TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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Deep Springs may at times entertain, although perhaps unconsciously, the feeling that Cornell Branch is too much taken up with its own concerns to regard the ranch and its progress with anything more than a rather superficial interest. It may easily appear to those, who depend upon an extremely inadequate a criterion of interest as correspondence, that once a man has become immersed in the intricacies of college life, he loses the major part of his concern for Deep Springs in his devotion to the intellectual, if not to the social, advantages of Cornell. If any such feeling now exists, the News Letter believes that it has found at least one use for its existence in communicating to Deep Springs in particular, and the Association and its friends at large, the information that Cornell Branch has very definitely expressed its interest this year in Deep Springs, it's present, it's future and it's relations with the Association.

This interest is decidedly in evidence when a letter arrives from Deep Springs. The writers on the ranch can hardly know just how extensively their letters are circulated or how intensively they are discussed. But the discussions are not all merely incidental to the arrival of letters. Deep Springs has proved a favorite topic for speeches at Public Speaking meetings and has frequently evoked discussion on the floor. Certain of these oratorical attempts, it is true, were from new members who still bore the scars of the Deep Springs laundry upon their shirts and who may have spoken from something akin to home-sickness. Their observations were not, however, the only ones. Men well seasoned in Branch life were as eager to present their views and speak to an audience whose interest, if it had ever flagged, had been refreshed by last June's convention on the ranch. It is certain that all the members of the Branch join in this interest. Old Deep Springs men never realized their debt to Deep Springs so clearly while they were on the ranch itself as they do when they come to place their time there more and more in proportion to the rest of their lives, and of those who did not have the opportunity of attending Deep Springs, there are none who do not gladly recognize the great place which it fills in the educational plan of our founder.

If, then, there are those at Deep Springs who may think themselves and their work forgotten, they may be assured that Deep Springs is ever in the minds of the Branch and if they may doubt that they are receiving fair treatment in such discussion, let them remember that the News Letter is only too delighted to fill its pages with news "hot" from Deep Springs.

H. C. S.
My dear Henry:

Replying to your letter of September 20, I incline an up-to-date list of the members of Tailgaitte Association Alumni. I have gone over this list recently with the officers of the Alumni Association and we have chosen the names of all those who have been members but who have gotten so far back in their lives as to indicate an entire lack of interest in the Alumni organization. Having made these omissions, we think that all those now on the list should be retained on the News Letter mailing list. In soliciting for members of the Alumni Association, we have uniformly stated that all members of the Alumni Association would receive the News Letter and I think that we should make good on this promise. The News Letter is the only medium we have for keeping the Alumni members at all advised as to the activities of the Association and we think that all those now on the Alumni list are sufficiently interested in the organization so that they should receive the News Letter even if it isn't always perfection from a literary standpoint.

So far as news is concerned, you will probably be interested to know that during the summer the Alumni residing in and around San Francisco got together at a dinner and formed a San Francisco branch of the Alumni Association with a membership as follows:

Oscar Larson  Eddie Walter  Gordon Ferris  Ed Meehan
Frank Lerrigo  George Nesbit  Ottis Whitescotton Wayne Clark
Hal Owen  Val Hoyt  Cy Ross  Chet Dunn

From the report I had this group had a very interesting and successful meeting and are planning others as suitable opportunities occur. It is to be hoped that other groups situated where they can get together occasionally will follow this example as I am sure these meetings are of considerable value in maintaining the interest of the Alumni members. The organization of this San Francisco group gives us three fairly well organized groups, namely, here, in New York, and in San Francisco; but there is no reason why we shouldn't have similar groups at Chicago, Los Angeles, and perhaps several other places.

I haven't been at Deep Springs yet this fall so I can't give you a firsthand report of the work there. From what I hear, however, the work is starting off well and the year promises to be an excellent one. I understand that the new men this year look very promising as any we have ever had which indicates that much is being made in improving our selection of our Trustees' meeting is set for
October 25, and we will all have an opportunity then of getting a real idea of how things are going.

In reference to Telluride Power Company, its business is continuing to improve, and the prospects are that the earnings this year will show a satisfactory increase over last year. We have about completed the transmission line connecting our system with that of the United Power and Light Company to the north and probably will get the two systems tied together around the first of January. This hook-up will complete an interconnection of all the major power systems in the state and assures us of an ample power for meeting all demands in our territory for some time to come.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Yours very truly,

H.R. Waldo

- GEORGE C. LYON -

October 7, 1939

Dear Editor:

Those who maintain that there is no such thing as the perfect crime simply have no knowledge of the work of the Committees of Telluride Association in Convention Assembled. All large and active legislative bodies, as the United States Congress and Telluride Association, find it necessary to do most of their work in committees, but nowhere is the work so neatly expeditious, or I might better say, in this case, dispatched, as in the committees of Telluride Association.

Two years ago a hale and hearty little plan to establish a primary branch at Ithaca entered one of these committees. It came out beaten, battered, mutilated, and dismembered. And the Association, being a very humane Association killed it. Last year a more mature plan for a primary branch at Ithaca entered a committee. It never came out. A member of the committee gave a short obituary notice. No trace of the ooey was ever found, and no sparrow brandished his bow and arrow and gave reasons for doing the deed. The plan wasn’t killed, it just died. No doubt the coroner’s jury pronounced it "An act of God". It was the perfect crime.

There are wise heads in the Association who maintain that we do not want a small primary branch in the East. The
best plan, they say, is to set aside enough money each year until we have a large fund. Then, when we have sufficient funds, we should found a real Western branch patterned on the former branches of Tellurian Association. I submit that such a plan would be likely to and in one of two ways: either the founding of the branch will be put off from year to year because of lack of funds, and will remain, as it is now, the great Tellurian myth, or else the branch will be started with a whoop and a holler, at large expense, and end in dismal failure because of lack of experience on the part of the Association in running a primary branch. I submit that the sounder policy is to start immediately, with a small outlay, a small Eastern branch. Such a branch, if nothing more, would be a test branch to give the Association definite experience in the management of a branch and the best method to get results, and might at the same time give us a valuable source of members as well as being in itself a plan for broadening the field of knowledge and education.

Pushing my local pride, of which I have very little, into the background, I believe that Ithaca is the logical place for an Eastern primary branch. Much has been said of the glamour of a Western branch. Undoubtedly a good many of us were intrigued with the idea of dedicating ourselves to the moral order because we could do so in cow boy boots and a sombrero. But in Ithaca there is a substitute for the lure of the West for those who, wearing of struggling after intangibles, ask for a sign — namely the Cornell Branch. No one, I believe, can fail to be deeply impressed with the opportunities which Tellurian House offers for intellectual and social broadening in luxurious surroundings. The aspirant will look up to the Cornell Branch as a goal worthy of his greatest efforts. Of course the argument may be turned around and the stand taken that such a goal will encourage those who look to the luxuries of the House, rather than its intellectual and social opportunities. But such men usually can be weeded out in the course of a year. A few will always slip into the fold.

Another advantage of Ithaca as a place for a primary branch is the educational atmosphere of the community and the comparative ease with which good instructors may be obtained. Hardly an evening passes in which there is not a public lecture on the Hill. Some of these are unmitigated drivel; some of them, as the Messenger series of lectures, form an education in themselves. The Cornell instructors are an ill-paid lot and quite often have an eye open for extra compensation. They teach at Eady's Tutoring School and at Cassadile (if it is not now defunct). They would be only too glad to instruct at a Tellurian primary branch.

Furthermore, as a place for watching Association material Ithaca is unequaled. The largest and most active group of Association members is situated at Ithaca. Aspirants and Association men would mingle daily. The members of the
primary branch could join, to a limited extent, in the activities of the Cornell Branch, and members of the Cornell Branch would undoubtedly take an active hand in the work of the primary branch. A large group of the Association would be far better acquainted with the men at an Ithaca primary branch than if these same men had gone to some Western branch.

More arguments could be adduced to prove the advantage of a primary branch at Ithaca. Sufficient has been said, I hope, to show that the question is worthy of thought and worthy of being put in the hands of a friendly committee. Perhaps the issue is legally dead, but I insist upon rattling the bones.

Sincerely,

George C. Lyon

- TED JARRETT-
Chase Hall, Soldiers Field
BOSTON

October 6th

Dear Henry:

Your letter came to me the middle of this past week, and I am taking this first opportunity to write back to you, both for the sake of renewing touch with you personally and for contributing a mite to your hard-earned copy sheet. I am glad to see the News Letter in your capable hands again, although I realize that you have long since ceased to relish the task of stimulating the Association's members' pens. I have been in favor of returning to the mimeographed form, so I hope the policy will meet with success.

As for this past summer, I was guilty of a good deal of vacillation after declining your kind invitation for the trip to England. The truth is that, after having thrown up the camp prospect because the director kept me waiting so long and having been advised by a friend not to work, I decided on the trip just a week or so before Commencement. By that time everybody else had their plans made, so I started out alone with no fixed intentions, determined to let circumstances guide me. As it was, I was very fortunate. On the boat I joined up with a Williams man and some boys with him for a motor trip in Cornwall and Devonshire. After that I had a week in London, where I saw innumerable friends and was royally treated by Harvey Gerry. It was there that I met a friend of my original companions and agreed to join him on a trip in southwestern France. He was planning to write a
book about the chateaux of the Loire Vally and wanted someone to drive him around. So we got a Ford in Paris and I went along in the joint capacity of chauffeur and photographer. I cannot tell you the details of our glorious trip of 25 days in this short space, but it was a treat of rare value. I returned to this country before the end of August to be with my family for a few weeks before reporting back.

I have just completed my second week of work at this "Babitt warren". It has been interesting right from the start, and the work has not been so bad as we were scared into expecting. I have five courses, requiring 15 classes, one laboratory period, and one written report each week. The difficult thing just now is getting accustomed to the class system and day-to-day preparation - with no lectures. They use the case method entirely here, as in law school, and have classes of nearly 100. As for physical surroundings, there is a fine layout of buildings here which were opened as a newly-built unit only a few years ago: six dormitories, one library and class building, and one administration building. We are on the bank of the river, just across from Cambridge and the rest of the University, and next to the stadium. We are known to the law students as the "country club." There is a good representative bunch of men here with Harvard, Stanford, and Yale having the largest delegations. There will be more to tell later on when I have absorbed more of the atmosphere of my surroundings.

After a summer at Deep Springs, Bill is back at Hamilton for his senior year. Just now he is engaged in playing end for the football team, but they seem to have gotten off to a slow start. I daresay he will get over to the House sometime during the winter, but I doubt if you will hear much from him otherwise.

I drifted down to the Medical School about a week ago and had supper with Boa Aird and Jim Mansfield. They seem to be in prime condition and well launched on their work. They have a more palatial dormitory down there than I have seen anywhere in those parts, but I daresay they have less chance to appreciate it than some of us easy-goers.

Do you suppose you could see to having a couple of those "Telluride Association and Deep Springs" pamphlets sent up to me? I think I will be able to find use for them. I was up at Groton School yesterday and today, and I had some very interesting chats with the fine head there, Dr. Endicott Peabody. He expressed a great interest in the work of Deep Springs and I said I would secure the pamphlet for him. He is a finely inspired man, and has done a great thing in the building and guidance of Groton for 45 years.
I wish I might attend the Cornell-Princeton football game as I did two years ago. However, the distance from here is so great that I will have to forgo my annual visit to the Branch this season. Please give my remembrances to one and all at the House, and accept my heartiest wishes for your editorial ventures.

Very sincerely
Ted Jarrett

-- HARVEY MANSFIELD --

Sloane Lecture Hall, Yale University
October 7th, 1929

My dear Henry:

I have few pleasures in life comparable to that of reading and answering your editorial summons, and forthwith seize the typewriter. Possibly viewing the academic world from its center here develops the benevolent impulses.

Thus far, teaching has been an exciting occupation. If there is little support for the story book picture of eager shining faces, there is more evidence (I haven't read any exam papers yet) of interest and intelligence than I had been told I should find. Perhaps the most curious sensation, and a bit awe-inspiring, is to see a score of people sitting in front of you and more or less industriously writing down what you say. It lends a sudden dignity to what I have usually been inclined to estimate lightly. Words always seemed to be in the nature of what economists call a free good. And when I reflect on the number of pearls that have dropped unrecorded to oblivion:

There is some little opportunity for the testing of preconceived notions as to methods of teaching. To one brought up on pedagogy as expounded by Professor Burr, the system here seems open to attack at numerous points — too much textbooks, too many high school methods in treating students. But the newest buck private doesn't reform the whole army; and possibly the moral, as of comparative law, religion or morality, is simply that there is no best system, as a system. At least, if not the best of all possible worlds, it is a possible world.

I see Mr. Notezstein here frequently, fresh from a summer in the midst of British Labor Party politics. He called my attention to a little gem from Professor Burr's pen
a review of Professor Kittredge's recent book on Witchcraft in the July number of the American Historical Review.

The week following Convention I spent in the Putnam tradition of mountain-climbing in the Sierras, to the accompaniment of three burros. Other doughty members of the expedition closer to the editorial hand can enlarge on that text ad lib.

The rest of the summer I spent in Washington at the Brookings Institution, often in Si Whitney's company, getting a little start on this year's work.

May I close with a word of congratulation to the new President of Cornell Branch?

Harvey

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PERCY CLARK---

1413 East 55th St. 
Apt. 4, Rear
Chicago, Illinois
October 4, 1929

Dear Henry:

As to myself I am here in the University of Chicago just at present getting off some pre-med work. I'll enter the Medical School in April and get my M.D. work finished three years later. The decision to do this came only after some years of interest and consideration of the possibilities.

That certain things happened to me personally. As for the questions especially related to the Association, I, for one, am convinced that the chief concern which should be bothering the present generation of the Association is "Who is going to guide and direct in fifteen or twenty years from now when the last of the older generation have passed from the stage."

Those who know my position at all know that there is no one more bitterly opposed to the rule of "mortal main" than myself. But, on the other hand, an organization like the Association is and forever will be dependent upon some great personality to give focus and direction to its efforts. With the passing of Mr. Nunn the personality of the Association passed too. No one capable of even remotely filling his place has appeared. Messrs. Biersach, Thornhill, P.M. Nunn, the perennial secretary, and one or two others who were touched
by the spark of the Old Man's genius have continued to have an interest in the organization. But I have been connected with it for fifteen years and in that time not one man has appeared or been developed, who seems capable of filling the positions of those just mentioned. Perhaps the fault is truly with the organization. Perhaps the men are there but internal factional strife refuses to give them a chance. Such a possibility is not remote, and should be carefully considered.

In any event the fact remains that in another fifteen years the Old Guard will pretty well have passed off the stage, and the Association will need someone to replace them. Of the scores connected with the Association during the last fifteen years how many evidence even a passing interest in it today?

I haven't time to work this up into a real discussion as I should like to do, but throw it at you for what it is worth hoping that someone will do something worth while with it.

Yours cordially,

Percy Clark, Jr.

PARKER BAILEY
1926 East 79th St.
Cleveland, Ohio
October 2, 1929

Dear Henry:

Back in the days when the News Letter was published "occasionally" at New Haven under your editorship, you printed some poetical matter and characterized it as dithyrambic oozing. This letter of mine is sent to provoke further dithyrambic osmosis (?) among the "members, alumni, and very close friends" whom it may reach.

There is a demand at present for small choral works of different sorts, and musicians who hope to see any of their work in print will do well to bear in mind that demand. I happen to have two such works coming out before long, one for mixed chorus with piano accompaniment, the other for unaccompanied chorus of women's voices. Am constantly on the lookout for short poems that are suitable for choral settings. It is better that they be secular in character, for the choir-loft is always well supplied with material, (and you know that sacred words are exceptionally limited in the scope of their expression). They must be easy to sing, and not profound. A sonnet on the purpose of Deep Springs would not lend itself well to spontaneous song, for example. Hackneyed bits of poetic