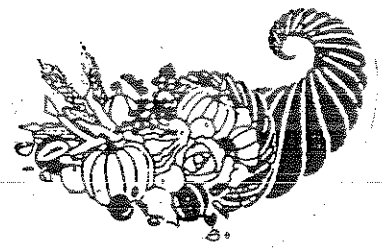


# the New Leaf



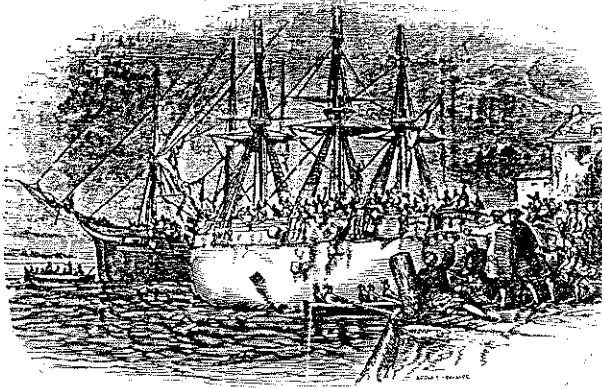
A Publication of San Diego Chapter of Common Ground, U.S.A

Summer 1990

## San Diego Bay Tea Party Protests More Taxes

Surrounded by hundreds of signs, saying "Read my lips", "No more taxes" radio personality Rodger Hedgecock spoke to several thousand people who had gathered at the Star of India. They had gathered to join a listener who tossed a couple of tea bags into San Diego Bay. The amount of tea may have been piddling but the sentiment wasn't.

The huge turnout is a indication of the widespread dissatisfaction with government inefficiency, favors to the rich and the impediment to self-improvement that income and current property taxes represent.



BOSTON TEA PARTY

Georgists should plan on being at the next one tentatively scheduled for August 2. It is a good opportunity to begin a dialogue with some of those who recognize the need for some kind of taxation. The wise will recognize the inherent wisdom of collecting economic rent to provide necessary public services. The meeting was attended by many Libertarians who want a voluntary tax which Georgists don't support. There were in the crowd though hundreds of non-libertarians who may be ready to hear a more sensible message.

## Board of Equalization Race - Opportunity for Real Reform

The November election includes a race for the state Board of Equalization. The Board collects \$20 billion in revenue annually. Insuring the different counties are assessed in a proportionate manner is one of their chief responsibilities.

Tax attorney and 12 year former city councilman Floyd Morrow believes it is an opportunity for real tax reform. "Tax equity - incentives within the tax structure to increase production could be a boom for people who like to produce," he said. If someone is elected who believes in tax equity as much as Floyd Morrow does it could be a rare opportunity for real tax reform.

In the primary Morrow outpolled the incumbent 351,000 to 350,000.

*YOU ARE INVITED!*

*to the*

**First Annual Common Ground, San Diego  
Sunday Brunch,**

*at*

**10:00 a.m. August 12, 1990**

**Community Center, Henry George Center  
2240 Morley St.,**

We will hear a report from those who attended the Common Ground, USA Annual Meeting and the 10th Annual CGO Conference held on the campus of the College of Santa Fe, July 23-30 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Brunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. Pancakes, french toast, omelettes, and so on will be served free to current Common Ground members. Bring a dish to share. You will also have a wonderful opportunity to join the San Diego Chapter of Common Ground, USA. Remember Tom Sherrard's spaghetti? We have invited him to rustle up some pancakes. Cooks, helpers and clean-up crew urgently needed. Call BEE at 560-5263 or Common Ground at 268-8772 for details.

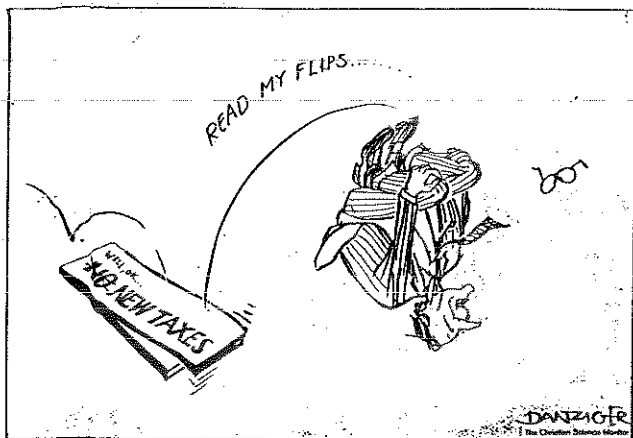
## Channel 17 to Broadcast Soon

Channel 17 San Diego's newest low power television station has taken two major steps bringing it closer to getting on the air. According to general

manager, Glenn Shoemaker, the station has completed arrangements to begin broadcasting from Mt. Wood-

son. A transmitter and antenna have been ordered and are in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, Shoemaker reports that close to 20 shows are in various stages



### Channel 17 (contd)

production. The format will be mostly locally-originated programming of a high quality and broad appeal.

Channel 17 has also changed its legal status. It has through Basic Economic Education's cooperation become an independent entity through incorporation replacing the general partnership it started out as. Shoemaker explained that this move makes it easier for investors to participate. Now that Ch. 17 is 3-4 months from going on the air the interest and activity at the headquarters have increased significantly.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

by Alan Ridley

Subtitled *American Business Values from Ben Franklin to Donald Trump*, this refreshing book by Peter Baida (William Morrow & Co. Inc. of N.Y., \$22.95) reminds us that America's industrious and frugal past remains a vital and invaluable legacy that can be tapped when we need it in troubled times (like now). Profoundly and pleasantly literary in its treatment of business values in America, this work finds Franklin guiding its author, Baida, through American business history as Virgil guided Dante in the *DIVINE COMEDY*.

Starting with an in depth and friendly encounter with Franklin, Baida marches through American business history from Astor, Vanderbilt, Rockefeller, Carnegie, and Morgan. Peppered with healthy, often sym-

pathetic, doses of the dissenting voices of Thoreau, Melville, Veblen, and Henry George, the march continues with Henry Ford, Sloan, a visit to Madison Avenue and again the dissenting voices of Sinclair Lewis, etc. then back to IBM and more dissenting voices, Galbraith, Ralph Nader. Like his treatment of other titans of the American business story, Baida writes penetratingly, but also fondly, and eloquently of George. His commentary is critical, respectful, and fair.

He quotes George with understanding and ties George into his rightful place in the fabric of American literary, social, and economic history and American life. He mentions the George inspired innovations for fairer ways of raising public revenues in Australia, New Zealand, and Pittsburgh, PA, and the work of economic

## Community Land Trust Looms as Affordable Housing Solution

### *Georgists work with community groups to establish land trust*

Building on the pivotal community victory in which community organizations succeeded in establishing a housing trust fund, a land trust is next. The city council voted \$13 million as the first installment for a housing trust fund.

Some affordable housing advocates have begun working to establish a land trust. They recognize that one of the main barriers to affordable housing is exorbitant land costs. Establishing a land trust in which the land is removed from the speculative market is a step towards controlling land costs. It will also be a model by which our educational message will be demonstrated in a concrete way. Several San Diegans attended the Conference on Land Trusts held in Los Angeles..

The presentation was by the Institute for Community Economics. Chuck Mattei, their executive director, had made a shorter presentation at the International Sesquicentennial Conference in Philadelphia. Mattei, when he saw there was a Georgist in the audience smiled and increased his references to the need to collect the economic rent.

There has even been some discussion about how to set up a land trust in Linda Vista with BEE playing a key role. Linda Vista is a natural choice for a site because it is an area with significant potential for the future and the land prices are still relatively low because it is perceived as a troubled area.

The first public meeting to begin building the community support for establishing a land trust will be held Aug 24. The meeting is the inaugural meeting of Interfaith. Speaking on the agenda is Jim Dorenkott from BEE who will introduce the land trust.

## POOR RICHARD'S LEGACY, REVISITED AND REVIEWED

historian Steven Cord and quotes economist Shumpeter's praise of George. He also notes: Though he was certainly an agitator, George was not a socialist. He considered Karl Marx "the prince of muddleheads,..." something that Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union are only now finally realizing.

"Veblen was a man of anger and spleen: George was a man of anger and love. Yet there was still in him--a fighting spirit that made him a man of action as well as a man of ideas." Well worth reading *Poor Richard's Legacy* can help us sort out and face the confusion and turmoil of America's present by remembering, understanding and bringing back the best in our past.