

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

Monthly Publication of Telluride Association

Vol. XIX, No. 5

ITHACA, N. Y.

MARCH 1933

Finance

March 16

Dear Al:

In reply to your recent request for information concerning the effect of the recent banking disturbances upon Telluride's finances, your two Ithaca Custodians can not but agree with a recent statement of Mr. S. A. Bailey that "nothing is certain but uncertainty." Hence we prophesy with trepidation and do not spin any lengthy financial yarns at this time.

We submit the following resume of the situation as it has developed. Mr. Biersach foresaw the banking "holiday" and in mid-February mailed a blank authorization to the custodians to enable the purchase of \$15,000 par value 3 1/2% Treasury Certificates. These were to be purchased with our balance of \$15,000 deposited in the trust-fund account in the Union Trust Co. of Cleveland. This authorization reached Ithaca on the day that all the Cleveland banks restricted withdrawals to 5% of deposits. Nevertheless this authorization was sent on to the Union Trust Co. and now awaits the renewal of unrestricted business by that organization. Besides this \$15,000 in the trust fund account, the balance of our operating account in the Union Trust Co. was about \$10,000 at the time withdrawals were limited.

The limitations on withdrawals of operating funds raised the pragmatic question, "Where are the funds for current expenses to be obtained?" The operation of Telluride House requires cash. Certain men in the Association who were granted scholarships last June need the funds granted them for payment of second term tuition. Besides these there are other current expenses to be met.

Many of us hoped that with the resumption of banking in general over the country, the Union Trust Co. would open on a normal basis, and our immediate difficulties would be over. But at the present writing, March 16, that is not the case. The Union Trust Co. is open with a 5% withdrawal restriction, as it was before the national banking "holiday". Unless the situation clears up quickly, it may be necessary to sell one or more Liberty Bonds in order to meet current expenses.

Concerning the future of the Union Trust, and the ultimate safety of the \$15,000 and the \$10,000 balances we hold there, we, of course, do not know. Possibly a reorganization may follow, with some loss to the depositors. Possibly the bank will extricate itself from the difficulties which prevented its opening on the normal basis at the same time as the other

institutions. We are sorry not to be able to offer more final information, but this is as far as events have proceeded at the present writing.

Sincerely,

SAMUEL R. LEVERING
FRIED SPOONER

Biography

Following is a statement of the financial condition and future needs of the L. L. Nunn Biography Committee:

Estimated cost of publication. . . \$500.00
Money actually in our bank

account \$334.50
Subscriptions urgently
needed \$165.50

We publish this statement with some fear lest our friends, surprised at the amount actually collected, will feel that we do not need their individual support. The old phrase "So near and yet so far" is very applicable here. We need your check within the next two weeks. Needless to say the committee, like most business enterprises, will accept out-of-town drafts. The banking situation should be no excuse for our failure to put this matter through.

Next Issue

No February issue of the News Letter was published because nobody seemed to have anything to say. Not a single voluntary contribution arrived in time for publication, and the editors resolved that they would not waste their time and the Association's money in sending out personal letters imploring members and friends to write something.

Some regularity in the publication of the News Letter is, we think, highly desirable, whether or not there is Association business to be discussed. An issue containing nothing more than items of personal information from widely scattered readers of the News Letter would be well worth the \$25 to \$30 that it costs, even in times like these. But an issue almost entirely padded with English class essays or speeches on conglomerate subjects from the weekly Branch meetings cannot be excused, even on the grounds of regularity.

Let this be taken, then, as a direct appeal to all of you for brief notes about yourselves. By April 8, at the latest, we wish to be able to send to press a sprightly Re-union Issue, a kind of roll call of the survivors of our recent jolt "around the corner."

To a Candidate For Deep Springs

(Editor's Note: This letter was written by a member of Cornell Branch to a boy fifteen years old, who wished to know "What Deep Springs is." The writer's task was twofold: the "purpose and plan" of the school had to be set out in small space; and the argument had to be clear to a mind probably untroubled by modern materialism and certainly uninitiated into the mysteries of Deep Springs. If criticisms of the letter are forthcoming, we hope they concern themselves with the policy of attempting to divulge this sort of information to candidates, rather than with the accuracy of the statements, which purposely emphasize the ideal rather than actual functioning of Deep Springs.)

Dear Hugh:

Your sister Barbara writes me that you would like to know something "from the inside" about Deep Springs, where I spent the toughest and most profitable two years of my short life.

Why Mr. Nunn made the apparently foolish move of sinking \$150,000 into a profitless ranch in one of the sandy valleys north of Death Valley, and why he parted with nearly a million dollars more to maintain the place as a ranch and as a school for twenty boys, is the first of many questions I'm going to slide-step almost completely. Yet even in such a short note as this I must not ignore it, for a Deep Springs candidate should know what return is expected from him for the valuable privileges he may enjoy as a member of the Student Body.

Mr. Nunn founded Deep Springs to impress upon boys likely to "succeed" (whether or not they went to this special school) that their success could be measured only in terms of their worth and service to society, and not at all by the scale of their personal wealth, or their ability to care for their own selfish interests. The point is this: It isn't what a man gets that indicates his worth as a man, but what he gives. A Deep Springs man who is teaching English in some college for \$1,200 a year, and helping two or three hundred people each year to live more interesting (and interested) lives because he is doing this work, is very likely to be a more successful chap from our point of view than a big industrial executive who earns \$12,000 a year. These days everyone is scrambling around as hard as he can to put good things to eat into someone else's stomach, or warm clothes on someone else's back, or fast motor cars in someone else's garage, so that he can have money to buy better
(Continued on page two)

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

Published Monthly By
TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION
ITHACA, N. Y.

EditorALBERT E. ARENT
Business Manager.....CHARLES M. GILBERT

Assistant Editors

PARKER BAILEY HUGH W. DAVY
Asst. Business Manager.....JOHN H. BURCHARD
Deep Springs Corresp.....WALTER BALDERSTON

MARCH, 1933

Apology

Since publishing the Association address list, we have received several expressions of surprise and protest over the distinction made between Alumni and Friends of Telluride Association. We confess that it is silly to list as alumni a number of men who have never been members of the Association, and to exclude from this category individuals who for many years were active and honored members.

The grouping here criticised was carried over as a matter of routine from News Letters of previous years. The membership list was copied from the Convention minutes. The alumni list was taken from the membership rolls of the Alumni Association. All other names were collected under the heading "Friends." No invidious distinction was intended.

Future editors of the News Letter, we trust, will profit from our experience and include members of the Alumni Association and other friends under a single heading.

To a Candidate For
Deep Springs

(Continued from page one)

things to eat and warmer clothes and a smoother motor job for himself. And whether other people are living richly in their minds doesn't interest him because it doesn't pay him to be interested, and because he doesn't have any desire to enjoy his own intellect and can't understand why other people should wish to find pleasure in theirs. Now back to Deep Springs. A boy who goes there is expected to learn, and to become convinced, that a man must live for the benefit of his fellows, and such service, with its attendant personal sacrifice, is the only return he can make for the training he receives. This makes it a debt to his own conscience, which is determined by himself and is therefore a good deal more difficult to satisfy than an ordinary money debt.

The real training of the school results from the responsibility the fellows have for the welfare of the institution. While they are there, they are trustees of the whole place; it's theirs. They "run the show" to a great extent as they think best, especially in the matter of organizing work around the ranch. In Student Body Meetings they allot the various jobs: helping the mechanic, caring for the chickens, stoking the furnace, feed-

ing the stock, dairying, keeping the ranch accounts, and "general work". Each of these special jobs is handled by one man for four months; then he is shifted, not by the director but by the Student Body, to another job. (There are two men on the dairy job, and the bookkeeper works for six months, which means he has to give up half a summer. Two men each stay on the ranch half a summer to take care of the regular jobs for which the Student Body is responsible. The office men help them when they are not busy with the books.) There are usually about eight men on "general work", and they do the sowing, harvesting, and irrigation. In the winter they spend their time cleaning out irrigation ditches, digging ditches for pipe lines, mending harness, setting up fences, hauling wood, sawing wood, and doing manual labor of every description.

Each man works outside four or five hours a day, goes to classes about three hours, and studies three or four hours at night. The class work is of the same sort done in any good school, but differs in quantity. The classes are quite small, each man is called on to recite at every meeting, and the assignments are heavy. The rate of progress, in languages for example, is the same as that in college. University professors come to lecture, usually for a week at a time, and often in connection with the regular courses. In my second year three or four well known men carried through a course in American History, coming at intervals during the spring.

If you have looked over this indefinite schedule, and subtracted a reasonable number of hours for sleeping and eating, you're probably wondering where spare time for necessary recreation comes in. To tell the truth there isn't much time for it; but the life is so strenuous, and indeed so interesting, that play isn't missed as much as you might think. We used the tennis court a fair amount when I was there, and frequently took hikes; it would take a whole separate letter for me to tell you about the magnificent setting of that ranch, five thousand feet high, and surrounded by snowy peaks reaching often 14,000 feet into a wonderfully clear atmosphere. The rosy glow of a rising sun on the high Sierras, fifty miles west of the ranch, is a recreation you can enjoy without stirring from the ranch. In the spring the fellows often take a trip. In 1927 they made a fourteen day camping trip (in motor trucks) to the Grand Canyon, and they've gone on similar trips through Death Valley several times.

All the pleasant features of Deep Springs remain strong in one's memory, and the many hardships seem to fade away. I suppose Deep Springs is an experience much more attractive to look back upon than to go through; I'm sure that the memories are worth the hundred and one difficulties in adjustment to the severe life, which is justified in itself by its strict discipline.

Correction

Richfield, Utah
February 10, 1933

My dear Arent:

In the January News Letter the financial statement of L. L. Nunn Memorial Fund as printed contains an error in the item "Contribution by E. M. Johnson to Memorial Fund \$100.00". It should have read Contribution by A. M. Johnson to Memorial Fund \$100.00.

Albert M. Johnson is Chairman of the Board of Directors and principal owner of National Life Insurance Company of U. S. A. with home offices in Chicago. He was a longtime friend and associate of Mr. L. L. Nunn's. It is my impression that it was when they were on a touring trip together that Mr. Nunn first beheld Deep Springs Valley, California. Mr. Johnson's Death Valley desert place (about which much has been said in newspaper and magazine articles) is situated in the State of Nevada some eighty miles by road Northeastly from Deep Springs.

Sincerely,

W. L. BIRSACH

V. A. Hoyt

Recently our columns carried news of Mac Parker's zealous efforts to save money for taxpayers in his administrative duties in connection with the public schools of Cleveland, Ohio. From Oregon now comes the good word that Val Hoyt is performing similar service. To quote from the Oregon Daily Journal, of Portland, for January 24, 1933:

"In reorganization of central activities, the board of higher education yesterday appointed Dr. H. V. Hoyt, dean of the school of business administration at the University of Oregon, as supervisor of business offices for the entire system and ordered the removal of the central business office from Salem to Corvallis, where 55 per cent of all work of the business office for the entire system originates.

"This action was based on the results of a study of the business organization of the system by Dean Hoyt within the last month. The report submitted by Dean Hoyt contained a detailed plan, whereby much greater efficiency can be had at a saving of some \$22,000 a year if the central business office and clerical staff is moved from Salem to Corvallis."

A Balanced Budget

To date the News Letter has a balanced budget. Before the closing of the banks, enough voluntary subscriptions of one dollar or more were received to cover completely the expenses of the first four issues.

With this issue we go into the reserve established for the News Letter by the Association—money urgently needed for other purposes. With sixty dollars more we can probably complete the year on a self-supporting basis.

Cornell Branch Notes

Owing to a vacation period and to the examination time, the House has entertained less actively than usual these past six weeks. We have, however, enjoyed the visits of David Wegg, who will be remembered by the early residents of the branch; and Charlie Schaaff, who, accompanied by his wife, spent a week-end with us. Dr. John Tait, a professor of Physiology in McGill University; Colonel Furlong, a Cornell graduate and world traveller; and professor and Mrs. Grierson of the University of Edinburgh stopped at the House while visiting Cornell. Dr. Tait and Colonel Furlong were here on lecture tours, while Professor and Mrs. Grierson had returned to Ithaca to visit friends acquired here during Professor Grierson's term as a Messenger Lecturer.

We are now enjoying the company of Dr. Bronislaw Malinowski, the noted anthropologist, of the University of London, who is here for a month giving a series of lectures under the Messenger Foundation.

A matrimonial event of great interest to many of the Association took place in New York on February 12th. Professor Walter French, of the English department of Cornell, and a graduate guest at the House in 1927-28, was married to a Miss Elizabeth Wilson, who took a graduate degree here in 1928. Mr. French has kept in very close touch with the Branch ever since his stay here. He was invited to return to be a graduate guest again this year, but subsequent events have shown at least one reason why he preferred not to accept the invitation.

The Branch has remained active on the Hill with the following results:

Al Arent and Jim Withrow have been chosen to represent their Moot Court Club in the final trial, to be held before a bench of distinguished New York jurists. The club earned the right to compete in the finals by winning the championship of its league in the three preliminary rounds.

Morgan Sibbett and Carl Allen have distinguished themselves in undergraduate debating. Morgan was a member of the team arguing the negative on the question of balancing the federal budget in the annual '94 Memorial Debate, the outstanding debating event at Cornell. He came very close to winning the \$94 prize for the outstanding individual performance; but after forty minutes of indecision the judges finally made up their minds to award the prize to another, and gave Sibbett honorable mention. Carl was on the team chosen to represent the University in a debate with Hamilton and was an alternate for the '94 Debate.

Bill Kuder and Carl Allen have been representing the House in the dramatic activities. Carl has recently completed a part in one of the major productions, and Bill is working on one which will be produced in the near future.

Al Arent retired two years ago from active participation in the affairs of the Liberal Club, but was suddenly recalled last month as a compromise candidate for the presidency, when a large group of conservative students joined the club to wrest control from the extremist leaders of the past year. Al hopes to take advantage of the recent prominence of the club and its extraordinary growth of membership to develop an active open forum for the discussion of educational and political problems.

Two committee reports were submitted and accepted by the Branch recently. The first, a report of the Public Speaking Committee, contained the following recommendations:

"1—That written outlines of each speech be delivered to the chairman at least twenty-four hours before each meeting; and,

"2—That, for each meeting, the committee will appoint two critics to comment, in a more or less official capacity, upon the speeches."

With this added stimulus, and with the plethora of noteworthy subjects to be gathered from current events, public speaking is tending to become of more general interest.

The second report presented was the annual report of the Advisory Committee on general scholastic standing. The House average for the first term was 83.2. This average was drawn by using the same valuations as have been used in the past, and records give us the following results for comparisons of first terms:

Term	Average
1927-28	81.9
1928-29	82.3
1929-30	83.6
1930-31	86.0
1931-32	81.9
1932-33	83.2

H. W. D.

Mac Parker

(We are taking the liberty of stealing a few paragraphs from a personal letter to Parker Bailey, in order to convey to our readers the news of McRea Parker's promotion.—Ed.)

"I am happy to report that I am now full-fledged Director of Schools having been voted on favorably at the last meeting of the Board of Education. Next time you are in Cleveland you will have to call on me in that rich and spacious office which you and other taxpayers have furnished your humble servant.

"Thanks to the 'ad' in the News Letter, I have just received a letter of congratulations from my old friend and Telluride fellow-worker, J. Boyd-Smith. He stated that he liked everything described about the new job except the lawyer. Evidently he has had unhappy experiences with lawyers—or could it be jails?

"I was happy to have seen Atkinson when he was here. I trust other Telluride men will drop in when in the city."

Deep Springs Notes

Dr. Benjamin D. Scott and family visited the ranch for a few days before our Christmas vacation. Dr. Scott is the head of the Public Speaking Department at Pomona College. He gave us a reading of Tarkington's "Mister Antonio", and also some Negro poetry and poems of the western plains.

The Christmas vacation this year lasted from December 22 to January 3. All but one of the student body were able to leave for part of the time, at least. Father Meehan gave those around Los Angeles a lobster dinner one evening. After the New Year's Day celebrations in Pasadena, Dean Crawford entertained every one who could attend with a real Chinese feast. School reassembled with a group of assorted colds among the Student Body, but no permanent ill effects.

In the week following vacation we had Dr. Dick Carlson and his wife as guests. Mr. Carlson gave lectures of a Personal Development course that he has developed. His lectures on the various phases of personality and how they can be strengthened were very interesting.

Father Meehan has given two lectures on Rome, Ancient and Modern. He has used a set of slides collected by Mr. P. N. Nunn that were very comprehensive. We all have a great deal clearer picture of the interesting features of Rome and vicinity.

Mr. Waldo has secured for the school a large number of phonograph records, largely vocal and instrumental, that will be a fine addition to our collection.

W. B.

Thanks

February 14, 1933

Dear Editor:

I want to express on behalf of the Deep Springs Student Body our great appreciation of the response to the appeal for books made last fall. We have been overwhelmed by the liberality and promptness of the answers. In this time when expenses have to be watched so very carefully, we realize that the donation of these books represents a real sacrifice. For that reason the gifts have an even greater value.

All the books that were sent have filled a very great need in the library here. We are able to use them every day in the class work and reading done by the students.

We are trying to thank personally those whose names we know. A number of the books came direct from the publisher, and we do not know the donor. We want to take this opportunity to give to all whom we cannot reach otherwise our deep and great thanks for their help.

Sincerely,

WALTER BALDERSTON

Snow-Bound

The first real snow at Deep Springs came with a bang in the week of January 15th. It snowed for 43 hours at one stretch leaving over 12 feet of snow on the ground, and the roads blocked in both directions from the valley. We have been able to get to Big Pine once since then by car and once with the horses. Indians who have lived in this country say that only once or twice before have they seen as much snow at one time. We hope to have the road over Westgard Pass open in a short time, February 15th, if the wind doesn't drift the snow again. The thermometer seems determined to set a new endurance record, too. We have had weather ranging from zero to -15 at night for the last month. We have a good supply of food and other necessities and are living very well for being marooned. The prospect of a good water supply next summer makes the slight inconveniences negligible. W. B.

From a letter by Chancellor Johnson:

I had to hang around under the palms of San Diego for about a week waiting for the highway department to dig out the pass to Deep Springs. The hills were buried so deep in snow that I kept an eye thirstily on the pass for the St. Bernards to come lumbering down with the XXX casks on their collars; not a chance. The ranch buildings look like the National Geographic photograph of the 27,700-foot elevation camp of the Mt. Everest expedition. The Westgard Pass has been dug out for several days, but the trail to Goldfield has been snowed under since the 14th of January. There is enough of a glaze on the surface of the valley to make of it a vast shimmering mirror in the afternoons. And I'm biding my time till I get back to Ithaca and the two ex-Deep Springers who told me I needed no goloshes or rubbers or woolen underwear: "N-o-o-o-o, yuh don't need nothin' like that at Deep Springs. Sur-r-r-e, if there should be any rain or snow it will soak right up."

Notes and Clippings

The National Geographic Magazine for February, 1932, contains an article entitled "Here in Manchuria," vividly written by Lillian Grosvenor Coville, and illustrated in part by photographs taken by Cubot Coville.

John Meehan's poem, "Bethlehem Listened," known already to many of his fellow-members in the Association, appears for a wider circle of readers in *The Communal* for December 21, 1932.

A New York Times editorial of December 20, 1932, gives highly complimentary mention of Frank Monaghan's sketch of Benjamin Harris, in the Dictionary of American Biography. Harris is known as the "leading bookseller and publisher of the seventeenth century in America."

Leadership and Deep Springs

During my experience at Deep Springs and to a slight extent here I have often heard some good discussions on leaders and leadership. Even back in high school days, I remember how the students would be herded together for their semi-annual inspirational on leadership. "What this country needs," it usually went, "is strong, vigorous leaders." But typically enough no trouble, as far as I remember, was ever taken to define terms. The word leader was used glibly as though it was perfectly understood. But strangely enough it always seemed to connote one of strength, force, will. I believe that you are familiar with the usual terms. It was natural, then, that I should come to think of leaders in terms of strength, force, power. For those were the terms that were usually said to be descriptive of a leader. But this notion of leadership seems immature and juvenile to me now.

This leads me to the consideration of just what is leadership. In my opinion there are essentially two kinds of leaders. The first is the intellectual leader. If he has any method of leadership it is simply that of pointing the way. It is his privilege to discover new beauty and truth in the world in which he lives and to lead the minds of his fellows into finer channels. We may perhaps think of it as a sort of persuasion.

The second kind is what I shall call the physical leader. This is, perhaps, the common notion of a leader. If there is any method to this leadership it is simply to push, direct and organize people into what he considers the proper channels. As I see it, this kind of leadership is dangerous in one aspect. The very struggle to push into the proper channels may cause the goal to be lost sight of, and obviously a leader implies some place to lead to. Often in the struggle to remain chief-pusher, let us say, they do lose sight of the goal. Perhaps that is part of the cause for the very evident political confusion of these times.

There have been examples of both types of leaders in the history of men. Any one example would probably have the qualities of both types intermixed. It is perhaps foolish, then, to attempt any classification. There would probably be disagreement over the grouping, but at least it will serve to illustrate what I mean by intellectual and physical leadership. As examples of intellectual leaders, I should exclude from among many Darwin, LeCorbusier, Beethoven, Wren and Haydn. These men have certainly been leaders in every sense of the word. LeCorbusier is a French architect of exceptional ability. He early identified himself with the movement of functionalism in modern architecture. In that capacity he has exercised great influence not only in his native country, France, but throughout the world. But so far as I have been able to determine he

is a mild, unassuming personality, and certainly far removed from the ordinary conception of a vigorous leader.

In the other class I should put, say, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, and in a smaller way our petty politicians and business leaders. Of course there would be disagreement here, too, but I believe that it gives the spirit of the usual notion of vigor, virility, strength of physical leadership.

Accepting this classification broadly then, I must say that I have not very much respect for the physical leader. There have been personalities with a genuine gift for such leadership, but as I have noticed it occurs in a much diluted form, if not in a very destructive form. And I do have a great respect and admiration for the other type of leader, the intellectual leader. It seems to me a far finer and more noble thing to aspire to than the heat, sweat, and push of our Hitler, say.

But you may well ask, what has all this to do with Telluride and Deep Springs? First of all, it has this to do with it: that Deep Springs is tending to lay more emphasis on the purely physical aspects of leadership. It is not at all my intention to state the case for intellectual leadership as against physical leadership. There is certainly ample room for both at Deep Springs. But it seems to me that there should be a better balance between the two. There is no doubt in my mind that there is ample opportunity for such a balance. The Founder evidently had that in mind when he arranged for four hours of outside work with the rest given over to study. If anything, more emphasis was intended to be placed on intellectual leadership at Deep Springs and most certainly that was the intention for Telluride Branch. But I wonder how much we have been seduced from this ideal by the glamour and romanticism of our forceful leader returning victorious, successful, and crowned with many offices.

It has been pointed out to us that a certain type of student seems to be the most successful at Deep Springs. I am not at all sure that one can set up a philosophy of success for Deep Springs. But if there is such a type, it seems to me that it would be the one best suited to a competitive existence. For there is no doubt in my mind that Deep Springs is essentially a competition and at times a very bitter one.

At the end of the year accounts are balanced, a ranking of students made and calculated to hundredths. As part of this competition personal criticism is in some cases carried almost to the point of viciousness. Such an atmosphere is harsh and tense. I think you will agree with me, too, that it is certainly not conducive to intellectual leadership of a worthy sort—or if any, only of the most superficial kind. It seems to me that in this one aspect alone Deep Springs has not been too successful.

EARL OHLINGER