

# A Word With You

**R**ECENTLY, a shipment of textbooks was delivered to the Henry George School by mistake; they were supposed to go to the New York Institute of Technology, 135 West 70th Street.

This was curious, as the address of the Institute is the former Pythian Temple where the Henry George School got its start 36 years ago, with lectures in a rented room. The ornate building still stands, but gone are the Knights of Pythias, and now technology reigns. The new Lincoln Center is nearby, but otherwise the old neighborhood still looks pretty much the same.

In those days the School had its headquarters in the tiny downtown office of Land and Freedom at 150 Nassau Street, near City Hall. This office building, too, is still standing, a bit refurbished. Across the street to the west, Pace College has taken over another old building. Across the street to the north, old buildings have been razed to make way for a brand new Pace College—gone are the Tribune Tower and the gold dome of the World Building.

After a year and a half the Henry George School moved into its first real home—but still rented—a four-story row building at 211 West 79th Street, and there it stayed, gradually expanding to the upper floors, until 1938.

Not long ago I was invited to a re-

ception of an amateur astronomy society at 212 West 79th Street, just opposite our old headquarters. It was touching to observe the sectional bookcases, the unpainted floor, the folding chairs, and the eager reception committee. It carried me back to our first days across the street.

Now 211 West 79th Street is a multiple dwelling with no less than ten apartments—and it is the only house on the row that has an awning in front of the door.

The School's next move was to 30 East 29th Street, into a massive building sold to us by the telephone company—the first building we owned—and there we stayed until 1944. The building is now only remotely connected with education, as it belongs to the Bartenders Union, Local 15. Otherwise, the neighborhood is still the same. Across the street is still the Martha Washington Hotel, which I always associated with Alaska Jane, who descended upon us like a whirlwind out of the north.

Since 1944 we have been in our present building at 50 East 69th Street—a beautiful building erected in 1917 and sold to us by the Dommerich family. The neighborhood has gradually been changing but is still recognizable as a center of fine mansions that civic groups are hoping to save from the wrecker's ball. So here we are, until—?

—Robert Clancy

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The Henry George News, published monthly by the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021, supports the following principle:

The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for the community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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