

# More Bread Upon the Waters

**B**LUEBIRD Letters, mimeographed on legal sized sheets, from Muncie, Indiana, reach a small, select audience, and surely no one would want to miss a single copy. Elmer Russell Greenlee, the author, is one of those convinced persons who reached a place where he wanted to share the wisdom that had been revealed to him. The letters were the result, and enough evidence of their effectiveness filters back to him to encourage him in continuing them, although his name is not featured.

Mr. Greenlee majored in social science in high school and at Ball State Teachers College, where he heard nothing about Henry George. But much later he was gratified to learn of two social science teachers who had used Bluebird material in their classes for discussion. The letters are intended merely as springboards for conversation among friends. Articles from The Henry George News are often included.

In 1946 Elmer Greenlee met "Uncle Jim" Carson of Muncie, who was a Henry George enthusiast. Vigorous and persistent as he was, it took him several years to overcome the doubt in the young student's mind. When at last Mr. Greenlee had no more objections and was eager to extend the philosophy, Mr. Carson sponsored the Bluebird Letters and produced the subject matter from his voluminous files and out of a long adventurous life.

Uncle Jim is gone now, but his influence lives on, for the letters still issue forth from the orderly room where Mr. Greenlee has his files and mimeograph machine in the Greenlee farm home on the Pike a few miles out of Muncie. He believes

this is the best contribution he can make at present and trusts the letters "will accomplish gradually that which Uncle Jim accomplished gradually and with great skill" with him.

## Portland's Tax Letter

The idea for a publication had long been considered by members of the Portland Tax Savers, Inc., but it was Erick Hansch who "got it off the ground." In June, 1960, "without any ceremony" he introduced the Tax Corrector which he financed and edited. In October he brought out a larger edition and the name was changed to Taxpayer Digest. By that time an enthusiastic group of supporters had gathered. Mr. Hansch, however, bears the financial burden as well as being "a relentless reporter, a patient researcher and its single largest journalistic contributor," according to the editor, H. James Hotaling.

In April this year the Digest was incorporated under the auspices of Taxpayers Publications, Inc., both non-profit making organizations, with Mr. Hansch (Henry George School director) as treasurer. It chooses to publish George's ideas "subliminally" and hopes to put some of his tax theories to a test. "Whatever the Digest is and becomes," writes its editor, "it is what Erick has made it. We can but try to meet and maintain his standards."

The Digest holds that homes used as homesteads by the owners whose yearly income is less than \$3,000 should be tax exempt and that taxes should be placed where they will hurt the economy least and from where they cannot be shifted. Its scope includes all public affairs which may affect the taxpayer.