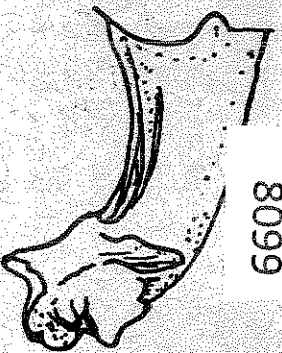


## Barquole



HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY

#53

J U N E 1 9 6 1

THE DEAN THINKSEnvironment

"One twin executed on the gallows as a murderer and his identical twin brother is a revered minister of the gospel, noted for his inherent goodness." This was the comment of many just after the murderer paid his supreme penalty. Such facts would excite speculation under any conditions, but at the time of the execution, an intellectual controversy was raging as to whether human behavior is influenced more by heredity than environment.

Statistics and case histories were used by sociologists and psychologists to show that slums and poverty were the nests from which crime and delinquency were hatched.

Statistics and case histories were similarly used to show that genius and artistic competence ran in families and that the children of intellectuals were more apt to equal or outshine their parents than children of mediocre intelligence parentage.

A research group of a famous college determined to use the case of the twins, one of whom became a murderer and the other a man given to good deeds as worthy of deep and incisive investigation. The facts that they discovered gave a better, if not a new concept to what we deem to be "environment."

Briefly, here were the facts elicited by the researchers. The boys were identical twins. That is, their genes and chromosomes were identical, therefore they were the product of the fertilization of one ovum. Therefore, if their paths diverged in human behavior it could not be the result of divergence in their heredity. Therefore, if only heredity and environment could mould their characters, it must have been environment that was responsible.

But the researchers discovered that both boys were raised on a farm from birth to manhood, by the same happily married parents, had the same schooling until manhood, and much the same experiences. Then what about environment as an influence of human behavior?

By devoting countless hours in interrogating many persons who intimately knew the family and the twins, the researchers

traced back to a single occurrence the later pronounced divergence of the brothers. This is what the researchers learned.

On a certain day, when the twins were about seven years old, their father remarked that he was going to the barn to slaughter a hog. One of the twins begged to go along and his request was granted. His father, in granting the request, remarked to his wife, "If he is going to be a farmer, he might as well see how we slaughter a hog."

The other twin was not in the room when the request of his brother was made and granted and when father and son set off to the barn. When he returned to the room and was told that his father and brother had left for the barn, the twin decided not to run after them and he remained in the house. After a time, he became bored and asked his mother to read him a story. She replied that as soon as she was finished with the task she was doing (peeling some vegetables) she would do so.

Shortly, curled up on his mother's lap, the lad heard her read a story from a McGuffey Reader, which like all such stories in the famous McGuffey books of a generation ago, always portrayed a good and an evil character, human or animal, pitted against each other and the virtuous one always prevailed in the end. The boy, feeling the warmth and comfort of his mother's proximity and her love as she read to him, was impressed by the story, and thereafter, without knowing why he did so, begged his mother to read more stories in each case, (until he was some years older) squirming onto her lap and feeling the reassurance of her presence and love.

The twin who accompanied his father to the barn, saw the preparations made, the sharpening of the blade of the knife, the binding of the hog and finally the quick thrust of the knife. He heard the squealing of the hog and saw the fast flow of blood from the hog's throat. He exulted with excitement. Thereafter, whenever his father or the hired hand was going to kill a fowl or an animal, the boy would witness the act, thus repeating and reliving his initial response to the blood letting and slaughter.

It does not need telling that in later life the twin who witnessed the slaughter became a murderer and the boy who was thrilled with stories in which good triumphed over evil became the minister.

The researchers did not contend that these two different experiences of the twins were the sole reasons why they matured so differently. It was not quite so easy and direct. But they did conclude that environment meant much more than the kind of family, the kind of house, the educational advantages, etc. in which an individual grows up. They confirmed that environment, for each individual, is the sum total of all his experiences, which cumulatively mould his personality, his thoughts, his goals and his behavior.

Our religiously minded ancestors, mindful of the story of Eve, were convinced that Man is sinful and that only by being ever mindful of this fact and by conscious striving can Man overcome his original sin. A good deal of this concept is still with all of us, leading us to feelings of guilt.

Much later, it was believed (and still is) that Man is inherently good and that this is the distinction between Man and the beasts of nature.

But, if Man is inherently good, then how account for the crime, juvenile delinquency, the inhumanity of man to his fellow creature, for involuntary slavery and the evils perpetrated by humans?

The answer propounded and firmly believed by many is that the environment or society as the environment is responsible. Thus, if an adolescent, reared in a slum neighborhood became a malefactor, then it was not primarily his fault, it was the fault of his environment, and if society permitted the perpetuation of such slums, such dens of iniquity, then society is to blame.

The ancient concept that each individual bears personal responsibility for his behavior has greatly diminished. We find societal excuses for aberrational behavior, parents feel guilt and blame themselves when their child does wrong and do not make the child feel that he is responsible, in short, society must bear the blame for the evil which is done. Of course, those who think clearly realize that there is no such entity as "society". Society is and can be only a group of separate and distinct individuals, each seeking to satisfy his desires, his goals and his life.

But, though society cannot be a whipping-boy for all the evils perpetrated by humans, since the environment which does shape the behavior of individuals consists of all their experiences, and since those experiences do occur within a cultural pattern in which the individual lives, it is true that the cultural pattern does influence the behavior of the individuals.

What kind of behavior can we expect from the concepts prevalent today that society (the government) is responsible for the welfare of all its inhabitants.

It must see to it that there is full employment, and if this is not possible, then it must pay unemployment benefits; it must assure medical care to all persons it must (by taxation i.e. coercion) assure old age pensions to all.

This may be tending to the situation in Sweden which is the state in which the umbrella of "welfare" is greatest among all the non-communist states. Sweden does give its people greater relief from individual responsibility than most of its neighbors. The worry of unemployment, of medical bills, of maternity bills, of old age financial care is largely eliminated. Of course, Sweden has one of the highest tax rates in the world, it is losing out in the accumulation of capital which is necessary for expansion of productivity, but its greatest loss is in the incentive of its people and in their loss of individual responsibility. Sweden does have a high suicide rate, a high rate of juvenile delinquency, a high rate of illegitimate births. But responsible persons in Sweden deny these are consequences of their "welfare state." It may be that they are right.

We do know that without the "welfare state," but pursuing a policy of individual ruggedness and responsibility, with a free market economy, the United States transformed a wilderness into the greatest nation in the world, having the greatest productivity and the highest standard of living.

In the field of human behavior, the concept that every boy or girl, born in a log cabin or a slum can become a millionaire or president by his or her own efforts, the feeling of responsibility for consequences has produced giants in the scientific, the artistic and cultural fields.

Take away the feeling of responsibility and substitute a life devoid of worry, of struggle of the joy of accomplishment which the advance of the "welfare state" hopes to achieve, and the environment of each individual will be so altered that the generations after this may easily succumb to the allure of giving up all their liberties or may become the victims of a totalitarian regime.

We who see the dangers ahead have a responsibility which cannot be shirked. We owe it to those who have transmitted to us the concepts of liberty and to our progeny to forswear the easy road, the embracing of guarantees against the vicissitudes of life, of shifting to "government" the responsibility for ourselves, our elderly people, our sick and maimed. On the positive side, we owe a duty to labor for the cause of an economic system which will assure equality of opportunity, a free market economy, with no special privileges for any group or segment of the economy, and at the same time will not infringe our personal responsibility for our own welfare.

Alexander M. Goldfinger

## SENSE AND NONSENSE

The bureaucrats confiscated three horses of Valentine Y. Eyles, an Amish farmer, who refused to make social security payments. The Amish take care of their old people and refuse both to pay the tax and take any benefits. It looks like the bureaucrats prefer having everybody a begger and nobody a worker.

Three fourths of the earth's surface is water and one-fourth land. This is clear evidence that the Almighty expected that a man should spend three times as much time fishing as he does mowing the lawn.

FCC Chm. Newton N. Minow attacked the broadcasting industry for the type of programs they put on, claiming there is a vast TV wasteland. Mr. Kennedy, the president, urges the press to think of ways of attaining voluntary censorship of news detrimental to national security. Wonder if what they are really worried about is the criticism of the way the New Frontier is messing things up?

Did you ever realize that because of our interference in Cuba, Batista was forced out and Castro came in? Now, because of our interference in Cuba and the Dominican Republic those two worthies, Castro and Trujillo, are burying the hatchet and making us the common enemy. How much more interference in the affairs of other nations will our politicians practice until they learn the wisdom of George Washington who advised "no entangling alliances"? No one knows how to solve his neighbor's problems. Why should our State Department know how to solve other countries' problems?

The Secretary of Agriculture's name is Freeman. What irony it must be to our farmers that a man blessed with such a name should be advocating putting the farmers in a strait-jacket. His program, if put into effect, would give him the power to decide what, where and how much is to be produced. Looks like he should change his name to Dictator.

When it was exposed that all the members of the executive staff were to emphasize President Kennedy's thoughtful consideration of the people every time they made a speech so as to bring him to the attention of the people, one wit suggested that the weather bureau forecast might follow this pattern: "Through the kindness of John F. Kennedy, it will be fair and warm today."

Did you know that the U.S. Government is the largest electric power producer, the largest insurer, the largest insured, the largest lender, the largest borrower, the largest landlord, the largest tenant, the largest holder of grazing land, timberland and grain, the largest warehouse operation, ship owner, and the largest truck fleet operator? And this is the land of private enterprise!

On May 5th Alan Shepard was shot 115 miles above the earth's surface and came back safely to earth. No doubt, soon we will be getting more details of how the Russian astronaut came back to earth, after the Communists can apply the knowledge they get from him on this vital point.

## CANADA SCORES AGAIN

Congratulations to Harry Pollard, Director of Studies, School of Economic Science (the Henry George School of Toronto) Pollard appeared before the Special Committee of the Senate on Manpower and Employment. He made an excellent presentation as to the land tenure system now in operation being a basic cause of unemployment and land value taxation a suggestion for its elimination. His remarks were well prepared with exhibits and the committee indicated it would give consideration to this "new idea". A copy of the proceedings is in your school library and is good reading.

## JOHANSEN WINS

"The Golden Pimpernel" is the title of entry which won him prize in Life Line Freedom Essay Contest. His paper was read over radio stations from coast to coast (WNY and others in N.J. May 4th) A new contest is now open with cash prizes from \$10. to \$600. For rules write to Life Line, Washington 3, D.C. Oscar suggests you enter - you may win some money - and that, as you know, is one of Oscar's pet subjects.

## LAND..AND SPACE TO GROW

Everywhere the film has been shown by us it has been enthusiastically received. Here are a few comments from letters we have on file: "On behalf of the Hackensack Civic Association, please accept our sincere thanks for a most enjoyable as well as enlightening evening. The film was very interesting and the wonderful panel discussion was certainly a most fitting climax." - "We were pleased to have you join us last evening and want to thank you for your presentation. Your remarks gave us lots to think about." - "I speak for the entire membership when I thank you for giving so generously of your time and talent. We owe you a real debt of gratitude for a most delightful and enjoyable meeting."

Now, of course, we aim for more than entertainment, but perhaps pleasing the audience is a good beginning. In each instance the interest has been further evidenced by persons wanting to participate in Tax Seminars by sizeable numbers signing up. These seminars will start this fall.

It appears that we will have large demand for showing the film starting in the fall, but we believe we can handle still more - so please urge all groups you can contact

to send in a tentative reservation NOW. It can be confirmed in detail later. Many organizations are arranging their fall programs now - so get to see them early. We are counting on YOU.

Gilbert Tucker relates a comment he heard about a prominent woman in Albany - "that she is always just getting ready to begin something and that is as far as she gets." We hope you get further.

I cannot refrain from commenting upon the above "Your remarks gave us lots to think about." Of course, it was not meant as a pun, but the film is intended to make people think lots about "lots" (building lots) Now, actually we did not give them lots - who gives lots away? Oh, well - that's enough - just another semantic difficulty and indication of our need for concepts with labels, or labels to fit concepts.

And The Henry George School Magazine, London, England in April 1961 issue contained a humorous article from which we quote: "The present System is based on 'sight' value; that is, the better looking the building, the more the occupier must pay. Yet, in spite of the great advance in general education, it is amazing how few people can spell. ('Site")

Perhaps when activities slow down this summer you will have some time to devote to reading and there are many good books in your school library which you may borrow, to increase your understanding of the economic principles we advocate and natural resource revenue for government. One such is "People, Land and Taxes" by George H. Duncan.

New Jersey former Faculty members are carrying on elsewhere - Lou Perna, Instructor in San Diego was featured speaker at Social Action Institute in that city. Howard Thomson has prepared very attractive material for discussion leaders and flip charts. Ask to see them when next you are in office. He is conducting noon discussion course at Bell Labs in Mass.

So long for awhile -

NEXT ISSUE OF THE CARGOYLE  
SEPTEMBER

HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL OF NEW JERSEY  
76 Clinton Avenue, Newark 2, N.J.  
John T. Tetley, Director MA 3-9333

## SALT OF THE EARTH

A surgeon, an engineer and a politician were arguing about whose profession was the oldest on earth.

"Mine", said the physician. "After all wasn't Eve carved out of Adam's rib?" "But", said the engineer, "Obviously engineering came first because the earth was created out of chaos in six days." "True", said the politician, "but who created the chaos?"

"How true! A man will pay \$2. for a \$1. item he wants; while a woman will pay \$1. for a \$2. item she doesn't want."

"Smart woman to banker: 'I'd like to open a joint account with someone who has money.'"

"Vision is definitely affected by glasses especially after they have been filled and emptied a few times."

"Editor: What did the Senator say when you interviewed him?"

Reporter: Nothing.

Editor: I know, but how many columns of it?

"Money is the best labor-saving device yet invented."

"The only money that goes as far today as it did ten years ago is the nickle that rolls under the bed."

"You can't get ulcers from what you eat, but from what's eating you."

"Give a woman a yard, and she'll make you mow it."

"When a man begins to think seriously of saving for a rainy day, it's probably a rainy day."

## SUMMER SEASON

Annual Banquet -  
Shelburne Hotel, New York  
June 21st.

Guest Speakers  
Countess Alexandra Tolstoy  
Agnes de Mille.

Annual Conference  
July 12-16 Statler-Hilton, Hartford, Conn.

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