

## Agnes de Mille 1905 - 1993

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Agnes George de Mille, the granddaughter of Henry George and an institution in the world of American dance over a six-decade career. An innovator in both American ballet and the Broadway stage, Ms. de Mille was also an author of some fourteen books, including a recently published biography of Martha Graham. The *Los Angeles Times* once called her "a gutsy lady, a pioneer, an iconoclast, a charmer, a writer of rare insight and fascination..." She once said of herself "I have been searching all my life for the intrinsic American, Anonymous ... he has many faces and many names, but we all know him: humorous, salty, bold, original, independent certainly, at times persnickety and stubborn, neighborly and commonsensical... it is to become him that every immigrant has crossed the green water." Part of her creative genius was her ability to translate and blend that vision of American commonality into her art, bringing traditional themes such as the Old West rodeo onto the legitimate stage. She was one of the first to combine what are now called "low" and "high" art.

Agnes de Mille was, like her mother, an enthusiastic supporter of the Georgist philosophy. She wrote an eloquent preface to the centennial edition of *Progress and Poverty* in 1979, and spoke at a number of Georgist conferences over the years. She also addressed the opening ceremony for the New York headquarters in 1989. She will be missed all over the world, and in our movement not the least.

-D.D.

*(Editor's note: Our next issue will feature a memorial to Agnes de Mille. Readers are encouraged to submit their own tributes or reminiscences.)*