

Arizona Springtime

From a letter by Joseph Zashin

THE cloak of winter is lifted from this area which fortunately does not know the rigors of bitter cold, heavy snowfall and numbing blizzards. I walk through the arroyos and the washes of this desert and the ground has a new array of blossoms of lovely hues.

At my approach, young rabbits bound away, their white cottontails disappearing into new refuges in the brush. The birds have been busy nest-building. Now their young join in the chirping. The gophers, in a similar pursuit underground, throw up mounds of earth that mark their exits and entrances. The anthills are a monument to labor. And now are seen the reptiles, dormant during the cool temperatures, the grasshoppers, the butterflies, the beetles and the lizards with their swift, graceful movements.

No calendar is more accurate than this reawakening of nature. All life responds to the same bidding to be fruitful, to multiply and replenish the earth. Sustained through countless eons of the past, for today and for endless tomorrows, there is abundance for all creatures.

Does man learn the lesson of this

unfailing abundance that is implicit in the order of the cosmos? In the capitols of the states and the nations we continue our depressing, dim-sighted wrangling. The best to hope for is an uneasy, contorted respite from selfish striving for dominance. In economic centers, on exchange and bourse, puny men seek to control the rich outpouring of the earth's bounty—to arrogate and to channel its flow. Under myriad names, men reject the concept of benevolent bounty and set up a harsh deity called Scarcity—worshipped with barriers, tariffs, quotas, allotments, cartels and managed economies.

When will we begin to accept the impartial benevolence of Mother Earth and shun the soothsayers of scarcity from whom spring distrust and fear?

Even as we are at our wit's end to devise tax programs, the earth calls to us "tax me!" Tax the earth to provide the revenues for government, for the needs of the community. Tax the earth and free the labor of men, free the products of his toil, free him in the unhampered enjoyment of his fruits. Only the earth has to be taxed to bring forth the sufficiency to meet man's needs.

A long and greatly respected French Georgist, A. Daudé-Bancel, editor of *Terre et Liberté* (Land and Liberty), died last month at the age of 92. An appreciation of his life and work will appear in the June HGN.

William L. Hall, the professor of economics who participated, with Agnes de Mille, in the radio program mentioned in "Individual Freedom Is the Answer," (April HGN) is teaching at the Nathaniel Hawthorne College in Antrim, New Hampshire, *not* at Sarah Lawrence College, as incorrectly stated. He describes Nathaniel Hawthorne as a liberal arts college, built and operated without federal funds, and says he is teaching economics "sans text."