

8 12 89

*the village
of Arden*



THE WAREHOUSE

1704 GREEN LANE • ARDEN • DELAWARE • PHONE H.O. 5016

» You are welcome hither «

11

3237

Arden is an unique community. It was founded in 1900 by a sculptor, Frank Stephens, and an architect, Will Price. Both these men believed thoroughly in the theories of Henry George. That philosopher preached the text that the land, being God given should not be the property of any one individual. Those using the land ,however, should pay for the use. Thus if the full earning power of the land was taken, no other taxes would be needed to operate the community.

As the leaseholders create the values, they should collect those values for the use of the community. This was dubbed "The Single Tax" theory, and is the basis on which Arden was established.

Friends of the two founders - many of them artists and writers - formed the nucleus of the village in its earlier days.

Many crafts developed. A very active forge, two weaving shops - several ceramists and workers in wood were the chief craftsmen.

Arden is noted for its fine history in the field of community theatrical work. Its outdoor theaters formed the settings for many of Shakespeare's plays, and the Gild Hall stage was the scene of many of the modern productions of Shaw and the Irish playwrights.

Arden has been fortunate in attracting many fine musicians who have contributed generously of their talents.

Geographically, Arden is located about six or seven miles north of Wilmington, just about one mile below the Pennsylvania-Delaware State Line.

Arden covers 163 acres, nearly one-half of which is devoted to community use, - roads, greens, and woodland parks.

The land is held in a Deed of Trust, and three

Trustees see that the provisions of the Deed are observed.

No one owns his leasehold in Arden. Each leaseholder has a 99-year lease, and he pays an annual rent to the community for the use of the land his leasehold encompasses. He pays no tax on his house, no school tax, no state road tax, etc. He pays merely his annual land rent to the Community. The only other taxes he must be concerned with are purely personal ones, such as income tax, and the various "hidden" taxes.

Out of the rents collected, the Trustees pay all the Federal, State and County taxes levied in the community on real estate, etc. The balance remaining is spent on purely communal projects that will not benefit one individual above another.

In 1922, Ardentown - 110 acres - abutting on the east was established, and in 1950 Ardencroft - 63 acres - also east of Arden and south of Ardentown was opened. These newer communities are similar in purpose and operation to Arden.

The three Arden communities have a population of a little over 1500 persons. There are over 30 separate business enterprises - at least two of which operate internationally.

Arden has six Town Meetings each year at which the various committees entrusted with the operation of the community are elected and report their activities to the townspeople.

There is a vigorous feeling for cooperative effort in the community, and the social activities, centering about the Gild Hall, are participated in by young and old, and cover a wide range of interests.

We are pleased by your interest in our community, and if more detailed information is wanted, we will be happy to try and supply it.