

OBITUARY**Lewis Alexander Ellis**

26 April 1910-15 April 1992

By John Hall

My first meeting with Lew Ellis was in the early seventies. Driving in Adelaide, I closed up behind a station sedan which carried the message: GROUND RENT FOR REVENUE - JOIN THE HENRY GEORGE LEAGUE. As a recent arrival from the U.K., and a Georgist for more than a quarter of a century, I was delighted to see this sign of local support. I followed that vehicle to its destination, introduced myself to the driver and so met Lew Ellis. He arranged a meeting with David Brooks, another active local Georgist, and from then on we met on a regular basis.

There are many within the Georgist movement more familiar than I with the contribution made by Lew over many years. They know of his contribution to South Australia's Georgist paper, "The Peoples' Advocate", and his work in support of the State's Georgist member of the House of Representatives, Mr. E. J. Craigie. For twenty-seven years he was an elected member of the City of Enfield Municipal Council where he served as Councillor and Alderman and, on occasions, as Deputy Mayor. He had previously been introduced to local government as a Councillor on the District Council of Morgan and never missed an opportunity to promote the benefits of site value rating.

In his early years, the family were hard workers in the local Presbyterian Church. Lew held the position of S.A. Secretary of the Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia and was the organiser of their young mens' annual camps. It was at one of these camps during a debate on patriotism that he first learned about the philosophy of Henry George and, from that moment, his whole attitude to life changed. He became an ardent and devoted supporter and worked enthusiastically for the cause of Georgism until the end.

Apart from his wide range of intellec-

tual interests Lew Ellis was also a keen sportsman. He played A Grade soccer, was interested in basketball and volleyball and played competitive tennis with success until age 69. He competed in athletics and listed ballroom dancing as his favourite pastime.

Though born in Adelaide, he was proud of his Scottish ancestry having parents who married in Glasgow in 1908 and emigrated to South Australia on the maiden voyage of the SS 'Waratah'. At his funeral it was a sad and emotional moment when a lone piper led the family, friends and a large number of mourners to the graveside for the last farewell.

Lew was proud to be a Trustee Emeritus of the Henry George Foundation of Australia and a life member of The Electoral Reform Society of South Australia, the Enfield Probus Club and the Clearview Tennis Club.

He is survived by his wife Ivy, daughter Judy and son Neil.

(Addendum: Electoral Reform Society of S.A. Secretary, 1946-47. 1960, Committee. 1962-70, President. 1970-74, Secretary. 1976-78, President. Thereafter, life member.)