

At the Home of Henry George

FORTY friends gathered in the upper room of the Henry George Birthplace in Philadelphia on October 29th to mark the tenth anniversary of the Henry George School's acquisition of the little house at 413 South 10th Street.

The building, now fully restored and in use, looked trim inside and out, and the neighborhood showed a vast improvement over that day ten years ago when the Birthplace was first opened. A genko tree, planted a few years ago as a memorial in front of the house is thriving and growing tall.

George Collins, director of the Philadelphia extension, presided at the meeting and pointed out that, although much improvement has been made so far, more will be called for. This area of Philadelphia is in the midst of an urban renewal movement, and further repairs and restorations on the Birthplace will be required.

Julian Hickok, Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Philadelphia extension, recalled the time in 1926 when the house was acquired by the Henry George Foundation, and since the building was occupied by tenants, the ceremony marking the occasion had to be held in the small alley-way outside in the midst of a pouring rain.

Robert Clancy, New York Director, recalled that October 29th also marked the 70th anniversary of the death of Henry George. He noted that the Georgist movement seems to thrive better on slow and steady growth than on spectacular demonstrations. The progress of the Birthplace is a case in point.

In the absence of Professor Steven

Cord of Indiana University, Indiana, Pennsylvania, his paper was read by Mr. Collins (see next page).

The final speaker was Charles MacNamara, author of an article on Henry George entitled "The Prophet," in the October issue of Philadelphia Magazine, of which he is senior editor. The subtitle observes that "Henry George's once neglected land tax ideas are gaining new currency." (A reprint of this article has been mailed to members of the Henry George School and is available on request to other HGN readers). Mr. MacNamara scolded Philadelphians for not honoring the prophet Henry George who arose in their midst, and looked forward to the day when the city could boast more than George's birthplace—perhaps a bridge, a street, or a statue named for him. Meanwhile, however, and more important, George's ideas are spreading.

On view for the first time were mementos recently acquired: a silver teapot belonging to the George family, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stirlith of Wilmington; clothing belonging to the George women, presented by Agnes de Mille; a selection of photographs and medallions from the collection of Louis F. Post, presented by his granddaughter, Phyllis B. Post; a series of letters from Father Thomas Dawson, Henry George's friend and confidant, presented by C. W. Silvernale of Los Angeles. And Marcel Moreno presented a new unabridged Random House dictionary.

The group wound up the day with dinner at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel.

Georgists will be better Georgists in 1968, for they will have two conferences to go to, with profit and pleasure. First comes a festive and stimulating four days at the beautiful ocean front hotel at Miami Beach, the Barcelona, from July 3 to 7. In September there will be a special treat for the internationally minded, with six wonderful days at Caswell Bay in Wales from the 8th to the 14th. It's often wise to make plans and reservations far in advance. That way everything unfolds without strain. Think it over.