



Quicksilver

June, 1997
vol.1 num. 8

A newsletter of the HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

chronicling the culling of precious truth

Siftings

•#1 WILLIE BROWN. San Francisco's Mayor, will host staffer Giesen on July 12. It will be a brief audience, but "it'll be like blue-green algae, with all the essential elements," says Giesen. You may recall we promised a report on such an anticipated meeting back in May; but we candidly acknowledge that in view of relocating the Henry George School office that was more than a little ambitious. Look for details in the August Quicksilver.

•#2 THEODORE ROOSEVELT addressed a goodly number of economists, writers, activists and undenominated participants at the alternative economic summit held in Denver June 20-22. You can read more about that performance in the article to the right, but suffice it to say here that Giesen heeded most of Hamlet's adjurations to the actors at Elsinore: he didn't saw the air with his hands and he matched the action to the word.

•#3 THE VORACIOUS RAVEN debuted Wednesday, June 18 at the Yerba Buena Gardens in downtown San Francisco. HGS graduate and actor LISA KANG took up her masks, words and perching box at about noon-thirty and initiated approximately 17 souls into the out-of-doors halls of the Henry George School. The Voracious Raven is a fabliau written by staffer Giesen that traces the adventures of a raven intent on getting a "free lunch." The climax of this theater of economics transpires when Raven, who has transformed herself into Orca, persuades the fishes of the sea to feed themselves to her because "it's my ocean." One very observant salmon (a Georgist, of course) points out that if only the fish will swim away this orca will prove too lazy to give chase. Now that's a way to make a landlord blubber! Oy! Raven will play throughout the summer in downtown S.F.



LVT gains a TOES hold in the Rockies



△△△△△△△△ At the The Other Economic Summit the microphone was available to participants to testify, or even dispute. How markedly this contrasts with the G-8 Economic Summit, closed tight as parasitic barnacles on a whale's hide.

HGS-SF Board President Paul Johnson and staffer David Giesen flew to Denver the weekend of June 20-22, the site and time of the G-8 economic summit. They were shut out of that august gathering, of course, but hadn't intended any presentations there, anyhow. Instead, they were in Colorado to articulate the frank science of economics at The Other Economic Summit (TOES). And they did so, matching it with the moral perspective that speeds the HGS mission --The Earth is the Birthright of All People.

Johnson and Giesen attended plenary sessions of TOES, sat in on break-out sessions addressing various economic dimensions of social, political and environmental concerns, lent their insight to discussions and observations, and manned a Henry George School table where they shared pamphlets & books published or distributed by the Schalkenbach Foundation.

Alanna Hartzok, former program director with the HGS, now living in Pennsylvania, also attended the summit, as did Bill Batt of Albany, NY, another acknowledged Georgist. But Georgists need not band together in clique where economics is not regarded as a "problem" for "the specialists" to fret and toil over, and TOES is a place where privilege and hierarchy are disdained. In short, this alternative summit (with perhaps 150 attending from across North America and over-seas) not only welcomed the occasional fluffing of our feathers to show our colors, but it offered plenty of plumage for us to marvel at, too. In brief, it was heartening to see and hear so many earnest advocates of earth use with the perspective that LAND is truly a common inheritance and legacy.

Among the highlights of the Henry George School tabling effort was an extended dialogue with David Korten, author of "When Corporations Rule the World" and President of The People-Centered Development Forum. Staffer Giesen's and Korten's thirty minute discussion touched on the ramifications of LVT's effect on various land uses, coming to rest on its effect upon rural lands. Mr. Korten requested an extended and citated paper on this head, which, alas, we could not then supply. We find this request instructive as we look forward to future presentations at academic and organizational gatherings.

Challenged though we are by the request for research papers on specific effects of LVT (and we intend to give this matter deliberate attention this next year), our school's strong suit of public presentation did not go looking for an opportunity. Pres. Johnson had previously done the booking and Giesen's historical recreation of Theodore Roosevelt and Henry George was on the official schedule of events! After the Friday noon portrayal Giesen knit together Roosevelt's rhetorical statements with George's practical exegesis. Using Roosevelt's declaration that "[natural] resources should be regarded as public utilities" as a springboard for discussion, Giesen explored with specific example as well as metaphor the meaning of Roosevelt's words.

Those desiring an expanded report on the conference should procure the August edition of Groundswell, the journal of Common Ground-USA.

Motherlode- DIGEST AND COMMENTARY

There's a new monthly in San Francisco, San Francisco Frontlines. It bills itself as "A Newspaper for a New Progressive Majority."

We haven't had time to go through this journal thoroughly and consequently don't know what to make of it, but a cursory preview suggests it takes up hard thinking and doesn't put it down. We welcome intellectual honesty, of course, and are most pleased by the prospect of the expansion of discussion of the social sciences into the homes of the citizenry. San Francisco has two weeklies that do an okay job of reminding the public that the daily's headlines surmount piddly stories, but those weeklies are more bound to ongoing popular entertainment than they are to sustaining solid thinking. Perhaps this new periodical is otherwise. In any event it carries one story in its June edition that touches us here at the Henry George School. It's the story behind the encryptment of the San Francisco Public Library. Hundreds of thousands of books are entombed beneath the New Main Library with no official expectation of release. Henry George helped found the San Francisco Public Library to better enable men and women to make of themselves what they can without undo barriers. The self-serving behavior that has discarded books in favor of showy computer terminals requiring fees paid to Pacific Telesis raises the issue fundamental to HGS curriculum, that of monopoly.



↑ ↑ JOHNSON & GIESEN ENJOY EXPOSTULATING LUT IN THE HOTEL HOSTING THE G-8.

Quicksilver news and chatter from the Henry George School

The mission of the Henry George School is to educate the public regarding the relationship between economics and social justice.

News, ideas, comments should be addressed to **Quicksilver, 55 New Montgomery, Suite 219, San Francisco, California 94105 415/543-4294**

David Giesen, editor.

The Earth is the Birthright of all People

—he same vein

georgists working together to reveal the abundance of nature

- NOW is the time to consider endowing the Henry George School. Contact us about tax shelter options.
- Consider joining the Henry George School Board of Directors for a one year commitment-- six meetings; your talents and interests will make a positive addition
- Would you like our staff to speak to a specific organization? Please give us a call.

TAILINGS... back page stories

Quicksilver: six times a year, double the size

In an efficiency move, Quicksilver will henceforward appear only in even numbered months. There'll be no loss of news, however, as the format will run to four 8.5X11 inch pages. In addition to a sizeable savings in office time, there will be a savings in postage. Moreover, look for in-depth articles not admissible in the present format. All the people, more stories. THE NEXT ISSUE WILL ARRIVE IN AUGUST.

LAND STAKE= HGS CLASSES, COURSES & MORE

- Tuesday evening Fundamentals of Economics, 7-9 pm
 - Thursday noon times Our birthright as Citizens, 12-1 pm
 - Thursday evenings Our birthright as Citizens, 7-9 pm
- THE ABOVE ARE ONGOING, CALL TO CONFIRM A SEAT

UPCOMING:

- Economics and the world today, led by Ingo Bischoff in July and Aug.
- Progress & Poverty, led by Yisroel Pensack this summer and fall
- The Voracious Raven, downtown daytime. Call for performance dates



George Bernard Shaw's play, Mrs. Warren's Profession is now playing at A.C.T. in San Francisco. The play frankly treats the matter of monopoly in the area of opportunities open to female labor. Shaw gave H.G. credit for "changing the current of my life."



A \$10 donation to the Henry George School funds a 3rd of each month's Quicksilver expenses! Thank you Robert Roelofsen.