

Quicksilver

May, 1997
vol.1 num. 7

A newsletter of the HENRY GEORGE SCHOOL

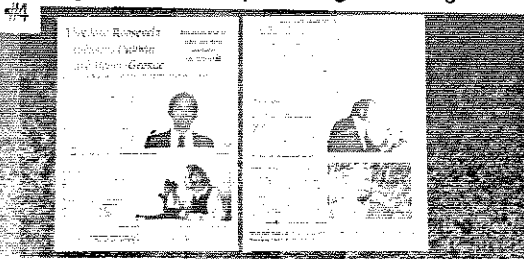
chronicling the culling of precious truth

Siftings

#1 THE HGS FUNDAMENTALS OF ECONOMICS COURSE concluded May 8. One student, Daniel O'Brien, remarked that now he was ready to shout the news of the economy's dynamics from the rooftops. "I've read Ayn Rand and Charles Dickens and I couldn't sort it out between the two of them, but Henry George make sense of it all."

#2 125 EIGHTH-GRADERS at Fort Bragg Middle School were introduced to Henry George via the HGS program "Theodore Roosevelt and our birthright as citizens" on May 19. Roosevelt's assertion that natural resources "should be regarded as public utilities" is used as a departure point for a discussion of citizenship with students.

#3 AUDUBON also turned in a performance during Giesen's tour of Mendocino County. After the Fort Bragg performance cited above, Giesen drove ten miles to the town of Mendocino where he presented "Audubon and our birthright as citizens." Forty-four eighth-graders were stimulated by Audubon's obvious talents and heroic efforts to celebrate the wildlife of America. Audubon's sense of freedom in roaming North America was analyzed as illustrative of a degree of citizenship fostering works of genius.



ABOVE IS THE OBERSE AND REVERSE of the flyer sent to schools noticing portrayals of Roosevelt, Audubon, Darwin and George. George is lower left. R.

#5 TERRY ANDERSON & HUEY JOHNSON debated central planning versus free market systems as means of successfully addressing environmental issues on May 14 at the S.F. Main Library. Staffer Giesen attended the debate, and after hearing Johnson extol long-term, comprehensive plans and Anderson champion free market laissez-faire, Giesen challenged both men to consider a fundamental truth about the environment they both earnestly seek to protect: in nature there is no paper title to habitat. It is use, and efficient use at that, which determines long-term employment of habitat. 'Nature' retains no obvious central planner, but neither does it admit land monopoly. Both Professor Anderson, Executive Director of the Political Economy Research Center and Johnson, President of Resource Renewal Institute, invited further dialogue with the HGS.

Henry George returns to San Francisco!

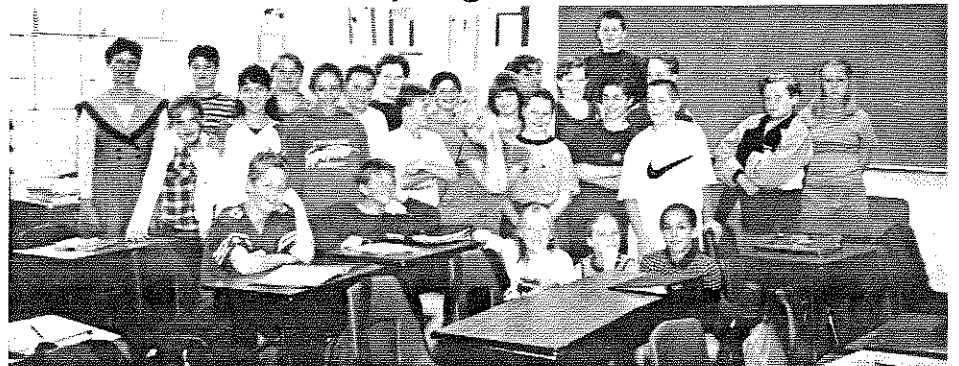


△△△△△△△△△△ HGS-SF President Paul Johnson and Vice-President Wendell Fitzgerald are smiling these days for among other reasons Henry George (in effigy to their left) is on the streets of San Francisco hawking free econ classes and other programming.

In a significant effort to acquaint the workaday men and women of downtown San Francisco with the constructive, illuminating thought of Henry George, the HGS-SF is regularly setting up a sidewalk booth in the very pith of The City. Staffer Giesen has created an effigy of Henry George which joins Giesen over the noon lunch break in inviting the thousands of those eating out-of-doors in the financial district to sample some free noon-time programming.

HGS offers noon brown bag economics classes, a course in citizenship and, in the evening, that same citizenship course for those who live in or nearby the city's center. Beginning with this issue HGS-SF programming will be noticed under **Land Stake**.

HGS school programs travel afield



THESE SIXTH-GRADERS FROM MILLIE BUTLER'S JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH CLASS (IN JACKSON, CALIFORNIA) WERE AMONG THE 500 JACKSON MIDDLE SCHOOLERS WHO WERE INTRODUCED TO JOHN JAMES AUDUBON AND THE BASIS OF HENRY GEORGE'S LIBERATING THINKING ON MAY 2.

In early April staff at Jackson Middle School in Jackson, east and south of Sacramento, called up the HGS and requested our school program "John James Audubon and our birthright as citizens." And so, temporarily leaving San Francisco labors, Giesen took the story of America's Woodsman, who "lived with no more thought for the future than if the world had been created for me," to the Sierra foothills. After the general assembly Giesen visited individual classrooms sharing Audubon's sense of personal freedom as a world citizen, which enabled his completion of "The Birds of America." With this sense he felt at liberty to traverse all of North America studying and recording its birdlife.

Motherlode- DIGEST AND COMMENTARY

The May 7 issue of the San Francisco Weekly carried an article describing the rise of land values sure to follow along the extension of the S.F. Bay's rapid rail system (BART) to S. F. International (SFO). In single-minded fashion the investigative writing details how hefty contributors to Willie Brown and Diane Feinstein's political campaigns stand to reap unearned return for the expenditure of public funds for this BART project. (There is a whole other question associated with the incompatibility of BART rail gauge with other standard track serving parts of the Bay Area; turf wars, in short).

Why wonder where disposable lobbying money comes from when one considers that income derives from 1)hard work, 2)imaginative thinking (storing up time and creating CAPITAL) and 3)unearned rise in land values. The first two are their own reward and they naturally return a satisfying recompense; however, the third is neither its own reward nor does it signify a satisfying remuneration. Instead, unearned income represents funds available for speculative purposes, including political persuasion. These are funds which cost the lobbyist nothing (remember they're unearned)but are idle monies. They are not the consequence of fishing or cobbling or software design. They satisfy no human exertion but are a privilege conferred.

Regrettably, the article fails to recognize unearned income as corrupting the whole of the economy. It details the pecuniary motivations of professional politicians, yet does not hail privilege as a cause of disorder. Corrupt men and women are blamed rather than the privilege which corrupts them. The authors would have us change human nature rather than alter the circumstances that poison the human psyche.

the same vein

*georgists working together
to reveal the abundance of nature*

- 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.
- NOW is the time to consider endowing the Henry George School. Contact us about tax shelter options.

TAILINGS... back page stories

Truly a back page story:

We stand undaunted by the decision of the Kanzanian Foundation to not fund an HGS teacher in-service program linking ecology and economics. Development of this program is now deferred, but staff will not be stymied in their efforts to supply meaningful programs to schools. The front page offers evidence of that.

LAND STAKE= HGS CLASSES & COURSES

- Tuesday evening Fundamentals of Economics, 7-9 pm
- Thursday noon time Our birthright as Citizens, 12-1 pm
- Thursday evening 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



↑ ↑ Here are a few Fort Bragg Middle School eighth-graders who met T.R. May 19. ↑ ↑



Rouvaishyana is a diligent employee of the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game. Among other things he collects plankton samples along the Mendocino coast. And he is an admirer of the ecological good sense explicit in LVT.

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*

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

