



In response to "The Pearl in the Oyster" and Noah Alper's suggestion (May HGN), I can report that I was introduced to the philosophy of Henry George in the 1930's when I was organizing women's groups throughout Massachusetts for the Taxpayers Federation. In connection with this work I wrote a pamphlet on taxation which the organization published and circulated.

Mrs. LaRue Brown of Boston suggested that because of my interest in taxation I visit a class of the Henry George School which was just starting up in Boston, where my home was at that time. I went to the opening session, taught by John Codman, and continued through the ten-week period. Following that I took the advanced courses also.

On the first night in the fundamental course my mind was illuminated as if by a sudden flash of lightning. I saw at once the importance of taking the rental value of land instead of the taxes that are imposed on us. It gave me an insight into our whole tax problem.

I was very grateful to my friend for her introduction to the subject and, needless to say, this knowledge has been a tremendous factor in my life ever since, explaining, as it has, our economic difficulties. What a pity our leaders do not see the solution!

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My attention was first turned to Henry George by a man who said nothing at all about Henry George

and nothing about economics. I was managing a small company, and a salesman was trying to sell me a piece of office equipment. I have my own theory of depressions and had steered the conversation around to my favorite subject. He listened attentively and then invited me to come to lunch with him and "a couple of friends who will be interested in your ideas." I took the bait. That was sixteen years ago. My life was enriched by that one invitation more than I shall ever be able to repay.

His friends were Robert Tideman and Harlan Trott. The lunch conversation was stimulating. Not a word was said about Henry George or what he stood for. They wanted to know about my views on money. After much questioning and probing they asked if I would teach a ten-week course on the subject to their faculty (by that time I had discovered that Tideman taught courses in economics and had trained several others to do the same).

I accepted the challenge. It was a fascinating experience. One of the men in the class had a Ph.D. in the subject and was in the Research Department of the local branch of the Federal Reserve Bank. They liked the course and asked if I would continue teaching it for their school.

Then, and not until then, Bob Tideman started feeding me books and pamphlets about LVT. I had many questions. He patiently answered every one—usually by throwing questions back at me that made me see the answer to my own question.

It took time but Tideman was patient. I have been a Georgist ever since, although I still deny that tax reform will solve the problem of depressions.

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Truth can never be told so as to be understood and not be believed.

—William Blake