

Henry B. Cramer

SAN DIEGO has long been known for its Georgist leaders and initiators. Henry Cramer belonged in that company and he remained to support the movement with loyal devotion until February 9th when he suffered a sudden heart attack. Only a week earlier he had addressed the local Georgists at an annual meeting, and his message will be treasured for it was his last word to his fellow workers.

Mr. Cramer was born in San Diego in 1891. He served in the first World War and on his return he joined his father in the management of the Cramer Baking Company. He retired from business in 1942. Shortly before that he had become a member of the State Board of Prison Directors and for eight years he worked toward improving prison conditions. He was a Shriner and a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of other distinguished orders, but we will always remember him as a tireless advocate of the principles of Henry George.

In 1960 he became chairman of the Incentive Taxation Committee of California and toured several states to survey land speculation practices. It was his encouragement that gave Irene Hickman of Sacramento the needed impetus to run for public office in order to expose an unfair assessment system. As a result attention was focused widely on under-assessed land. His kindly influence was expressed in many ways. He headed the editorial board of the California Homeowner Magazine and helped it grow—its purpose is to instruct homeowners regarding property taxes. Acting as administrator of the estate of Sidney Evans who had instituted important Henry George ventures, Mr. Cramer judiciously carried out the wishes of his friend.

Mr. and Mrs. Cramer made many trips across the country to be present at conferences of the Henry George School. At such meetings Henry's reports on the activities of the San Diego group were modestly brief, but every word counted. He was a man of unflinching good humor which seemed to emphasize his belief in the dignity and rights of men as individuals. This beloved couple was sadly missed at the last conference in Calgary because of his illness. The HGS fellowship worldwide extends sympathy and affection to Mrs. Cramer and the family in their loss.

Vol. 34, No. 2

March, 1971

The Henry George News is published monthly as an alumni activity of the Henry George School of Social Science, 50 E. 69th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021.

Publication Committee: Dorothy Sara, Oscar B. Johannsen, Sydney A. Mayers and Lancaster M. Greene, chairman. Editor: Alice Elizabeth Davis. Subscriptions \$1 a year; single copies 10¢. Second class postage paid at New York, N. Y.

Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Henry George School.