

# Georgist Holiday — 9360 Miles

By LANCASTER M. GREENE

THE GREENE Expedition to Discover the U. S. A. started by Ford on December 22nd, returning on February 7th the same way. In Washington we (Nadine, Bradford and I) called on Senator Robert Taft who was refreshingly frank in stating his opinions. He is a low tariff man who was exposed at Yale to the William Graham Sumner school of free trade and free competition and equal opportunity. We left with him a review of the book *Free Trade—Free World* by Oswald Garrison Villard, suggesting that he order it from the Schalkenbach Foundation in New York. We hope this persuasive book will make some of the arguments we thought of as we left.

Thomas Jefferson, whose consistent philosophy of freedom was expressed in the Declaration of Independence and in his statement that the "usufruct of land belongs to the living," had a home at Charlottesville which was for us a mecca which we had to visit.

Before going to Carlsbad Caverns from San Antonio we called Judge J. R. Fuchs in New Braunfels and drove back thirty miles to spend a few hours with this ardent educator in fundamental economics. He does his educating through speeches to Rotary Clubs and other service clubs and shows how the Henry George ideas are the antidote to collectivism.

At El Paso we were warned to unpack all our belongings before going to Mexico lest we be charged a tariff tax on bringing our own USA possessions back. Aztec Indian prices were much below Navajo and Pueblo prices we had seen, so we splurged. Later at the smaller town of Agua Prieta south of Douglas, Arizona, we found prices much higher and selection poorer. Rent appeared to be the only thing higher in Juarez, while active trade competition made prices of labor products lower in the larger city.

When we returned to El Paso we had to fill out a declaration, and since it was under the \$100 per adult limit, we had no tariff to pay the USA. Alongside the federal taxing station, to protect us from buying in a lower market, the proud state of Texas had a hut from which a tall Texan came trotting over to say that if we had an spirituous liquor we would owe his state 32 cents per bottle for passing it through. They search diligently lest some free trader—I mean "smuggler" should bring in a bargain.

In the sunny State of Arizona we called John C. Lincoln, President of the Board of Trustees of the Henry George School, and were invited to dinner at his fabulous Camelback Inn. He and Mrs. Lincoln came to Arizona for her health. Later, Jack Stewart and a Chicago architect interested him in building this beautiful inn surrounded by cottages set out in the desert with a rocky range of hills in the distance resembling a camel lying down. This was in 1935-36, just as the water from the Hoover Dam became available for irrigation in this section around Phoenix. Population has leaped forward since then. Jokake Inn and Paradise Inn have followed Mr. Lincoln's lead, and he has been rewarded for understanding the Law of Rent and risking investment on what he saw ahead under our present rules. Swimming in

the inn pool with an eight foot glass shield on three sides, we thought of Mr. Lincoln's claim that "Arizona has the climate that California and Florida brag about."

We visited Mr. Lincoln's grapefruit and orange groves and picked many sacks full of the fruit for the men at Bagdad Copper. Then we drove northwest through dusty corrugated desert roads to join Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln again at the bottom of the Bagdad canyon at the President's House. He roamed over the operations during the day and met with the executives in the evening to keep tabs on what had been accomplished and what should be projected to pay off the RFC loan with which the mine has been burdened and to take this mine out of the class of marginal producers in a great copper state. Mr. Lincoln keeps young by being interested in problems, such as this mine, but still more important to him is the extension of the educational efforts of the Henry George School. Some of the people we met at the company mess were interested in taking a course in economics by mail. They have the first lesson now.

In the "lowest spot in the world," (279.6 feet below sea level in Death Valley) rent for land is very low but the charge for staying at the ranch is higher than for better accommodations where there is competition. The prices of food are high as typified by the charge of 60 cents for a plain ham sandwich with no butter, and 50 cents for a plain cheese sandwich. Gasoline was 33½ cents a gallon—the highest price in the country.

In Los Angeles we saw Bill Truehart, who invited me to speak to the faculty at a tea on Sunday afternoon. We discussed all the problems which various teachers could think of. They are an enthusiastic group with able leadership from Bill and Marcile (Mrs. Truehart). Bob Bryant told us how Mrs. Louis Post had said to him, "Young man, if you come to grasp the true inwardness of Henry George's works it will make you a profound thinker on any subject you undertake."

On the way to San Francisco we stopped at 17-Mile Drive Cottage Court owned by Fred Workman, who says that nothing is so important today as showing the world how practical and important are the ideas of Henry George. This is one of the most impeccably clean and lovely motor courts we saw on our entire trip. (Mr. Workman has mimeographed a talk on Communism vs. Americanism, which we will send to those who request it.)

Driving to San Francisco through Big Basin we were thrilled with its redwood forest, but the narrow winding roads kept us from reaching the Bohemian Club in time for a luncheon which Joseph S. Thompson, author of *Progress Without Poverty*, had arranged. We met Rupert Mason, authority on irrigation districts of California, went sightseeing with him, viewing the Presidio, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and the Oakland Bridge.

Later Bob Goerner of KQW interviewed me on the air, asking why I was in San Francisco, and I told him to get a Henry George School

Extension started to compete with those in Los Angeles and San Diego. He was interested, and stressed the fact that the courses are free.

Joseph Thompson is an active business man, president of Pacific Electric Manufacturing Company and former president of the Bohemian Club. Rupert Mason is retired. When the right extension secretary can be found they could give effective backing.

We treated the breathtaking streets of San Francisco with respect as we had the up and down streets of Jerome and Bisbee, Arizona; and marvelled at the way natives risked their necks dashing down the cliffs they call streets.

Boulder City by the Hoover Dam impressed us as one of the loveliest little cities we saw. Here the wise arrangements of the Bureau of Reclamation gave incentive and encouragement to people to build attractive homes and stores and business buildings, as they were needed, with the result that there are no unkempt vacant lots and shacks. The land is owned by the Federal government and leased to individuals who can thus put all their funds into improvements and waste nothing on the price of land.

The Painted Desert with its miraculous colors, and the Petrified Forest, fascinated us as we paused to absorb them on our dash for home. We had seen much of the Navajos and we grieved at what federal policies had done to corrupt and beggar them. We desired to see some Pueblos and stopped at Isleta near Albuquerque, where we sought out the Sheriff to explain their government and economic policies. As the Sheriff and the oldest Councilman explained their theory of ground dues to the community, and private property in labor products, I brought them over to Nadine and Brad to make sure their arguments went home. Why *these people* were arguing for Henry George's ideas of social justice and individualism, and had been for hundreds of years before George! It was a revelation when we were reminded that they are not wards of the USA but independent, at peace among themselves all through history and thus at peace with their neighbors, as well as self governing. They fear USA citizenship which might bring them the vicious taxes which could discourage the Isletas, ruin their equal opportunity and individual result, and destroy their self government. "Lo, the poor Indian!" We fear lest he suffer with us.

At St. Louis we took the by-pass around the city, but could not leave without calling that hard-working Extension Director, Noah Alper. He has already received several contributions in the surprise contest announced in last month's Henry George News. Although he is somewhat reluctant to accept the job as editor on two contests, we suggest that you send him your letter (50 to 100 words) on "How I first became interested in Henry George," or, if you prefer, a letter on "How the Henry George News can help the graduates." We look forward to the interesting selections Noah will be sending in.

We are safely back in the New York traffic now, but we will wear our cowboy boots at the drop of a saddle on a horse or a mule.