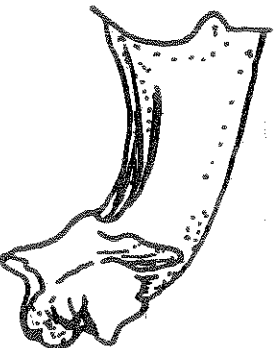


The Barigoule



"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

Issue #113

JUNE-JULY 1967

Last until Fall

Reception for Graduates

Afternoon Program -- First Tuesday June 6th 2 P.M. (no sessions during July and August - next program Sept. 12th) June, film and discussion -- open to public - come if you can -- and bring a few others.

E X P O 67

This and the Henry George School - Conference - in Montreal. High spot for this summer. School President, Dr. G.W. Esty and Dean, Alexander W. Goldfinger will be speakers on the program. Director Tetley and a few others from New Jersey will be there. You may be able to make your reservation if you hurry.

If you want a Program, call office. Also for information re: registration for the Conference.

* * * * *

"Never in the history of mankind have such fabulous sums been dispensed to all and sundry, at home and abroad, and in the name of need. I am referring, primarily, to the dispensations made by government; tens upon tens of billions collected by force or the threat thereof and handed out willy-nilly and, to a great extent, even urged upon persons, communities, 'distressed areas' and foreign governments. I insist that this hodge-podge--isn't a system--is unrelated to an intelligent concern for others. For one thing, a political collective can no more fathom the subtleties of need than can a brainless computer. Such a collective is, by its nature, an impersonal structure and, this incapable of being personal. It is nonsense to dispose of a concern for the need of others by lumping them into mass; humanity, society, areas, governments, the needy, workers, businessmen, farmers, the aged, and so on. These terms are but re capitulations, the language of the altruists."

Leonard A. Read - LET US THINK FOR OURSELVES

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THE LONE EAGLE

Forty years ago, on May 21st, 1927, a young man, Charles A. Lindbergh, flew non-stop in a single-engine monoplane from New York to Paris, to win the Orteig prize of \$25,000 for being the first man ever to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean.

It was a remarkable display of courage and ability which so captured the imagination of the people that he was accorded almost every conceivable honor that could be given him, including the greatest ticker parade New York ever had.

His feat was a great one, but other men have performed equally great feats at great risk to themselves. What was more remarkable than his feat was the man himself. He refused to capitalize on his exploit, turning down all moving-picture offers, testimonials, and other get-rich quick schemes. In all instances, he conducted himself with impeccable good taste, never boasting nor getting himself involved in any kind of scandal.

He tried to return to normal life and only did so after suffering from extremely bad taste on the part of the public, primarily the newspapers. When he married Anne Morrow, the daughter of Dwight Morrow, a Morgan partner the reporters turned his honeymoon into a nightmare by following the pair wherever they went. The editors bemoaned this invasion of his privacy, but they still egged on their reporters and photographers to pursue him.

His first born was kidnapped and murdered, and the subsequent trial of the murderer became a field day for newspapers and politicians trying to cash in on the publicity.

When American involvement in World War II appeared imminent, he campaigned against it, and received nothing but abuse and smears from the politicians bent on getting into the war one way or the other. And when our country did enter the war, he was not permitted to serve. He did, however, manage to serve as a civilian technician for the airforce; it is said he flew 50 combat missions in the Pacific, but he went to great lengths to keep his war record unpublicized.

He is still alive, living in Darien, Connecticut, living a quiet, useful life, primarily in the field he loves, aviation.

He reminds one, in a way, of Henry David Thoreau, the arch individualist, whose 150th birthday is also celebrated this year on July 12th. Thoreau stood up fearlessly for what he believed and refused to run with the crowd. He believed one had to be true to oneself, and the philosophy of individualism which Thoreau gave to the world has influenced men ever

since. Lindbergh has lived that philosophy in his own way. He has shown how a man can live in society as an individual, standing on his own feet and maintaining his dignity despite the most shocking abuses of his privacy and rights.

Lindbergh epitomizes the individualistic philosophy which is the core of Georgism. The highest tribute which can be paid to him is the highest one which can be paid a Georgist who really lives up to the Georgist philosophy. Here is a man.

Oscar B. Johannsen
SENSE AND NONSENSE

Talk about the new math, there is now the new geography. This stresses why things are where they are rather than where they are.

Geography as it was taught in the past, was supposed to deal primarily with a description of the land, sea, air and the distribution of plant and animal life rather than why it all happened the way it is. It was based on the theory that if you wanted to go to Argentina, you would have some idea of where it is. People suffered from the native idea that that made sense.

Today, it is felt that such is unnecessary and the stress is on why the continents and oceans exist rather than where they are. Wonder what will happen if students want to see their football team play in some other town. Will they be able to find their way?

One teacher said the new geography cut down absenteeism from more than 10% to less than 1%, which made it good enough for him. Apparently, the important thing is not whether children learn anything, but rather that they are present.

One can hardly wait to find out what the new history, new English, and new Latin will be.

Since the earth's surface is 3/4 water and only 1/4 land, why shouldn't a man spend 3 hours fishing to every hour spent pushing a lawn mower?

Over wondered what to do with "skid row" in a big town? Most people would like to see it torn down, hoping that somehow the derelicts would either disappear or be absorbed in the rest of the town without being too much of a nuisance. That solution doesn't satisfy a professor at the University of Illinois. He said the derelicts would merely move somewhere else and create a new skid row. So what is his solution? A simple one. Don't wait for the derelicts to make a new skid row but do it for them. Build a new one, with liquor stores, pawn-shops, and cheap rooming houses. It's slightly better condition should help to rehabilitate them.

IN OUR FAVOR

"What Kind of City Do We Want?" This is the title of a lengthy panel discussion, published in NATION'S CITIES April 1967, the national magazine which published a similar article, "Are Property Taxes Obsolete", in 1965.

In the current article, Henry George is not mentioned, nor is "Single Tax". The report covers a discussion sponsored by National League of Cities, The American Institute of Architects, the Lincoln Foundation, and Luce magazines. Thirty-three experts described by New York's Mayor Lindsay as 'the Who's Who of Urban Development' were at the roundtable conference.

Some quotations from the article:

"Cities are stuck with a tax system that penalizes improvements and subsidizes obsolescence, blight, sprawl and the spread of slums, and they are stuck with a concept of landed property that lets landowners capitalize for their own private profit all the economies and advantages of urbanism, so city dwellers must pay twice over for the multibillion-dollar values they themselves create."

"One part of the realty tax is the tax on improvements. The other is the tax on the unimproved value of the land on which the improvement stands. It would be hard to imagine two taxes whose impacts on urban development are more different."

"Heavy taxes on improvements are bound to discourage, delay or even deter owners from making improvements. ...Contrariwise, heavy taxes on unimproved land values (more correctly, site-values, or perhaps still more correctly, location values) tend to encourage, speed or sometimes even compel improvements. The bigger the land tax, the bigger the leverage on owners of underused property to do something to increase its earning power - or sell it to someone who will."

"The dualism of property was recognized by the classical economists, and few students now question the conclusion reached long ago by Turgot and Adam Smith that taxes on unimproved land values cannot be passed on so it is non-sense to suggest that heavier taxes on land would make the poor people who live in slum buildings pay more rent."

"Says Professor Garfney 'Today's property tax practice is slowing down the replacement of obsolete structures by 20 to 30 years.'"

"Most states condone the practice of assessing land half as heavy as improvements."

"Speculative land profits are taxed not more than half as heavily as ordinary income, provided the landowner does nothing to improve his property for sale (i.e. provided he does nothing to earn his profit.)"

"What all this adds up to is that citizens and suburbanites must pay twice over for all their community facilities. First they pay for them on their tax bills, their charitable donations or their business investments. Then they pay for them all over again, in higher ground rents to landowners who have been allowed to capitalize all this investment of other people's money into the price of their land."

"No amount of code enforcement can stop the spread of slums unless and until the profit is taken out of slums by taxation."

"Personal interview surveys in Newark and elsewhere make it clear that fear of higher assessments is a prime reason why slum property owners won't spend money to maintain or improve their properties."

"Old buildings that live on and on only because urban decay is now subsidized by underassessing and under-taxing obsolescent properties."

* * * * *

From Over-Seas

Senator A.W. Roebuck of Canada, who delivered an excellent address at the school conference in Montreal a few years ago, will again be a speaker at the forthcoming conference, submitted a letter to the Editor of LAND & LIBERTY, which is very interesting:

"We have just had delivered to us a Report of Royal Commission on Taxation which has been studying the question for four-and-a-half years, spent three and one-half million dollars of public money, and has found that the basic principle of taxation is ability to pay. The Report is so long, it cannot be read. There is seven and one-quarter inches of it; I have just measured it! The Finance Minister says that it will take a long time to digest it and I see by the newspapers that the tax authorities think they can get it read and digested sometime in the next ten years. Perhaps some of your tax experts would like it; if so the price is \$40."

Also from this London magazine we quote: "WHAT WILL THEY FIND? - HOUSES & HOW? reports that President Johnson set up a White House Commission to make a special report on by-laws, standards, zoning taxation and development processes. The fifteen man commission will study the legal and economic problems affecting housing." Maybe they can do better than our Canadian friends either a more lengthy report for less money, or a more condensed one for more money.

THE AMISH

The Amish are getting into the news again. They are members of a religious sect which wears plain clothes, eschews modern conveniences as autos, tractors and electricity, but yet have some of the finest and most prolific farms in the country. The Plain People, as they are called, are a distinct asset to the nation. Juvenile delinquency is unknown in their communities. In our view they are eccentric, but they have every right to be so if they wish. But the State won't let them alone.

They have definite ideas on education, and educate their children along their own lines. This conflicts with the laws of various states. In Iowa, the Amish face the loss of their farms and freedom as they refuse to send their children to city schools to study under teachers unsympathetic to their convictions. Things were so bad in Arkansas that many there emigrated to Central America. Their spokesman said "We cannot conscientiously send our children to public schools. The Government is gradually taking away our religious freedom."

Unless the State officials yield, the courts may soon test Amish religious convictions in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan.

The persecution of the Amish makes a mockery of our protestations of being devoted to liberty.

Dr. F.H. Littell, President of Iowa Wesleyan College said, "The Amish are a law-abiding and exemplary community of citizens with religious views that seem peculiar to most of us. They represent a test case to see whether we believe in religious freedom when it is for others and not ourselves."

When America socialized education by creating state schools (public schools) it was inevitable that sooner or later conflicts would arise involving some of the most precious freedoms of man. One of the most is the right to educate one's children the way one wishes. This has been practically abrogated in the U.S. It takes a courageous little group like the Amish to remind us of what we have lost, and how much more we will lose if we do not take steps to desocialize.

"If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom, and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money it values more it will lose that too."

W. Somerset Maugham

Trying to keep your sanity in this topsy-turvy world could drive a man crazy.

The next issue of THE GARGOYLE should reach you near end of August.

SALT OF THE EARTH

The difference between a junior and senior executive may be as much as forty pounds.

What with the Internal Revenue Service converting to computers, the Government really holds all the cards.

Wife: You know, dear, you don't seem as well dressed as you were when we were married ten years ago.

Hubby: I don't know why not. I'm wearing the same suit.

Gambler: "Yes, I went to Las Vegas in a \$5,000 Cadillac and came back in a \$55,000 Greyhound."

Old Age: When the gleam in your eye is just the sun hitting your bifocals.

Used car dealer (driving a car up a hill) "This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

Customer: "Yes, I can hear it knocking."

Automation is man's effort to make work so easy that women can do it all.

Mother to small daughter who just spent her first day in school: "Dear what did you learn?"

Daughter: "Nothing, I have to go back again tomorrow."

Latin American: "Our No. One sport is bull fighting."

American: "Isn't it revolting?"

Latin American: "No, that's Number Two."

Soaring Government Costs

Do you know that interest on the national debt is more than five times the amount spent on education? Where does your tax money go anyway? The Tax Foundation says the average income tax of \$1,114 on a \$10,000 annual salary is split this way: \$623 for defense; \$117 for interest on the national debt; \$93 for health, labor and welfare; \$51 for veterans; \$44 for the space program; \$40 for international affairs and finance; \$34 for commerce and housing; \$29 for agriculture; \$23 for education; \$23 for general government costs, and \$12 for miscellaneous federal expenses. It is noteworthy that welfare has crept up to third place in the wealthiest nation on earth.

From HUMAN EVENTS

We should understand, then, that while government is necessary for law and order, that in proportion as we give government power to do things for us, we give it power to do things to us. Robert C. Tyson THE FREEMAN