

# Henry George Newsletter



Volume 55, Number 1

January - February, 1991



Patrice McFarland, Lizzie Magie Phillips, Mike Curtis

## ELIZABETH MAGIE PHILLIPS: *The Real Inventor of "Monopoly"*

When Patrice McFarland, a graphic artist and game historian from Averill Park, NY, attended the 1989 annual Allentown Toy Show, she had no inkling that she would uncover the first chapter of a fascinating untold story. Underneath a tattered early *Monopoly* set was the "implements box" from the original 1904 edition of Lizzie Magie's *Landlord's Game*, complete with playing pieces, game cards (each of which bore a quote by Henry George or some other prominent thinker, about monopoly, bigotry, ethics or economics), and a set of rules. There were, in fact, two sets of rules; one was the precursor of today's *Monopoly*, and the other was based on the Single Tax.

Ms. McFarland had heard of *The Landlord's Game* already. She, like many people, already knew that the popular folklore about the origin of the world's best-selling board game was a fabrication. The tale, which is still published with sets of the game, is that it was invented in 1933 by an unemployed Philadelphian named Charles Darrow, who longed to vacation in ritzy Atlantic City, on Boardwalk and Park Place. Probably no one would have questioned it had not Dr. Ralph Anspach, a California economics professor, marketed his game of *Anti-Monopoly* in 1973, and been sued by Parker Brothers for copyright infringement. (The case was not settled until 1982!) Anspach proved that the game we call *Monopoly* did not spring from the mind of Charles Darrow, but in fact had evolved from a game that had been played, and indeed was patented, almost thirty years before. That game was *The Landlord's Game*, invented by Elizabeth Magie, Lizzie to her friends, later Lizzie Magie Phillips. In all accounts she is mentioned as a follower of Henry George. Indeed, during the *Anti-Monopoly* trial, she was referred to by the plaintiffs as "a rabid single-taxer." That much of the true history on *Monopoly* has been generally known since the publication of Philip Orbanes's 1988 book *The Monopoly Companion*. Until recently, though, very little was known about the woman who invented *The Landlord's Game* (continued on page six)

## WHAT IS BEING DONE: *Single Tax Synthesis Returns to Russia*

Not since Leo Tolstoy advocated the single-tax on land values, has so much attention been paid in Russia to the Georgist paradigm. Not only is Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev interested, so is Boris Yeltsin, head of the Russian republic. Many independent efforts have been taken to get the attention of economists, reformers, and officials in the USSR.

Recently, Claude and Dian Arnold of the Fairhope Single Tax Colony in Alabama travelled to the Soviet Union. Returning to Fairhope, they paid a visit to the New York Henry George School on October 22, 1990, where they recounted their experiences to the School staff and guests. (The group included Australian world-traveller and Libertarian Microfiche publisher John Zube -- who spent several days copying material from the School research library for microficheing). The Arnolds said they were able to talk a bit about George, and gave away a few copies of *Progress & Poverty*. A report on Claude and Dian's visit appears in the current *Georgist Journal*.

Another recent Georgist visitor to the Soviet Union was Heather Trexler Remoff, Ph.D., from Eagles Mere in Pennsylvania. Heather accompanied her husband Gene on a visit hosted by The Institute of World Economy and International Relations, designed to allow business executives to share their expertise.

While Gene gave official presentations, Heather gave away copies of a paper she prepared for the trip, "The Best of Both Worlds: A Proposal for a Free-Market Economy That Would Combine Elements of Socialist and Capitalist Systems." When asked by a visiting American executive and a Russian tourist guide "Are you a Marxist?" she explained, "...when it comes to my enthusiasm for a free market," to the executive, "I'm probably more of a Capitalist than you are. But," to the tour guide, "when it comes to land use, I may be more of a Socialist than you are."

"This exchange," she reports, "was followed by a lively discussion of land use attitudes and policies in the Soviet Union. By the way, these kinds of political and philosophical debates appear to be a common pastime in the USSR. The educational level of the people is generally very high...one of the great assets of a country blessed as well with abundant natural resources."

Although she explained the purpose of renting land from the community would be "...not to deny the people access to the land, but to guarantee them access," Heather now thinks people in the USSR would be more open to "privatizing the entire system, and then removing all taxes except those on land."

Given directions now being taken in Russia, it may be that Heather Remoff has indeed had an impact. Her last evening in Moscow was spent with a Russian economist who promised to give Heather's paper to Boris Yeltsin, a personal acquaintance.

The evidence is a report in the December 10th issue of *Commerzant: The Soviet Business Weekly*. (continued on page seven)

**NOTE:** Did any of our readers know Lizzie Magie Phillips? Do they have photos, or correspondence from her? Does anyone have a copy of *The Landlord's Game*? Or Lizzie's other games, *Mock Trial*, *King's Men*, or *Bargain Day*? Does anyone have information on the Washington, D.C. Henry George School, or the Women's Single Tax Club? Please help by sending any information you have to Patrice McFarland, Box 161, Averill Park, NY 12018.

## Henry George Newsletter

published by

### Henry George School of Social Science

121 East 30th Street  
New York, NY 10016  
(212) 889-8020

**Lancaster M. Greene**  
Publications Chairman

**George L. Collins**  
Director

**Mark A. Sullivan**  
Editor

#### AFFILIATES

##### LONG ISLAND

**Stan Rubenstein, Director**  
P.O. Box 553  
Cutchogue, NY 11935  
(516) 734-7543

##### PHILADELPHIA

**Mike Curtis, Director**  
413 South 10th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19147  
(215) 922-4278

##### NEW ENGLAND

**Ernest Kahn, Director**  
114 Ames Street  
Sharon, MA 02067  
(617) 784-3086

##### CHICAGO

**Sam Venturella, Director**  
4536 N. Ravenswood Drive  
Chicago, IL 60640  
(312) 561-9660

##### CALIFORNIA

**E. Robert Scrofani, Director**  
1568 Schrader Street  
San Francisco, CA 94117  
(415) 661-6933  
**Harry Pollard, Director**  
Box 655  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
(818) 352-4141

##### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**Lucy DeSilva, Director**  
Isabel La Catolica #212  
AP #758, Santo Domingo  
(809) 682-9361

##### CANADA

**School of Economic Science**  
**Craig Cringan, Director**  
2267 Westman Road  
Mississauga, Ontario L5K 1M7  
(416) 822-4694  
**Gaye/Gerry Shaw, Co-Directors**  
3017 25th Street, S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T3E 1Y2  
(403) 242-4291

## A THIRST FOR UNDERSTANDING

The opportunity to obtain a formal education is a relatively recent addition to the social goods we think of as necessary for a productive life. For most of history, only a privileged few enjoyed the fruits of being taught to read and write, to use mathematics in problem-solving or to reason by means of logic.

In the colonial period and early decades of our nation, private schools, most of which were founded for purposes of teaching religious doctrine, provided the institutional framework from which arose an enlightened citizenry. Periodicals spread the news of the day. Freedom of the press offered opportunities for expression of diverse opinions. As the philosophy of democracy took hold, the nation's leaders recognized the value of education, and publicly-financed schools appeared in communities throughout the nation.

This was the atmosphere in which Henry George grew to adulthood in the mid-nineteenth century. For the children of most native-born families, at last some schooling was available during their years of nurturing. The arrival of industrialization and its factory system later in the century seriously threatened this equalitarian character of the Republic, which resulted in the era of reform we refer to as Progressivism. New laws restricted the use of child labor, established modest health, safety and sanitary standards, and expanded public support of education. States founded land grant colleges all across the country to train teachers and conduct agricultural and other forms of scientific research. Education was also seen as a means of "Americanizing" the millions of immigrants who brought with them not only a foreign tongue but very different cultural (and religious) values.

In some ways, we have become one people with a shared sense of national identity. Education has played a primary role in this process. Moreover, there is a very visible shift in how people identify with one another that transcends ethnic or racial background and even religious beliefs. Beneath all the discussion surrounding our cultural pluralism is the homogeneity of values associated with socio-economic well-being. Many of us have achieved the standards of at least moderate material success -- a college education or specialized skills, homeownership and enough leisure time to enjoy life -- increasingly unobtainable for too many of our fellow citizens.

For reasons that seem mysterious to our nation's leaders today, all of the billions of dollars spent on public goods have not begun to solve our societal problems. And yet, education remains the key to understanding. Moreover, for most people discussion is a primary means of learning. For almost sixty years now, the Henry George School has provided this type of learning environment, and a long list of very dedicated people have contributed their time and energies to this task. We do not pretend that Henry George has answers to all our societal problems; public policy in a democratic society often relies on a shifting consensus. George's gifts to us were many, not the least of which was a set of well-reasoned principles from which the consequences of our actions could be assessed. As many of us have understood, without adoption of the important structural changes George identified, many of our problems would worsen despite the hopes and good intentions of reformers. Reform without a thorough understanding of causes may mitigate but cannot resolve problems.

— Edward J. Dodson, President, Henry George School

## SQUATTING IN NEW YORK

When I moved to New York City a year and a half ago, my family and friends in rural Maryland were convinced that this biggest of bad cities would soon get to me. But no, I said, I've started walking as fast as a New Yorker, and defending the city like a New Yorker. When *Time* magazine did a cover story this fall on the rotting of the Big Apple, I hastily called home to reassure my mom that it's not *that* bad. Now, though, I am forced to admit that life in New York is getting to me. It's not because of the crowds, noise, rudeness, pollution, or even muggers, though. All those bad things are, in a sense, fair exchange for the grandeur and variety and sheer pluck of the place. The thing about New York City that has me sick at heart is the land speculation.

The eviction of squatters at 1728 Crotona Park East in the Bronx, which took place on the fourth of December, is only the latest in a series of such actions by the city. It is, however, the starkest example yet of our city's attitude toward its poor people. The building was abandoned. It is in a neighborhood of blocks and blocks of abandoned buildings. The eviction, then, does not have even the flimsy justification of protection of the rights of a private landlord, because the city is the landlord here. But the *New York Times* reported, on December 5, 1990, "Yesterday's action ended a bitter feud between the squatters and the

(continued on page six)

## Linking Economics to Ethics in California High Schools

San Francisco HGS Director Robert Scrofani and a team of three California teachers presented the first draft of an "Ethics in Economics" Curriculum at the Conference of the National Council for Social Studies Teachers. Northern California HGS is a major sponsor of the project.

"The new curriculum is designed to increase teacher awareness of the ethical issues involved in or economic decision-making," according to Scrofani, who teaches social studies at Berkeley High School. "In general the Joint Council on Economics guidelines are limited to discussing 'what is,' rather than 'what ought to be.' In practice this means teachers guided by textbooks do not really consider the ethical consequences of our decisions."

Motivated by a belief that ethics is indeed integral to the teaching of economics, the group of teachers led by Scrofani and Robert Vaughan, from Harbor High School in Santa Cruz, sought support to begin series of workshops to supplement the "status quo" of the current economics

curriculum. Joining HGS in supporting the project are the Center for Economic Conversion and Educators for Social Responsibility.

Sections of the new ethics curriculum were revised for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade teachers and presented recently at an "Economics Across the Curriculum" seminar sponsored by the Woodlands, California School District. A formal presentation will be made to teachers at the annual conference of the California Social Science Conference in March 1991. After testing by teachers and review by economics professors, it will be made available by the Center for Economic Conversion and the Henry George School.

Other materials, developed jointly by the New York and Northern California HGS for high school use, were distributed at various conferences during 1990, including Bay Area Global Education Program Summer seminar on "History Behind the Headlines" and a Stanford University Economics Workshop in August.

### L.A. 1991 ESSAY CONTEST: Economics of Unilateral Free Trade

Henry George's philosophy and the realities of today is the theme of this year's college essay contest sponsored by the Southern California HGS. The theme of unilateral free trade raises the question: What would happen if the US, for example, institutes a policy of absolute free trade, no tariffs or quotas, even though other countries do not? The question can be extended to included unrestricted, or free, immigration of labor as well as wealth.

Entrants must be undergraduates in colleges or universities in southern California, and submit a typewritten paper not more than 15 double-spaced pages no later than April 30. Winners will be notified by May 30, 1991. Entrants will receive, through the faculty or department sponsor of their choosing, a copy of *Protection or Free Trade* along with a packet of support material. Anyone wishing further information, or to enter the contest, should contact HGS in Tujunga.

## SCHOOL NOTES

*Residents of Long Island, New York*, gathered on the evening of November 28, 1990, to hear several speakers present their ideas on the current state of affairs with regard to local public finance. Sponsored by the Long Island extension of HGS, the panel discussion was held at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library.

Considering the fact that living on Long Island is more expensive than in almost any other area in the United States, the panelists addressed the questions of how to maintain this style of living, how to pay for it, and whether or not current methods of financing local government are effective and fair.

Stan Rubenstein, Long Island extension director, introduced each of the three panelists: Mr. Mario Colleluori, President

of the Plainview-Old Bethpage School Board and founder of Taxpayers Union of Long Island; Mr. Fred Gang, educator and founding member of H.E.A.R.T. (Honest Education and Responsible Taxation); and Mr. Albert Fink, Long Island HGS faculty and board member. A lively discussion ensued, and refreshments were served.

*The Sacramento extension* of the Northern California HGS co-sponsored a public forum on "Our Forests, Our Environment, Our Pocketbooks." Asking the question, "What will propositions 128, 130, and 138 really do?", the forum was held on October 15, in time to "cut through the rhetoric before we vote in November," according to extension Director Evelyn Friend.

(continued on page eight)

## EDITOR'S NOTES

*This issue includes a feature* on the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, our second in a series on Georgist organizations.

*1991 Conference of the Council of Georgist Organizations:* We will have all the necessary details concerning registration in our next issue. Lafayette College, as announced, will be the site of the Conference, with optional accommodations being arranged at a downtown Easton (PA) hotel. Dates, once more, are confirmed for Friday evening June 14 to Tuesday morning June 18. The conference will be preceded by Lafayette College's own scholarly Henry George Conference on Thursday June 13, to which CGO Conferees will be invited. A Common Ground USA post-Conference will follow from Tuesday morning June 18 to Thursday breakfast June 20.

*The Council of Georgist Organizations* now has for sale the videotape of "First the Bad News, Then the Good News (The Road to Peace)," an address by American Indian activist and libertarian Russell Means at the 1990 Georgist Conference in Santa Fe (see our September/October Newsletter). The address was enthusiastically received, and the color videotape is being sold as a fundraiser for the Council. If you wish to order copies, please send \$15 per tape plus \$3 per order to the Council of Georgist Organizations, 121 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016.

*"Jai Bhim!" Progress & Poverty - Liberty & Justice in India:* On Saturday, April 13, 1991, New York's Columbia University will honor the 100th birthday of Bhimrao R. Ambedkar, who rose from his Untouchable background in India, earned a Ph.D. in Sociology at Columbia in 1916, and was the chief architect of the Constitution of India when it won independence from Britain. Dr. Ambedkar is regarded as the liberator of the (now ex-) Untouchables. In his search for a way out of the oppressive Hindu caste system, he examined but did not embrace Marxism and violence even as he took inspiration from the democratic ideals of the French revolution: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity. In his own lifetime and since his untimely death in 1956, millions of ex-Untouchables have followed his example by converting from Hinduism to Buddhism, in order to affirm their freedom and dignity as individuals and to lift themselves up as a community from poverty and oppression. For information, contact: VISION (Volunteers In Service to India's Oppressed and Neglected), 359 Morningside Ave., Fairview, NJ 07022 (Tel: 201-945-3774).



## ROBERT SCHALKENBACH FOUNDATION: Keeping Henry George in the Public Dialog for 65 Years

The Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, second oldest national Georgist group (the Henry George Foundation is a year older) was established in 1925. Robert Schalkenbach, who died in 1924, declared in his will that he was "firmly convinced that the principles expounded by Henry George in his immortal book entitled *Progress and Poverty* will, if enacted into law, give equal opportunity to all and tend to the betterment of the individual and of society by the abolition of involuntary poverty and its attendant evils." He directed the bequest to be used in "teaching, expounding, and propagating the ideas of Henry George....especially what are popularly known as the single tax on land values and international free trade...."

Schalkenbach headed a large New York printing firm and a printers' association, despite having left school at twelve to help support his mother and family. His wife, Wilhelmina, learned of Henry George in 1884, from James R. Brown, her riding instructor, who later became one of the foundation's original members. Schalkenbach immediately bought and read *Progress and Poverty*, met George, supported his campaigns for mayor of New York City (1886 and 1897), and was an honorary pallbearer at George's funeral.

Stephen Bell, author of *Rebel, Priest and Prophet* (biography of Dr. Edward McGlynn, the Catholic priest whose excommunication for supporting George was later reversed) worked for Schalkenbach. They were both dismayed over declining interest in George, which Bell suggested was because most of his writings were out of print. Years later, Bell wrote

that he believed this had led his employer to create a legacy that would establish a Georgist publisher.

At first the Foundation promoted George's ideas in single tax publications and advertisements, while Doubleday continued as publisher of George's books. In 1929 the Foundation assumed the role of publisher, with the fiftieth anniversary edition of *Progress and Poverty*. Its second book was *Significant Paragraphs from Progress and Poverty*, with an introduction by John Dewey, America's foremost philosopher, and edited by Harry Gunnison Brown, head of the University of Missouri economics department.

*Progress and Poverty*, with five to seven million copies published, is America's economics bestseller, excluding textbooks. It has been translated into at least twenty-four other languages, with a Russian reprint scheduled soon.

In its sixty-five years, the Foundation has reprinted all of George's books, most recently in centenary editions, and has become the world's major publisher of books by and about Henry George. As such, it has published books by other authors on land value taxation and free trade, commissioned books on those subjects, and published some of the numerous manuscripts it receives and reviews each year. It also publishes or reprints many pamphlets, as well as George's speeches.

Advertising catalogues and direct mail promote Foundation publications and those of other publishers dealing with Georgist topics. Sales are worldwide. In order to reach as many people as possible, all books and pamphlets are sold at cost, and thousands of George's books have been given to libraries and other institutions.

The Foundation has supported the international Georgist publication *Land & Liberty*, and continues to co-sponsor,



Foundation Staff: Susan Klingelhofer, Pat Aller, Dr. Oscar P. Johannsen, Rosemary Dubois

with the Francis Neilson Fund, the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*. Now in its fiftieth year, the Journal was founded by Will Lissner, *New York Times* correspondent and editor for fifty-three years, and a Schalkenbach director. The quarterly was the first interdisciplinary publication in the social sciences, with philosopher John Dewey on the original board of editors, and ranks high in its fields. Frank C. Genovese, professor emeritus of economics and former graduate dean of Babson College, and a Foundation director, succeeded Lissner as editor in 1989.

The Foundation provides data to the public as well as to Georgists, maintaining a small library. It works with other groups to spread George's economic theories and provides substantial financial support to such groups as the Center for the Study of Economics and the Center for Public Dialogue, among others. The Foundation helped Oscar Geiger start the Henry George School in 1932, and has continued to cooperate with the School's efforts with donations of pamphlets and books for prison classes and essay contests, and occasional other services.

Three Nobel prize winners and former presidents of the American Economic Association (and its president-elect, Prof. William Vickrey,) were among thirty U.S. economists who signed a letter to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev in November, urging him to lease, not sell, land, and to tax land values, not labor and capital. The letter was inspired by a conference of economists in August, sponsored by the Foundation and the School. Seven East Europeans attended, including two members of the USSR's Supreme Soviet, who invited Georgists to send advisors and materials. A spring trip will explore plans to teach Georgist theory in the USSR. Land tenure is a major East European issue and the Foundation hopes its advice will aid reform.

C. Lowell Harriss, professor emeritus of economics at Columbia University and former president of the Tax Foundation, is

### Notable Schalkenbach Projects

Here is a partial list of the Foundation's recent educational work:

- Subsidized series on *Taxation of Resources and Economic Development* by the University of Wisconsin Press, twelve volumes resulting from Foundation-sponsored conferences developed by Weld Carter, Foundation consultant.
- Organized conferences held by the National League of Cities and by *House and Home* magazine, organized by Pierrepont I. Prentice, the Foundation's president during the 1970s. Proceedings published as magazine articles or pamphlets.
- Produced two films, *Land--and Space to Grow*, and the triple award-winning *One Way to Better Cities*.
- Endowed Henry George programs at Pace University, St. John's University, University of Scranton, and Williams College.
- Sponsored tours by experts from Denmark, New Zealand, and South Africa to explain how land value taxation works in their countries.
- Funded New York public Library project to preserve on film its unique collection of Henry George manuscripts.

president of the Schalkenbach Foundation. Charles T. Root was first president, and others include Charles O'Connor Hennessey, Lawson Purdy, Albert Pleydell, Pierrepont I. Prentice and Lancaster M. Greene, now president emeritus. Oscar B. Johannsen is executive director, assisted by Pat Aller, Susan Klingelhofer, and Rosemary Dubois.

Violetta (Vi) G. Peterson Graham, executive director for nearly forty years, retired in 1976 but was active on the Schalkenbach board until she died in 1989. Frances Soriero, her assistant for many years, now retired, is also on the board.

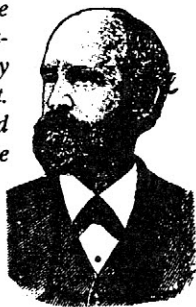
In 1991 the Foundation will publish *George and the Scholars*, edited by Dorothy and Will Lissner, a collection of articles, mostly from the *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, evaluating George by contemporary standards. Charles A. Barker's definitive biography, originally published by Oxford University Press, will also be issued by the Foundation, and *Protection or Free Trade* will be reprinted in both cloth and paperback editions.

In the Foundation office is an oil painting, "Unconquerable Carcassonne," of the walled French city that withstood invaders for more than a century. The defenders were few in number but strong in their determination, and artist Wayne D. Heydecker likened this to Georgists generally and the Foundation in particular, which, he said, has kept alive the concept of economic justice by its ongoing publication of the works of Henry George.

--Pat Aller

A catalogue of publications is available free from the Foundation, 41 East 72nd Street, New York, NY 10021 (212) 988 - 1680.

*Land in itself has no value. Value arises only from human labor. It is not until the ownership of land becomes equivalent to the ownership of laborers that any value attaches to it. And where land has a speculative value it is because of the expectation that the growth of society will in the future make its ownership equivalent to the ownership of laborers.*



--Henry George,  
*Protection or Free Trade*

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: "WAR & PEACE" IN LONDON INSTEAD OF JERUSALEM

On November 15, the executive committee of the International Union for Land-Value Taxation and Free Trade decided to change the location of their 1991 conference from Jerusalem to London. Events in the Persian Gulf led the committee to its decision.

Although the conference was then but a few months away, the IU succeeded in securing Wellington Hall at King's College to house conferees from Thursday dinner March 21 through Wednesday lunch March 27, 1991. Wellington Hall is within three-minutes walking distance of IU headquarters at 177 Vauxhall Bridge Road, and within a half-mile of Westminster Abbey, Tate Gallery, Buckingham Palace and St James' Park. (We're talking the heart of London!) A banquet will be held on Saturday evening, but most other evenings will be left free for participants to choose their own extracurricular activities, such as theatre-going (and dining-out on Sunday evening, the only evening dinner will not be provided).

The major theme - "War & Peace" - is appropriate for a conference that was displaced from its original venue because of the prospect (at this writing) of war in the Middle East. Localized wars with conventional weapons will play an increasing role in determining political relations between nations during the 1990s.

The relevance of Georgist analysis to territorial conflicts will be subjected to severe testing by authors - some of them distinguished academics - who draw their case studies from around the world: How can the Muslim-Jew dispute over land be resolved to everyone's satisfaction? How can anxieties of whites, who control most of the land in South Africa, be addressed, while extending equal rights to blacks? Imaginative applications of Georgist fiscal policy provide exciting solutions to both civil and international conflicts. This conference promises to be one of the most stimulating - and important - ever organized by the International Union.

Charges for the conference are as follows: Conference fee, £25. For back rooms facing street, £210. For single rooms or front rooms facing the Square (both on first-come, first-served basis), £225. Day visitors, £16 (Fri, Mon, Tues, both sessions, lunch and dinner); and £8 (Sat, Sun, Wed, morning session and lunch). Banquet, members and guests, £30. (If you are not a member of the IU, you are urged to join; dues are \$12/year.)

*All bookings for this conference must be paid in full and received in London by February 18, 1991!* Bookings after this date will only be accepted if accompanied by a surcharge of £40.

For more information, including a booking-form, contact the headquarters of the International Union, 177 Vauxhall Bridge Rd., London SW1 1EU, England (Tel: 011-44-71-834-4266); or IU President Richard Noyes, P.O. Box 2, Salem, NH 03079 (Tel: 603-893-1192).

*The great sinister fact, the one that we must live with, is that we are yielding up sovereignty. The nation is no longer comprised of the thirteen original states, nor of the thirty-seven younger sister states, but of the real powers: the cartels, the corporations. Owning the bulk of our productive resources, they are the issue of that concentration of ownership that George saw evolving, and warned against.*

*These multinationals are not American anymore. Transcending nations, they serve not their country's interests, but their own. They manipulate our tax policies to help themselves. They determine our statecraft. They are autonomous. They do not need to coin money or raise armies. They use ours.*

-- Agnes George de Mille, *Preface to the Centenary Edition of Progress and Poverty*, 1979.

*Between 1982 and 1989, the Western nations -- including the United States and the Soviet Union -- sold Iraq more than \$42 billion in military hardware. That's 28 percent of all worldwide arms purchases during that period.*

*In fact, each year, military spending devours one trillion dollars. That's more than the total income of the poorer half of the world's people!*

-- Arthur Simon, *President, Bread for the World*

*The first panacea for a mismanaged nation is inflation of the currency; the second is war. Both bring a temporary prosperity; both bring a permanent ruin. But both are the refuge of the political and economic opportunists.*

-- Ernest Hemmingway

## SQUATTING IN NEW YORK

(continued from second page)

city, which wants to rehabilitate the two buildings for homeless and low- and moderate income families." Don't take renovation into your own hands--let the city rehabilitate.

But the city has many hundreds of abandoned buildings on its hands. Why is it suddenly in a rush to renovate the ones that have *already* been refurbished by squatters? The former residents of 1724 and 1728 Crotona Park East have repaired walls, painted, cleaned, installed plumbing, and rewired. They are not wealthy people; all their savings have been invested in this project. Their presence has made a dangerous block considerably safer. They even left a deposit with Con Edison to have electricity (legally) turned on. The money has not been returned. Perhaps that step toward "legitimizing" their occupation was what finally precipitated the Housing Police's action -- enough, after all, is enough.

No, this is not the first time; similar evictions have taken place on the Lower East Side and in the Bronx, and more will come. The city government makes little attempt to conceal its contempt toward those at the bottom of its sinking economy. The U.S. Supreme Court has, at last, upheld the TA's ban on begging in the subways, but local courts have given the *Daily News* a go-ahead to place hawkers there. The hawkers are homeless. Two hundred papers a day is good change for them -- but they have precious little protection against possible hostility from striking *News* workers.

The *Times* story began: "After a three-hour standoff with the police and building officials, about two dozen homeless people were removed from the abandoned city-owned building they were living in...." Interesting. For one thing, according to other reports there were far more than two dozen people living there; fifty would be a closer figure. For another, in exactly what sense were these people homeless? They took a rotting, abandoned building and built serviceable homes there, and lived in them. They are homeless now, because they have been moved to welfare hotels and other forms of city-run "shelter" to be maintained in squalor at exorbitant cost to taxpayers. But as they were living in that Bronx building, which no one else wanted, and they had made livable by their labor -- in what sense could they be called homeless? Henry George would have an answer.

--Lindy Davies

### SAN FRANCISCO'S HARLAN TROTT DIES

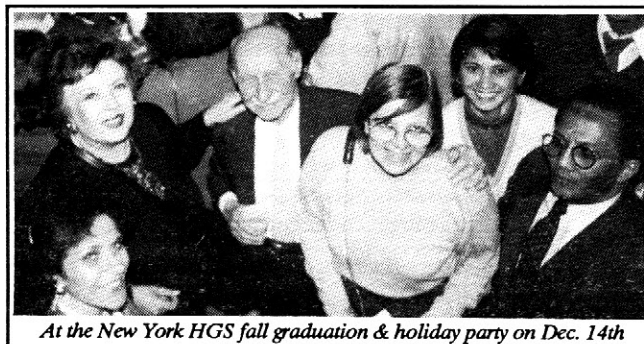
Harlan Trott, longtime correspondent for *The Christian Science Monitor* and a former editor of *The Analyst*, the Northern California HGS newsletter, died recently.

Harlan grew up on the East Coast and captained a minesweeper in World War II, while his brother worked for Admiral Raymond Spruance, later Ambassador to the Philippines. After coming to the West Coast as a *Monitor* correspondent, Harlan was introduced to the ideas of Henry George by J. Rupert Mason, former President of both the School and International Union for Land Value Taxation & Free Trade. After "seeing the cat," his understanding of political economy increased. "It gave his work an additional insight," said one of his colleagues at the School. "His writings were penetrating and often courageous."

Harlan had many friends among members of the School, particularly Bob DeFremery and former Director Robert Tideman. He introduced many people to key water issues, still prevalent in California today. His article, "Doing It the Wright Way" relating to the 1887 land value tax financing method for irrigation, appeared in *Frontier Magazine* and guided a number of people to "see the cat" in the water monopolists.

Harlan was the father of two sons and lived in Walnut Creek with his wife Eleanor.

--E. Robert Scrofani



At the New York HGS fall graduation & holiday party on Dec. 14th

## ELIZABETH MAGIE PHILLIPS

(continued from first page)

"After reading Phil's book, I had many unanswered questions," said Pat McFarland, "And I made a mental note to look for this *Landlord's Game*. Little did I know what it would mean when I found it!"

What she found was "much more than just a game. It was obviously the work of someone with tremendous intelligence and humor, and its purpose was to teach about economic justice. I really felt that there was a purpose in my finding this game, and that I had to tell Lizzie's story."

To that end, Pat has done quite a bit of traveling, and spent quite a bit of savings. She insists that she has no intention to challenge or discredit Parker Brothers, only to tell Lizzie's Magie's story; but the company did not rush to her aid. They answered her inquiry with a short note saying that her set was the only one known to exist. That could be so, for it seems that all the existing copies of *Landlord's Game* disappeared when *Monopoly* became a big hit in the late thirties.

Last August Pat acquired a big piece of the puzzle: she located a grand-niece of Lizzie Magie Phillips who supplied her with a journal and a number of photographs. The journal provided further evidence of Lizzie's wit, and showed that she was deeply involved in politics.

"*The Single Taxors,*" wrote Lizzie Magie, "ought surely to win out, for they are the only people who have good grounds for their contentions."

Since then, Pat McFarland has been at work on the project every night, laboriously searching out details in the life of a true American original. She discovered that Elizabeth Magie Phillips was born in the 1860's, and was a game inventor (Parker Bros. published four of her games,) an actress, reformer, and teacher. She founded a Henry George School extension in Washington, D.C. in 1935, and was acquainted with Henry George, Jr., as well as other prominent voices for reform such as Frank Stephens, Joseph Dana Miller, and Upton Sinclair. She and her game were mentioned in Sinclair's book *A Cry for Justice*. Her father, a newspaperman, gave her a copy of *Progress and Poverty* in the 1890's. She remained a staunch Georgist for the rest of her life.

Pat says that she has, perhaps, eight months to go on her research. Her goal is a biography of Lizzie Magie Phillips which also brings to life the epic sweep of American history encompassed in the span of her life. To accomplish this she plans to use "not just words but many images." Indeed, she has already been approached about a TV movie based on Lizzie Magie. And, as a special appendix to her book, she and Philadelphia HGS Director Mike Curtis are at work on adapting Lizzie's old Single Tax game rules to the modern *Monopoly* set. Although that connection is what gives her project its mass-market appeal, Pat McFarland is convinced that the intriguing, enchanting story of Lizzie herself is what will truly strike a chord with the public. *Next time: More on the story of Elizabeth Magie Phillips and the history of The Landlord's Game.*



## Single Tax Synthesis Returns to Russia

(continued from first page)

An article by Roman Artemyev details key points to the new Russian Federation Law on Land Reform, including: " \* A standard tax on land will be introduced and its magnitude and system of payment will be determined later. \* All taxes on collective and state farms and on individual farmers are to be abolished with the exception of the land tax. \* Land for farming will be provided by the state in the person of the Soviets of People's Deputies. \* The sale or transfer of land with the exception of inheritance is possible only to the state in the person of the Soviets of People's Deputies. \* The purchase of land is to be effected through the Soviets of People's Deputies. The sale of land is possible only upon the termination of a period of ten years from the date of purchase." This last clause was what tipped the balance in favor of the new law, according to Yeltsin, who pushed for its victory.



Prof. William Vickrey

Mikhail Gorbachev, on the other hand, has tried to put a brake on the rush to land privatization. His call for a nationwide referendum on property rights was endorsed by the Congress of Peoples Deputies on December 24th. Perhaps Mr. Gorbachev was influenced by a letter to him signed by thirty US economists, including three Nobel prize winners. The letter, dated November 7, 1990, was initiated by Professors Nicolaus Tideman (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University) and William Vickrey (1992 President-elect of the American Economic Association). The Nobel prize winners are Franco Modigliani (professor emeritus) and Robert Solow (Institute professor of economics,) both from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and James Tobin (Sterling professor emeritus) of Yale University.

The letter claims that the immediate needs of the Soviet Union would be best met by retaining land in social ownership and making it available to individual users on the basis of leases for suitable terms, at rents set at market levels independently of the manner of use. The rent paid to the community would finance social expenditures and reduce and maybe eliminate the need to tax wages and profits in ways that would impair incentive. "In the Soviet Union today, the problem is to encourage people to work hard and manage efficiently. You don't do that by taxing their wages and profits," explained Vickrey. "Gorbachev has a unique opportunity to establish the Soviet economy on a rational basis. The referendum on land ownership will be the first chance ever, in modern times, for a nation to make a rational choice over the ownership and use of natural resources." Calling for a "third way" synthesizing the best of private and public ownership, Vickrey concluded: "Land is already in public ownership in the Soviet Union, so the quickest way to stimulate growth and free enterprise is to allow people to get hold of the land they need without requiring them to pay money up front. The high cost of acquiring land is a major obstacle to starting a new business in the West and would be even more of an obstacle in a nation where many enterprising individuals do not have access to substantial funds. Gorbachev can get around this by making land available, on payment of a market rent to the community."

According to the letter sent to Gorbachev, this method has advantages to selling

land outright at auction: it will avoid an extreme depression of land prices resulting from so much land being offered at once, and a later unearned speculative profit on the resale "resulting in needless inequity and dissatisfaction"; it will provide land to those with limited access to credit; it will enable citizens in future years to capture the benefits of future good public policies; and it will reduce the risk to investors who would otherwise avoid the uncertain politico-economic climate in the Soviet Union. The letter may be summarized as saying to Mr. Gorbachev: The land of the Soviet Union has value, and it should be used to benefit all the people.

For a copy of this letter, please contact the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation, 41 East 72nd St., New York, NY 10021.

*Commersant* is published jointly in Moscow and at 111 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604.

## GEOGREEN FORUM:

### "BEYOND RIGHT & LEFT"

A mailing went out in early December to enthusiasts of the GeoGreen Forum (see our last issue). Just in the formative stages, the GeoGreens are Georgists who are also active in the Green movement. They are planning a January newsletter called *Geode* to be sent to about 50 GeoGreens and 40 members of the Green Libertarian Caucus. It goes without saying that George's political economy can serve as a foundation for a synthesis of Green and libertarian ideas and visions. In fact, pointing out that "GeoGreen" is redundant, Jeff Smith has proposed the "Free Green Forum" which connotes a union of concerns for both liberty and land.

Included in this mailing was a position-paper by Boston's Mitch Chanellis entitled "Beyond Right & Left Greens: Values & Strategies for a Future that Works." Mitch criticizes the current drift he sees toward a Green embrace of advocating localized governmental ownership of the means of production. Seeking to rescue the Green motto "Neither Right nor Left, but In Front!", Mitch makes a pitch for "voluntary association in equality," and an examination of the land-based models of Native Americans, Tom Paine, Henry George, and Leopold Kohr (author of the -- now we know -- prophetic book, *The Breakdown of Nations*). Mitch points out that heedless industrialism, practiced by capitalist, socialist and "developing" countries alike, is what devours the planet's ecosystem, not capitalism *per se*. He calls for "A VIBRANT ALTERNATIVE to the Business-As-Usual crowd; AND the naive, worn out, & marginal OPPOSITION politics of the Left....A genuinely MAINSTREAM position can be ours; if we speak to the heart, THE RADICAL CENTER, of ordinary people's concerns - for survival and their children's future."

For a copy of this and future mailings from the GeoGreen (Free Green?) Forum, please contact Hanno Beck, 2000 Century Plaza, #238, Columbia, MD 21044 (Tel: 301-740-1177).

*While Russia fought the Korean war by not participating officially in it at all and letting the Chinese do most of the dying, we were in it up to our necks. Though we called it a United Nations war, the armies involved, even those of other countries, were equipped with material not from the United Nations but the United States, and the soldiers dying were in the main American soldiers, not those of the agency in whose name their battles were fought...*

*-- Leopold Kohr, The Breakdown of Nations, 1957, pg. 207.*

## BUT WE DO!

*"They say Mitterand has 100 lovers. One has AIDS, but he doesn't know which one. Bush has 100 bodyguards. One is a terrorist, but he doesn't know which one. Gorbachev has 100 economic advisers. One is smart, but he doesn't know which one."*

*--Mikhail Gorbachev, quoted in Newsweek*

**SCHOOL NOTES**

(continued from third page)

"Speakers were culled from various groups directly concerned with the propositions: "The Big Green" (Prop. 128); Lynn Sattler of "Forests Forever" and campaign manager for Prop. 130; "Californians for New Forestry" (Prop. 138); Theresa Schilling from the Sierra Club; Jim Steele, California Dept. of Fish and Game. The League of Women Voters supplied the moderator, Cathey Souza. Meeting space was provided by the Unitarian Universalist Society on Sierra Blvd., whose Social Responsibility Committee was the other co-sponsor.

**Northern California HGS Board Member Clay Berling** is inviting over 50 Methodist groups to join the School at a special one-day seminar to be held in an East bay Methodist Church in early 1991. Clay writes in his letter of invitation: "Some years ago I became part of a political economy group which helped me see that many of our social concerns are not just a matter of evil working in the world, but spring from the normal everyday efforts of each of us acting in our personal interest. The result is a systematic failure of economies on the left and the right." The seminar will focus on land tenure and its impact on peace and justice in our world. Follow-up interviews will be held with the participants to test the effectiveness of the program.

**HGS Chicago's Board of Trustees** met on December 12, 1990 and re-elected all officers for the 1991 term, viz.: Sam Venturella, President; George Menninger, Vice-President; Robert Jene, Secretary; Charles Metalitz, Treasurer. The School's winter term begins the week of Jan. 7 with reduced course offerings due to Sam Venturella's recent surgery (see our last *Newsletter*). A fundraising program and professionally-designed brochure are also in the works. Finally, *The Illinois Georgist*, was quoted in a local paper, the *Reader*: "Some people use drugs to help expand their awareness; others adopt Eastern religious practices. But there are a few thousand people in this world of ours that have expanded awareness because they studied Henry George's works."

**Fall at the Philadelphia HGS** began with a celebration of Henry George Day on September 2. A brief members meeting was followed by a series of table topic questions which focused on the Middle East directed to individuals by Don Hurford. School Secretary Lu Cipolloni prepared a cake & refreshments in honor of George's 151st birthday.

Henry George Day was also celebrated in Arden (Delaware's SingleTax town), with HGS Director Mike Curtis chairing, and speeches by trustee Shaul Gladstone, Arden Town Assembly Chairman William Press, Single-Tax Assessor Elizabeth Varley, Henry George Foundation President Steve Cord & NY-HGS Assistant Director Lindy Davies.

Saturday seminars included "Wage Tax vs. Property Tax" led by Dan Sullivan of Pittsburgh's Fair Tax Coalition, and Basic Economics, which was given twice this Fall.

Mike Curtis's prison program continues to go strong: *Fundamental Economics* taught by Mike, and *Applied Economics* by Joe Walls, at Smyrna, Delaware; the Law of Rent Seminar at Plummer Work Release Center & a new program at Gander Hill in Wilmington, with Mike. (See the feature on the prison program in our May 1990 issue). Jacob Himmelstein (board member) and Lu Cipolloni hosted travel writers at the Birthplace on November 2nd, participants in the "Off the Wall Press Familiarization Tour."

### **BARBUTO ON BASIC BUSINESS ORGANIZATION**

New York-HGS trustee & teacher Richard Barbuto, Esq. recently completed teaching a course on Basic Business Organization at New York's Katherine Gibbs School. Says Rich, "This course focused on the organization and operations of businesses. It also explored the goals and means of the owner (or owners) and those other persons, including employees and business students, organizations and governments...."

Students, who attended six consecutive Wednesday evenings from September 26 to October 31, completed a term project as well as a mid-term and final exam. Themes covered included People in Business, Business Systems & Society, Finance & Business and Marketing.

Rich, a professional lawyer with experience in banking, Bread for the World, and politics lives in Croton-on-Hudson with his wife and four children.

**WINTER IN NEW YORK**

All classes begin the week of January 22

**BASIC CLASSES****FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMICS**

Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30, Mr. George Collins

Wednesdays, 6 - 8, Mr. Lindy Davies

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30, Ms. Pia DeSilva

**PROGRESO Y MISERIA**

Tues., 5:30-7:30, Mr. Nibaldo Aguilera

Thur., 5:30-6:30, Mr. Manuel Felix

**UNDERSTANDING ECONOMICS**

Wed., 12:30-1:30, Mr. Lindy Davies

**ADVANCED CLASSES****GREAT DECISIONS '91**

Tues., 5:30-7:30, Mrs. Fryda Ossias

**CLASSICAL ANALYSIS II**

Tues., 6:30-8:30, Mr. Mark Sullivan

**APPLIED ECONOMICS**

Wed., 5:30-7:30, Mr. Syd Mayers

**ECONOMIC SCIENCE**

Wed., 6:30-8:30, Mr. George Collins

**PRACTICAL WRITING**

Thur., 5:30-7:30, Mr. Lindy Davies

**MONEY & BANKING**

Thur., 6:30-8:30, Richard Barbuto, Esq.

**FRIDAY EVENING FORUMS****LAND IN THE MOVIES**

Jan. 25, 7 - 9, Batteries Not Included

**POPULIST RAGE IN THE 90S**

Feb. 15, 7 - 9, Mr. Dennis King

**POETRY NIGHT**

March 8, 7 - 9, Kate Fox &amp; Lindy Davies

**NEW YORK REAL ESTATE WOES**

March 22, 7 - 9, Mr. Louis Smadbeck

**SATURDAY SEMINARS****HOW SAFE ARE YOUR SAVINGS?**

Feb. 9, 1 - 3, Mr. Robert Albanese &amp;

Richard Barbuto, Esq.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE & LAND RIGHTS**

March 2, 9:30-4:30, Ms. Alanna Hartzok



**Henry George School of Social Science  
121 East 30th Street  
New York, NY 10016**

Address correction requested

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New York, NY  
Permit No. 7759