

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

Monthly Publication of Telluride Association

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ITHACA, N. Y.

JANUARY 1933

Report to Trustees of Deep Springs

October 28, 1932.

Mr. H. R. Waldo, Chairman and other interested Trustees of Deep Springs.

Gentlemen:

The net results of my six months in charge here may be summed up in the two words, "ruts" and "details." I found the institution running very smoothly although expensively and in a perverted direction. Physically speaking, it seemed to be running in general much as L. L. had left it except that the many years' degeneration of half-designed and half-built construction was imposing an inordinate burden of repair or reconstruction. Spiritually speaking, also, it seemed to be running closely along the lines of L. L.'s dying admonitions, but due, I think, to a bias in those admonitions and to too literal interpretation of the "correspondence and documents of Grantor" cited in the Trust Deed, the mental attitude of the students had become utterly subversive of his purpose.

The special problem presented to me at first was that of cutting expenditures to a half or less. In this, I have so far failed although the way to accomplish it now appears plain. Spiritually, it seems to me, a gratifying turn-about has taken place.

On April 1st when I took hold, material matters, as I have said, were running very smoothly, almost automatically in that they required a minimum of supervision so long as they were allowed to run as they were. The mechanism of the institution was running in "ruts" and those ruts had been worn so deep and smooth that the mechanism could only follow them. But that was too expensive. Every effort to get them out of these ruts was resisted from every direction until it seemed necessary to dismember the whole mechanism and lift it wheel at a time. Then each driver seemed lost without his familiar rut to follow. The money goes into a mass (or "mess") of detail and only there can it be controlled.

While the essential and vital factor of the institution lies in the field of education, that central factor is smothered under a burden of subsidiary departments which absorb its income. In the distribution of expenditures during the past school year as shown by the accounting: leaving out Supervision, Taxes and Property Maintenance, as much was expended upon these subsidiaries as upon the central purpose of the institution. Our real "Purpose" in Deep Springs is not concerned in these subsidiaries except as, and strictly to the extent that they contribute to the

central purpose. How can the farm contribute \$5,000.00 to that purpose, or Transportation nearly \$3,000.00 or the Machine Shop \$1,500.00?

(Explanation of how the loose system of accounting makes these figures almost meaningless, and description of new system that has been installed are omitted).

Upon the strength of these modifications, I am now taking such positions as that the boarding house must carry itself upon its credits of one dollar a day for those served, believing that later 75c should be sufficient (we are now serving only skimmed milk upon the table); that the dairy likewise must carry itself or else the number of cows must be reduced; that the farm should carry itself or that it would be in better sense to close it down and let the weeds grow; that \$50.00 per month (mechanic's salary) should cover the deficit in each,—machine shop and transportation. I am assuming that the range actually pays some profit in the long run, but am in doubt about the Giroux ranch.

The spiritual situation among the students at Deep Springs inevitably refers back to the impulse given it by L. L. whether as to its uplift or its weaknesses. I must refer to the latter. While his letters to the students mean to us who knew him an exalted idealism, his wording frequently verges upon the radical and grandiose

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More Biography

In response to a question asked by a subscribing alumnus, the L. L. Nunn Biography Committee respectfully reiterates the following sentence from the subscription slip which was sent out with the first issue of the News Letter in October:

"NO STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TOWARD PRINTING THE BOOK UNTIL AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS OF THE ESTIMATED COST OF PUBLICATION HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTED."

The question asked by our alumnus was simply this: "When do I get the 'L.L.' Biographies?" The Committee can only reply: "As soon as enough other members, alumni, and friends of the Association realize that the Committee is not in a position to let the contract for publication until it has fair assurance that there will be enough money to pay for the work."

Out of consideration for those who have already subscribed, may we not look for immediate remittances from those who have been procrastinating in this matter? Please make checks payable to E. M. Johnson, Chancellor. \$3.50 per copy. Buy more than one if you can.

L. L. NUNN BIOGRAPHY COMM.

Finance

There are numerous angles to the problems of Telluride finance during such times as these. Safety of principal funds in securities now held; present and prospective income; the sale and purchase of securities; adjustments to a diminished income; and general financial policy—all these carry weight. I will discuss these problems briefly in the light of present conditions as I see them.

First, as to safety of principal, the picture here looks some better, possibly, than last June. Our common stocks quoted on the New York Stock Exchange, at the present writing have increased about forty-three percent over their valuation at that time. Listed bonds have increased about ten percent. This is hopeful but by no means brings these securities near to the prices that we paid for them. Our weakest holdings such as Kidder Participation, Lincoln Building and International Commerce Buildings are not listed. On these and some others we must expect to take sizable losses. On many others there is still hope of a return to the prices we paid.

Our income for this fiscal year, June, 1932—June, 1933, will likely be close to the Financial Committee's estimate of last June—around \$30,000-\$32,000. There have been few developments to change the prospective income for this year. It is too early to predict with any accuracy the income for the next fiscal year, but present indications point to nearly the same income as this year.

The last Convention authorized the sale of New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroad common stocks and the reinvestment of the proceeds in General Electric common stock. It also authorized the sale of Lawyer's Mortgage Company's bonds and the reinvestment of the proceeds in Dupont Pfd; General Motors Pfd; Canadian National Railroad Bond; United States Government Bonds; Federal Land Bank Bonds; New York City Bonds; or any other securities of a similar rating. These transactions have been carried out. Exact information as to the sales, purchases, and the prices will be given in the next News Letter on the receipt of information from Sid Walcott.

In general financial policy one of the chief problems facing the custodians is that of railroad bonds. Prices now are better for this class of securities than last summer. But it is an open secret that many of the railroads are on the ragged edge of receivership, with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation as the lifeline at present. What the future holds we do not know. So far the policy has been to

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DECEMBER, 1932

Report to Trustees of Deep Springs

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and, taken literally, discredit rather than support his thought. These critical youngsters are quick to reject exaggeration or insincerity. While Dean Cadman asserts that one who "undertakes to interpret L. L." gets himself into trouble, the truth is that we all do it, those of us who knew him, do it in the light knowledge; strangers, obscurely and incredulously again, to illustrate; once when I suggested to Suhr that he send down a ragged oriental rug for me to have repaired, L. L. blurted out before a student, as I recall, "Those rugs are in the hands of the students, and if Suhr attempts to touch them I hope they will knock his block off." L. L. was ill; but just the same such a speech, abroad among youngsters, cannot fail to be misconstrued. The Trust Deed designates the students as "the beneficial owners" of the property and instructs the Trustees to "comply with . . . the desires of said Student-body." Such assertions need their context and mature interpretation.

In the exuberance of youth these youngsters snatch glittering ideas and, like colts with their bits, run away with them. All of L. L.'s admonitions to modesty and earnestness cannot undo the effects of such radical declarations. Moreover, in carrying out the spirit of the founder's purpose as we have understood it, we have persistently emphasized to the students the ideals of responsibility and independence in thinking; the cultivation of initiative and the spirit of research and challenge. We have thrown them on their own resources like mature men by way of stimulating them to act the part of such men.

As the sublime is said to be to the ridiculous, so there seems to be only a step for these youngsters from the attitude of inquiry and challenge to that of argument and dispute; to head-strong self-assurance and egotism. Great as may be the actual distinction, like the ends of the mythical hoop snake, these extremes easily meet.

An attitude of critical chestiness had been growing among the students for several years with little effective restraint until, toward the end of last school year there appeared a prevailing sentiment of lawless self-sufficiency and pseudo-independence of faculty and management; of super-

cilious criticism of environment and Trustees and of cynical disparagement alike of the founder and his writings and of the ideals and purposes of the whole institution. As L. L. once wrote them, it seemed "time to call a halt."

Recognizing that this, again, was a case of "rui" to be gotten out of, and also the futility of mild means, just before closing school for the year I portrayed to the students the situation as it appeared to me: told them that the endowment had been made for a special and clearly defined purpose; that hereafter we intended to waste no more of its substance upon students of their present attitude, but that when school again opened we should welcome only such as we should have reason to believe had come in a spirit of respect, even reverence for the founder, his wishes, his institution and all its traditions and purpose, and of appreciation of their opportunity to join in fulfilling them. I advised those not in that frame of mind not to return since that would lead only to their humiliation.

It was freely prophesied that the whole Student Body would walk out on me in a body, but, quite on the contrary, many expressed relief and loyalty, and with two exceptions all are now back. In accepting new students I have used the form of notification hereto attached, and so have the pledge of each to "accept that purpose . . . undertake to respect, study, understand and absorb it." With the older, returning students the same has been circulated and they have been told in a body that this is the basis of attendance and that the fact of their return is accepted as tantamount to their acceptance of the conditions.

The attitude now shown by all confirms that understanding. The contrast in the spirit of the place is marked and refreshing. Periodic discussions of certain of L. L.'s letters to the students are being held with interest and spirit. This is undoubtedly a form of "interpretation" and while, as Mr. Cadman says, it may prove somewhat "troublesome," yet it is part of our game and should not be shirked. Undoubtedly our present atmosphere is largely due to the personality and influence of Dean Crawford, in having whom we are wonderfully fortunate, but lest my words should fail to do justice, upon that I will leave you to form your own opinion.

In conclusion of this subject, it is my firm conviction that we have been overdoing the "go-as-you-please" phase of L. L.'s emphasis upon self-government and non-interference, and that the institution must have a positive and firm hand although a definitely restrained hand. It will not do to follow L. L.'s "turn them loose" with the class of bright, bumptious and energetic youngsters which we seek and are getting. They are too keen and ingenious for their maturity. As the bullish ones tend to wander, there must be a keen eye and a strong hand to herd them back; at

the same time that hand must be broadly tolerant of their gambols so long as they keep within the limits of the founder's purpose. "Intellectual Honesty," as prated in our public institutions, does not apply here. Our endowment was made for a special and clearly stated purpose. The Trustees have no right to permit its dissipation under half-baked biases of callow "libertarians."

In class work this year we are continuing along the same line as last year, i. e. making the leading subject that of the history of the evolution of humanity, especially as that evolution is exhibited in the development of the institutions of civilization. The advanced class having already had a year of such general History, this year is recovering the same ground through available biography of those personalities of all time which have most left their imprint upon our resultant social institutions. In this subject, Father Meehan is generously leading us during this semester. Although the year as planned was to be chiefly one of individual reading and has been widely talked of as a "one-man" year, we are emphasizing English both written and spoken and are conducting two classes in Mathematics and one on Geology conducted by competent and enthusiastic student-teachers. Aside from finances I believe we are doing gratifyingly well.

Respectfully,

P. N. NUNN

Finance

(Continued from Page One)

"sit tight" and hope. Some changes may be desirable.

The depression has taught us among other things that investment trusts are not a wise place to put our funds; that large city buildings, perhaps city real estate in general, is a dangerous place to invest during boom periods; that in general we have lost least in large well-established companies.

The activities of the Association carry on in spite of the sharply curtailed appropriations of last June. Doubtless hardship has resulted in some cases. But the surprising part is that appropriations for Association expenditures could be cut two-fifths and the Association still function well, if not as affluently as in the past. It would seem that the Association need not look with fear on the next few years, even though our income remains near the present level. Concerning Deep Springs, I do not know. But that is another problem.

S. R. LEVERING

Horace Peterson

Horace Peterson, who was a guest at Cornell Branch last year, is teaching history at the Douglas Schools, Pebble Beach, California. In ~~1931~~ ~~Pebble Beach, California~~. He makes frequent visits to Stanford and would like to get in touch with the Telluride men there.

Bob Mansfield

(Excerpts from a letter received by Morgan Sibbett.)

Huancayo, Peru,
December 23, 1932

Dear Sib,

We are having a delightful summer down here, and it doesn't seem right that you fellows should be shivering and slipping about under a cloud bank. Still, we stand a fair chance of being hit by lightning, which isn't likely to happen to you.

Assuming that you are not quite up to date with regard to my activities, I shall try to catch up a bit. After the convention in June, I immediately continued work as usual in Washington. Toward the end of August, it was rumored that New England was going to throw an eclipse, and I at once tried to crash the party. I suggested to the head man that if he expected to send me to Peru, I wanted a week's vacation first. I further suggested that I would transport myself to Vermont and use half of said vacation making observations, if agreeable to him. I was promptly added to the eclipse party, and was at the same time definitely told that I was to go to Peru in two weeks. I had three days before the eclipse expedition, and three days after it before the ship left New York.

For the run to Vermont, I greased the wagon, and put mother and sister Helen aboard. We went via Balto, etc., to Haddam, thence to friends at Franklin, N. H., where I left Helen and mother. I eased over to St. Johnsbury Vt., where I found old Flsk already set and at work. I later discovered that R. C. Williams had his outfit only 20 miles north of this point. We took declination eye-readings at intervals of one minute for three days, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M. The eclipse went off beautifully, and in addition to our magnetic observations, which were independent of cloud conditions, we got a perfect view of the sun at the critical time, and saw the cows going home to roost in the middle of the afternoon. I got four quite good photographs of the sun, two during totality, just incidentally. We were staying at a farmhouse, and the evening after I left, the place was struck by lightning and spoiled a bit. Old Flsk was still there, but was only shaken up a bit nervously. Doors fell in, and the wiring when up in smoke.

* * * * *

The observatory is quite a nice place. An Australian Ph. D. who studied at Cambridge under Rutherford is in charge, and his wife runs the domestic arrangements. There is one other American, Wells, radio expert and army pursuit pilot in the States. Half a dozen Indians and part Indians work around the place. We record continuously the magnetic elements D, H and Z, the potential gradient, positive and negative conductivities of the atmosphere, earth current potentials on four lines, ns and ew and

vertical seismographic components, cosmic radiation (continuous photographic registration never made elsewhere—just new). We also record sun spots, atmospheric pollution, wind velocity and direction, temperatures, barometric pressures, rainfalls, weather notes, etc. In addition we have several radio transmitters and receivers, with apparatus for studying the height of the Kennely-Heavisid ionized layer under construction. We are also installing some complicated magnetic apparatus for records in connection with the polar year program. Beside the operation of these instruments, we have to make absolute magnetic observations with magnetometers and earth inductors, make scale value determinations, electrometer calibrations and the like, have to scale and tabulate hourly values, convert to proper units, summarize, etc., etc. We also do a lot of developing and printing of traces, operate a double decco power outfit with storage cells, and power equipment for radio transmission. Then there is the water system with ram and pump, a truck, a lathe room, a carpenter shop, paint shop, and such. There are stables and two observatory horses, two houses and quarters for the malds. At present I am the sole occupant of one house, so that besides my own room, I have two baths, three spare bedrooms, dining room living room, sun porch, kitchen, flower garden and appurtenances. I have a piano, and there is a tennis court in quite good shape. Come and visit me some time.

The observatory is in a large valley at 11,000 feet, and the outlook is in many ways like that at Deep Springs. There are hills rising two or three thousand feet above the valley floor in all directions except where the river cuts thru to reach the Amazon eventually. Beyond these near hills rise the snow covered peaks of a cordillera, which goes between 18,000 and 19,000 feet in this region. The local climbing isn't good, because it is half a day to the base of the nearer hills. On the other hand it is only two hours drive up to a 15,000 foot summit, and one can easily picnic beside a healthy glacier. We were up there one Sunday, but the clouds ran us out. On the other side of the summit one can quickly get down into the eastern jungles with their vampire bats, etc.

Living is horribly expensive in Peru. Maids, \$4 per month. Haircuts with tip, 8 cents; shine, 3 cents. Meats, suet to tenderloin, all 5 cents per lb.; whole chickens on the hoof, 14 cents; avocados, 9 cents; 200 lbs. potatoes, \$1.15. Loading a ton of cement on a truck, two men, total 11 cents. Taxi in Lima, 9 cents. I am having all my salary parked in a bank in Washington, and living on my field allowance, which is about what the D. S. S. B. used to pay.

My Spanish is coming along, and though I can't say much, I can listen very well in the language. The trouble

is that we seldom use Spanish at the observatory.

I was pleased the other day to receive three copies of the News Letter, one of No. 1, and two of No. 2. Considering the financial status of the sheet, I am surprised that they send duplicates. Glad to see that it is going as usual.

Best regards to the boys.

Sincerely,

BOB MANSFIELD

Cornell Branch Notes

During the Christmas vacation the House experienced a variation of the joke about laughing as the unknown virtuoso sits down to the piano; we laughed as Hasso von Puttkamer, our graduate guest from Germany, started out to hitch-hike to Florida. However, the joke was more or less on us, for Hasso had a very pleasant time. Leaving here Dec. 16th, he arrived in Miami on the morning of Dec. 23rd. Here a party of five German exchange students was organized, and they spent a week together being extensively entertained and interviewed. A typical occasion took place on Christmas eve where 10,000 people at the dog races stood and gave them hearty welcome. Hasso returned via Cincinnati and covered a grand total of thirty-seven hundred miles in the three weeks he was away.

Immediately after the vacation the Branch experienced one of the worst attacks of sickness in its history. Eight members of the House were forced to go to the infirmary, and virtually every person here had some indisposition from influenza symptoms. Luckily everyone is on his feet now, but we are curious as to the effect this will have on the House average, this being the pre-exam rush period when time is most important.

The Branch began the New Year by entertaining two very interesting lecturers in the general field of anthropology. Dr. Percy Martin, Professor of History at Stanford, was with us almost as soon as we returned, and Matthew W. Sterling, Chief of the Bureau of Ethnology of the Smithsonian Institution followed shortly.

William Sullivan reports having spent a very profitable vacation, for he secured a job while in New York. He will be with Cravath, De Gersdorff, Swaine & Wood. Bill Whitney is a junior partner in this firm and Julius Brauner has been in its employment since last September.

Windsor Putnam stopped in at the Branch with his father, for a very short visit recently. Such visits as these are always most welcome, and we regret that more members and friends of the Association do not find it possible to see us more often.

H. W. D.

Books Received

To the Editor of the News Letter:

This rather belated contribution to your next issue is caused by a wish to recognize in print those who have been first to respond to our "More Books for Deep Springs" campaign.

To date (December 8) we have received books from the following in the order named: Mike Yarrow, Harvey Mansfield, an anonymous donor, and Mr. W. M. Gilbert. We do not know who to thank for the copy of "The Life of Florence Nightingale", which came directly from the publishers, addressed to Dean Crawford, without any card or note.

Needless to say, we are all delighted with this immediate response.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES J. BRUNEEL

Geology Museum

December 27, 1932

Dear Editor:

Probably every fellow who has been at Deep Springs has come back from hikes laden with curious rocks or perhaps bits of pottery or baskets which he has found in the course of his wandering. If he followed the customary procedure he left such specimens cluttering up the basement of the main building, or he might have left them in a box which eventually found its way to the junk heap. Apparently some attempt was made to preserve valuable specimens, since there was a cabinet of rocks and fossils in the classroom. I think it probable, however, that it contained only a fraction of the worthwhile finds.

When Julian Steward was here early in November, he suggested that a place be set aside for the sole purpose of housing our collections. The suggestion was received enthusiastically, and the Deep Springs Museum was founded on November 5, A. D. 1932. Since, in connection with the geology work, I had shown some interest in classifying rocks and minerals, I was elected curator. This position has been added to the list of elective student body offices.

The museum at present has its quarters in the Museum Building, which thereby makes the name become more rational. We are using the room known recently as the "ping-pong lab" which is in the rear of the physics laboratory. We have two display cases which are ample for present needs, but growing pains are sharp and we'll soon need room to expand. We are using a serial number catalog system which Dr. Steward assured us was most permanent and satisfactory, and to date we have recorded about three hundred specimens. Most of these were found in nooks and cupboards about the ranch. Former Deep Springers will doubtless recognize some of their own finds when they inspect the museum. We are also fortunate in being allowed to exhibit the minerals which Mr. Suhr collected.

Alumni Association

Fourteen individuals closely associated with Mr. Nunn in his commercial and educational work organized the Telluride Association Alumni at Boise, Idaho, on the 28th of June, 1913. This was on the last day of the Convention which that year met in Boise after it had been adjourned from Logan. Messrs. Jess Hawley, Bacon, Noon, Don Brown, Ericksen, Waters, Fairbanks, J. J. Nunn, Waldo, Halliday, A. L. Woodhouse, W. L. Biersach, Bard, Thornhill, and Dunlop comprised the organizing group of charter members. Others associated with and interested in the development of Telluride Association also became charter members by making application before the 1st of October, 1913. It is needless to say that the purpose of the Alumni organization was to foster the Telluride Association and to aid and assist it in the attainment of its purpose.

The yearly dues began at \$5.00, but this was in 1914 reduced to the present \$2.00 annual dues, because it was considered inadvisable to place any financial bar in the way of a man who desired to become a member of the Alumni organization. During the past few months, however, numerous Alumni have informally discussed the possibility of increasing these annual dues to augment materially the L. L. Nunn Memorial Fund and thus to increase its usefulness.

For the first few years, membership in the Alumni varied, usually

standing between 80 and 100 members; however, in recent years, membership has risen to 135. An average of about 60 members have paid dues more or less regularly, but at present there are outstanding unpaid dues of approximately \$500.00. There are over 50 ex-Association members eligible for membership in the Alumni group, but they have thus far failed to join.

The Alumni have organized groups in several of the larger centers, notably at San Francisco, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and New York City. These men have occasional meetings, usually at lunch or dinner, and discussion of Association affairs is not barred. The San Francisco, the Utah, and the New York City Alumni have had official representatives present at the annual Convention of the Association.

The Alumni have thus far made twenty-three loans from the L. L. Nunn Memorial Fund, aggregating \$3,585.00, for educational purposes only, principally to men doing graduate work or finishing college. Of these loans, one only is long past due and may never be paid. In addition to these loans to individuals, the Alumni for a number of years financed half the expenses of publication of the News Letter.

The following is the November 1, 1932, Trial Balance of the L. L. Nunn Memorial Fund, prepared by Mr. W. L. Biersach, Treasurer of the Alumni organization:

	Dr.	Cr.
Notes Receivable		
Total loans made beginning		
in 1916 to date	\$3,585.00	
Less collected	2,960.00	\$625.00
Cash		
In General Account	618.29	
In 4% Savings Account	1,350.00	1,968.29
Dues Collected 1913 to date		\$3,113.10
Interest Collected 1913 to date		660.31
Miscellaneous Receipts		8.50
Contribution by E. M. Johnson to Memorial Fund		100.00
Expenses paid 1913 to date		
Service Flags balance	14.01	
Stationery, postage, printing and miscellaneous	377.90	391.91
Contributed to Telluride News Letter		
1916 to date	896.71	
	\$3,881.91	\$3,881.91

We have no hopes of creating an impressive display this year or next year, but the movement has been started and in perhaps ten years the slowly accumulating objects will form a real museum. It has been most exasperating to find good specimens lying about the buildings without a word of whence or when on them. Under our museum system the curator will slap on a number and get the facts down in the book before the finder forgets his data. This, together with having a place to keep our finds, will obviate the past danger of losing and

forgetting valuable pieces.

Although we lean toward geological, mineralogical, anthropological and archeological objects, especially those with local flavor, we have no desire to remain narrow or provincial, and we want to increase both our classifications and our geographical range. I hope the readers of the News Letter will help this expansion by sending us worthwhile pieces which are now languishing forgotten in trunks and attics.

Very sincerely,

ARMAND KELLY