

The **NEW** LEAF

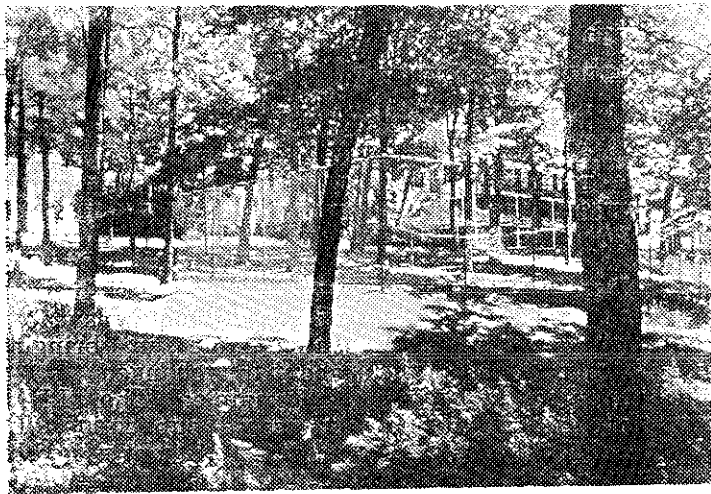
"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL" SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR NONE"

Volume 3, No. 1

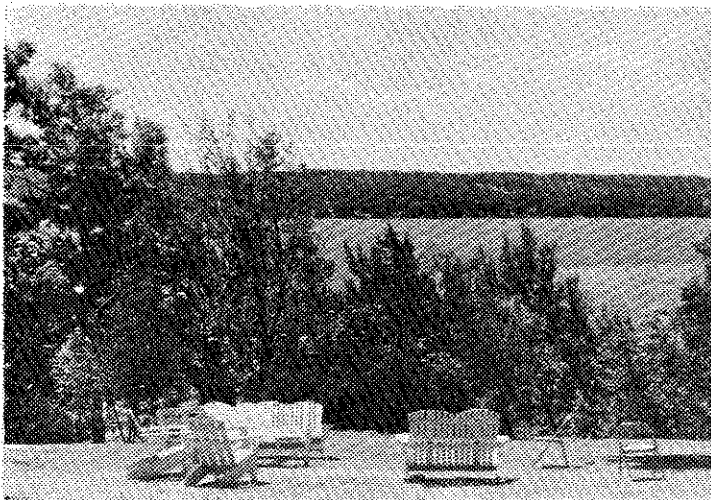
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January, 1977

THE PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER: PLAN NOW!



For the athletes in your crowd there is plenty to do. They can get all the exercise they want and the air is pure, pure, pure.



And for the thinkers what better place to relax than amidst the lush greenery and sweet waters surrounding Conference Point.



6687

Oh yes, there will be business to attend to, also and this meeting hall is ideally suited for progress and education.

July 1-5 are the dates for the 1977 Joint Georgist Conference and you and your family should be there.

The setting is breathtakingly beautiful and it will be an experience you will long remember.

The location is Conference Point Camp on the sparkling blue waters of Williams Bay, Wisconsin. All the facilities of the secluded camp grounds, including rustic but modern sleeping accommodations and the three meeting halls are reserved for the exclusive use of the Conference.

The four official co-sponsors of the Joint Georgist Conference are LEAF, the Henry George Foundation of America, the Henry George Schools of Social Science, and the Robert Schalkenback Foundation.

LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow, San Diego, Ca. is the Conference National Director and Nadine Stoner, Beloit, Wisc., is the Conference Regional Coordinator.

Future issues of this publication will bring conference details including a special package price for early reservations. In the meantime enjoy the pictures below, visualize you and your family enjoying the fun and beauty, and mark your calendar now to be there for a superb Fourth of July celebration as America embarks upon its third century.

A WORD FROM LEAF CHAIRMAN FLOYD MORROW

In order to act intelligently toward accomplishing a given goal, one must first **know** the goal and **know** the means of accomplishing that goal. We LEAFers know the goal, a free society wherein individuals are entitled as a matter of fundamental right to equal access to nature's abundance. The means for **implementation** of our goal is the single tax.

However, we still have not agreed upon a unified **means** for approaching the task of meaningful implementation. Let me suggest that several things are required as a minimum:

- a) A large dedicated army of volunteers.
- b) A unified and well organized leadership.
- c) A strong and courageous resolve to act in accordance with our knowledge.
- d) The serenity to accept things we cannot change.
- e) A faith in mankind and our fellow LEAFers knowing the cause which we espouse is just.

All of the above minimum requirements are essentially what is proposed by LEAF as an organization. For us to succeed, LEAF must employ tried and successful basic organizational methods.

And the very first thing to do, the one action which rates the highest priority, is for you to please join with us and ask a friend to join.

LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE FORMED

A Legislative Task Force Committee to help push property tax reforms nationwide and to coordinate the efforts of numerous LEAF members working in that area has been appointed by LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow.

The action came at the December meeting of the LEAF Executive Committee amidst comments this will be one of the most important committees ever appointed.

Named by Morrow to head the Committee is LEAF Legal Counsel Stan Sapiro of Encino, California. Committee members are LEAF President Dr. William Filante, Greenbrae, California, Dr. Steven Cord, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Morrow, of San Diego, California.

Each of these members have wide experience in the vital matter of tax reform, have excellent contacts with numerous legislators at all levels of law-making, and have received national recognition for their efforts.

The LEAF Executive Committee felt it is extremely important that LEAF embark upon a concentrated effort this year

to bring about early property tax reforms.

In appointing the committee, Morrow said he hopes it will be able to make the LEAF drive more effective by eliminating duplication and wasted motion.

LEAF members working with local legislators should contact the Committee member nearest them. Their addresses are:

Sapiro, 16255 Ventura Blvd., Suite 1218, Encino, Calif. 91436.

Filante 1300 So. Eliseo Dr., Greenbrae, Ca., 94904.

Cord, 580 N. Sixth St., Indiana, Pa., 15701.

Morrow, 454 Mission Valley Center West, San Diego, Ca., 92108.

Sapiro has made numerous contacts with California legislators and reports that LEAF proposals to eliminate property taxes on improvements is being favorably received in some quarters although not all. He believes it is imperative that members make their feelings known to their elected representatives wherever they may be located. He feels it is extremely important that any bills proposed by

(Continued on back page)

TOP OFFICIALS GET THE MESSAGE

The LEAF message and application to join has been sent in a special packet to 538 top civic officials who registered at the LEAF booth at the December convention in Denver of the National League of Cities.

A total of 671 conventioners signed registration cards at the booth but the packet was not sent to those whose addresses were incomplete or otherwise illegible.

Although 148 attendees

indicated on their cards they wanted more information about LEAF it was decided to blanket everyone possible with the packets in hopes of receiving a greater return.

The packet consisted of a membership application brochure, the December issue of Incentive Taxation, and a special letter of invitation, the text of which follows: (the same reasons to join can be used when you ask your friends to become a member)

"THIS IS SENT YOU BECAUSE YOU ARE A CONCERNED CITIZEN"

"Enclosed is the information you requested when you visited the LEAF booth at The National League of Cities Convention in Denver. Thank you for your interest.

"As you know, property tax reform is high on the list of priorities for legislators throughout the land. LEAF is in the forefront of this movement, and we hope you will support it by becoming a member. Here are just a few reasons why you should join LEAF.

"1. You will become part of an organized and often successful effort to reform property tax.

"2. You will be kept abreast of latest developments in this vital area.

"3. Instead of just talking about change you will be playing an important role in making change happen.

"4. The LEAF Legislative Task Force Committee, headed by prominent Attorney Stan Sapiro is working with legislators throughout the land to bring about tax reform.

"Example: On December 28, Harrisburg, Pa., adop-

ted a new tax structure with the rate for improvements well below that for land.

"LEAF Director Dr. Steven Cord of the University of Pennsylvania played an active role in bringing about this change.

"Example: The LEAF sponsored publication, "Incentive Taxation" edited by Dr. Cord was also credited for having a major role in this reform measure.

"LEAF and three of its most prominent members are spotlighted in David Hapgood's new book, "The Average Man Fights Back." Hapgood recognizes Cord, former LEAF Director Robert Colonna and LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow as national leaders in attempts to reform the tax system.

"Join this distinguished group today. Complete and return the enclosed membership application. Your check for \$15.00 now will save future billing costs which can be better put to work in behalf of tax reform. Again, thank you for your interest and support."

JOIN THE "IN" GROUP

YOU BET I WANT TO JOIN LEAF AND HELP MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!

Please enroll me right now at the membership level checked below:

REGULAR . . . \$15 per year

SUSTAINING . . . \$5 monthly or \$60 yearly)

CONTRIBUTING . . \$10 monthly or \$120 yearly)

Check enclosed () Bill me ()

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

(Membership includes a free subscription to the monthly NEW LEAF)

Property Tax Revolt Spreads

The Jan. 17 issue of the prestigious U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT features a front cover headline announcing "Revolt Against Property Taxes."

A feature article commencing on page 81 carries the sub-heading, "Outcries from householders, calls for reform, new legislation — these are only some of the reactions to zooming taxes on people's homes."

The well researched article gives numerous examples of the ever growing anger and concern by taxpayers everywhere and the resultant problems piling up for state and local legislators throughout the country.

It devotes considerable space to inequities caused by the current unfair system of taxing property but the magazine proposes no solutions.

It concludes the article by predicting: "In short the battle against soaring property taxes will continue to be intense as long as government expenditures continue to grow. It is a struggle that pits taxpayer against taxpayer, and no simple reform that will lighten the burden has yet been uncovered."

This is must reading for every member of LEAF and one more reason why every member of LEAF should ask a friend to join LEAF . . . today.

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

Students of history are no strangers to the time-tested axiom, "The pen is mightier than the sword." And LEAF members who put their pen to paper and take time to share their beliefs with others are playing an important role in society.

LEAF member Wilbur E. Pereira, Los Angeles, Calif., is a good example of an involved citizen working in a constructive fashion to bring about needed change.

Pereira is vice-chairman of the Westchester-Playa del Rey Taxpayers Assoc-

iation and is a frequent contributor to Letter To The Editor sections of The Los Angeles Times and other publications.

One of the most prominent and prolific writers among LEAF members is the distinguished author David Hapgood whose newest book "The Average Man Fights Back" is reviewed elsewhere in this newsletter.

But one does not need be an author or professional writer to have their ideas and suggestions published. All newspapers, weeklies

NEW BOOK BOOSTS LEAF

LEAF and three of its most prominent members are spotlighted in David Hapgood's new book, "The Average Man Fights Back" published by Doubleday. Hapgood is the author of "The Screwing of The Average Man," and other books.

LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow, Director Dr. Steven Cord, and former LEAF Director Robert Colonna, as well as the Georgist Movement are praised for their efforts in attempting to reform the present tax system.

Writes Hapgood: ". . . In California a group of people in 1976 hit on what they thought was a way of short-circuiting the federal screwing of tenants. The group was the Santa Cruz County Community Economic Ownership Foundation, an offshoot of LEAF, a San Diego foundation which is part of the Georgist Movement . . ."

"According to its spokesman, Robert Colonna, they found a quirk in California law that seemed to make it possible for tenants to become eligible for the property tax deduction on their federal taxes. California law allows a tenant to request that his share of the property tax be charged directly to him rather than to the landlord, while the IRS gives the deduction, to whoever pays the tax, whether or not he is the owner. While the change benefits the tenant, it does not hurt the landlord; he loses the deduction, but his taxable income is reduced by exactly the same amount, so he comes out where he

and trade journals included, have important space devoted to the use of their readers. They have editors who check for literacy and spelling. And the best way to get your material published is to keep it brief, no more than 200 words, preferably typed with double spacing between lines. Be sure to mention LEAF either in your article or after your name at the end of the article.

started. (The cost of the tenants' reduced taxes is third-partied to all other taxpayers.)

"Part of Colonna's sales pitch to landlords and local officials was that if tenants paid less taxes, they would have more money to spend, benefitting local merchants and sales tax collections. In mid-1976 Colonna's group was helping tenants and willing landlords negotiate new leases that would make these the first tenants in the nation to achieve tax equality with owners."

". . . In Pennsylvania, Steven Cord, an active Georgist and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania at Indiana, Pennsylvania, has been lobbying third class-cities to take the opportunity the law offers to shift taxes from improvements to land. In San Diego, Floyd Morrow, a member of the city council, used his swing vote between growth and environmental factions to force the developer of a new town in the city to have the cost of the new public services the new town would require raised from a tax on land value only — thus putting the cost on the owners of the land instead of shifting it to the rest of the city taxpayers."

Hapgood is rightfully recognized as an author of wit and perception. One of his many excellent lines reads: "Land is a prime target of the monopolist. It was made, not by human effort, but by the god of your choice, and she's not making any more these days."

As the book jacket says, "If you've never been overtaxed by the folks at IRS, or overcharged by your utility company, or rooked by a lawyer . . . you're lucky . . . But it doesn't have to be that way."

The jacket is correct in its conclusion: "In short, THE AVERAGE MAN FIGHTS BACK is a wealth of practical information about the hard facts of life and how to change them, all told with a literate wit that clouds your eyes with tears of laughter before the tears of rage begin to flow."

HARRISBURG ADOPTS PROPERTY TAX REFORM

On December 28 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, adopted a new property tax structure with the rate being set at 29 mills for land and 16 mills for building.

LEAF Director, Dr. Steven Cord, who has been in constant touch with Harrisburg officials and legislators throughout the state pushing property tax reforms hailed the action as a step in the right direction.

Cord said the LEAF sponsored publication, "Incentive Taxation" which he publishes deserves much of the credit for this reform measure. He also praised the work of lobbyist Tom Kepler whom he employed to work under LEAF sponsorship on statewide legislative matters in Pennsylvania.

"Tom is suppose to work on state matters but because he is local and the Harrisburg property tax change was pressing, I asked him to work on the City Council there and it helped," said Cord.

"LEAF" Booth A Smash Hit....

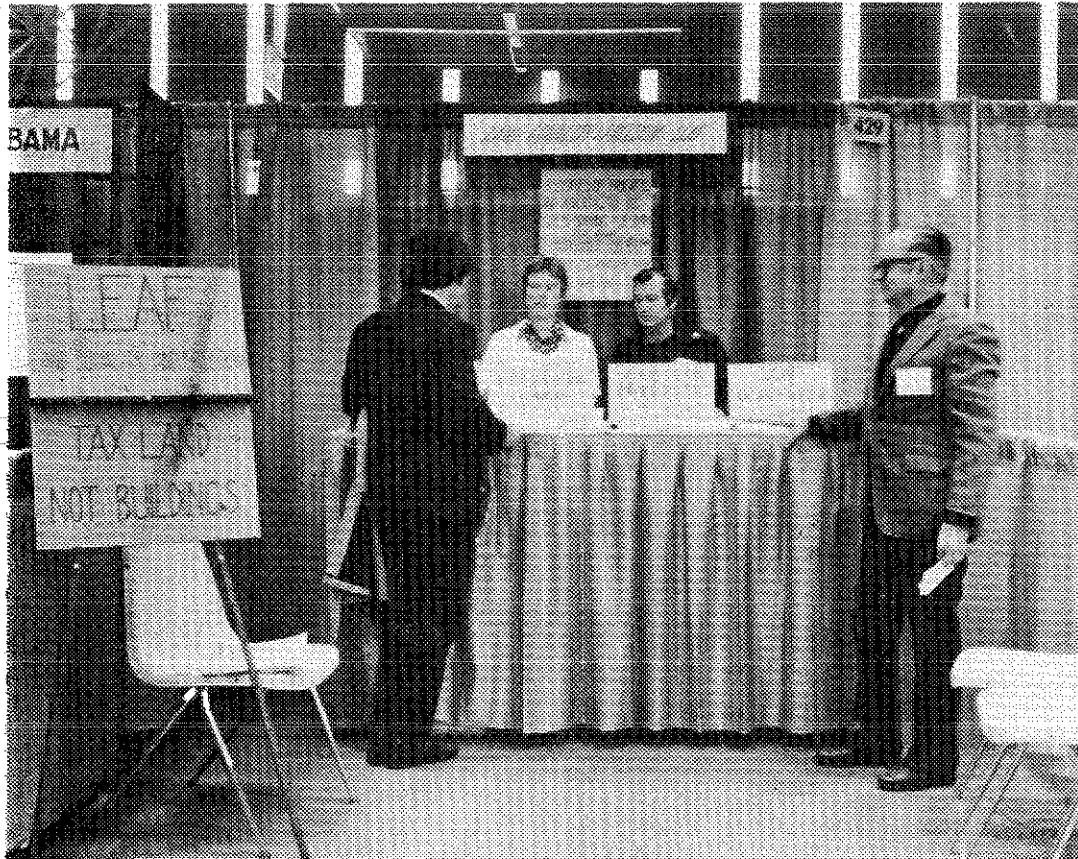
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE

(Continued from page 2)

LEAF members be first routed to the new Task Force Committee for review and coordination of effort.

Filante and Morrow are very active politically in Northern and Southern California, respectively, and this is most important because California Governor Edmund Brown, Jr., is demanding tax reforms in this year.

Cord has been a virtual one-man crusade in this arena and has gathered a wide following throughout the east and other parts of the country. He is recognized as a most effective lobbyist for tax reform and is largely credited with the brand new law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, establishing a graded tax structure for land and improvements.



LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow and wife Marlene, of San Diego, Calif., tell the LEAF story to a delegate to the National League of Cities Convention (Denver) while Utah LEAF member Bob Williams stands by ready to assist. More than 600 persons registered at the highly successful LEAF exhibit.

The LEAF Booth at the annual convention in Denver of the National League of Cities, Nov. 29 - Dec. 1, was a smash hit with 671 city leaders from throughout the nation registering at the exhibit. Hearty congratulations for an outstanding showing are due Earl Hanson who chairmanned the project and his assist-

ant Bob Williams, both of Cedar City, Utah.

Hanson is secretary of the LEAF Steering Committee for Cedar City. Manning the booth part of the time were LEAF Chairman Floyd Morrow, his wife, Marlene, and John D'Alfonso, Executive Director, all from San Diego, California.

Of the registrants 22 percent or 148 attendees at the convention, indicated they wanted more information about LEAF, according to a report by Hanson. The state with the highest number of interested registrants is Illinois with 14, followed closely by California with 11.

Periodic drawings were

held with the winners receiving an abridged copy of Henry George's "Progress and Poverty." The lucky winners are:

Evelyn H. Batastina,
Columbus, Ga.
Mrs. Ben Groh,
Fairfield, Ohio
Oscar G. Polla,
Washington, D.C.
John Newly,
Englewood, Colo.
Anne Heutsche,
Sharon, Pa.

Total cost of the project was \$1,200 including a rental charge of \$600.

THE NEW LEAF

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