

PROFILE: MITCHELL CHANELIS BY LOUISE R. PULINI

Mitchell Chanelis, new director of the Henry George School of New England, took a course in Georgist philosophy with Wendell Fitzgerald at the San Francisco school five years ago, and since then he has moved to Boston and begun the task of revitalizing the Georgist movement in that city.

Chanelis has traveled and studied all over the world. In 1970, he participated in a special program in Philosophy and Religion at the American University in Beirut, Lebanon. He attended the University of California at Berkeley, and participated in an experimental program there called University without Walls. He spent two years in England involved in theatre production, mime and street theatre, and video production. He returned to California, this time to the Bay Area, and attended classes and activities at the school there. He decided to continue his interest in Georgist philosophy when he moved to Boston.

His association with Bob Swann and the Institute for Community Economics led to the formulation of a series of educational seminars dealing with land value taxation, sponsored by the Institute. At this time, he also met several members of the New England School. Although the school had received a charter in 1935 and at one time was very active, no particular programs or activities were currently being offered to the public. He attended the Joint Georgist Conference in New York in 1980 and presented his initial proposal of formally "opening" the school again. In January, 1981, he was given the official go-ahead to present programs and offer course by the Board of Trustees in New York.

He now works closely with an advisory board in planning programs. A course in Fundamental Economics is scheduled to begin the end of April, and he is now arranging a Public Forum on Land Taxation in Jamaica with M.I.T. Professor Daniel Holland and the Lincoln Institute. He has testified before the Massachusetts State Senate regarding Proposition 2 1/2, receiving some publicity as a result. Chanelis hopes to step up promotion efforts so that the public will be more aware of the school and the newly energized Georgist activity in Boston.

URBAN WORKSHOP SCHEDULED FOR MAY

The tenth annual High School Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, at the Henry George School in New York. The all-day event, open to high school students in the metropolitan area, is a joint effort sponsored by the school and the New York City Council on Economic Education.

The program will focus on the economic problems of the metropolitan region. For the morning session, presidents of well-known local corporations representing manufacturing, service, and franchising functions, appearing on a panel, will discuss the problems of conducting a business in New York. Nathan Quinones, Executive Director, Division of High Schools, will be the Moderator.

During the afternoon session, Philip Finkelstein, Stan Rubenstein, Joseph Weintraub, Principal of Newtown High, and Dr. Albert Alexander of the Council will address key problems of the metropolitan region, particularly transportation, land use, and energy.