

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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ITHACA, N. Y.

FEBRUARY, 1931

The Undergraduate Guest

The convention of 1927 passed the "Undergraduate Guest Act" authorizing a committee to invite a few men to help fill the Cornell Branch of the following year. The move was expeditious and two men were chosen to enter the sadly depleted ranks of the Branch. (Incidentally, for some reason or other, the "Act" has been renewed every year since its origin.)

I was one of the two "neophytes" to enter upon this stormy career of "Undergraduate Guest" in the fall of 1927. Almost immediately I realized that my position was uncertain and that I was being regarded with a most captious eye. And why not? I was a not unusual specimen of the homo collegiatissimus, fresh from the rolls of a prosperous national fraternity. Telluride was to me an attractive meal-ticket, a good place to live, and an opportunity to attend a fine engineering school, little more. My position was not unique: my previous Telluride experience consisted of one day at the Cornell Branch immediately after the convention.

My first year at the Branch was a dismal failure as far as my becoming Telluride-conscious. There seemed to be no way of finding out why I was here. Several times I was on the point of leaving and as many times I was reassured with the remarks, "Don't worry, everyone goes through the same experience. You will understand (sooner or later)." And I must admit that I began to understand later (about a year after I had been taken into the Association.)

Others in my position have faced the same storm; most have weathered it and have realized after two or three years that Telluride does mean something; a few have given up. The undergraduate guest has not had the proper Telluride training. And there is no reason why he shouldn't or can't have it. The pre-natal influence of Deep Springs has been proved. I see no reason to deny that men from our primary school do make better branch members in a shorter time, simply because they are already acquainted with the fundamental ideas of Telluride life.

I feel that the "Undergraduate Guest" has a definite place in the life of the Cornell Branch. Just as the graduates bring a mature and inspiring influence into our group life, the undergraduates bring a naive, refreshing something which adds to the zest of our problems. Granted that they have been chosen for certain peculiar qualities, the undergraduates

A Reminder

During the past few months, the Editor has been the grateful recipient of numerous encouraging notes which promised "real contributions" as soon as time would permit. There will be only three more issues of the NEWS LETTER this year. Will it so happen, we wonder, that the lack of time will cause these contributions to be held over for Convention, where the pressure of urgent business will make it advisable that they should more adequately and thoughtfully be expressed in next year's NEWS LETTER? It is, perhaps, tactless to mention promises and conjectures as to their fulfillment in the same paragraph but we sincerely hope that the last three issues will contain more of vital interest than has any other issue of this year.

are still plastic enough to be rounded into Association material, given the proper routing and processing. Careful blending of this type of material with the Deep Springs product should give the "house of varied interests" of which we so often speak.

Deep Springs does not furnish enough men to fill the Branch, and not all the material finds its way to that school. There are two reasons, then, for wanting undergraduate guests; one, to help fill the house at Cornell, the other, to find a few of those men who have been overlooked in the world-wide search for suitable candidates for Deep Springs.

In picking the guests for Cornell Branch there are a few limitations and qualifications which I think might well be followed. The men should be freshmen when possible and certainly not farther advanced than sophomores in college. Three years at the house is little enough time for these men to spend in intimate contact with Telluride work. Association material is not developed overnight.

I feel that more of the undergraduate guests should be chosen from universities other than Cornell. In the first place this choice will give the diversity of types and interests which Deep Springs and Cornell alone cannot give. Secondly, there is always the question of the social fraternities. Cornell fraternities do mull over the promising freshmen and, unfortunately, a good many of them, seeking to

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Wayne Bannister

January 12, 1931

Dear Editor,

As many others have done, I wish to express my pleasure at the new set-up of the NEWS LETTER. In doing so I believe I convey also the general opinion of Telluride's small group here at Stanford.

It has been possible to dig up here and there about Stanford a fairly good number of members and friends of the Association. Isham Railey is here as an instructor and a graduate student in the physics department. He and Mrs. Railey are living in Mountain View, not far from the campus. Fred Moore is a first year man in Stanford's graduate school of Business Administration. Father Meehan is located not far from Stanford at the Belmont School, where he is Master of the Senior House, and where the subjects he teaches include music and religion. It has been very gratifying to us to have Dean Kimball at Stanford during the autumn quarter. He was here giving a course in industrial management in the School of Business Administration. Frank Lerrigo, formerly of Deep Springs, is a senior in the Law School; and Charles P. Eddle, also formerly of Deep Springs, is a freshman in law.

As for myself, I came directly across the country to Stanford after a delightful summer in Europe, where incidentally, I ran across Mr. Joseph Pljoan, well known and beloved especially at Deep Springs, who was working in the Information Section of the League Secretariat at Geneva.

I was interested by the remarks of Parker Bailey in the NEWS LETTER concerning the recommendation of the Committee on Expansion of Telluride work. I should like to agree with him heartily in his commendation of the work of the red-covered pamphlet, and in his praise of our present Chancellor for his activity of the past and present in the interest of making Telluride Association known in the most necessary quarters. Then, too, I should even be pleased, along with Mr. Bailey, at seeing the cause of broadcasting information about the Association furthered by the insertion of an account of its educational plan in the Encyclopedia Britannica.

I am inclined furthermore to endorse, without any reserve, the plan of making the Association's work known through magazine articles by some well-known man, as expressed in the recommendation adopted by the last convention. People with genuine interest in education will not carelessly

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TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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Tolerance vs. Intolerance

"They will see that criminal means once tolerated are soon preferred." This statement of Edmund Burke, writing of the French Revolution, suggests a mistake that we often make in regard to what we tolerate. In our eagerness to seem broad-minded and liberal, we put up with everything, we endure everything in corrupt government, we tolerate craftiness, crimes, and crooks. To tolerate vice is itself a vice; yet we permit vice; we put up with it; we endure it; we become calloused and tolerate it; we even come to prefer it. "We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

Tolerance is not something to be followed blindly; not something that is always good—for it may be criminal—; it is not something to be set up as a fetish and worshipped; it is not a suitable slogan for a political campaign. Too often tolerance is merely a blind reaction against the intolerable intolerance of the past, and one may be as blind, as bigoted, as false, as harmful, as the other. The quality of tolerance is determined entirely by the quality of the conduct tolerated. If the conduct is bad, it should not be tolerated; if it is tolerated, such tolerance becomes a vice, and intolerance would be a virtue.

Education is a process of learning to discriminate between conduct that should be tolerated and conduct that should not be tolerated. Or, education is a process of acquiring a rational tolerance as well as a rational intolerance. We need to discriminate between what is innocent and what is harmful. We must not cry "Wolf! wolf!" when there is no wolf; and we must not cry "Tolerance! tolerance!" when there is nothing that should be tolerated. A wolf is never to be tolerated, no matter how dressed. We need often to stop and look and consider what is the quality of the conduct masquerading before us. We should not blindly tolerate the harmful; nor should we be blindly intolerant of the harmless; and it frequently requires courage to be rationally tolerant; and also it frequently requires quite as much courage to be rationally intolerant. The world needs more of the right kind both of tolerance and of intolerance.

E. A. THORNHILL

Procrastination

In Telluride Association insufficient stress seems to be placed upon the present. Members are urged to develop their abilities to the utmost, to prepare themselves for assuming an influential place in society. Beyond insisting upon high ethical standards, however, the Association pays little attention to their conduct during the years when they are striving to attain this position. It holds out the goal of leadership tempting the Telluride scholar to organize his activities around his own selfish advancement, under the illusion that he is preparing thereby for service on a larger scale.

If he finally attains a position which enables him to serve mankind with great effectiveness, he has of course justified his policy of procrastination. He makes up for years of selfishness by extraordinary achievement in the end. Few, however, can hope to attain such a position of power. It would seem wiser, on the whole, for Association members to honor their obligation by maintaining throughout life an intelligent interest in current affairs and supporting unselfishly what appears for the best. As student and as cub in the world the Association scholar must not be distinguished by superior ability alone. With tolerance and breadth of vision he must play his part in the constructive movements of his times.

In general, I think, it will be found that such activity promotes, rather than retards, our self-development. Each must decide for himself the point at which service to others will interfere unreasonably with his own preparation for future usefulness. But in doing this, he must not let himself be influenced by ambition parading in the guise of far-sighted altruism.

ALBERT E. ARENT

Deep Springs

The Association is too apt to regard Deep Springs as merely a primary branch. In discussion among Association men, the California ranch is frequently approached from the standpoint of the number of men it has furnished the older organization. True enough, Deep Springs does serve this purpose, but it is an entity in itself. Its influence on men is just as lasting as that of the Association.

The Association usually takes men when they are well started on their collegiate career. Deep Springs takes boys who are about to become men. Neither attempts to mold the men, but each tries to allow the free development of character and individuality within certain moral limits. The men at Deep Springs are more plastic for they are in the formative period of their lives. The impressions they have, the experiences they encounter

leave a deep mark. They are just beginning to take life seriously. They realize that they have a certain amount of responsibility in this world. The desert takes hold of them as do also let us hope, the ideas which Mr. Nunn had when he founded Deep Springs and the Association.

Too often Association men are widely scattered. They are occupied with their own particular worries and cares. Even at the Cornell branch all too little time is spent in consideration of the purpose of the Association. The men are too busy developing themselves to carry out this purpose, it seems. At Deep Springs the men are together. They are in the mood and environment for the consideration of many of the more serious problems of life which involve the fundamentals of both organizations.

Deep Springs and the Association should work together. They have the same founder and a similar purpose. The work of the one supplements that of the other; or, I should prefer to put it, the work of the Association supplements that of Deep Springs regarded as merely the primary branch when its effect on men is even more profound than that of the Association. If the two were separate, I should look to a well managed Deep Springs for a more complete fulfillment of Mr. Nunn's ideas.

WILLIAM C. LAYTON

Notes and Clippings

In the current (February) issue of *The American Mercury*, Bob Washburn has a brief sketch of Lydia Pinkham's vital part in the crusade of feminism, with a rather clever analysis of the factors contributing to the unwarranted success of the sale of her nostrum. Bob was a guest at the Branch 1921-22, and a member of the Association 1923-28.

The following is quoted from the *Easton (Penn.) Express* for Monday, January 19th:

"Announcement was made Saturday afternoon of the engagement of Miss Kathryn E. Fiesler, daughter of Dr. Harry C. Fiesler, to Bradford Yaggy, of Santa Barbara, California, a member of the senior class at Lafayette College. Miss Fiesler is a graduate of Centenary Collegiate Institute, Hackettstown, N. J., class of 1928. Mr. Yaggy is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Yaggy, of Santa Barbara, and is nephew of Dr. William Mather Lewis, president of Lafayette College. He is a member of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity and is president of the student council at Lafayette for the present year. No date has been fixed for the wedding."

Brad was at Deep Springs 1924-27, and became a member of the Association in 1927.

Cornell Branch Notes

First Term Scholastic Record

Computed by the time-honored method of evaluating an A at 91, a B at 83, a C at 76, etc., the house average for the past term is 86.0. This compares very favorably with any first term average which the committee has been able to unearth from the dusty files of the past. For 1927-28 the first term average was 81.9; for 1928-29, 82.3; for 1929-30, 83.5.

For such a result to be possible many individuals must have made very creditable records. It is not easy to single out any particular men for commendation. Yet a few do stand out if only slightly, among the many who are worthy of commendation. Mike Yarrow, George Sabine, and Al Arent received straight "A" average in 17, 16, and 15 hours respectively. All engineers will realize the extent of Morgan Sibbett's feat in capturing an 89.3 average in that hard-boiled college. Bill Sullivan led the Freshman class in law with an average of 89.3.

The committee is pleased, speaking very frankly, with the results of the past term's scholastic work, at least in so far as grades can be a measure. Yet the higher average this year is not to be taken with undue elation. It simply reflects a general and continuous rise in scholastic standards at Cornell Branch which lays a heavy responsibility upon us for further advances.

BRANCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pomologist

Sam Levering was very busy Farmer's Week, February 9-14, managing the fruit show, giving three talks on fruit raising, and answering the questions of visiting farmers. On February 13th he conducted a fruit identification and judging contest for High School students, and that evening awarded their prizes and gave a talk on fruit growing.

Fathers

The fathers of two men at the Branch have received new appointments to the faculty of Cornell University. Announcements are quoted from the Cornell Daily Sun:

"Dr. F. K. Richtmyer, professor of physics at Cornell since 1918, has been elected Dean of the Graduate School. Dean Richtmyer is an internationally-known authority on X-rays, and last year was awarded the Levey Medal at Franklin Institute because of his research in X-ray phenomena."

"Dr. George H. Sabine, of Ohio State University, has been elected Professor of Philosophy by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Sabine is a graduate of Cornell, and during the year 1910-11 he was acting Assistant Professor

of Logic and Metaphysics at Cornell, taking the place of Professor Creighton who was then absent on Sabbatic leave."

These same members of the Branch entertained their mothers here recently. Mrs. Richtmyer was a dinner guest on February 6, and Mrs. Sabine visited the Branch, February 11-13.

Dance

Stimulating society for House students satiated with study was successfully sought at the small but select dance sponsored after a stiff but satisfactory siege of semester's tests, January 31.

Guests

On Monday, January 26, Mr. Lehman, Mr. Schultz, and Mr. Schoeller, students at the California Institute of Technology, had dinner at the Branch. They were returning home from a tour made abroad and in this country, during the course of which they visited the universities at Oxford, Cambridge, and Paris, and several American Universities, for the purpose of studying the administration and student life of their dormitories.

Professor Arthur W. Poister, well-known American Organist, and a member of the Fine Arts Department of the University of Redlands, California, was a dinner guest at the Branch, January 16th. He gave a recital at Bailey Hall as one of a series of ten concerts on his first extended tour of the country.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Elmhurst again visited the Branch, this time stopping here on their way to England from the Pacific Coast. Miss Janet McGregor, a student at Cornell from Lanarkshire, Scotland, and a friend of the Elmhursts, was a dinner guest on January 23rd.

Professor Ehrenfest and his son, also on their way to Europe from the Pacific Coast, had lunch at the Branch January 20th, when Professor Ehrenfest gave a talk before the Physics seminary on "Some Thermo-Electric Effects on Crystals." He is Professor of Physics at Leyden University, Holland, and has been teaching at the California Institute of Technology during the Fall term.

Dr. and Mrs. M. D. Coolidge and their son were guests of the Branch on February 5th and 6th. Dr. Coolidge is assistant director of the General Electric Laboratories at Schenectady, and has done intensive research on X-rays and cathode rays, resulting in the perfection of the Coolidge X-Ray tube.

Preparation for final examinations suspended temporarily our entertaining of Sunday guests, and fewer people were invited to meals than usual. During the month, Dean Thornhill

brought three men to lunch: Professor Bedell, of the Physics Department, Professor Northrup, of the English Department, and Professor Strunk, also from the English Department. Professor T. V. Smith an associate professor of Philosophy at the University of Chicago, came to dinner January 16. Dr. H. H. Tweedy, Dean of the Yale School of Divinity (who officiated at the wedding of Harvey Mansfield and Grace Yarrow) was a dinner guest the following day. Professor Burkholder, Professor of Plant Pathology, dined here February 4th; and our friend, Hal Smith, assistant professor of Music, who was a graduate guest at the Branch last year, came twice during the month.

Wayne Bannister

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ly overlook a well-written article by a man of some repute concerning an educational enterprise of the unusual nature of Telluride Association or Deep Springs. It is to these people that the plan upheld by the convention aims to make Mr. L. L. Nunn's institutions known, and such people are certainly on the lookout for good accounts, in substantial periodicals, of the progress of education. It is hard to fear, along with Mr. Bailey, that readers of such articles must inevitably remember them with the misinterpretation that the essence of the Telluride and Deep Springs advantages is that "it's free." Although my far shorter experience at talking with outsiders about Mr. Nunn's institutions should make me less well qualified to voice an opinion than Mr. Bailey, I have found in that short experience that casual impressions of the Association and Deep Springs are much less erroneous than might be expected, although they of course are not altogether accurate. I have recently talked with six or seven persons all of whom had gathered their information much more haphazardly than from a magazine, and not one of them seemed to have realized or thought about the "free" aspect of Deep Springs, although all had heard of the school. Instead, all but one of them mentioned that they understood that Deep Springs is difficult to enter, showing that they realized that Deep Springs is a school of high standards. If knowledge gained thus by chance can give so correct an impression, what cannot a well-written magazine article do?

It is my earnest hope that the committee selected for the purpose will meet with the best of success in finding a suitable writer for articles about Telluride and Deep Springs. It perhaps would be an encouragement to the committee to see more than once in these columns some espousal of their cause; so I hope that others will join me in asserting that the Association still is behind them.

Yours sincerely,

WAYNE A. BANNISTER

The Undergraduate Guest

(Continued from page one)

avoid social oblivion, join without much hesitancy. We cannot afford to ask a man at this university to leave his fraternity to join us. Neither can we join the rushing circle to find those few exceptional men who will affiliate with the fraternities. By going outside of Cornell we can avoid this difficulty. Many of the better eastern schools either have done away with the social fraternity or have a scheme or delayed rushing which allows the entering students a year or two of freedom. Then, even when a man has belonged to a club at another university, he can come to Cornell and be perfectly free to come and go as fast as he sees fit.

The Chancellor is already making tours of the eastern cities in search of men for Deep Springs. We need no additional organization to extend this search to the universities. I do not mean to exclude the western schools, although it is easier for those nearby to visit the Branch and see what they are jumping into, and vice versa.

Granted that we already have a houseful of such guests, our job is only started. Presumably we are working with candidates for membership in the Association. The laissez-faire attitude which we have in the past taken toward these men has given results not even mediocre. Anyone, coming directly into this house without careful tempering, is at a loss to understand even our most routine idiosyncrasies, let alone our conceptions of the M. O. U. As undergraduate guests, we want to learn, we want to understand, if only the group, not

just a few scattered individuals, will feel it their responsibility to clarify our misconceptions.

The "Telluride Nights" in public speaking do much to show new men our excuse for existence. My first lesson in the training course for guests would be such a public speaking program. Start the year with one or two such meetings. At present the Advisory Committee meets and interviews each member of the Branch sometime during the second semester. The majority of the "great questions" arise early in the year, and the Advisory Committee would do well to meet the new men very soon after their arrival, to answer questions, rather than to ask them.

The entertainment policy of the house is one of the most puzzling to the new members, in fact, one that some of us have never quite understood. There is a chance for the Entertainment Committee to do some real educational work in trying to explain to new members just why we are asking their co-operation in helping to amuse Mrs. Blutz, wife of the eminent Prof. Blutz.

A few of our undergraduates have failed to meet anyone outside of our own small circle. Branch life in itself is not self-sufficient. Outside activities can be overdone, but the making of acquaintances cannot. We have not stressed this point enough in the past. Perhaps we have a few paragons who can thumb their noses at the rest of the world, but I doubt it.

Sell Cornell Branch first and then Telluride Association, but sell them quickly to the undergraduate guest, or we have not fulfilled our one excuse for inviting them here.

JOHN A. WHITTLE, JR.

New York Club

The Telluride Club of New York City dined at the Building Trades Employers Association, No. 2 Park Ave., on Friday, January 30th. Those present were: H. Tomlinson, H. Parker Monroe, H. Sharp, O. V. Johnson, E. D. Pugsley, E. C. Bonnett, W. Putnam, A. B. Simmons, D. C. Lindsay, E. S. Jarrett, E. M. Johnson, I. L. Scott, and A. R. Cota. Doc. Bonnett wore the official sombrero which was presented to the club by Boyd Smith.

E. M. J.

Directory

The following additions to and corrections in the list of Telluride Association Alumni have been called to our attention:

Boyd-Smith, D., Koppers Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Daly, LeGrand, 1820 Ashbury Ave., Evanston, Ill.

Landon, Benson, Jr., 554 Meadow Road, Winetka, Ill.

Scott, B. G., 1306 Sixth St., Coronado, California.

Bailey-Fuchs on the Air

On January 23rd, Parker Bailey accompanied Josef Fuchs, concertmaster of the Cleveland Orchestra, in a half-hour program of violin music from station WTAM, Cleveland. The program was one of a series sponsored by Cleveland College, the adult education division of Western Reserve University.

