

# Group meets to discuss philosophies of economist

Anne Marie Nicholson  
STAFF WRITER

CEDAR CITY - Henry George, author and economist of the late 19th century, established a philosophy that has endured into the 1980's. An intermountain group of 30 concerned citizens met at Southern Utah State College to

discuss modern applications of George's philosophies as expressed over a hundred years ago in his popular 1879 book *Progress and Poverty*.

The first speaker during the day's events was Professor of Economics Harold Hiskey from Southern Utah State College. His-

key emphasized the group's philosophy that property taxes should be based on the land value and not on the improvements to that land. The de-emphasis on capitol improvements as a tax basis would encourage the property owners to maintain, develop and improve their land. As the tax system is set up now, according to Hiskey, the land owner is penalized with any improvement to his real estate. The system also encourages land speculation, leaving properties vacant and in disrepair.

The film, *A TALE OF FIVE CITIES*, was shown to the group. Dealing with five cities in Pennsylvania, where legislation allows a land rather than an improvement tax base. The successes of the five cities, from rural to one with the typical problems of the industrial north, the encouragement through taxation showed the progress of the municipalities.

Earl Hanson, local advocate of the philosophy, stated that the new federal tax bill would bring us closer to the goals of the group. The two level property tax would be advantageous as it puts greater emphasis on local control of assessments.

"The greater the understanding of this shifted tax base, the more followers this philosophy will have. It has been successful where ever it has been applied," stated Hanson.



CEDAR CITY - Dr. James L. Busey (r) spoke with Mayor Robert Linford at the Intermountain Tax Association meeting Sept. 6.

2 IRON COUNTY REVIEW THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1986

## COUNTY CALENDAR

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- 46th Annual Southwest Livestock Show Breakfast. For competitors at Southern Utah State College cafeteria, 8-9:30 a.m.
- Southwest Livestock Show, Livestock Sale, Southwest Livestock Arena, 10 a.m.
- 2nd Annual Conference of Intermountain Single Tax Association. Seminar and films,

SUSC Library, seminar room. For more information phone 586-6362, 10:00 a.m.

• ITSA No-Host Luncheon, Sugar Loaf Restaurant, Dr. James L. Busey to speak. For more information phone 586-6362, Noon.