

In Memoriam: Weld Saunders Carter, 1900-1989

WELD SAUNDERS CARTER led a varied, interesting and useful life. He had been a mathematician, an economist, a farmer, a salesman, and an educator before his death on February 4th, 1989.

After being forced to drop out of Princeton because of finances he won a competition for the post of mathematician to Thomas Alva Edison. In this post he participated in the invention of the alkaline storage cell, and disc types of phonographs. When Mr Edison retired to Florida, Carter went into industrial sales and then into farming in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

A chance encounter with Henry George's *Progress and Poverty* rekindled his interest in economics, his undergraduate major, and led him into deep involvement with the Georgist cause. He became a student, then a teacher, then a trustee of the Henry George School of Social Science in New Jersey. From 1953 until 1956 he served as education director of the Commerce and Industry Division of the Henry George School of Social Science in Chicago.

Through the wisdom and initiative of Violetta G. Graham he was retained by the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation of New York to ascertain and report on how Henry George was interpreted and applied by economists of the day. The Foundation hosted a meeting of a group of economists interested in re-evaluating George's contributions to economics, which led to a series of annual meetings with broadened participation. Carter was appointed Executive Secretary of the group, six of whose members became volunteer consultants to the Foundation. The Committee on Taxation, Resources and Economic Development, or TRED for short, was founded by this group in 1962.

Through its annual meetings TRED stimulated research, writing and discussion of the then neglected field of land value taxation and the relation of taxation to other social and economic concerns. Since publication was important, arrangements were made for the University of Wisconsin Press to issue TRED-1 in 1967 which was based on its 1964 conference. Mason Gaffney edited this volume under the title, *Extractive Resources and Taxation*. In all, twelve such volumes appeared before the sponsorship of the conferences was assumed by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

His survivors include his wife of a quarter of a century, the former Jessie Tredway Matteson of Fox Lake, Illinois; a son Weld S. Carter Jr. of Belmont, Mass.; a sister, Elaine C. O'Neil of Camas, Wash.; a daughter-in-law, Jean L. Carter of St. Augustine, Fla.; three granddaughters and one great-son. His first wife, Marjorie Hutchinson Orr, an author of short stories, and a son, Ronald, preceded him in death.

FRANK C. GENOVESE