would vanish as nobody could afford to own them.

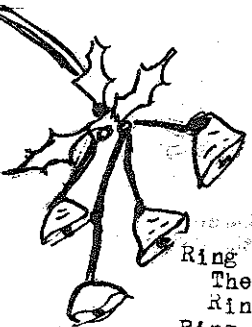
These principles are glimpsed vaguely in public housing legislation, which exempts new houses from taxes and, through subsidies, helps to offset the cost of land. But, like all charity, it is feeble, long-winded and ineffective, for slums are increasing and the housing situation is getting worse.

In the early 1920's, after the first World War, the shortage of houses was acute. To stimulate building, the city of New York exempted new buildings from taxation for ten years. This alleviated the housing shortage and created many jobs. It cost the City nothing because private enterprise put up all the capital and assumed all the risk. In the meantime, the City continued to collect the tax upon the land, as before. If the City had then removed taxes from all houses and taken the yearly land value in taxation, we would have no housing problem today, except the temporary postwar readjustments in labor and material.

In the taxation of land value, therefore, can be found the answer to slum clearance, for the housing problem is, fundamentally, a land problem.

*T. A. McHenry*  
T. A. MCHENRY

### HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON



Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good. In Memoriam--Tennyson

# SCENE AROUND

LARRY KOSAK

The Halloween Dance was a great success. Over one hundred witches and wizards attended and the net profit was close to seventy dollars. Vivacious Marjorie Dare sang and led the group in community singing. Little Yurika Hasegawa (eight years old) charmed everyone by dancing the hula in native costume.

What do you think of more frequent dances?

\* \* \*

Thank Bruno Eichert for this suggestion. Write to:  
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Internal Revenue Taxation  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.  
and ask them to consider land value taxation as a means of raising revenue.

\* \* \*

Who's the girl that Will Smith, now attending Frank Bang's class, has his eye on? We hear that she lives in Brooklyn.

\* \* \*

What instructor at the Henry George School is reputed to sleep with a copy of "Progress and Poverty" in his arms? We must say that we approve of his choice in bed companions.

\* \* \*

What Is U.S. Policy in the U.N.? This was the topic for our very successful alumni meeting of November 25th, fourth in a United Nations series. Miss Josephine Schain, a woman of many talents, was the guest speaker. She is President of the Pan-Pacific Women's Association, past Director of the Department of International Cooperation of the National League of Women Voters. Miss Schain was also an observer at the San Francisco meeting at which the United Nations was created. She is widely traveled and knows Europe, the Middle East and Latin America as well as the Orient.

\* \* \*

Two new Georgists:

Lydia Alkalay, former Assistant Director of the Boston Henry George School gave birth to a girl.

Another girl was born in the family of Dr. and Mrs. Eugene Friedberg. Dr. Friedberg is a former instructor at the Henry George School.

\* \* \*

## SCENE AROUND

LARRY KORAK

Robert Rodriguez (Mr. Rodriguez, when he is not busy in his capacity as Chairman of the Correspondence Department, takes care of showing the Friday-at-Eight films.) who is dissatisfied with the epochs of DeMille, DeSica, etc., has decided to make his own epoch...about the Henry George School. He will be assisted by our registrar, Miss C. Lois Jessop.

\* \* \*

Robert Clancy and W. G. Peterson were seen together in evening clothes attending the premier of The Ten Commandments.

\* \* \*

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...to all the volunteers who helped us get out our fund appeal on time.

## ALUMNI EVENTS

### ISRAEL



Dr. Harry Bear, left, and speaker Basil Herman, Israel Vice-Council, have friendly chat after Alumni meeting, Sun. Oct. 28, 1956

## BUS TRIP

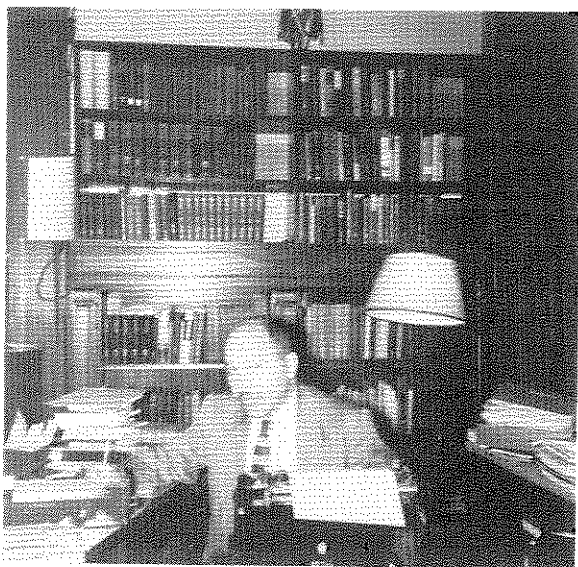
Thirteen brave students mustered at the school on the cold morning of Saturday, November 24th. Imagine, they met at the unearthly hour of nine in the morning just to go on a little old bus ride. Take it from me, the bus ride was well worth it. Not only did the travelers enjoy the beauty of the Hudson River from New York to Poughkeepsie, breathe in the wonder of the Roosevelt Library and Home at Hyde Park, but they were treated to a tour of the headquarters of the Foundation for Economic Education.

\*\*\*\*\*

The great work of the present for every man, and every organization of men, who would improve social conditions, is the work of education--the propagation of ideas. Henry George--

# LIBRARY

50 East 69Th



## Meet Mr Michael C Finken

---Librarian of the Henry George School. Mr. Finken has been with the school almost two years.

Henry George School

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