Changing the World Seminar

On October 22nd Henry George School Member Trustee Steven Cord gave a seminar entitled *You Can Change the World*. The thesis of Dr. Cord's seminar was that there is an ever growing number of municipalities that are decreasing the burden of taxation on buildings and improvements

and increasing the tax burden on land itself.

Through this change in the tax structure, commmonly called two-rate (*see article, p.3*), we can encourage construction and production while diminishing land speculation.

Dr. Cord, a leading exponent of this remedy, calls this approach "a real world application of Georgist theory."

Dr. Cord's main point is "it is better to tax the locational value of land rather than discourage producers by levying taxes on them. The yearly locational value of land is expressed by the market-determined annual rental of land, or land rent for short."

Henry George News

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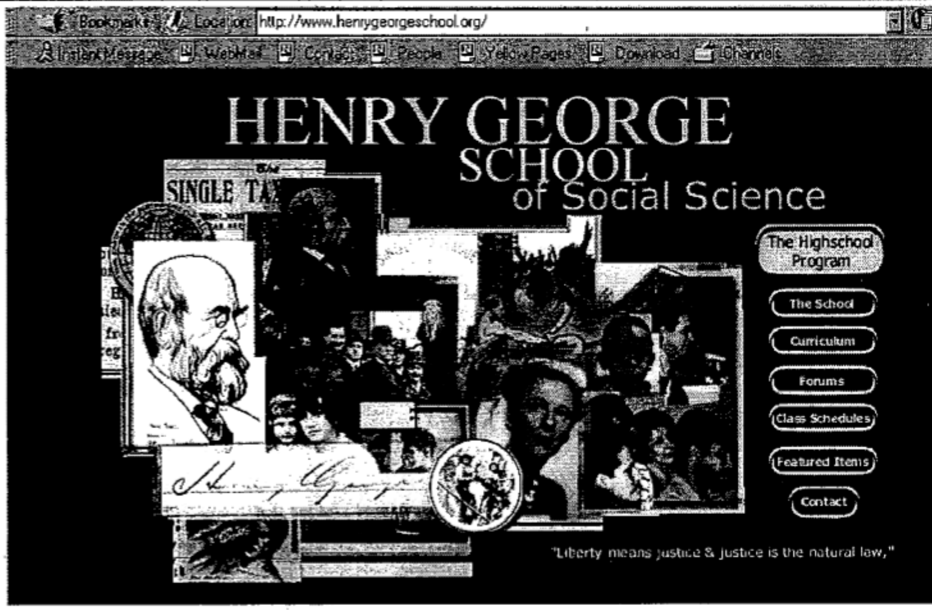

Screenshot of Our New Web Page at www.henrygeorgeschool.org

News & Notes

Henry George at Rutgers

Dr. Oscar Johannsen, former President of the Henry George School and its current treasurer, recently gave a talk on Henry George, entitled *Henry George - Dreamer or Realist*. The talk, given October 5, was presented at the Rutgers University Academy for Lifelong Learning (RU-ALL).

According to Dr. Johannsen, "RU-ALL is a four- year old non-credit continuing education program for New Jersey residents - people over 50 years of age who want to study topics in depth, including contemporary issues."

Dr. Johannsen, who continues a life-long involvement in the Georgist Movement and the School, began his talk by giving a sketch of the life of Henry George as a prelude to George's involvement in social issues. Seguing from the life to the work, he next spelled out the the problems of George's day and showed how George's remedy still has contemporary relevance.

By all accounts, the talk, given in front of about 40 people, was very enthusiasticlly received. "They were definitely interested and asked many pointed questions," said Oscar.

www.henrygeorgeschool.org

Our new **Website**, which we told you about last issue, has started off successfully. If you are a regular reader of these pages, you already know that the School has transfered its High School Program to the website, offering the same teaching materials that it formerly offered by mail. Last summer we mailed special large-size postcards to 5,000 teachers across the country, introducing the original program in its new incarnation. The *High School Newsletter* also has a full page "ad" announcing the availability of the lessons in downloadable form.

To date, a suprising number of teachers have gone to our site, signed on and occasionally offered their comments. The majority of teachers downloading our lessons list *economics* as their primary area of interest. A close second is *history*, followed by *social studies*. We regard this as a good beginning and a sign that we are reaching our target aduience.

Towers of Babel?

Speaking of the **High School Newsletter,** the next issue reprints a story from *Barrons* about the so-called *Skyscraper Index*, a theory that puts forth the idea that "there is an uncanny correlation over the past 100 years between financial crises and attempts to construct the world's tallest building." The author cites the Empire State Building, which seemed to presage the Great Depression, the Sears Tower in Chicago, which was quickly followed in the '70s by years of "stagflation," and the Petronas Towers in Malaysia, built just before the crash of the Eastern Tiger Economies. Now, Chicago wants to top them all with a new 1,537 ft. tower. Perhaps they should be called **Towers of Bubble!**