

A Golden Year for Arden

ARDEN, the much publicized village near Wilmington, founded by Frank Stephens and William W. Price, is celebrating fifty years of the Henry George principle in practise. The original purchase price of the tract was \$9,000—today the assessed valuation of the village is close to \$500,000.

Henry George Day will be celebrated as usual in the open air theater at Arden on September 3. Don Stephens and Dr. Henry George III will speak. Others who have been invited to participate are: Agnes de Mille, V. G. Peterson and Robert Clancy.

Concerts, plays at the Robin Hood Theatre, dances, festivals and lectures, including a revival of the old "Economic Class" were anniversary features continuing throughout the summer. The "Economic Class" begun by founder Stephens and Scott Nearing was revived this year by Dr. Henry George III of Wilmington.

New! "Ardencroft"

Brilliantly coincident with the anniversary came an announcement that the new "Ardencroft" in which Don Stephens, son of the founder, has been interested, is now a corporate realty. The first 96 leases were signed on August 26 and 27.

The Wilmington Morning News headlined this as a *New Interracial Community*. Dr. George reminded us that the newspaper emphasized the interracial aspect because, for Delaware, a southern state, this "is startling, if not shocking."

Ardencroft will be administered by a non-profit corporation of which Donald Stephens of Arden is president, Dr. Henry George III, vice-president, and Hamilton D. Ware (son of the second founder), secretary and treasurer.

Don Stephens, association president was quoted in the Wilmington Morning News as saying: "It is our privilege once more to see the beginning of another American community based on the real principles of democracy. The same philosophy that guided the establishment of Arden and Ardentown prevails here—that a man is entitled to the full results of his own labor but that which is earned by a community, through the use of the land, belongs to the community."

"We are also continuing the principles of the founders of Arden and Ardentown as expressed in the sign to be seen at the entrance of Arden: 'You are welcome hither.' For here in Ardencroft we do not ask about a man's religion nor his beliefs nor do we hold to any theory of racial superiority."