



The Birthplace Ceremony

The Resolution which was tendered on September 2nd to Robert Clancy of New York, director of the Henry George School, was from the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks, and was presented at the Philadelphia birthplace of Henry George, 413 South 10th Street by Caspar W. Haines (right), a member of the society. Participating in the presentation (center), was Thomas M. Foglietta, Philadelphia Councilman-at-Large.

The Resolution states that whereas the Henry George School of Social Science has designated September 2nd as Henry George Day, and whereas the birthplace of the world renowned economist has been restored and dedicated as another historical landmark in historical Philadelphia, be it therefore resolved that the grumblethorpe restoration committee of the Philadelphia Society for the preservation of landmarks commend the Henry George School of Social Science for helping to preserve the flavor and richness of Philadelphia's historic past for generations in the future.

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Councilman Thomas Foglietta, speaking at the birthplace meeting on September 2nd, said:

"It is very fitting that we are here today to honor the memory of Henry George. Since the death of Henry George this country has experienced alternate periods of depression and prosperity. However, even with the ever changing economic conditions, the phenomena observed by Henry George still exist. In the present decade we have experienced a period of prosperity and full employment unequalled by any country in the world. But even at the height of this prosperity, within hearing distance of my voice, you can see people living in abject poverty and under intolerable conditions.

"The problem posed by Henry George has therefore not been solved — the solution, if it were Henry George's, has not been tried. The cause may be that with all our scientific progress we have not developed a sufficient social conscience or responsibility to be fully concerned with the problems facing our less fortunate citizens.

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"Each year we eke out a small portion of the National Budget for Public Housing projects and relief for the impoverished people, just a sufficient amount to salve our conscience.

"With all our increased knowledge we fail to realize that the continued existence of impoverished people, living in slum conditions of filth and disease, constitute a malignancy within our society. The effects of this cancerous growth spreads its tentacles throughout the entire society acting as a breeding place for crime and disease.

"Thus the work begun by Henry George must be continued. There is still much effort and research to be done on what breeds and continues this phenomenon. If the solution is to be found it can only be realized if we are sufficiently concerned to want an answer.

"It is only fitting and proper that the birthplace of this man be cherished and kept as a continued reminder of the job yet to be accomplished."

Another speaker on this interesting occasion, was Mrs. H. M. Tinkcom, historian for the Philadelphia Historical Commission. Joseph Stockman, director of the Henry George School in Philadelphia, was the host.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Stirlith of Wilmington wrote of this event as follows:

"The birthplace looked like a jewel in the bright sunshine against the somber surroundings. May it be a star of hope for a better world in which to live. May those who were there and those who may visit in the future imbibe the spirit of the philosophy of Henry George."

These kind people enclosed with their letter a contribution to the "Birthplace Fund."

CONFERENCE ON LAND VALUE TAXATION AND FREE ENTERPRISE

The Henry George Foundation of America invites all readers to a conference at the Penn Sheraton Hotel on the new Mellon Square Park in Pittsburgh, November 24-26, Monday through Wednesday. Reservations may be made through the Henry George Foundation office, 417 Grant Street, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania. Robert C. Bowers is chairman of the conference committee.

Speakers will include Professor Harry Gunnison Brown, now of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania; H. Bronson Cowan of Toronto; Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany; and Clayton J. Ewing of Mobile; both vice presidents of the foundation. Also William E. Clement of New Orleans; John R. Fuchs of New Braunfels, Texas; J. Rupert Mason and Joseph S. Thompson both of San Francisco; Ed Walter Walthall of Pensacola; and Senator Bernard B. McGinnis of Pittsburgh; all trustees of the Henry George Foundation. Also Mayor David L. Lawrence of Pittsburgh; Mitchell S. Lurio of Boston; Abe D. Waldauer of Memphis; and Miss V. G. Peterson and Robert Clancy of New York.

In November Pittsburgh begins celebration of its Bicentennial observance. This will attract many visitors and it will be a good time for Georgists to discuss plans and observe the progress the city has made in urban redevelopment and renewal, as well as in major public improvements. These are, of course, all related to the Graded Tax Plan which has greatly reduced the tax burden on improved real estate. Officers of the Graded Tax League of Pennsylvania will report at the forthcoming conference on the progress of the work to apply the McGinnis Act in several third class Pennsylvania cities where contacts have been made. This will be the first meeting of Georgists in Pittsburgh since 1929 and a hearty welcome is assured.