

Valentines From Parents

MR. and Mrs. Robert D. Benton of Royal Oak, Michigan, have four children whose ages range from 8 to 24. Their principles are those of the highest ethics with maximum freedom of thought and responsibility in the family relationship. Mr. Benton, director of the HG extension in Michigan and formerly in Ohio, doubtless voices the opinion of many "over thirty" papas:

"I feel that we are trying to make too much of the youthful demonstrations. Think of the number of demonstrations that have taken place over our lifetime and how little good has resulted. I expect very little from youth except that it will grow up and just as soon as it grows up it's not youth anymore. It's middle aged and already contending with the new youth all over again. It's really the greybeards who run the country. That's what youth is sore about. I can have no more faith in present youth than I had in my generation which marched for social security and farm relief. That may have been change but certainly not improvement.

"Social reform is accomplished, not with noise and shouting, but when folks sit down to think quietly and clearly about mutual situations and possibilities. Signing a deed for land to be used by one's fellow men is a very quiet operation. And assessing that land at its legal limit is also very quiet—like making an erasure and a new notation on a piece of paper."

Oscar B. Johannsen is the newly elected treasurer of the New Jersey HGS, associated with an international firm in New York, who recently earned an MBA from New York University. He is the father of a daughter 18 and a son 26 who has just passed his law examination and practices law in New York (see page 3). Writing in *The Gargoyle*, the HGS monthly newsletter, dad had this to say:

"Such books as George Orwell's *1984* and Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, despite their value as protests against socialism, convey the erroneous impression that man is an automaton so enveloped by the socialist state that almost all desire to fight has been taken from him. Yet in Russia, despite a generation of terror and propaganda, the people are longing for freedom. Most of it is probably a massive unspoken opposition, but it appears that the Kremlin is not able to exert as much force as Stalin did.

"So for youth in search of a program there may be an excellent opportunity for Georgists. If they should ever become imbued with George's ideas the impact could be tremendous. The next time some young person starts to denounce present day society ask him what he would put in its place. Offer him the opportunity to investigate Henry George, and challenge him to prove George wrong. If enough students were challenged, who knows what effect it would have on us all."

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The community, by its presence and activity, gives rental value to land, therefore the rent of land belongs to the community and not to the landowners. Labor and capital, by their combined efforts, produce the goods of the community—known as wealth. This wealth belongs to the producers. Justice requires that the government, representing the community, collect the rent of land for the community purposes and abolish the taxation of wealth.

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