Mel Greenhut's Pilgrimage to Spatial Economics

Hiroshi OHTA*

The present brief account of our esteemed colleague and friend, Mel Greenhut is taken (with permission) partly from my Introduction to a Festschrift in honor of him, which I have had the pleasure of editing jointly with Jacques Thisse, presently at Universite de Paris I-Sorbonne. The book is titled Does Economic Space Matter? and is now available in print (1993) from Macmillan Press (GB), and also from St. Martin's Press (U.S.A.).

Professor Greenhut has been a leading figure (cf. George Norman's account, Chapter 2 in the Festschrift) in the development of modern spatial microeconomics, on which that book is focused. However, we honor him in the book not only for his leadership in this field of specialization, but also in respect and thanks for his important contributions to the study of economics in general.

Given Professor Greenhut's multitude of publications in spatial economics, it is natural to label him as a regional specialist. But that ignores his many contributions in diverse areas of economics. It fails to recognize that he has written books (not to mention articles) on macroeconomics, the stock market, economic development, imperfect competition, antitrust laws, inflation, supply-side economics, and one best described by its title: Economics for the Voter.

It is, in fact, this broad understanding of economics in depth that has made Mel Greenhut so important to his colleagues. For it is this background, and the creative vision possessed by this man, that uniquely enabled Professor Greenhut to recognize the fact that if time is warp of economics, then space is its woof: and both are yet to be fully intertwined with international relationships, macroeconomic behavior and policies, and even with financial markets. He has opened our eyes to the fact that spatial economics is not just a specialization, but is integral to a realistic understanding of the world we live in.

Readers who are not completely familiar with Mel Greenhut's career may take a moment over the following brief sketch. Mel received his Ph. D. degree from Washington University in 1951. His first professional position was at Auburn. He was side-tracked into administration as Associate Dean at the University of Richmond, during which time he consulted extensively with AT & T and research companies located in Washington, D.C. He was consulting editor to Industrial Development, and also served on the National Economic Policy Committee of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the executive committee of the Southern Economic Association. He was editor of the Association's journal and a professor at Florida State for many years. Since 1966, he has been at Texas A & M University, initially as Professor and Department Head, and for the past twenty-three years as Distinguished Professor of Economics and, since 1986, as the George and Gladys Abell Professor of Liberal Arts. For many years, Mel Greenhut has served as Adjunct Distinguished Professor at the University of Oklahoma and at the University of Karlsruhe in Germany. He has lectured extensively throughout Europe and the Orient, besides the United States. Summer visiting appointments include Michigan State and the Universities of Cape Town and Pittsburgh.

His publications consist (at present count) of a dozen books, and articles numbering in the three digits. His latest interests include works in fuzzy mathematics. He is a contributor to the New Palgrave and to the latest Encyclopedia of Economics, under publication by McGraw-Hill. He was listed in the initial 1981 Who's Who in Economics and the editions that have followed. At the age well beyond "three score and ten" Mel is still full of "banes" and at large in Texas, though mostly

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either in College Station (where Texas A & M is located) or Dallas (where he lives). Officially retired, I understand, but he still has a Ph. D. student under him, and keeps working on FIVE books including two volumes of collected papers by M.L.G.

On a personal side, he is married to Elmara Griffith Greenhut, has four children—Peggy Chase, Pam Blaylock, John Greenhut, and Pat Thomsen—and ten grandchildren. He has been listed in Who's Who in the United States for more than thirty years.

"Drop everything else." This is one of the colonel-like order Professor Greenhut would give to his students. But they knew that he was a decisive and conscientious teacher who cares. He cares about any fuzzy idea (rather than fuzzy math) a student may bring forth. The caring teacher would then say, "Sounds great!" The decisive colonel would hasten to add, "Let's work out a paper. Drop everything else." The conscientious teacher would then sweat on working for and with the student repeatedly for improvement of the output. Upon completion of the work, Mel would finally say,"Well done. Have a day-off this weekend. Well, make it a half."

I dropped everything else to work on the Greenhut Festschrift as an editor with a hope of taking a day-off upon completion of it. But no sooner than that work done, I have since been tied up with the organization of the 1993 annual meeting of the Japan Section of the Regional Science Association International at Aoyama Gakuin University, followed by the editing work on this volume as an acting editor, the refereeing duties for other journals in my capacity as associate editors, ad infinitum, with no day-off. But with my mentor's work load in mind, who would deserve even a half-afternoon off?

Instilled with the sense of awe and now complaint about overwork (whose?) I finally present below Professor Greenhut's Vita, still subject to change for additional publications under preparation.

VITA

M.L. Greenhut

Educational Background
Ph. D., Washington University, 1951

Academic Experience

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>September, 1992-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abell Professor of Liberal Arts and Distinguished</td>
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<tr>
<td>September, 1986-August, 1992</td>
<td></td>
<td>Professor of Economics Emeritus, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<tr>
<td>August, 1986-August, 1992</td>
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<td>Abell Professor of Liberal Arts and Distinguished Professor of Economics, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<tr>
<td>May, 1980-May, 1986</td>
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<td>Adjunct Distinguished Professor, University of Oklahoma</td>
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<td>September, 1969-April, 1980</td>
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<td>Alumni Distinguished Professor of Economics, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<td>April, 1976-June, 1976</td>
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<td>Distinguished Professor, Department of Economics, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<td>July, 1971-August, 1971</td>
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<td>Visiting Professor, University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>June, 1966-August, 1969</td>
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<td>Visiting Professor, University of Cape Towon</td>
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<td>September, 1962-June, 1966</td>
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<td>Professor and Head, Department of Economics, Texas A &amp; M University</td>
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<td>September, 1956-August 1959</td>
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<td>Professor, Florida State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>June, 1963-August, 1963</td>
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<td>Visiting Professor, School of Business, Michigan State University</td>
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September, 1959–July, 1962  Associate Dean, School of Business Administration, University of Richmond

September, 1953–June, 1957  Professor of Business and Economics Chairman, Social Relations Division (1956) and Director of Student Placement (1953); Appointed as Associate Professor (1953) (tenure 1956), Rollins College

September, 1952–August, 1953  Associate Professor, Mississippi State College

September, 1948–February, 1952  Assistant Professor, Auburn University (tenure 1951)

Other Professional Experience

Adjunct Professor, University of Karlsruhe, May–December 1978.


Member, Industrial Development Committee, Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1962.


Member, 9–man Inter–University Committee for Research on the South (Ford Foundation support 5 year grant), 1959–1964.


Chief Economist, Office of Price Stabilization (Birmingham, Alabama), March, 1952 through September, 1952.

Publications

I. Articles


Paper also presented at Seminar in Taiwan in March 1973.


“A Model of Market Areas Under Discriminatory Pricing”, *Western Economic Journal*, December


"When is the Demand Factor of Location Important", Land Economics, 1964, pp. 175-184.


"Games, Capitalism and General Location Theory", Manchester School, 1957, pp. 61-88.


II. Books


The Economics of Imperfect Competition (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987), with G. Norman and C. Hung.


III. Monographs and Articles Contained in Books

The Economics of Vocational Education, report for Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise, Texas A & M University, August 1988.


"Is Raising Taxes the Solution to the Government's Deficits?", Series on Public Issues, Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise, Texas A & M University, August 1985.

"The Budget Deficit—The "Crisis" of the '80s", Series on Public Issues, Free Enterprise Center, Texas A & M University, 1985, with Charles Smithson.

The Flat Rate and Another Tax Proposal, published by the National Center for Policy Analysis, 1984, with Elmara Greenhut.


*An Evaluation of the Transportation Facilities of Valdosta Georgia* (Atlanta: Engineering Experiment Station, Georgia Tech Tech., 1959), with J. Peterson.