

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. 74

SEPTEMBER 1963

FESTIVAL

YOU and your friends are invited to spend a pleasant evening at

School Headquarters
78 Clinton Avenue Newark

TUESDAY

SEPTEMBER 17th - 8 p.m.

Two sound-color films
"VACATION IN NEW JERSEY" - Fall
Foliage - ideas for easy day trips

and
"THE JOHN GLENN STORY" - his boyhood
his career - flight of the FRIENDSHIP
7 - Narrated by Jack Webb, produced
by Warner Brothers Pictures.

Short Program - Social Time
Refreshments - No charge

Come and bring someone too -
meet old friends and new.

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FALL CLASSES

Fundamental Course to be given at
Newark headquarters; Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m.
starting Sept. 24th - Thursdays 8 to 10
starting Sept. 26th. Also at Adult School
Berkley Heights, Pompton Plains, Fairlawn,
Ramsey Morris Plains, Perth Amboy

"CAPITALISM and COMMUNISM" - advanced
course based upon Max Hirsch's "Democracy
vs Socialism" to be given in Adult School
in Union and Morris Plains.

"ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES and PRACTICES"
an advanced course to be offered to limited
group in Newark in October.

Please inform any you think may be
interested in these courses - for
details inquire at school office.

The best recommendation is Y O U

KNOW THIS

Tax labor products and you tax commodities up in price and out of use -
tax land and you tax land down in price and into use - Sales and Income
taxes are poverty makers.

* * * * *

"Our objective is justice through Land Value Taxation". - Lancaster W. Greene
* * * * *

"Money, bonds, debentures, all paper representations of wealth, have no
intrinsic value. To tear ores and fuels from the soil to make assorted
forms of junk for the prime purpose of increasing the circulation of paper
is criminal folly. To put men and women in cells where they fiddle about
with useless bits of paper five days a week when they would be better employed
restoring the fertility of a globe that is being raped of its top
soil, is iudicoy. --- The common man, I must admit, is not easily aroused.
He is slow to recognize threats unless they tramp heavily upon his toes.
Once set in motion, though, he constitutes an irresistible force." - From
Address at Toronto Conference, HGS - Lex Schrag - "There Are No Caribou Left
in Ungava" - condensed in August 1963 HENRY GEORGE NEWS.

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

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Henry School of Social Science
50 E. 69th St.
New York 21, N. Y.

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MARIE AND ELLWOOD SHEPHERD

It seems to me that this couple between them represents a combination of fascinating qualities; sound, logical economic thought, plus great ability and broad experience in the performing arts.

Ellwood Shepherd is a manufacturers' representative in the construction field. He maintains his office in Naplewood, where they also live.

Most pertinent to the interests of the Henry George School, he has been devoted to its theories for many years. He pursued the school courses in New York years ago. He frequented the New York School in the days when it was located in 29th Street. He knew and admired many of its early, well known figures. He spoke of that grand old man of Georgedon, Lawson Purdy; and of Frank Chodorov, the one-time editor of THE FREELIAN, and of the HENRY GEORGE NEWS.

He formerly taught the fundamental course at the Queens Village Forum at the Y.M.C.A. in Jamaica out on Long Island. And like the rest of us, he thoroughly enjoys the subject.

He is associated with business and professional groups; and is the vice-president in Essex County of the New Jersey Federation of Men's Bible Classes.

His family settled in Philadelphia in the late 1700s, from England; there they lived without a break until he came over to New Jersey. They are devoted to many heirlooms of other days, particularly to a hand woven quilt from that earliest time, in which was woven the date, 1812, and the family name of 'Sarah'.

In 1958, the Shepherds visited in England with their son, Ellwood, who was stationed with the air force for four years. From there, they went to the Scandinavian countries. Mrs. Shepherd is of Norwegian ancestry; and, as a concert artist, sang for the Royal Family of Norway.

There is a second son, Robert, stationed at Oberammergau, and a daughter, Marie Elaine, who attends Drew University.

Marie Shepherd approves of our school from the side-lines; however, her own activities are constant. She studied at Julliard School of Music and others; and appears in many forms of entertainment.

She is a soloist, dramatist, concert comedienne, a teacher. She does one woman shows that are widely known, with schools, clubs and churches in many states. She does conventions, produces musical affairs, and sings in opera.

I have heard so much enthusiasm of her work in my own locality that I hope someday to find myself part of her audience.

Such pleasure seems widely divergent from that of discussing and furthering the cause of economics. But for my part it is possible to be fascinated by both sorts of interest. And as we are all aware, there must be favorable economic conditions before the arts can develop for the general public.

Virginia Harvey.

THE DEAN THINKS

TODAY'S YOUTH

Much has been said about the anomaly presented by the U.S. economy in which all previous statistics for total employment are now surpassed, but the rate of unemployment does not decrease substantially. Economists view the situation as one in which the economic growth of our economy is not great enough to fulfill the goal set by Congress in the nineteen forties as "full employment."

By legislation Congress set a so-called "national purpose" of providing for "full employment" at wages considered as minimal for proper living. The conception of "full employment" recognized that at no time would there be a condition in which every one seeking a job would be employed. There are always large numbers of persons who, by reason of voluntary action on their part are in the process of changing from one line of endeavor to another and there are those displaced by technological changes, automation, who must find gainful employment in a new job. And, of course, there will always be "unemployables".

But Congress sought to implement the announced national policy by various means. It provided for "Social Security" to enable older employees to retire and make way for younger ones, it provided for monetary unemployment benefits to tide over those involuntarily without employment, it encouraged and subsidized from the national treasury public works sponsored by the federal, state and local governments.

In spite of all these legislative maneuvers, this country's rate of unemployment is among, if not the highest, of all such rates in the countries of the western alliance. In fact, in France, Germany and Japan there is an actual shortage of labor.

We have learned from reliable sources that the rate of unemployment of our youths below the age of 25 exceeds greatly the rate of unemployment of all those over 25.

When we apply our knowledge and logic to the situation, we readily see why so many of our youths are not gainfully employed. At the same time that Congress was establishing a national purpose of "full employment" it was establishing minimum wage laws (\$1.25 per hour after September 3, 1965) for many millions of employees, and it was establishing a 40 hour

week for labor. (44 hours for a few classifications) And it was legislating against child labor and the conditions under which minors can work.

These three legislative enactments make it more difficult for young people to find gainful employment. When the writer was a boy many merchants used school-boys in spare time to deliver goods to customers in the neighborhood.

For such services, 25 cents an hour was deemed adequate by both employer and employee. Also on Saturdays, teen-agers were employed in department stores either as sales persons or as wrappers. For such services \$3.50 or \$4.00 for a ten hour day was current recompense. Today, if \$1.25 an hour must be paid for services, many employers find it unprofitable to pay that much for delivery boys and for casual employees. If they must hire anyone, they seek the maximum services for each dollar paid as wages and seek the older and more experienced help.

Many states now have rigid rules governing the working conditions of young people. For instance, youths under 18 are prohibited from using power tools, from working at night or in jobs considered to be hazardous, such as working in excavations. Without passing upon the merits of such prohibitions, it is clear that they inhibit the employment of young people and deter them in learning the skills necessary for later gainful employment.

We must realize that if our economy is to grow at a rate commensurate with the growth in population (newcomers entering the labor market) the profit motive must work. Few employers will employ workers unless the aggregate cost of labor in the production of goods or services enables the employer to compete in the market and yield a profit.

As labor unions with their seniority rules and (in the building trades) with their restrictions upon membership, and as governmental restrictions upon the wages, hours and working conditions affect millions of youths seeking employment, it is apparent that the spirit of our youths 40 years ago and their opportunities to earn for their support or spending money or to finance their education is today circumscribed. We can understand, then, why the rate of unemployment among newcomers to the labor market is so much higher than that affecting their elders.

If the disincentive of graduated income taxes were not inhibiting private enterprise, stifling entrepreneurs from risking their money in new or growing ventures, the rate of growth of our economy might enable the employment of all those able and willing to be employed, including our youths.

If business climate here were such as to encourage rather than discourage the accumulation and use of risk capital in business enterprise, we might revert to

the rate of growth which prevailed in this country during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of this one. Such a climate would necessarily embrace these conditions: a governmental conception of protecting the life, freedom and property of its people with a minimum of interference in their affairs, a stable dollar, freely convertible, a balanced budget, and finally the refusal of government to manipulate currency and credit.

Then we might not have the problem of growing juvenile delinquency which is today a major one. There was an old saying "Idle fingers keep the devil busy." If our teen-agers had the incentive and opportunity to establish self reliance by gainful employment, much of the delinquency we deplore would vanish. Self reliance rather than the crutch of a paternalistic government is the requisite if, in this troubled world the individual potential of each person is to be realized, and it is by the combined cooperation of each one's greatest potential in a free market community that our nation, our civilization can achieve a step forward in growth and human contentment, including peace.

Alexander M. Goldfinger

CONSERVATIONISM GONE WILD

Want to keep up land values? Let us review the Wilderness Bill under which 8.2 million of the nation's 161 million acres of national forest would remain permanently in the wilderness system. An extra 57.2 million acres of public land would also be put in the system conditionally.

Actually, the land is now classified as "wilderness" or "wild" administratively, but this Bill would keep it that way by statute. Not only that, but within ten years after passage, the President could recommend inclusion of some 52 million other acres. This could only be stopped by Congress passing a resolution opposing the addition, which is not likely to occur.

And when they say wild, they mean wild. Nothing would be permitted there; no permanent roads, motorized equipment, any structures, nothing in excess of that required to administer the area. As one opponent said the only people who could get into this land would be Tarzan and Jane.

Although, theoretically, if some important mineral deposit was found it could be reclassified for commercial development, this is practically meaningless for the restrictions make it impossible for geologists to make their investigations. The land will just lie there used by practically no one, all in the name of conservatism.

Paradoxically, most of the interests you might think would favor such legislation are against it. The mining interests

oppose it, although it would insure that the value of the mines they now own would tend to rise. Most of the people of the 11 western states and Alaska, which are the areas most affected, are opposed. Those in favor of the bill, the conservationists, sportsmen, artists are joined by the people from the built up areas, as in the East. These people have dreams of roaming through the wilderness on some romantic safari, although probably not one in a hundred thousand would ever do it.

It is a little strange that those in favor of the bill and those opposed are not desirous of increasing the value of the land now in use. They probably are not aware that such an effect will occur, or if they do, are not interested. Mining interests are more concerned with the profits to be derived from new deposits which may be discovered. Conservationists are concerned with keeping nature wild.

Actually, this Bill is an attempt to alleviate some of the results of our system of land tenure. People are forced to use more and more land at the outer fringes as the land in the civilized areas is used only sparingly or at less than maximum use. The people are pushed out to marginal areas very rapidly. They, thus, overrun areas which might never otherwise be occupied. Someone has said that nobody would ever have gone to the Dakotas if it weren't for our system of land tenure which made that marginal land attractive.

Conservationism, per se, is a foolish policy. Land is there to be used by man. To hold it deliberately out of use is to deny man the right to life since he needs land to maintain his existence. However, man is not merely an animal; he has a bit of the Divine in himself, so he has esthetic values which he wishes to satisfy. Under a proper system of land tenure, it would not be necessary to utilize much land that is now occupied. Plenty of land would be wilderness for there simply would be no need for it. Laws would not be required to maintain it in its pristine beauty. What happens today is that land which should not be occupied is and land which should be used is not.

Conservationists think they are solving an important problem of man's in the only way it can be solved. Primarily all they are doing is to help keep up the value of land now in use and prevent the utilization of land which might result in great benefits to all. To put all this land under the wilderness statute is truly conservationism gone wild.

Oscar B. Johannsen

WHITE HOUSE LIBRARY

A working reference library for Presidents is being placed in the White House. 1780 titles have been chosen including PROGRESS AND POVERTY by HENRY GEORGE. The N. Y. Times 8-16-63 published the entire list.

SENSE & NONSENSE

The June, 1963 issue of The American Home in its editorial stated that "the high cost of land is the greatest single deterrent to good low and medium cost single family housing. The home building industry can produce a good inexpensive house but as soon as it must be placed on a gold-plated piece of land it becomes a pretty expensive item.

"One possible solution is that we give up the idea of owning the land on which we build our houses and rent it instead on a long term basis

"The obvious advantage in buying a house on leased land is that you can spend the entire amount you have to invest on the house itself instead of a good portion of it going for the purchase of a piece of property. In short, you put your money into the house and not into the land."

Almost sounds as though a Georgist wrote this. However, it is just the result of facts hitting these businessmen in the face.

Now, if they only understood that the rent should be paid to the community instead of some private individual, they would be just about in line with our thinking.

SALT OF THE EARTH

You know the deductions from our wages are getting so great that the other day a gunman held up the paymaster of a large plant and said: "Hand over the welfare payments, the group insurance premiums, the pension fund and the withholding tax. You can keep the payroll."

It is said that the job description of a secretary in Civil Service is longer than the job description of the President of the U.S., as set out in the Constitution.

Did you know that a Communist is a fellow who borrows your pot to cook your goose.

Legally, the husband is the head of the household and the pedestrian has the right of way. Both are safe as long as they do not try to exercise their rights.

Signs in neighboring store windows:
Travel Bureau: Go Now, Pay Later.
Mortuary: Pay Now, Go Later.

Bachelor: A man who didn't have a car in his teens.

Boss: How long have you been with us now?
Employee: (Bearing) 39 years, and may I say that in that entire time I made only one trifling mistake.
Boss: Well, okay, but from now on, please be more careful.

Modern man: Drives a mortgaged car over a bond-financed highway on credit-card gas.