

THE COLORADO SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION

BEN J. SALMON, SECRETARY

STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS

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PADONIA

Box 7,
Manitou Springs,
Colorado 80829,
June 17, 1982

Dear friend,

The above letterhead should astonish you. It was used by the old Colorado Single Tax Association, and is taken from a letter written by Mr. Ben J. Salmon, Secretary, September 16, 1916. If you know something about Colorado history, you will recognize some of the names of officers. If any of them are still around, I would want to know about it.

Half a century ago and before that, the Colorado Single Tax Association was very active in efforts at eliminating taxes on improvements, in promoting the single tax idea around the state, and in pushing for a proposed single tax amendment to the city charter of Denver.

Your name has come me as a person who may be interested in resurrecting the old Colorado Single Tax Association--not with any realistic hope of actually instituting the whole single tax idea in Colorado, but at least with the intention of working toward elimination of taxes on improvements, agricultural enterprise, and the products of labor and industry around the state and their substitution by higher taxes on the special privilege of ownership of the earth, in proportion to the value of that privilege--obviously, an imposition on the ownership of speculatively held urban lands, not on agricultural lands which are of much less value per square foot.

At present I do not propose any formal organization, and certainly no dues, now or ever, unless we agree to small token contributions to the Council of Georgist Organizations in New York, to be kept there. What I think we could use would be a species of "committee of correspondence" which might exchange ideas and hopefully meet informally from time to time in a convenient part of the state.

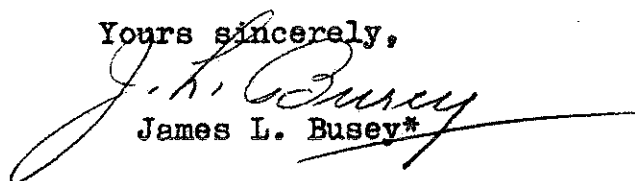
Rather suddenly, a great deal is happening in this movement, and adoptions of the idea have occurred in five cities of Pennsylvania. The new Council of Georgist Organizations is having a notable impact and is coordinating the efforts of eighteen or more single tax organizations around the country. An annual Georgist Conference will meet in Pittsburgh during July 16-19. I will attend to talk about "The Meaning of Political Action", and would like to report that something is beginning to happen in Colorado. Though at present

I am the only known "member" of the old Colorado Single Tax Association, and have appointed myself to be "Secretary", I intend to present the following to the conference as objectives of the Colorado Single Tax Association (COSTA):

"The Colorado Single Tax Association is inspired by the ideals of equal rights of all to share in the values of the earth, of the rights of productive individuals to be free from taxes on improvements, agricultural enterprise, or the products of their labor and industry. The Association is persuaded that the ultimate means to secure these ideals is by imposition of only one single tax on the special privilege of ownership of the earth, in proportion to the value of that privilege. Therefore, the Colorado Single Tax Association endeavors to inform Colorado citizens, including especially civic and political leaders, of the desirability of eliminating taxes that do not conform to these objectives, and of working toward a tax system that will return to the state and its local entities the values for which they are primarily responsible."

If you agree with the above statement of objectives and think we should do something about achieving them in Colorado, I should appreciate it if you either write me with your ideas or just sign the statement below and send it to me.

Yours sincerely,


James L. Busey*

TO:

James L. Busey,
Box 7,
Manitou Springs,
Colorado 80829

I do subscribe to the statement of objectives that appear above, and think it would be a good idea to revive the Colorado Single Tax Association as an informal device for contact among Georgists in Colorado and for doing something effective toward elimination or reduction of part or all taxes on production and improvements, but without any payment of dues or establishment of officers at this time--except that I am willing to let you serve as Secretary.

Name: _____ Address: _____

*To those who do not know me: I am Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Colorado, but CU has nothing to do with this.--JB

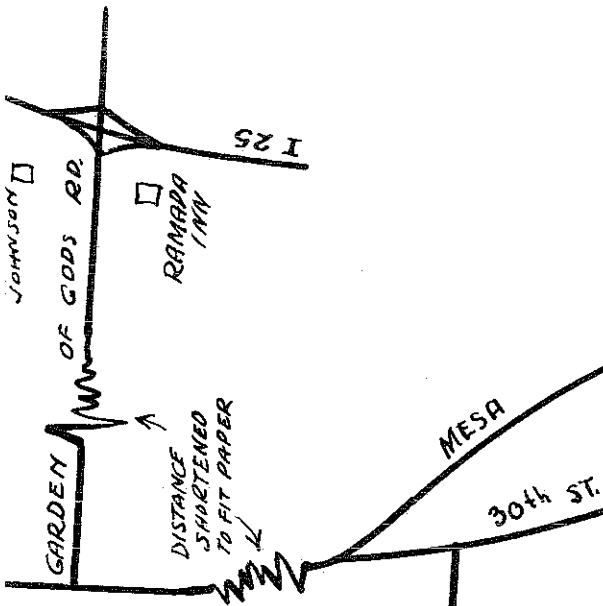
The Colorado Single Tax Association: Box 7, Manitou Springs, Colorado 80829

Phone: (303) 685-1498

Secretary: James L. Busey

Purpose: The Colorado Single Tax Association is inspired by the ideals of equal rights of all to share in the values of the earth, of the rights of productive individuals to be free from taxes on improvements, agricultural enterprise, or the products of their labor and industry. The Association is persuaded that the ultimate means to secure these ideals is by imposition of only one single tax on the special privilege of ownership of the earth, in proportion to the value of that privilege. Therefore, the Colorado Single Tax Association endeavors to inform Colorado citizens, including especially civic and political leaders, of the desirability of eliminating taxes that do not conform to these objectives, and of working toward a tax system that will return to the state and its local entities the values for which they are primarily responsible.

Services: Speakers, , activities in support of or opposition to proposed legislation, contacts with local civic groups and political leaders, newspaper letters and editorials, petition campaigns where appropriate, and general agitation.



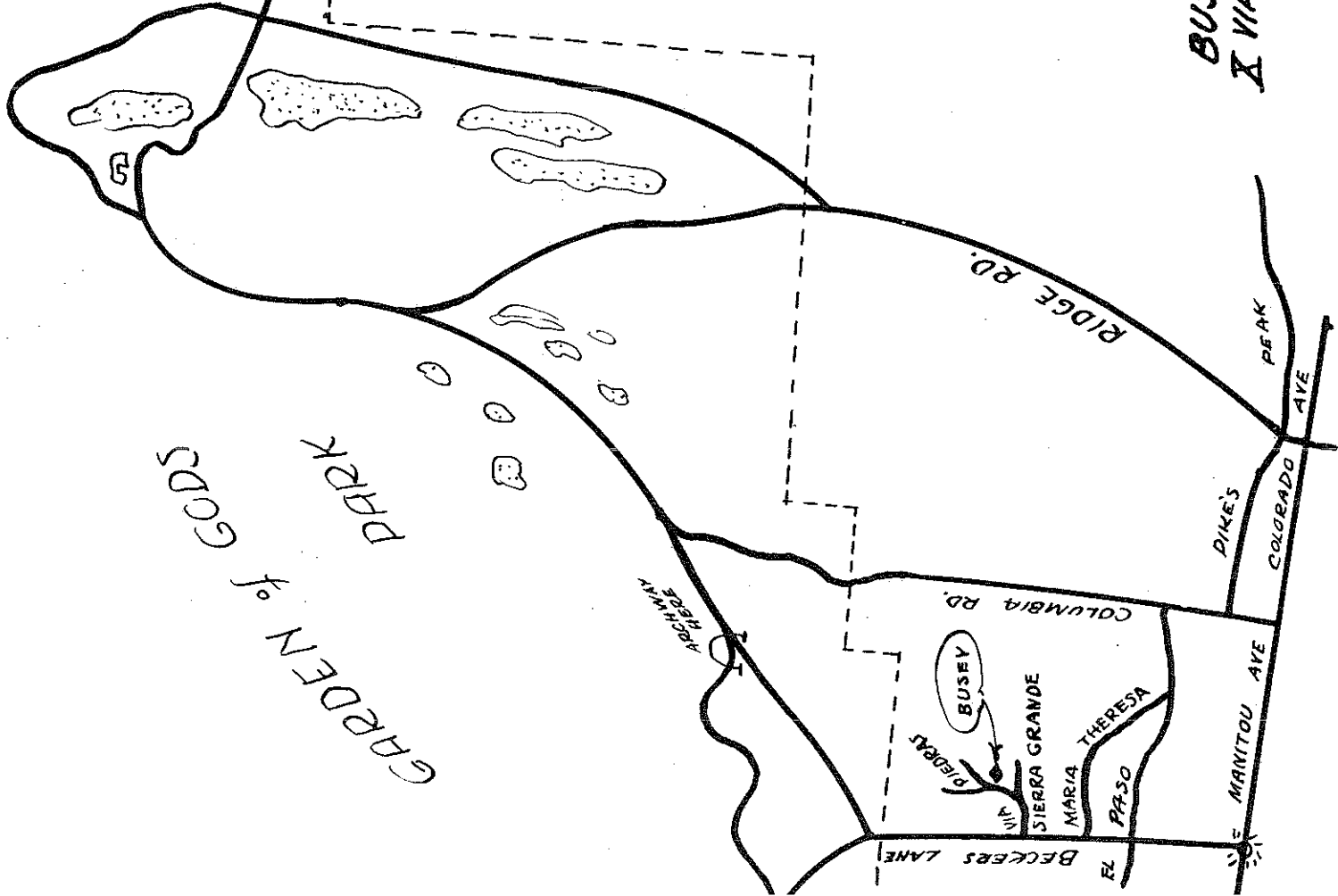
Box 7, Manitou Spgs. 80829, October 8, 1982
 Dear COSTA people:

We now have nine COSTA members who live in Colorado, including two in Denver-Boulder who cannot come to our first meeting.

The first meeting will occur at 10 Via Piedras in Manitou Springs at 1:30 p.m. Friday, October 15. Please do come. Date and time have been set to fit your schedules.
 Follow the map. Turn right up our driveway which begins at the wooden gate below the high rocks, adjacent to a neighbor's garage which is under construction. If you get lost, phone us at 685-1498.

Except maybe for a symbolic one cent to be deposited in a jar, there will be no dues, no funds-appeals, and not much of an agenda except discussion as to how to get this show on the road.

See you the 15th, 1:30 -
Jim Busey
 Jim Busey,
 Secretary



**BUSEY
 VIA PIEDRAS**