

## OFFICERS RETIRE

November -  
December

1976

Pleading the press of business commitments that make heavy demands on their time, Glenn Weeks and Dean Meridith have resigned as president and vice president, respectively, of the Henry George School. Their action was accepted by the Board of Trustees at its regular meeting in December.

The School's spring program is under the guidance of the director of the High School Program, Stan Rubenstein. In addition to nightly classes in "Progress and Poverty," there will be several supplementary courses, among them "Money and Banking" offered by Oscar Johannsen and "The City, The Region and The Future" by Philip Finkelstein.

## GEORGE'S GRAVE VANDALIZED BY RICHARD PENSACK

The large stone marking the site where Henry George's body was laid to rest almost 79 years ago has been stripped of much of its metalwork, including its main adornment--a plaque bearing a quotation from "Progress and Poverty."

Ornamentation has been removed from both the front and back of the monument, although the bronze bust of George, crafted by his second son, is still in place.

The missing metal, which had been bolted to the stone, was probably solid bronze and most likely was stolen for its commodity value. Bronze borderwork was left intact on one surface of the stone, while about half the border was removed from the other side, indicating the thieves may have stopped simply because they could not carry any more of the heavy loot.

A smaller plaque was pried from the gravestone of George's first daughter, Jennie, leaving her marker devoid of identification. Hers was the only one

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## SCHOOL'S RESEARCH EFFORTS GAIN PUBLICITY AND WIDE ACCEPTANCE

The School's research efforts have brought unaccustomed recognition to the institution and are improving its credibility among people of influence.

The Center for Local Tax Research's second report on "Effective Property Tax Rates in the Metropolitan Area of New York" has been the subject of over two dozen stories in local media, including a news story, a column and an editorial in The New York Times: radio reports on five stations--among them NBC--and features in magazines ranging from "New York Magazine" to "Real Estate Weekly."

In addition, requests for copies of the report were received from 150 public officials and agencies, 20 attorneys, 100 business organizations and banks (among them some Fortune-500 companies), and 50 schools, libraries and research outfits.

The Times editorial made reference to New York Mayor Beame's desire to cut taxes as a questionably attainable

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## GEORGE'S GRAVE

of the family's six small stones that had had metal, rather than chisled, inscriptions.

Tom L. Johnson and his family are buried adjacent to the Georges. Johnson, a millionaire-turned-singletaxer who was a close friend and benefactor of Henry George, was elected mayor of Cleveland early in this century.

Greenwood, a vast and hilly burial ground, is not far from Fort Hamilton, where Henry and Annie George made their last home. Today, a neighborhood of deteriorating houses lies around the cemetery.

Henry George, Jr. has written that his father's memorial plaque was inscribed with "words to which, after long years of labor, he bore the final testimony with his life.

Those words, that stand by George's grave no more, are: "The truth that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends--those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be, die for it. This is the power of truth."

In his masterpiece, George followed the above lines with the question: "Will it at length prevail? Ultimately, yes. But in our own times, on in times of which any memory of us remains, who shall say?"

Some pages earlier, he had remarked: "It is startling to think how slight the traces that would be left of our civilization did it pass through the throes which have accompanied the decline of every previous civilization. Paper will not last like parchment, nor are our most massive buildings and monuments to be compared in solidity with the rock-hewn temples and titanic edifices of old civilizations."

Continuing in a footnote: "It is also, it seems to me, instructive to note how inadequate and utterly misleading would be the idea that of our civilization which could be gained from religious and funereal monuments of our time, which are all we have from which to gain our ideas of buried civilizations."

## CALL FOR FUNDS

An appeal has been made by Agnes George de Mille and Robert Clancy for funds to be used to repair and renew George's grave and monument. Those who respond will receive a color print of Henry George. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to the Henry George Institute, Room 462-A, 55 West 42 Street, New York 10036.

## RESEARCH EFFORTS

goal. "There is another way, however," the newspaper noted, "in which the city can--and should--move on its own to ease the negative impact of high property levies: reform of an inequitable ---and illegal---real estate assessment system that places the heaviest burden on income-producing properties."

It went on to quote the School's research report as "throwing fresh light on this problem." It concluded: "New Yorkers cannot afford to neglect their own responsibility to reform a tax structure which penalizes productive properties."

The second report on effective tax rates (the tax paid as a percentage of the market value of the property) was issued in response to the great interest shown by many segments of government, business and academe in the first such report issued last February.

Philip Finkelstein, director of the Center, said the report shows that:

High taxes--especially on income-producing property--may be counter productive.

New York City and some New Jersey cities where fiscal and economic problems are most acute impose the heaviest burdens on commercial property.

Great disparities often exist between communities within the same county, and statutory requirements for uniform assessment are often contradicted by the facts.

"The effective rate measure allows taxpayers to determine their true burden on a comparative basis from one community to the next and among different types of properties within each community,