

Robert Clancy 1914 - 1995

I first met Bob Clancy in the fall of 1938, almost 57 years ago. I had just completed my initial courses at the Henry George School in New York, and he was then a clerk at the school.

Clancy was a rather fine-looking young man. He was quiet, judicious, conciliatory, able to see both sides of a controversy. He had many talents: he was an artist, a writer, a teacher, and a student of history and literature. But his one overwhelming passion was the philosophy of Henry George, to which he dedicated his entire life.

As members of the old H.G. school, Bob and I often had to engage in debates with different enemies of Henry George: socialists, communists, fascists and others of their ilk. We even participated in didactic plays to demonstrate the principles we propounded. One hilarious skit featured Bob Clancy as a very righteous, very puritanical Georgist, and me as an obnoxious, villainous communist.

When World War II broke out, Bob and I, both in service, accidentally met in Seattle, 3,000 miles from our homes in New York. One funny scene that stands out in my mind is that of Private Clancy saluting Lieutenant Schwartzman! Bob and I (with the venerable George Dana Linn) opened a Henry George School extension in Seattle, which lasted until Clancy and I were shipped off to our respective destinations. I also remember a poignant episode in Bob's life while he was stationed in Seattle. He had become engaged to

a lovely young lady named Barbara, but that liaison ended unhappily for Bob. Wistfully, he wrote to me: "My little *affaire du coeur* has taken a turn for the worse, after being so promising." Barbara married someone else, but Bob remained single for the rest of his life.

Soon after the war Bob became the Director of the Henry George School. Bob made many an effort to maintain the quality of teaching at the school, but there was much friction between the Board of Trustees and him, and he was dismissed from the school. Undaunted, he organized and became President of the Henry George Institute. In that role, he was quite successful. Correspondence courses reached students all over the world. As head of other Georgist organizations, he exerted a great deal of influence, and as Editor of the Institute's *Georgist Journal*, he was able to communicate with hundreds of readers.

Robert Clancy, 80, Institute's Founder

Robert Clancy, an educator who was director of the Henry George School of Social Science from 1946 to 1970 and founder of the Henry George Institute, died on Feb. 9 in Jackson Heights Hospital in Queens. He was 80 and lived in Jackson Heights.

The cause was colon cancer, said George L. Collins, the executive director of the Manhattan school.

Founded in 1932, the school teaches the economic and social philosophy of the 19th-century economist and philosopher Henry George, who saw land speculation as the scourge of the time and the cause of poverty and inequality.

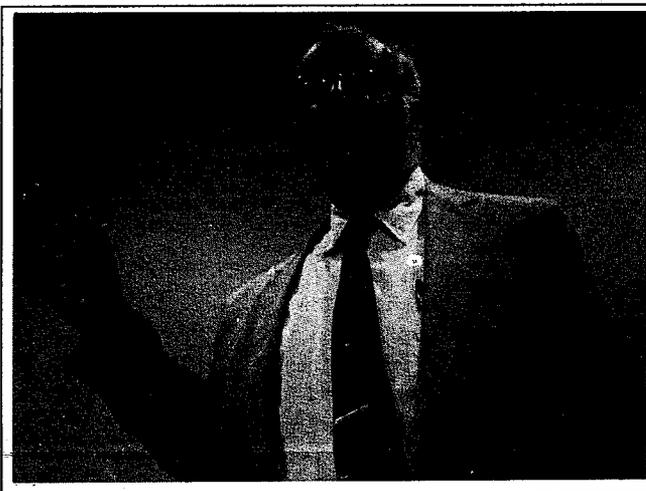
George argued that society, not the landowner, was responsible for the increase in land value, and that the increase should be taxed and thereby returned to society. He saw such a levy as the only tax necessary and, thus, was an early proponent of a single tax. George twice ran unsuccessfully for mayor of New York City in the late 1800's.

Mr. Clancy expanded the school's role in adult education and through establishment of the institute set up a worldwide network of correspondence courses in subjects related to George's social and economic concepts. Students from more than 200 countries enrolled in courses.

In 1952 he wrote a biography of the founder of the school, "A Seed Was Sown: The Life of Oscar Geiger." He was co-founder and chairman emeritus of the Council of Georgist Organizations, an international association of Georgist schools.

He is survived by a sister, Norma Hempe of Massapequa, L.I.

New York Times, February 18, 1995



On March 31, 1984, *Fragments* magazine honored Bob by giving him a dinner. Visibly moved, he gave an eloquent and gracious address, and the memory of that evening still lingers in my mind.

Eventually, the Henry George School of New York extended an invitation for Bob and the Institute to occupy — without charge — one room in the school's building, and, in that capacity, as a tenant of the school, he remained until his death.

Bob's last days were spent in and out of hospital, but he bore his illness with his usual quiet dignity and typical acceptance.

Bob was a person of great integrity and unflinching dedication to the Cause he believed in. He was a true aristocrat of the soul, and it can be truly said: "Noblesse oblige." — Dr. Jack Schwartzman