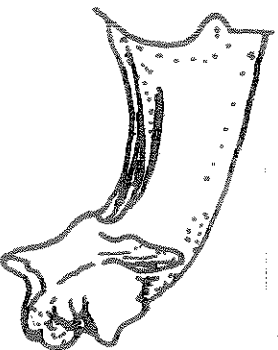


The Gargoyle



"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. 102

MAY 1966

ENGLAND; PURITAN VS. CAVALIER - Works ranging from Chaucer to Dylan Thomas and from Milton to T.S. Eliot are counterpointed to show two contending strains in British culture that have found expression in almost every age. The readings and dramatizations are presented by a distinguished cast headed by Sir Ralph Richardson who also serves as host. They bring to life some of the most famous lines in English literature. Among the selections are Chaucer's "Wife of Bath" tale, a segment from Milton's "Paradise Lost", Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd" and poems of Herrick, Suckling, Bunyon and Donne. Also presented are

scenes from Congreve's comedy "The Way of the World", from Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" a tale from Thomas' "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog", and Chorus X from Eliot's "Choruses from 'The Rock'". Settings are in Westminster Abbey, in Sir Ralph's study in London and at Kenwood, one of England's historic mansions. Two hours of delightful entertainment.

This is the Afternoon Program for May - Tuesday, May 3rd THE FIRST TUESDAY in May. The public is cordially invited.

An adventure in literature, art, culture.

IT'S ST. LOUIS IN '66

The annual conference of the Henry George school will be held for five days starting July 20th. "Finding a Better Way" is the theme. Messrs. Swofford and Alper, Director and former Director of the extension in St. Louis are working like beavers; the Sheraton-Jefferson Hotel in downtown area with a view of the great Arch to be dedicated this year is the location. All who can do so would do well to arrange their summer holiday to take in this 22nd school conference. So -- "Meet Me In St. Louis, Louie."

* * * * *

"Anything that lasts for ten years in this uncertain and changing world becomes part of the established order. And any publication that has published one hundred issues and is starting on its second hundred ought to bottle and sell the secret of longevity! Congratulations to Gargoyle and to all who make it the lively and informative paper it is."

Edmund A. Optitz

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ELTA HALT - Volume 1, No. 1 THE ERIE HOMEOWNER, (Erie, Pa.) March 1966 explains: "With the launching of The Erie Homeowner a new phase in the campaign to bring Land Value Taxation to Erie is now begun. ELTA (Erie Land Tax Association) made up of business and professional men in Erie is retiring. Not that they have become disenchanted with LVT as such, but it is now clear that nothing can be done on the executive level."

The Homeowners' Association for Land Tax (HALT) is being organized to carry on - to halt taxing buildings and improvements. W. Wylie Young, who has been the 'crusader' for ELTA, becomes the Editor and publisher of the new periodical and the crusader for HALT. Wylie is working as a volunteer without salary. This issue of the magazine contains some newly expressed points in favor of LVT and some actual comparative figures - "before" and "after" for Erie. It is on file at the Newark school library.

It appears that financial contributions which provide the contributor with a membership in HALT is to be geared to homeowners of Erie, but others no doubt would be welcome to assist financially in the effort. The headquarters are at 2217 Peninsula Drive, Erie, Pa.

* * * * *

Dr. Steven Cord, Professor of Economics at the Pennsylvania State University in Indiana is currently writing a series of letters to City Councilmen and Redevelopment Authority Officials in some forty eight Third Class Cities in Pennsylvania relative to the law which permits City Councils to exempt buildings and improvements and to tax land value instead. These letters contain good illustrations which might be used in explaining our subject and are also in Newark school Library.

* * * * *

One of the Faculty members of the New Jersey School prefers to come to headquarters and study reference material rather than take it home. He says this way there are no detractions, permitting him to better concentrate.

* * * * *

Henry A. Gieffers, Trustee Emeritus, HOS-NJ writes: #101 of The Gargoyle just arrived and I note with pleasure the 10th Birthday. This is quite an achievement...we owe many thanks and I want to add my sincere congratulations and best wishes for continued success in the future."

* * * * *

From San Francisco - "A Purdue professor says he is teaching the Keynesian theory of economics to first and second graders. He does it with bread and baloney." Sure must take a lot of baloney.

* * * * *

In Clinton, Conn. homeowners have petitioned to change the name of their street, claiming its present name subjects them and their children to ridicule.

It is called High Taxes Road. Petitioners say "It affects property values." It seems the street received its name because the developer "was annoyed with the town for not sharing the cost of putting in this particular street."

* * * * *

Can you identify these:

HGF GTL TPD TIC HARTA ?
* * * * *

LAW DAY - May 1st. Proclamation 3633 "The Congress of the United States has set aside the first day of May of each year as Law Day, USA, an occasion for the American people to rededicate themselves to our Nation's ideals of equality and justice under law and to our responsibilities as free men.

"There is a timely need for such dedication. The Nation's efforts to advance freedom and individual opportunity to curb lawlessness, and to achieve equal justice for all citizens are urgent concerns of every American.

"Law Day, USA reminds us of the fundamental truth that our very lives, our liberty, and our rights are dependent upon our system of law and independent courts. Obedience to the laws which protect these rights is the heart of our system. Disrespect for law, intolerance and public apathy concerning law enforcement are enemies of justice and freedom.

"The observance of Law Day, USA on May 1st with the theme, "Uphold the Law - A Citizen's First Duty", will serve to focus attention on the fact that every citizen can help strengthen our national commitment to the rule of law. Every American can contribute to an orderly, lawful society by personal compliance with the laws, by recognizing the rights of others, by teaching respect for law in the home, by supporting and aiding the agencies of law enforcement, and by serving on a jury or giving testimony in court when called.

"Law Day, USA, is an appropriate occasion for each of us to commit himself to the fulfillment of these responsibilities of citizenship."

* * * * *

"And speaking of social workers generally and clinical psychologists generally, and psychiatrists generally; it has been my observation that they devote too much of their time finding an excuse for what a person does instead of holding him personally responsible for his own acts." William G. Long, Superior Court Judge King County, Seattle, Wash.

* * * * *

The Mayor of Jersey City, N.J. proposed a revision of New Jersey's tax laws so that cities may grant financial incentives to homeowners making major repairs and improvements to their properties. He suggested that cities be given permission to grant limited tax exemptions as such repairs now result in a prompt increase in tax assessment. The proposed exemption would be in effect for three years.

TOCK'S ISLAND

Near the Delaware Water Gap (Delaware River boundary between New Jersey and Pennsylvania) is proposed the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area which because of location in this densely populated area of the United States, is expected to be the most used facility of the National Park Service.

For many years construction of a dam near Tock's Island has been discussed, and The Delaware River Basin Commission has become active in the venture. The 46,000 acre park has been proposed in the past few years.

As in all such projects land speculation takes place. A front page article concerning this particular project appeared in the Newark Evening News on April 6th - headed: "House Ready on Tock's Vote Despite Speculation Worries" by John Farmer of the paper's Washington Staff. Says Farmer:

"Against a background of growing congressional irritation at land speculation the House today was to appropriate the first land purchase money. The initial sum of \$4 million earmarked in part of a \$11 billion appropriation for the Interior Department for 1967.

"As significant as the initial appropriation, however, is the warning on land speculation sounded by the powerful House Appropriations Committee. The Committee said it is 'increasingly perturbed' at the escalation of land costs for federal projects as the result of extensive operation of land speculators. The objectives of this program...are not the enrichment of those individuals, who seek to capitalize on the government's intention to achieve this objective.

"The appropriations committee spelled out the land speculation problem this way: From the moment authorization is enacted to declare an area a national park, a period of from two to three years elapses before funds are available for acquisition of the land and the agency has completed the long drawn out and involved negotiations for purchase of the land. In the meantime, the land speculators have entered the picture and by the time the government is in a position to purchase the land, the land prices have increased in many cases from two to three hundred per cent.

"The federal government can condemn the land, but in many cases this lengthy process results in a cost far higher than through informal negotiations with the private owner.

"The committee warned that it may not continue to pay the price of speculation. It would be most regrettable if the committee found it necessary to refuse the recommendation of an additional funding for this program because of the unwarranted escalation in land prices.

"The Committee called on the Interior Department to propose 'remedial legislation at the earliest possible moment.' The department is considering a number of proposals for speeding federal land purchases to head off speculation. These include a new special land purchase fund, expansion of the land and Water Conservation Fund to provide for quick land purchases and the issuance of federal bonds to private owners in the amount of the market value of the property.

"The News was told it is fearful that continued rise in land costs at Tocks Island could result in a cutback in the size of the proposed park.

"The Committee pointed out that, without exception, federal parklands benefit surrounding areas and the committee feels local jurisdictions should cooperate in preventing the unwarranted increases in land prices by exercising their local zoning authorities.

"The fastest land price rise has been in Wallpack Township. However since the entire township is to be taken, local officials feel no incentive to curb speculation.

"The cost of land purchases have risen from \$27 million several years ago to \$437 million (1965). It was estimated last fall that land costs have risen about \$600,000 in the previous year. Lots have been sold despite knowledge of the park project.

"The executive director of the Tocks Island Advisory Council advised a large federal appropriation at once to begin land purchases as the best speculation curb."

This is just one more of the many "acknowledgements" of land speculation. I know this particular area rather well, I have walked through much of the beautiful country-side there. I have mixed feelings regarding the proposed dam and national park. While the Delaware river does rise and fall at times in this locale and while a dam might not only be in the interest of water conservation, and better behavior of the river, it might also, in spite of disadvantages, create a fine lake. However as to the wisdom of the vast proposed national park, while it no doubt would forestall what might in the future become undesirable private development (maybe this could be handled in a better way) there can be much doubt.

At any rate, the measures to curb land speculation proposed can do little if anything - the land tenure system in the United States could be changed to not only abolish land speculation but make it unnecessary to purchase land for parks, highways and other public uses.

JOHN T. TRILEY

GET WELL LEO!

We are sorry to report that Leo Cohen, a Trustee of the New Jersey School has been extremely ill, but pleased to say he is recovering and we trust he will soon be fully recovered.

"During the 1860's a literary movement of considerable force and originality, flourished in that boisterous gaudy, non-veran riche metropolis of the frontier, San Francisco. Gathered here were Mark Twain, Bret Harte, Ambrose Pierce, Henry George and a number of lesser lights, such as the flamboyant Joaquin Miller. Their activities produced one of the most exciting of American provincial rebellions.

"Many of the lesser literary figures left San Francisco around this time as well. There remained Henry George to whom the next epoch of the cities history belongs."

Bernard Taper - portion of opening and closing paragraphs of a newspaper story on Samuel Clemens.

PTA - "For your taxes you get to bully teachers." Harry Golden, who also wrote: "To be mayor of New York City is to enter a political graveyard."

"All landlords should get the electric chair." - W.C. Fields

A newspaper report mentions that a 103 year old woman in Astoria, New York, living with her 90 year old brother and 61 year old son has been receiving tax bills for past six years, some of them she paid, then recently she received a note from the tax bureau. She went to tax bureau and explained that even tho she owed \$2,000. in taxes and penalties, she did not intend to pay. She said she has paid enough taxes in her lifetime.

WHO SAID THIS?

"He was particularly disturbed by the trends he perceived leading the nation toward increasingly centralized controls and boundless taxation. And he worked to develop in his thinking a philosophy of freedom indigenous to America as an answer to collectivist theories."

"Political action is in its nature a preposterously ineffectual instrument of reform and faith in it is a benumbing and degrading superstition."

- Albert J. Nock -

"Landowners have no right to the privilege which harms labor and capital, increases consumer prices and endangers the currency. Land Value Taxation would not make sense however, unless it was applied fully and if all other taxes were abolished. No proposed tax reform will succeed which does not put land in its important rightful place."

Heinrich Richard
of Bonn, West Germany.

SALT OF THE EARTH

Water: Liquid that freezes slippery side up.

Wolf: A fellow who whistles while he lurks.

Woman's ambition: To be weighed and found wanting.

Wave: Blue surge.

Yes Man: Man who no's nothing.

Marriage and a home are the most wonderful things in the world, but only when unselfish people are eternally fond of one another.

QUESTION: You have evaded the question-- isn't Arturo really a pseudonym?

ANSWER: Look, wise guy, you trying to imply Arturo doesn't like girls or something?

TAG LINES

He who tries not to do too much frequently ends up doing too little.

If you want to flatter a man, just ask his advice.

It's all right to live it up if you can live it down.

It's easy to diet successfully, if you keep your mouth shut.

It is what we learn after we think we know it all that counts.

It would be better to marry for good than for better or worse.

Live to do good and you will never tire of your employment.

Women were created before mirrors -- and they have been before them ever since.

"People will not use logic or their think-tanks. It goes to the grave with no wear or tear. Emotion on the other hand fills our hospitals (mental and physical) because apparently 'emoting' is easier than 'thinking'. Yet, when the facts are reviewed, by a Doctor or other respected leader common sense does prevail and the fears subside."

It was with deep regret we learned of the death of Bob Ritchey of Albany, N.Y. just prior to his 90th birthday.

In New Jersey, May is to be known as "Senior Citizens Month". Also in N.J. the Governor has arranged a conference on "Natural Beauty - A Challenge to New Jersey, the Most Urban State." Don't ask "What happened to 'The Garden State?' It is covered with industry and apartments, garden and high-rise variety."

"In California, simply by obeying the law the tax base could be raised by eleven billion dollars. In New York, by cracking down on vacant land, the tax taken in Nassau County was increased by twenty million dollars and in Suffolk County by five million."

Benjamin F. Smith

Read PROGRESS & POVERTY and THE HENRY GEORGE NEWS. Come by covered-wagon, mule or horse back, bus, train, or plane to ST. LOUIS for the H.G.S. Conference.