



## Make a Wish, Mr. Evans!

**S**IDNEY G. EVANS of San Diego is a lucky man. At an age when some people's names would be appearing as obits, Sid was being feted at birthday parties, giving press, radio and TV interviews, receiving earnest and affectionate accolades, and giving happiness to lots of people who have shared his life interest.

Sid Evans was born in Nebraska eighty years ago. He learned about Henry George while still in college in Lincoln, Nebraska, at the time when *The Public* was being edited by Louis F. Post, Secretary of Labor. Mr. Evans himself had a newspaper career and extensive travel before settling in La Jolla, California in 1925. Evidently he found gold in California in the form of real estate, because he has dispensed steadily through the years, generous gifts to Henry George extensions, because he became convinced that "poor economic background leads to poor decisions in personal and public life."

Sidney Evans has not lived a double life! He had strong beliefs and he wagered his money on his beliefs. At

one time he gave all his ready capital, \$325,000, to the Basic Economic Educational Fund. He was backing education all the way—but *his kind* of education. In 1965 he consented to a series of full page newspaper advertisements at a cost of \$25,000, to support a tax reform then being considered in the California legislature. The advertisements explained how untaxing buildings and taxing land more would aid the cities in ridding themselves of slums and would bring in added revenue while equalizing the tax load. The bill was voted down in the Assembly 30 to 33, and never reached the Senate. Despite this poor showing Mr. Evans feels that he gave the cause of land value taxation a great deal of publicity and he hopes that next time the legislators will feel more receptive.

On his eightieth birthday, March 12th, there was a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Palmer in Chula Vista. At another San Diego party Henry George School friends came from a 100-mile radius to pay tribute and enjoy the big birthday cake.