

The Bargyle



"A throat, mouthpiece, spout." Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and not necessarily endorsed by the Henry George School.

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

No. 81

A P R I L 1 9 6 4

TUESDAY - MARCH 31st

Completion Celebration - Newark Headquarters, 8 p.m. For those who have just finished the Basic Course in Cranford - Verona - Metuchen - Newark AND THEIR friends.

Program includes:

Film: LAND...AND SPACE TO GROW
Short talks by Dean Goldfinger and Louis T. Weltzman. Awards, refreshments and social time.

TUESDAY - APRIL 7th

Initial session of Spring Term
Basic Course - Headquarters Newark
7:30 to 9:30

Inform those you believe may be interested to attend opening session.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

THE GARGOTIE is Eight Years Old
Born April 1956.

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Thursday, April 9th 2 to 4 p.m.

This is date set for get-together of persons who are free in the afternoon. Anyone who can attend is welcome. You may invite whoever you wish to bring with you.

An interesting time awaits - it will be informal and "who knows what?"

HOW TO ABOLISH POVERTY

"Like those who oppose us, or at least fail to go with us from sheer inability to see how the taxation of land values (or land rent) can abolish poverty, their mental gaze seems to be concentrated on what we propose to do, ignoring what we propose to do away with. The great benefit the appropriation of ground rent, or land values to public use would not be in the revenue that it would give, so much as in the abolition of restrictions upon the free play of productive forces that it would involve or permit. It is not by the mere levying of a tax that we propose to abolish poverty; it is by "insuring the blessings of liberty."

Henry George - The Standard, Jan. 21, 1888

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY
78 Clinton Avenue, Newark 14, N.J.
MA 3-9333, John T. Tetley, Director

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L I B R A R Y

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INSIDIOUS PRIVATE ENTERPRISE UNDERMINING SOCIALISM

BARRON'S reports that the Soviet Union is beset by creeping capitalism as growing numbers of Soviet citizens reject the orthodox tenets of communism in favor of an approach which has all the earmarks of capitalism.

Private transactions of all kinds, from the sale of farm products to such illegal ventures as renting property are occurring frequently. Some of the state-owned factories are even advertising--something every red-blooded communist knows is capitalist non-sense.

The smart people in Russia secretly admire the efficiency of capitalism and like its way of life. Of course, they do not dare say so. Rather, in round about ways, they promote it. Some of their efforts are legal. For example, most of the fruit, vegetables, dairy products, eggs, poultry and meat consumed by city folk are sold in free collective farm markets. Some fruit is actually shipped privately by plane from Khabarovsk to Moscow, a distance of over 6,000 miles.

Homebuilding is on the increase. From 1954 to 1960 peasants and state-farm employees built 4,715,000 private dwelling units. People are actually buying real estate in suburban areas and on the outskirts of cities. A famous writer is known to have owned seven houses in different cities and to have rented them out at a large profit.

State-owned factories actually hire purchasing agents who travel about trying to purchase needed materials. Enterprising people have set up their own workshops to produce spades, brooms, toys and household supplies. Much of this work is done surreptitiously. For instance, Pasternak's "Dr. Zhivago" cannot be bought in Russia. Some profit-minded souls, therefore, have made typewritten copies of it and rent them out to readers. Many literary and political periodicals, usually in mimeograph form, are sold illicitly.

It is interesting to note that the people who are in the forefront in these legal and illegal activities are between 25 and 30, and they are demanding more freedom in such things as production, distribution and pricing of goods.

With the ghastly tragedy in farming which necessitated Russia purchasing grain abroad, no doubt, the Communists will have to turn even more to some form of private initiative in agriculture.

The profit motive is something which is inherent in every individual and it is impossible to stifle it, no matter how much brain-washing is done. In Communist Russia, despite all the years of propaganda denouncing private enterprise, des-

pite the oppression and the obstacles, people still engage in it, limited though it may be. It's natural as breathing.

The Soviet leaders are in a quandry. To get production they need to let the people be free to produce under something approaching private enterprise. However, to do that means that the leaders' hold over the people will be weakened and they may be thrown out of power. So, they temperize, permitting some private initiative where things seem to be breaking down and tightening up on bureaucratic controls in other areas. Right now, it appears they will have to permit some more private enterprise if only to get enough to eat.

And the irony of it all is that as Russia seems to be turning toward capitalism, the United States, of all countries, seems to be turning toward socialism!

O. B. Johannsen

SENSE & NONSENSE

Long Island politicians are in a dither over a plan to reassess vacant land in Nassau County.

One group is backing the Board of Assessor's plan to re-evaluate some 49,000 parcels of vacant land. They claim that homeowners are assessed at one-third the market value of their improved property while vacant land is assessed at "as little as one-hundredth" of the market value. The value of improved land, they claim has gone up three times since 1939 while the value of vacant land has increased a hundred times. They want all property assessed at 33% of value.

The other group claims that the plan would discriminate against the owners of vacant property.

Is it any wonder that land speculation is so profitable when the poor homeowners have to be taxed on their improvements so the land speculators can hold land out of use until society needs the land, at which time the land speculator will render the great service of selling the land at inflated prices.

Judging by the way our society is developing with more and more emphasis on the seamy side of life one is reminded of the apt statement of Will Rogers: "What this country needs is more dirty fingernails and clean minds."

In "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire", Edward Gibbon in 1788 listed four reasons for that fall:

1. The rapid increase of divorce. The undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home -- the basis of human society.
2. Higher and higher taxes, and the spending of public money for free bread and circuses for the populace.

3. The mad craze for pleasure.

4. The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy, the decadence of the people, was within.

He might have added another reason: The huge landed estates which were owned by the Roman Senators and resulted in the masses leaving the countryside and flooding the cities.

The way things are going in our society, the equivalent of having started life in a log cabin will be having been born in a hospital that was not air-conditioned.

The typical American boy learns to walk within a year; then forgets how to do so immediately upon securing his driver's license.

In Peru in the Cuzco Department, the Indian peasants have occupied farms in a desperate attempt to get land. Most of it is owned by a handful of people, with the result that poverty is widespread. The poor miserable Indians walk bowed with impossibly heavy loads and sullen looks. The advent of the airplane, radio and modern articles in stores as well as growing contact with American tourists made them increasingly aware of their shockingly low station in life.

In ironic contrast, they live in the shadow of ruins of marvelous masonry consisting of stone walls which were erected perfectly over 500 years ago. The stones fit together without mortar and often not even a knifeblade can be inserted between them. Only a great civilization could have produced such work. Their civilization today is of a different order, for today these poor Indians have to resort to sitdowns on the land in order to get some action which will permit them to use the land without paying ruinous rents to other men.

Unless this land hunger is appeased, Peru is destined to have an explosion reminiscent of the French Revolution.

A THOUGHT WHEN YOU FILE YOUR INCOME TAX RETURN.

One little tax bill, paid by me and you,
"Jobs for the faithful" - then there

were two
Two little tax bills, sent to you and me
"Let's try another plan" - then there

were three
Three little tax bills, left at the door,
"Cut down the food supply" - then there

were four
Four little tax bills, certain to arrive,
"Blow another billion" - then there

were five
Five little tax bills - never mind the
kicks! -

"Soak all the thrifty" - then there
were six,

Six little tax bills for a Government
heaven
Full of busy bureaucrats - then there
were seven

Seven little tax bills, watch the budget

soar
Eight little tax bills - soon there will
be more
Ten - twenty tax bills, thirty, thirty-
three

How we gonna pay 'em? Don't ask ME!

Berton Brealey

"FRAGMENTS"

On rare occasions--unfortunately only too rare--there appears on the cultural scene a publication, a magazine or a broadsheet which is such a delightful treat that to obtain the full savor of it one must drink its intellectual nectar as one does a cordial--slowly and appreciatively. Such was "The Freeman" under the editorship of that urbane man of letters, Albert Jay Nock. Another was "Analysis" that piquant broadsheet which pithy, sagacious Frank Chodorov published.

Now, a new one has appeared - "Fragments". Originally issued last year as a broadsheet, it is now in a more attractive magazine format, but much more important, its contents cannot fail to stimulate the thinking of the discriminating educable elite.

Its philosophical orientation is individualistic for most of the contributors are of the Georgist or Thoreauian persuasion. A poetic yet rationalistic style permeates most of its articles and what is particularly gratifying is that it is liberally sprinkled with some of Frank Chodorov's most penetrating essays which the editors have resurrected from "Analysis".

These articles alone are worth the price of the publication.

Its chief defect is that it is only a quarterly, but it would probably be difficult to maintain such a sustained high level of writing, if it appeared oftener.

This reviewer makes no apologies for being rhapsodical. If the reader will send \$2.00 for an annual subscription to Fragments, Inc., 139 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, N.Y., 11003, it will not be long before he feels that the reviewer was not enthusiastic enough.

Oscar B. Johansen

POVERTY - AND THE GOVERNMENT

"The lesson of paternalism ought to be unlearned and the better lesson taught - that while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government; its functions do not include the support of the people."

Grover Cleveland

Have you read PROGRESS & POVERTY by
Henry George. Very appropriate today.

A NEW APPROACH

"Taxation and Rating in the Twentieth Century" by Mr. T. A. Ende. This is an 8 page pamphlet published in England. It is intended as an appeal to all factions to replace an archaic, complicated, confiscatory, deterrent and inflationary system of taxation with one which is fair, simple, economic, stimulating to industry and commerce, non-confiscatory and anti-inflationary.

A few quotations from Mr. Ende - "Most right- and left-wing elections in the United Kingdom regard the sovietisation of Great Britain as inevitable because they cannot see an alternative, but millions of people all over the world know that the American Economist Henry George offered the world the complete alternative to Socialism."

"There can be no case for taking revenue from any other source until the full (annual rental) value of land has been taken."

"During the 18 years that Henry George campaigned, the population of the United States probably rose from 45 million to 50 million. Today it is nearly 180 million, and 40-50 million are said to be living in poverty. This is certainly an overwhelmingly larger proportion than in George's day."

The author has been 36 years in the landed property profession. Although the booklet is directed toward use in England it is entirely suitable for application in the United States.

A free copy of this pamphlet may be obtained on request to Mr. Ende, c/o The Henry George School, 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London S.W. 1, England. (Postage from U.S. to England 11¢)

DO YOU READ IT?

THE HENRY GEORGE NEWS - unless you are a contributor to the N.J. school in excess of \$10. a year and receive it - how better can you invest 1 buck (\$1.00) that is the new reduced subscription rate. So if you are not getting this splendid publication send that \$1. Federal Reserve note to 78 Clinton Ave., Newark and get your name on the subscription list.

NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

Once more the Annual Conference of the Henry George Schools is being held within commuting distance. This year it will be at the Henry Hudson Hotel, West 57th Street, New York City. Dates are August 30th to Sept. 5th. In addition to the school conference, The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade will combine its conference. Here is an excellent opportunity to meet and hear folks from European and other overseas countries. Plan to attend as much of the conference as you can. Program will be mailed to you as soon as received.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Give a man credit for anything these days and he'll buy it.

Back in the old days, it was the boy himself and not his teacher who had to explain why he couldn't read.

Destiny may shape our ends, but it's the intake calories which shape our middle.

Did you know one shop owner has been putting on "Going Out of Business" sales for the past eight years. They have been so successful that he's opened up 10 new "Going Out of Business" stores.

The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing again certainly never weeded a garden, raked leaves, washed a car, or diapered a baby.

Daffynitions

Opportunist: A man who, when he finds himself in hot water, takes a bath.
Flatterer: The cleverest of mind readers. He tells us exactly what we think.
Marriage: An alliance of two people, one of whom never remembers birthdays, and the other who never forgets them.

Lighthearted Lexicon

Satirist: A worker in wrought irony.

Statellite: A stooge for a star.

Savant: A professor being quoted by a newspaper.

Savings: Money that sleeps while you work.

Seance: Sitting down with a few choice spirits.

Sentence: A group of words starting with a subject and ending with a penitentiary.

Service: The concept of doing something for nothing while doing someone for something.

Sex: The formula by which one and one makes three.

Sexton: One who minds his keys and pews.

Shakespeare: A man whose writings are so excellent it is believed someone else must have written them.

Shampoo: Noodle soup.

Shaving: Washing the face with a sword.

Singing: A man's bathright.

Skepticism: The ability to disbelieve anything.

Skull: The house you live in.

Skyscraper: A building with its own barbershop.

Sleeping Bag: A nap sack.

Socialite: An Emily Post-graduate.

Soft Soap: A little white "lye".

Spanking: Applause backwards.

Speech: Pulling the haystack apart to disclose the needle.

Spoon: The most fattening thing you can

put into a banana split.

Strike: A labor pain.

Sunstroke: The heat you wanted last winter.