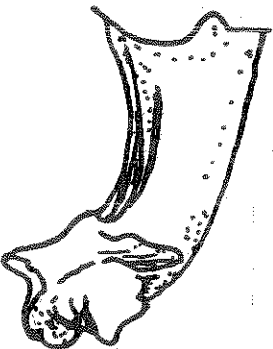


The

## Barquole



"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. 108

JANUARY 1967

The 13thA F T E R N O O N

Can man do anything better about improving the weather than he has done to improve taxation and the economic system? Or did we just pick a "bad" night to schedule a little get-together at headquarters on Dec. 13th? (On the other hand it was on Dec. 13, 1775 that Congress authorized the building of 13 ships and is generally regarded as the birthday of the U.S. Navy) Really, I am not superstitious, but, that 13th was somewhat unlucky so far as our party was concerned. The weather forecasts varied, as did the actual storm. Nevertheless several hardy souls ventured forth and the informal program scheduled lasted until a late hour.

January 10th, second Tuesday 2pm  
78 Clinton Ave., Newark - Film - "Japan" - The Frozen Moment - A look at Japanese theatre; dance, music and poetry - ancient esthetic disciplines - commentary by Sessue Hayakawa - the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, the Bugaku dancers and Gagaku musicians - 7th century dances - traditions of 1500 years - scenes from "Matsukaze" - The Bunraku Puppet Theatre - examples of exquisite and unique Haiku, enacted by a professional cast.

Following the film discussion of the topics of the day. Anyone who is free in the daytime is cordially invited and to bring others - the weather? - Remains to be seen.

"When he (man) is deprived of the fruits of his labor, he feels a hurt; he feels that part of him has been taken away..... Thus came the doctrine of the "divine right of kings," when we follow this line of thought, we come to such institutions as compulsory tithes for the maintenance of ecclesiasts, taxes for politicians, and the military, tariffs for the benefit of vested interests, appropriation of the natural resources by monopolists, and all the other privileges which the political organization of society spews up. Accommodation to these regularized means of robbery - one must live obscures its character; but it does not remove the effect of the robbery on human values..... Value is a human experience, not an economist's slide rule. It is a measure of life, not a price tag. Abundance which produces the amount of labor one must give up to acquire satisfactions, is the means of releasing the insatiable and questioning spirit of mankind; while the devil's cauldron contains a mixture of taxation, monopoly, restrictions on production and all the political means of creating scarcities so that some humans, through the mechanism of high prices, may live by the labor of others." Frank Chodorov

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## U.S. MAIL

Around the middle of September I received a notice from the P.O. DEPARTMENT THAT I should come for an interview. I had taken a Civil Service examination earlier in the summer, with tongue in cheek, and had forgotten about it. I had made application at various places at no avail - partly because of my age and partly because I had little in the way of experience to offer.

At any rate, after getting a physical I found myself working in the Post Office. The community is one of those with exploding population from 5000\* in 1955 to almost 40,000 today. At first I had the horrendous hours of 3:30 to midnight; but now I go in two hours earlier. I am only a carrier sub-but in line, hopefully, for advancement to "regular". The activity there is in the nature of a whole new world to me; and in fact, I sometimes feel that I have taken leave of the world as I know it. This is because the next day after I started, I was told of a series of tests that I would have to pass and was given materials, such as hundreds of flash cards, to use in preparing. Someone there commented very truthfully, that P.O. work is like travel these days. You get to the far places much quicker, proportionately, than you do to the near. And so, to the P.O. clerk, it is a lot more complicated to send mail across town than it is to send it to California.

Ever since I started, I have worked, with no exception at all, from the breakfast period until lights out, on the test material. I was surprised at myself by the intensity with which I attacked the learning of material and I concluded that I was in far more dire need of a challenge than I had even realized. I realize that this is not an intellectual development but only deals with memory exercise still. I surmise that not many people of my age either get, or take the opportunity of even this kind of mental development. The problem is to learn many hundreds of street names with its own route number, one of a possible 49 routes. The place is growing so fast that three routes have been added just since I started.

Then there is the mental stumbling block of similarities in names; for instance there are ten local Woods: Woodcrest, Woodford, Woodglen, Woodgrove, Woodland, Woodlark, etc. each with its different number. And there are many others. The worst of all is that many streets are divided into different sections which are different routes.

Each street division has its separate flash card and the trouble comes, not in remembering the route number; but the street break-down. The test comes, or consists, of throwing 100 flash cards into proper route pigeon hole in the city case in eight minutes, with accuracy of no less than 95. I passed the first test after thirty days and have been working on the second but we were told to put it aside for December - thank goodness. We surely need the break. I would come up out of this sea of numbers to do something briefly necessary and the whole world would look so far away and unreal - and then I'd jump right back into the number sea again.

This experience has been working proof of the fact that intelligence has nothing to do with information. The people I work with are certainly mentally capable; but their knowledge is unbelievable. Good English is an unknown accomplishment; and ideas are nonexistent. I imagine that after, or if, I get through the next two tests, the challenge will be over; and I might be rather bored; but I can't be concerned with that at the moment. When that time comes I may practice doing better with my typewriter.

One more observation - I was privately much embarrassed that I was, by many years, older than anyone else in the P.O. except for one supervisor. And I suspect Bets were being made that I would never last. A friendly young chap confirmed that suspicion. But he added that nobody gave it a thought anymore; so it looks as if I'm considered both "human" and "in". For several days after I passed the test, perfectly strange men would come up to me and say, with a surprised expression, and obviously not believing it, that they had heard I'd passed the test. So just look how stupid that older people are supposed to be. You can see that after Christmas is over and the deluge preceeding it, that it will be a matter of personal determination that I settle down to renewed effort. The deluge is expected to start next week and most of us don't exactly know what to expect. There is a tremendous turnover and the men leave, but the women do not. The P.O. is largely run by newcomers and we say it is a case of the blind leading the blind. One day I will tell you what causes the back-up of mail in large centers, like Washington. It will never be told in the press - also the reason it has never happened before.

A Gargoyle Reader

scarcity and  
excuse offered  
administering the  
ing a bad job. It is  
it of the principles  
is the fault of the  
rs.

vein the "new econo-  
ide the Administration  
"new economists" inside  
istration for mishandling  
. They claim the Adminis-  
should have made more ef-  
use of fiscal policy--that  
is, to raise taxes--when it was ob-  
vious that business was operating  
at capacity and prices were rising.  
The "new economists" have two devices  
to control an economy--fiscal and  
monetary policy. Fiscal policy in-  
volves the raising and lowering of  
taxes and government spending.  
Monetary policy involves the in-  
creases or decreasing of monetary  
media (which today means increas-  
ing or decreasing the quantity of  
our so-called paper money and de-  
mand deposits) and raising or low-  
ering the interest rates for the  
loan of money.

Because taxes were not raised in  
1966 the "outsiders" claim the bal-  
anced boom turned into an unsustain-  
able superboom which is now running  
out of steam. As things are begin-  
ning to slow up, they now feel that  
1967 might wind up as a recession  
year. So now when the "ins" are  
considering a tax raise, the "outs"  
are against one.

Of course, sound economists will  
always tell you that taxation is  
bad, so in this instance no doubt  
most of the people and good econo-  
mists are with the "outs". But it  
is absurd to assume that an economy  
can be helped by raising taxes at  
one time and lowering them at an-  
other. The excuse for raising taxes  
is to siphon off excess income so

something has to give and that is  
production.

No one, of course, knows what  
will happen in 1967. Our nation  
is in the position of a man who  
is sick and has been sustained by  
one narcotic after another. When  
ever it is decided to slow down  
the use of the narcotics, natural-  
ly he feels the effects of with-  
drawal and the doctor is up against  
the problem of whether to ad-  
minister another shot or let the  
patient go thru the necessary  
withdrawal pains.

Our economic doctors don't know  
what to do and with the division  
existing among them, it is quite  
certain that politics will deter-  
mine what will be done. If the  
politicians feel it wise to raise  
taxes a little this year and then  
reduce them next year (an election  
year) they will do that. If they  
feel it will only get them more  
in disfavor with the people they  
may not raise taxes. They will  
play it by ear. That means that  
no one knows which way to turn.  
Most knowledgeable people will just  
sit tight to see which way the  
wind blows.

You can be sure of one thing.  
No fundamental economic reform  
will be attempted, such as taxing  
land values.

So, as we enter 1967, the wise  
man will probably not make too  
many commitments but will be pre-  
pared to batten down the hatches  
if a recession does occur or will  
be prepared to jump into real  
values (land, wealth, and stocks)  
if inflationary pressures grow.

One thing you can say - Life is  
never dull in the United States.

Oscar B. Johannsen

(See note from Una Miller Pg.4)

SENSE & NONSENSE

The uproar over the book, "Death of a President", which deals with the life of President Kennedy reminds one of Albert Jay Nock's wisdom. He contended a biography should contain only such items of personal history which were causally connected with the individual having reached whatever eminence he may have attained. Anything having to do with his personal life, feelings, or views of others which had no connection with his position in life were irrelevant and to discuss them was an invasion of the individual's privacy.

Possibly, had this formula been followed Mrs. Kennedy would not now be trying to suppress the book. Too often, biographies remind one of old gossips gleefully reciting the juicy details of someone's life. Such may give the writer and the reader some vicarious pleasure but it does little toward understanding of what made the individual outstanding.

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Jose Ortega Y. Gasset once said, "What makes a nation great is not primarily its great men, but the stature of its innumerable mediocre ones."

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\$1,000,000,000,000. Do you know what that is? One trillion dollars. Sen. Ribicoff who has been conducting hearing on how to rebuild our decaying cities claims that much money will be required to rebuild them. Peculiar how people believe everything can be done with money. Actually ten times ten trillion dollars probably wouldn't do the job. What is needed is incentives. The best one, which probably will be overlooked, is to tax only land values and not improvements. In New York City in the 1920's, they granted a ten year moratorium on certain types of buildings and they had a building boom. If they did something similar the problem of our delapidated cities could be solved in a generation. Will such be done? I wouldn't want my life to depend on it, for it doesn't yield much in the way of political capital to make it too desirable to the politicos or the bureaucrats. But who knows - maybe some dynamic Georgist can sell the idea!

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Isn't it strange how in the communistic heavens they regularly have these purges? Russia has had them over and over again, and now China is going through another one. The chief angels of that heaven are fighting among themselves. Mao Tsetung, the party Chief and Lin Piao, the Defense Minister have been purging the party of heretics, using young people composing the Red Guard to

do the job. Some think Mao is too ill, and that the man appearing at the rallies is merely a stooge dressed up to look like him, and that Lin Piao is running the show. It's a minor point except that it points up how involved matters are. They obviously are trying to get complete control thru terrorism much as Hitler obtained control in Germany using the Hitler Youth to terrorize the people.

The victims appear to be those communists and bureaucrats who have been forced by events to take a more rational attitude to communism. They apparently want to give the people a little more freedom and incentive to produce, much as the Russians have. This Mao sees as a threat to his power, which it is. Thus the terror campaign. Mao will probably win for the time being, but eventually as production declines drastically and the economy gets even worse than it is, he and Lin will be disposed in one way or another, and those equipped with a little more common sense will take over.

Isn't it peculiar? Socialism never works. It is as plain as day and yet in the United States more and more people, without realizing it, are favoring socialism. Makes one wonder if people are rational or not?

Capitalism: Freedom  
Socialism: Feed 'em  
Communism: Bleed 'em

SALT OF THE EARTH

Daffynitions: Stone Haaf - A suitor reluctant to produce the engagement ring.

Trustworthy: One who can keep a secret.

Sneaky: When it's you he's keeping it from.

Parking Meter: An automatic device that bets \$3. to your nickel that you can't get back before the red flag pops up.

Pessimist: A man who finances an optimist.

Diplomat: A man who knows how far to go before he goes too far.

Man: Ape-like creature who has progressed to the point where he walks upright but his eyes still swing from limb to limb.

Opportunity: Something that is never lost. The other fellow takes those you missed.

Modern Poet: One who doesn't look like a poet and doesn't write like one either.

Vision: That which is ascribed to people who have guessed correctly.

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"Hi Everybody" writes Una Miller from Arizona - "How I would like to be among you during these unbelievable days, to take part in the hot discussions of our insane fiscal policies." (See page 3.)