School Notes

THE HENRY GEORGE KNOWLEDGEBASE

Jersey City, New Jersey, has more computer systems per square mile than anywhere else in the country—1,739. New York is next with 1,185, followed by Orange County, California, with 700 per square mile. More than 5,000 Computer Bulletin Boards are installed in the US. Relay networks speed messages across country and lively debates are being waged even as you read this. Brooklyn talks to San Francisco, Chicago argues with Fairhope, Stockholm (Sweden) questions San Diego. Brisbane complains to Paris. (Already, debate networks gird the world.)

You enter your arguments on a local Board. They are placed in a packet sent across country automatically in the midnight hours when costs are low. Next morning, your comments are read in Poughkeepsie, or Edmonton, or Cucamonga.

Databases of everything can be found by your telephone. Large subscription services, such as Compuserve, Genie, and the Source, are joined by a proliferation of governmental operations offering economic and scientific data. Local libraries and school districts have built up extensive networks. Many of these provide free access and contain a wealth of information.

Latest arrival is the Henry George KnowledgeBase in Southern California. LA Director Harry Pollard is the System Operator (SYSOP) Co-sysops are D'Artagnan Phares, Dale Neff and Gina De Tolve. Operating at 2400 baud on an 80286 IBM AT compatible, the system will be online 24 hours a day. Members of the system will be able to download excerpts from Henry George, articles by well-known Georgists and an abundance of economic and political information. High school teachers will get lesson plans and teaching programs. Their students will be able to 'download' supplementary material in history, civics and economics to buttress Stan Rubenstein's 'Land and Freedom' series.

You can contact The KnowledgeBase through your modem at (818) 353-2242. Further information can be obtained from the Henry George School—Box 655 Tujunga CA 91042—or call (voice) (818) 352-4141.

You'll need a modem to communicate by telephone with other computers. The computer's signal must be 'mo-dulated' to travel the line, then 'dem-odulated' when it reaches the remote computer (hence 'modem'). You should be able to get one for little over $100. My 2400 baud I got for $99 so they are within range of most of us. Do not get a 300 or 1200 baud. They are too slow.

The best communication programs are probably shareware. GTPower, Telix, Qmodem, and Procomm are very good. Send $10 to the Henry George School at the above Tujunga address and we'll send you a program ready to run on a standard 5¼″ disk. We'll also provide some follow-up support, if you need help.

—Harry Pollard