

Henry George News

Volume 59, Number 3

May - June, 1995

The Henry George Schools of California I had the pleasure, last month, of observing the wide range of educational programs being offered by the Henry George Schools in California — as well as visiting some dear friends. From Thursday, May 4th to Tuesday, May 9th I was re-acquainted with accomplished programs at many levels, meeting with two Henry George School Boards in Northern and Southern California, observed Geogist involvement in a

Report by George Collins



The Board of Directors of the Sacramento HGS; President Ann Reeves is next to George on the couch, and Director Evelyn Frind-Loomis stands, second from right.

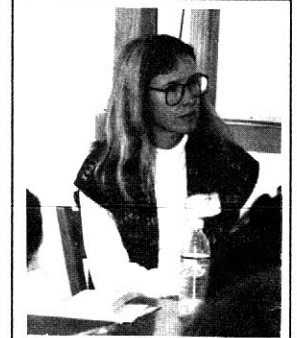
United Nations 50th Anniversary preparatory conference and saw five teachers lead twelve classes through the *Interstudent* high school economics sessions.

Thirteen members of the Sacramento branch of the San Francisco

HGS entertained me at a dinner meeting in the home of Sophie Gietzendanner on May 4th. Evelyn Friend-Loomis directs the activities of this San Francisco branch with the assistance of a Board presided by Ann Reeves. A course in *Social Problems* is now in progress. Upcoming programs include a forum on affordable housing on May 24th, a movie highlighting land issues in June and a picnic in July.

Wendall Fitzgerald and the San Francisco HGS Board have made the judgement that, given the resources at their disposal, the most effective means of reaching a receptive audience is through direct interaction with other organizations. Cathie Smeland and Mary Rose Kaczorowski have cultivated working relationships with civic minded and social change organizations.

On Saturday May 6th I attended with (*continued on page three*)



Mary Rose Kaczorowski, Director of outreach at the San Francisco HGS (and Editor of The Mercury,) at the pre-conference for the UN's 50th anniversary

Georgist Education in the Golden State

(continued from front page) Mary Rose a conference of the Action Coalition for Global Change. Through literature and discourse, her endeavor was to inject Georgist treatment of the land issue in a program and set of proposals for participation in the UN 50th Anniversary celebrations. These involvements yield requests to speak to member groups and to supply literature.

Some fifty miles south of San Francisco, Ron Johnson teaches *Interstudent* at Newark Memorial High School. On Friday May 5th I saw him take three classes through Cycle 7 group work and tests on land speculation, capitalization and rights.

Interstudent, Johnson told me, covers ten of the thirteen areas mandated in the state's required economics curriculum. Although the course is focused on Georgist economics, any teacher, he assured me, could use this material without alarming the school district. He has been using it for two years. The Principal, Pattie Christi, counselor Sue Barker and Mrs. Free, a parent working in the school whose son took *Interstudent*, all sang the praises of the program.

All but one member of the Los Angeles HGS Board of Trustees was present at the meeting on Sunday May 7th at Marie Callender's Restaurant in Glendale. The main focus of HGS-LA in recent years has been high school work, but among things discussed was the possibility of re-

Debbie Raff had their young students searching out answers with dictionaries at the ready on their desks. Principal Milt Johns and V.P. Mendenhall came to meet me in the classrooms and expressed their enthusiastic support of the program. Principal Johns's support was valuable in the successful appeal to the La Quinta School District



At La Quinta Middle School: *Interstudent* Designer Harry Pollard with teachers Debbie Rolf, Cheryl Hayes, Sue Barr and John Newland

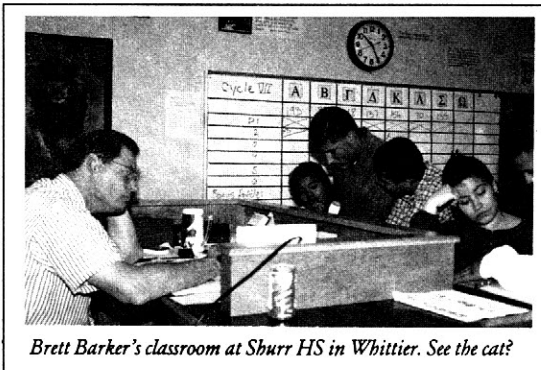
for adoption of *Interstudent* as an official economics curriculum. John Newland spearheaded the application. The program may now be used by any teacher in the District. Efforts are underway to get high school teachers to employ it.

John Newland was a film editor before becoming a teacher. He is convinced that an effective, useful documentary of the program can be produced. I was introduced to Cheryl Hayes, a documentary producer, with whom he is applying for funding from traditional sources to carry out such a project.

Brett Barker continues a full schedule of economics at Shurr High School in Whittier, with the exception of two social studies classes that he has had to teach. I witnessed three of his *Interstudent* courses in progress.

Ph.D. educator George Diaz teaches in the English as a Second Language program. He is using *Interstudent* and intends to translate portions of the material to aid students who do their conceptual thinking in Spanish. Larry Branman teaches special education students. He admires the program and told me that he plans to try it in the fall. The acting librarian, Victoria Houseman, intrigued

by the exceptional use of the library by Brett's students, began studying the material herself. Monitored by Brett, she is up to cycle seven and is thoroughly engaged by it.



Brett Barker's classroom at Shurr HS in Whittier. See the cat?

suming adult programs. Such programs are planned, in any case, when the reorganized B.E.E. begins its operations in San Diego.

La Quinta Middle School is in Indio, California, out in the desert, two hours from LA. John Newland brought *Interstudent* to his 7th and 8th graders two years ago. When I visited on May 8th, he, Sue Carr and

Information about *Interstudent* can be had from Harry Pollard at Box 655, Tujunga CA 91042 (harry.pollard@ledge.com)