

The NEW LEAF

"EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR NONE"

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The Spirit of the Centennial

Celebration for the Future

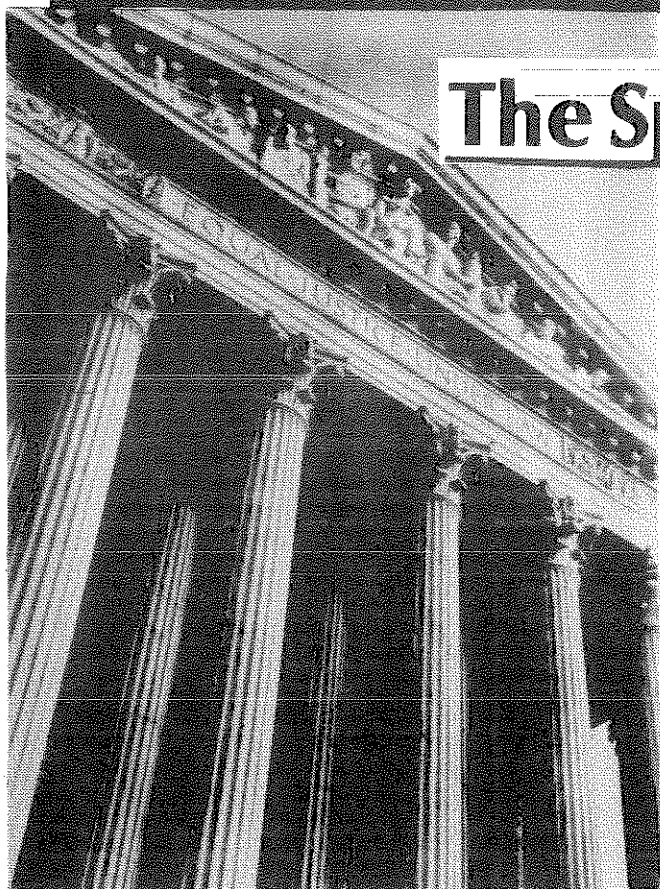
Georgists from four continents, eleven countries and 25 states met in San Francisco during the week of August 20th to celebrate the Centennial Year of the publication of Henry George's *Progress and Poverty*. More than 250 people representing Georgists and Georgist-related organizations from around the world gathered at the Jack Tar Hotel to participate in a week-long program of speeches, discussions and social events.

The Centennial activities revolved around daily themes: Monday was the day of welcome, people coming together from around the world meeting old friends and acquaintances, and greeting new ones. Tuesday was dedicated to the spirit of Henry George, stressing the breadth and depth of his democratic philosophy. Wednesday concentrated on the issues of monopoly and private rent collection, and had as its theme "The Menace of Privilege." On Thursday, the theme was "Reform for Our Time." Conference participants turned their attention toward the means of combating special privilege. On Friday, the emphasis was action — "Movement on the Move" — the factor which will determine the future shape of the Georgist Movement.

Participants attended sessions of their choice from among more than 60 topics scheduled throughout the week — topics about the theory and application of Georgist principles, about social justice and the distribution of wealth, about respect for and a return to the land, about strategies to best present the ideas of *Progress and Poverty* to the public.

Then came Saturday, the Centennial Celebration itself, the coming together in the afternoon's Festival of Entertainment and the evening's Centennial Banquet and Dance; coming together in honor of a great man, Henry George, and in praise of a great book, *Progress and Poverty*, "dedicated to those who, seeing the vice and misery that spring from the unequal distribution of wealth and privilege, feel the possibility of a higher social state and would strive for its attainment."

The Centennial Celebration as an event in time is over, but its spirit of coming together, of being open to other organizations and concerns, is an eternal spirit, and will grow and flourish in the years ahead.



The Limits of Liberal Reform

"THE LONG-HELD AMERICAN THEORY THAT EDUCATION AND NATURAL ABILITY ARE KEYS TO SUCCESS IS OVER-RATED, BECAUSE CLASS, RACE AND SEX ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT DETERMINANTS OF A CHILD'S FUTURE."

In the quest for ways of ending inequality, Americans have mistakenly emphasized social and educational programs for improving children, wrote policy analyst Richard de Lone. This approach has not worked, he declared.

"Since World War II, neither the heroic efforts of the civil rights movement nor the billions of dollars spent in domestic anti-poverty programs have dislodged our solid structure of inequality," de Lone wrote. "In these 30-odd years, the

distribution of income and wealth has been virtually frozen; the historic differentials separating blacks and whites in earnings and unemployment have endured."

De Lone said his research showed that neither affirmative action nor the women's movement has succeeded in erasing the substantial differences in the salaries paid women and men for comparable work.

And, despite cycles of educational reform including the

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Henry George Visits San Diego

San Diego LEAF members threw a city-wide Birthday Party for Henry George, September 2, in Balboa Park. More than a thousand people took part in the celebration, which included refreshments, music, showings of "For the Land is Mine," the formal cutting of a giant birthday cake burning 140 candles, and a Labor Day speech by "Henry George." (George was portrayed by Glenn Hofmocker.)

"What I stand for is the principle of true Democracy," George said to his listeners, "the truth that comes from the spirit of the plain people and was given to us and is embodied in the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson."

Henry George then shook his audience of working San Diegans saying he has never claimed to be a special friend of labour. He quickly went on to say that he stood for "the equal rights of all men!" and the crowd cheered.

After pointing out emphatically that the natural right which each man has, is not that of demanding employment or wages from another man, but that of employing himself, he went on to ask, "But why is it that men have to work for another man and at such low wages? Because, if they were to demand higher wages, there

are plenty of unemployed men ready to step into their places. It is this mass of unemployed men who compel that fierce competition that drives wages down to the point of bare subsistence."

At this point Balboa Park itself, the symbol of San Diego's public land policy, seemed to hush to the speaker's words: "Why is it that there are men who cannot get employment? If men cannot find an employer, why can they not employ themselves? Simply because they are shut out from the element on which human labor can alone be exerted, land; men are compelled to compete with each other for the wages of an employer, because they have been robbed of the natural opportunities of employing themselves; because they cannot find a piece of God's world on which to work without paying some other human creature for the privilege!"

Members of the Henry George Birthday Party Committee, Everett Seeley, Floyd Morrow, Lois Devine, Tom Sherrard, Harold Sweet, Harry Valasek, Phil Shafer, Nick Lenten and Arch Gerard, assisted by their spouses and friends, hosted the party to tell San Diego about this great American who spent his life fighting for social justice and economic freedom.

Creativity Rewarded

Centennial Scholarship winners presented their projects to conference participants at an evening program they themselves planned and arranged entitled, "How to Get the Word Out!" Micaela Shafer, San Diego, David Peele, Montreat, North Carolina, Nadine Stoner, Beloit, Wisconsin and Lucia Cipolloni, Philadelphia, received scholarships for their winning proposals on the ways to inform the public of the merits and relevance of *Progress and Poverty*. Each received from \$25.00 to \$100.00 prize money for the quality of their written proposals, along with stipends totaling \$750.00 to help pay expenses to attend the Centennial Celebration in San Francisco. The funds were provided by Basic Economic Education of San Diego.

Lucia Cipolloni, assisted by George Collins proposed getting the word out by presenting the school libraries of our alma maters with a Centennial Edition of *Progress and Poverty*, and using the presentation as a media-event; Nadine Stoner described the struggles and various phases of implementing a state-wide initiative, using the political process to inform the public; Micaela Shafer presented a description and rationale for a complete advertising campaign centered around *Progress and Poverty*; David Peele presented a concrete example of a media program, an audio-visual experience of "The Circular Solution" showing the relationships between the circles of nature and the philosophy of Henry George.

Letter to the Editor

I am opposed to an international Georgist organization. That would be an international hierarchy, and involve extra layers of unnecessary bureaucracy and a possible grab for world dictatorship. I feel each country's Georgists should go very much their own way — preferably in rather different ways, so we can have the advantage of seeing how different formulas work out.

I want decentralization.

The quotes from George in the August *New Leaf* are all of the radical "seize-the-land" type that got George himself into so much trouble. I am aware he spoke on both sides of this question: at times he seemed eager to nationalize land, but when pinned down he usually admitted all he wanted was to tax away the unearned increment. Either policy might work theoretically. But in this country those who try to call for taking over the land find themselves in a minority. In California elections in the 1920's the voters were asked to take over the land twice, but only 22% voted to do so. To win, we had better stick to Henry George's more usual position — and pick less inflammatory quotes.

Sincerely, Tertius Chandler

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

Mr. Chandler has brought up two critical issues, both of which permeated the atmosphere of the Centennial Conference, but were not resolved: to what extent should Georgists organize and unify, and does the Georgist movement have a place for Henry George's socialism. Mr. Chandler is correct in his assessment of the August issue of *The New LEAF*, and the same could be said of the last three issues. The Editor believes, however, that if George were alive today he would encourage our editorial emphasis on the social aspects of his thinking.

As to forming an international organization of Georgists, the suggestion in the August issue was in terms of an umbrella organization, all member-organization retaining their individual autonomy. In fact, the same model could be used at the national level; the existing Georgist organizations, such as The Henry George Institute, The Schalkenbach Foundation, The Henry George Schools, the Henry George Foundation, LEAF, and the Lincoln Foundation, could all form a national umbrella organization, each retaining their individual autonomy but contributing leadership and funds to a national planning board. This would unite the efforts of the Georgist organizations without threatening their freedom.

New Directors Mark New Beginning

The 1979 LEAF Annual Meeting, begun in San Diego on July 14, was reconvened in San Francisco during the week of the Centennial Celebration. Floyd Morrow, chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order and straight away administered the installation of the 1979-elected members of the Board of Directors.

Earl Hanson, Cedar City, Utah, Tom Sherrard, Everett Seeley, and Floyd Morrow, San Diego, George Collins, Philadelphia, and Marian Sapiro, Los Angeles, promised to serve as directors of LEAF, to the best of their ability, and according to the charter and bylaws of the LEAF organization, during the time of their respective terms. (Morgan Harris was not able to attend the meeting and will be installed later.)

Following the Board's acceptance of the 1979-1980 Budget, the election of officers was the next order of business. Everett Seeley was elected president,

Tom Sherrard, vice-president, and Tony Meis, secretary/treasurer; Floyd Morrow was elected chairperson of the Board and Marian Sapiro was appointed chairperson of the membership committee.

A working paper, prepared by Marian Sapiro, of LEAF's mission goals, and objectives, was then handed out to Board Members for their study and discussion. It was agreed to consider the material in greater depth at the next Board of Directors Meeting.

Lastly, various projects were proposed and voted to be carried out by the Central Office for the use of LEAF members, especially the following: developing a package for presenting the Centennial Edition of *Progress and Poverty* to local libraries preparing learning aids to accompany the publicizing and showing of "For the Land is Mine," and preparing public information and social action packages to be used by members at the local, state, or national level.

First Order of Business: Goal-Setting

The new Board of Directors will meet at the LEAF offices in San Diego on October 27, 1979. The main purpose of the meeting will be to continue the process of negotiating the mission, goals and objectives of LEAF.

The goal-setting process began when Frank Gobel met with the LEAF Board in April in Pasadena to facilitate the meeting. At that time, after a day of discussing a wide range of possible directions for LEAF to take, since the Board was not near consensus, it was agreed to continue the discussion at future meetings. Marian Sapiro agreed to gather the ideas expressed at the meeting, put them into more concise form, and dis-

tribute them to the Board for their comments. This was done at the Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

The Board is now ready to discuss a final draft of LEAF's mission, goals, and objectives. This draft will be sent to you, or be put in the next issue of *THE NEW LEAF*, for your study and input. Your input, in fact, is most important if we are to be a unified movement.

Following is a list of mission-statements for your study. You are invited to comment on them, write your own, if you wish, and send them to the LEAF Central Offices, San Diego, as soon as possible.

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Henry George poses with friends
for Centennial Album

— Photo by George Collins



The Centennial Album: Who's Who in Georgism

More than 100 orders have been placed for the Centennial Celebration Album, presently being prepared by the LEAF Central Offices in San Diego.

The album will mainly consist of program information of the Centennial week, more than 100 photographs, names and addresses of individuals and families who participated in the Conference, as well as group-pictures of people at table enjoying the Centennial Celebration Banquet on Saturday evening.

The purpose of the album, besides being a reminder of the Centennial Celebration itself, is to serve as a directory of Georgists and Friends. Such an aide will encourage us to improve our communications and develop support systems among us.

The Centennial Celebration Album is also a start toward developing a complete resource directory for Georgists, containing not only photographs, names, and addresses of Geor-

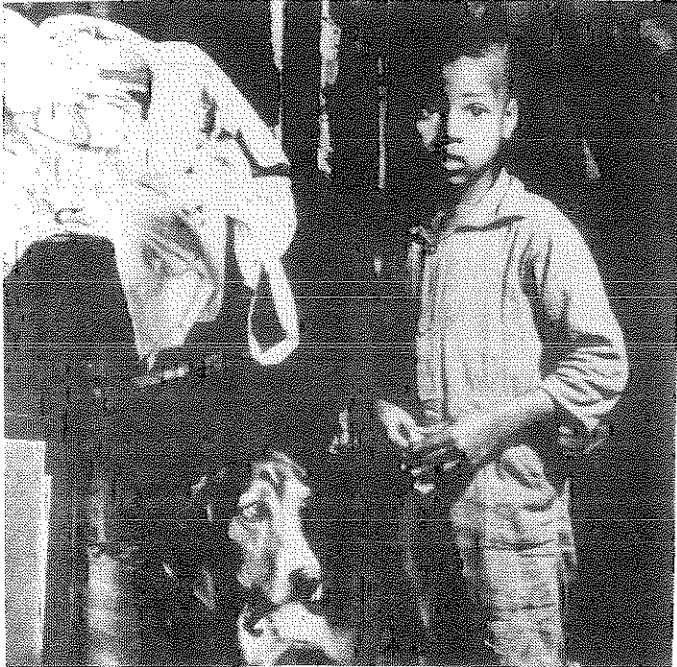
gists and friends, but their skills and fields of expertise as well. It could also include lists of audio-visual resources and other learning materials, strategies of action for social change, exercises for developing communication skills and ideas for using the media to inform the public.

If you did not get your picture taken at the Centennial, and you would like to be included in the Centennial Celebration Album, please send your photograph, name and address immediately to the LEAF Central Offices. Even if you did not attend the Centennial and you want to be in the album, send us your photograph, name and address and we will print them in the "Centennial Album Annex" for those Georgists who were in San Francisco in spirit only.

If you would like to receive a Centennial Celebration Album send \$5.00 to LEAF, 2242 Morley Street, San Diego, CA 92111.

Progress and Poverty — Revisited

The symptoms of our sick world are many and obvious: war, poverty, crime, racism, sexism, pollution, just to mention a few. The root causes of these symptoms are not so obvious: lack of natural opportunity to use the land, lack of representative government, lack of equal opportunity to community resources, the unjust distribution of wealth, and a disregard for ecological justice. Which issues do we address? To what extent do we get involved with the root causes of social and environmental injustice? If we do not decide these things then we will in effect decide to remain as we are.



"I do not wish to call upon those my voice may reach to demand their own rights, so much as to call upon them to secure the rights of others more helpless. I believe that any great social improvements must spring from and be animated by that spirit which seeks to make life better, nobler, happier for others, rather than by that spirit which only seeks more enjoyment for itself. For the mammon of injustice can always buy the selfish whenever it may think it worth while to pay enough; but unselfishness it cannot buy."

Henry George.

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back-to-basics movement of the 1970s, the relationship between a child's socio-economic status and the child's school performance and years of education "seems unshakeable."

"The extent of inequality — the gap between those at the top and those at the bottom — has not diminished," he said.

De Lone said Americans have placed the burden for fundamental social change on children because of widespread acceptance of a set of misconceptions and half-truths. Central among these beliefs is that poverty can be attacked by itself without touching the rest of society.

De Lone said American public policy must change from one based on the theory of equal opportunity to one based on equality itself if the differences between rich and poor are to be removed. Meanwhile, he said, the social and educational programs that have been aimed at equalizing opportunity should be retained.

(Washington — AP)
(A report to the Carnegie Council on Children)

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LEAF'S MISSION

1. To promote prosperity and social justice by removing taxes from earned income and capital and collecting, instead, for social purposes, the revenues derived from the socially produced value of land and natural resources.

2. To obtain legislation enabling Federal, state, and local government to derive income for their legitimate functions from the socially produced value of land and natural resources.

3. To disseminate the social, political, and economic philosophy of Henry George to the public and to leaders of government, business, and society.

4. To develop political activists who will find and create opportunities to implement the philosophy of Henry George.

Membership Form

You can count on me as a LEAF member at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$15 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of LEAF |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining (\$5 mo.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$60 Yearly | <input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing (\$10 mo.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$120 Yearly | |

Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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