

CONTINUED SUCCESS FOR DELAWARE HGS PRISON PROGRAM

"For years I have been searching for answers to why I was raised in poverty, a bondage which until recently seemed inexplicable and inescapable....In my search for answers I enrolled in college political economy courses which always seemed to provide more questions than answers." Thus writes Joseph M. Walls, an inmate at the Delaware State Correctional Center, and a recent graduate of the three-course series in *Principles of Political Economy*, taught there by Philadelphia HGS Director Mike Curtis. In a three-page statement summing up his experience in the HGS courses, Mr. Walls eloquently identifies the need that is met by this unique program: Most prisoners at the DCC are serving sentences for economic crimes....Talking to these people I constantly get the feeling that most of these crimes were committed because [they] felt as if there was no hope for them in our society, that the cards were stacked against them. So why shouldn't they get what they want however they can, regardless of who it hurts?" Mike Curtis, who has been teaching in the Delaware Prison System for ten years, says: "Many people have come into the classes convinced that violent revolution is the only answer. Henry George's works provide prisoners with an indication that a just society is possible."



A recent graduating class at the Delaware Corrections Center

Mike Curtis has compiled some impressive statistics in the Delaware Prison Program since its inception in 1980. In that time, 195 students have completed *Fundamental Economics*, 84 have completed *Applied Economics*, and 47 have completed the entire study of *Principles of Political Economy*. He has also recruited sixteen teachers, most of who have taught the two advanced courses. This year, six are completing the three-part study--out of a group that began with eleven students thirty weeks ago--a very good retention rate! In addition, a weekly "Law of Rent" seminar is given at the Plummer Center, a work-release facility in Wilmington, Delaware. Mike, occasionally spelled by other teachers including longtime Georgist Don Hurford and fresh recruit Lindy Davies, has presented the seminar continuously for nine years--to a grand total of 4,722 individuals. Mike and Don have recently been honored for their efforts by the Delaware Department of Corrections, and a request was recently made to expand the program to

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L to R: David DeLong, Univ. of Pa. Historic Preservation Program, Jim Collins, George Collins, Contractor Nicholas Koury, Stuart Rosenberg

PHILADELPHIA BIRTHPLACE AWARDED FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESTORATION

On April 25th, Henry George School Executive Director George Collins travelled to Philadelphia where he was presented the John McArthur Award for Excellence in Building Restoration, by Building Conservation International, also known as Preservation Techniques. The award came to the Philadelphia School, which is also the Henry George Birthplace/Museum, in the category of building conservation projects with a budget under \$500,000. The award for projects over \$500,000 went to the Henry Ford Winter Home in Fort Myers, Florida. Previous winners of this award include the New York Public Library and the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center, New York.

The Birthplace was also the winner of the Grand Prize for historic preservation given by the Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission, Bureau of Historic Preservation. The award was presented on April 27th to the architect, Jim Collins, (of Collins Rosenberg Architects), and reads "Historic Preservation Commendation Presented for Outstanding Achievement to the Henry George Birthplace."

At both events, the audience, made up of historians, preservationists, architects and contractors, was treated to a discourse on Henry George. And a magazine, *Colonial Homes*, is now deciding in which issue it will run a picture story of the furnished Birthplace.



"The Dover Jail Single Tax Club" - a group of "depraved & irresponsible vagabonds" arrested for "disorderly conduct" during the 1896 Single Tax campaign in Delaware. The first Georgist prison program?