

# 'Henry George' celebrations set

by Neil Thomas

Anticipating a sunny day at Rehoboth Beach, or at least a respite from I-95 commuting, you are probably well aware that Monday is Labor Day.

But did you know that Monday is also Henry George Day in Delaware? It is and it's official, having been proclaimed by Gov. Michael N. Castle.

George is the 19th century American economist whose social ideals inspired the founding of Arden, Ardentown and Ardencroft in northern Delaware.

Sept. 2 is the 146th anniversary of his birth, according to Frank Nelson of Brookside Park. Nelson is an ardent admirer of George whose home serves as the Delaware headquarters of the Henry George School of Social Science.

Because George's birthday coincides with Labor Day, Nelson said "it is appropriate that we remember him as not only a champion for equal rights and justice for all, but especially for those who create the nation's wealth through their labor."

George, whose ideas had the support of the labor movement,

"advocated convincingly that all who labor should receive 'the entire fruits of their labor,' meaning everything that they produced," Nelson said.

"In our modern era when workers give up at least one-third of their wages in taxes, George's ideas of a virtual taxless society should be as appealing now as they were then," he added.

Nelson said George advocated a single tax applied to "the privilege of ownership of land and other natural resources," and the abolishment of all other forms of taxation.

To mark Henry George Day, a number of activities have been planned. They are:

- Monday, Sept. 2 — A program of brief speeches in the outdoor amphitheater on the Arden Village Green from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

- Monday evening, Sept. 2 — A party at George's birthplace in Philadelphia from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

- Sunday, Sept. 15 — A booth to publicize tuition-free classes on George's philosophy will be set up at Newark Community Day. Classes will be available in Newark, Arden and the Smyrna Correctional Center.

For information, contact Frank Nelson at 738-0618 or Mike Curtis at 475-5670.