

HENRY GEORGE NEWSLETTER

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HISTORICAL MARKER HONORING HENRY GEORGE TO BE DEDICATED IN PHILADELPHIA

Federal, state and city officials will join Georgists and other Philadelphia citizens in a public dedication of an historical marker honoring Henry George at a birthplace ceremony November 18.

The marker was erected by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. It is the method by which the state acknowledges and identifies individuals, structures and locations of historic importance.

The blue and yellow monument is 3' 5 1/2" high by 2' 3" wide and rests on a seven-foot post. It reads:

"The famous American economist was born here, September 2, 1839. His book, "Progress and Poverty", sold in the millions. Tax socially-produced land values, he urged, instead of individually-produced labor and capital. He died in 1897 in New York."

The idea for a marker at the birthplace was conceived by Professor Steven Cord during the period that the birthplace was being considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. (The listing on the Register was granted in April 1983.)

At the time Cord noted that historic markers honored eminent native sons throughout the state, and recommended similar action on behalf of Henry George. The marker application has since been approved by a series of committees, including the Philadelphia Arts Commission.

According to George Collins, director of the Philadelphia HGS, the marker -- and especially the dedication ceremony -- will "expose the Henry George birthplace to Philadelphians in a new and prominent way."

The ceremony will be held on Sunday, November 18, at 3 P.M. The birthplace is located at 413 South 10th Street, Philadelphia.

"TAX REVOLT" FILM PREMIERES FOR WASHINGTON LAWMAKERS

"A Tale of Five Cities: Tax Revolt, Pennsylvania Style", the new documentary produced by the Center for Public Dialogue, premiered before 250 people, including officials from both parties, in the House Caucus Room on September 13.

The 30-minute film, which focuses on the land-value tax in the first five Pennsylvania cities to adopt it (Washington, Pa. has recently become the sixth), presents LVT as an alternative to other tax reforms and highlights the political and economic impact of the tax.

Among those taking part in the September 13 program were Walt Rybeck, director of the Center for Public Dialogue; Congressman William Coyne, a long-time supporter of higher land taxes; Michael Sumichrast, vice president and chief economist of the Home Builders; Father William J. Byron, president of Catholic University; and Professor Steven Cord.

Response was favorable, as officials, educators and organizations explored ways to use the film. Georgists interested in obtaining a copy in 16 mm. or video tape can contact the Center at 10615 Brunswick Avenue, Kensington, Md. 20895.

SCHOOL NOTES

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NEW YORK

On Monday, October 29 at 7 P.M., New York City Comptroller Harrison Goldin will be the guest speaker at the first in a series of seminars presented under the auspices of the Graduate Research Committee. His topic is "Transportation"....

On Wednesday, November 28 at 5:30 P.M., the subject is "Why Poverty?" The first half of the program features a screening of a Bill Moyers program on Appalachia. The second half presents a discussion on urban and rural poverty. Sydney Mayers, a HGS trustee, and Sandra Parrish, an official from Open Housing, will offer different perspectives on the subject....

The New York City Council on Economic Education will join with the NY HGS for the 12th Annual Workshop for High School Students on December 4.

"You and New York's Changing Job Market" will focus on the metropolitan area's changing economic picture as it affects students entering the work force. A panel of top executives of local corporations will discuss with the students the important attributes most looked for by the 1980s employer....

A slide presentation which runs continually has enlivened the front window and, according to registrar Elizabeth Reeves, brought a good number of midtown passers-by inside for class information.

The programs depict a number of contemporary problems (inflation, unemployment, urban blight) and invite the viewer to "find out the reason for such problems...discover their cure...at the Henry George School." Smaller fillers offer the use of the Henry George Library, present a series of endorsements of George's philosophy and give a Quote of the Day from George's work.

The slides advance through the use of a pre-programmed audio cassette and appear on a nine-inch screen. Mark Sullivan and George Collins provided photographs.

DELAWARE

Graduation ceremonies were recently held at the Smyrna Correction Center in recognition of the students and teachers involved in the course program there....

The Single Tax community of Arden recently received coverage in two local publications. News-Journal columnist Bill Frank gently chided the locals for their lack of familiarity with their roots in a piece entitled, "Has Arden Forgotten Henry Who?" And Delaware Today ran a feature article on the community, covering its economic and cultural ambience.

SCHOOL NOTES

PHILADELPHIA

A birthday party for Henry George received coverage in the Camden Courier-Post of September 3. The story was headlined, "Century-old Theory Kept Alive" and featured a biographical account of George, a description of his remedy and several photographs. The article and pictures covered most of the front page of the Courier-Post Living section....

As reported in the last issue of the Henry George Newsletter, Comcast Cablevision is running the 12-part series Understanding Economics as part of its fall schedule. In a promotional coup, Director George Collins advertised the series and offered the free study guide with a brochure which was enclosed in Comcast's monthly bill.

The response has been overwhelming. At press time, some 345 study guide requests have arrived from Comcast viewers. A questionnaire designed to gauge viewer interest and response to the series and the guide is now being prepared and will be mailed after eight programs have aired....

A one-day seminar featuring the new Walt Rybeck film (page one) and a PBS film on hunger in America ("Bread, Butter & Politics") was scheduled for October 20. The seminar, entitled "Meeting the Challenges of Hunger and Urban Decay", also studied the application and results of Georgist land tax reform in today's economy.

SAN FRANCISCO

A key Washington-based organization which networks hunger groups nationwide has praised the 12-page study unit, "Hunger and Poverty in Our World -- Case Study: Appalachia, USA". The tabloid was sponsored by the Henry George School and written by Directors Bob Scrofani and Stan Rubenstein.

Hunger Notes, newsletter of the World Hunger Education Service, said of the material:

"Poetry, song, statistics (e.g., 'Who Owns Appalachia?'), fundamental questions (e.g., 'Why is the land so rich and we're so poor?') combined in a way that provides an excellent introduction to the dynamics of poverty in many resource-rich areas of the world."

Ten thousand tabloids have been distributed to teachers in public and private schools. A copy is available for a self-addressed, stamped (40 cents) envelope to: Appalachia, Henry George School, 3410 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114....

Wendell Fitzgerald, counsellor and former executive director of the school, has been named the new Chairman of the Board of Directors. Dave Damery, is the vice president, and is teaching a course on international economy this fall. Mark Smith and Fred Foldvary are the secretary and treasurer. Fred, a past president of the board, is a candidate on the Libertarian ticket for the California Legislature.

Other board members include Americ Azevedo, Roger Somers, Laurie Gies, Otto Grimm, Linda Joslin, Clarence Burger, (Tony) James Breadon, Randall Burns, Ray Cook, Bill Gentes and Clay Berling. All of them came to the school through its basic course program. Six of them are also teachers.

LOS ANGELES

Classical Analysis was offered in Burbank, Glendale and Lake View Terrace, with teaching teams including Jack Ferris, Roberta Woods, Patricia Crawford, Bob De Tolve, Peter Young, D'Artagnan Phares, Gordon Hoover and Frank Tilton. The multiple discussion format pioneered in 1983 is being used, with four to six groups meeting in each room....

Proposition 36, which seeks to close the loopholes and stop the evasions of California's landmark Proposition 13, was the topic of the October 19 Final Friday meeting at the Los Angeles Press Club.

SCHOOL NOTES

LONG ISLAND

The Saturday seminar series continues on November 17 with an all-day session in the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, beginning at 10 A.M.

Al Fink will kick things off with a report on the aforementioned study bill. At eleven, Tom Birmingham will explore "The Pope, The Bishops and Economic Justice." Stan Rubenstein will examine "Henry George's 1886 New York City Mayoral Campaign: Was There Fraud?" At 1:15, Dave Norflus will close the program with, "Is the Supreme Court Backing Land Reform?" Call (516) 734-7543 for more information.

NEW ENGLAND

The Center for Economic Justice, headquarters for both the Henry George School and the Incentive Taxation League of Massachusetts, has moved to 21 Unity Court, Boston, MA 02113....

The Center has also taken on two new part-time staff professionals to coordinate the high school program and public relations. Arnold Levine, a retired educator, will promote the Land and Freedom series in area high schools. Anne Sayre, former publicity director at M.I.T. Press in Cambridge, will promote the Georgist philosophy in the media....

The Center, as one of its projects, is generating interest in nearby Maine to put pressure on the state's major companies to start paying their fair share of property taxes.

OBITUARY: Benjamin Smith, a longtime advocate of property tax reform in Michigan, died recently. Mr. Smith worked tirelessly for Georgist causes in the 1960s and 1970s. The Henry George School extends its condolences to his family.

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