

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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TELLURIDE BANK ROBBERY

New light, recalling the days when Mr. Nunn rode with a posse after desperadoes, has recently been shed upon the robbery of the Telluride Bank in which Mr. Nunn had a controlling interest. The source is none other than the chief bandit himself, Matt Warner, who has been living peacefully in Price, Utah, for the last thirty-six years, after having performed some of the famous feats of bravado and banditry for which the old West was celebrated. In the first of a series of articles entitled "The Last of the Bandit Riders,"* in the January *Cosmopolitan*, the once notorious Matt Warner (born Willard Christianson, in Ephraim, Utah), relates how he and his partners, Tom McCarty and "Butch" Cassidy, carried off the robbery in '89 which began his career as a 'big-shot' bandit.

Having drunk a saloon in Cortez dry and spent all the money they had made from what was then the more socially-acceptable occupation of cattle-rustling, the three became "real outlaws" when they yielded to the lure of a daylight robbery upon the San Miguel Valley Bank in Telluride. Riding their fastest nags, they cantered one summer morning into town decked out in flashy cowboy gear, and "artillery." Tom held their horses while the other two sauntered into the bank which had just opened for the day. Only the assistant cashier was there, and they made him go into the vault and bring out several sacks of greenbacks. Then they "herded" him out ahead of them, and taking the bags in their hands, they leapt into their saddles. Then Matt continues: "Down the street we thunder, expecting to see the whole town explode in our faces. But it don't happen. The crowd just looks paralyzed and helpless. We learn a lesson about crowds that is valuable to us in our future operations as robbers."

However, a posse that included Mr. Nunn was soon formed, as Mr. Bailey

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"THE ITALICS ARE MINE"

By Frederick J. Ravig

"Knowledge of the nature of materials, human beings and forces does not dictate the uses to which such knowledge may or must be put. Knowledge of chemicals may be employed in destroying a city, or it may be devoted to healing the sick. That one use is preferable to the other cannot be demonstrated by the scientific method—cannot be demonstrated as a matter of fact. It cannot be demonstrated at all. It can be asserted only as a value cherished, believed in, or hoped for, by those who present it."

Charles A. Beard

In the December issue of the *News Letter*, Walter Balderston quoted Carl Becker to the effect that the progress of mankind, *irrespective of civilizations*, has been accomplished by the extension of matter-of-fact knowledge. Walter took some comfort from the thought that "time, slow moving, *indifferent to men's purposes*, in the long run gives its validation to matter-of-fact knowledge while dismissing value judgments as useless or insufficiently discriminated." Having, inferentially at least, dismissed value judgments as useless, Walter apparently decided that the development of matter-of-fact knowledge is a good in itself for he states that the purpose of Telluride Association is to foster the development of matter-of-fact knowledge, particularly in respect to social relations, and to stimulate its application to actual problems. I must admit that I agree with most of the value judgments which are implicit in this statement of the purpose; but, so stated, the purpose of Telluride is no different from that of every other educational institution in America. I believe, furthermore, that if we are to stimulate the application of matter-of-fact knowledge, we must stimulate it to some purpose, and in the process we must act without demanding perfect knowledge of the situation, without demanding that the good

effect of our act be scientifically demonstrated. Walter, however, seems to demand scientific certainty when he says: "It may seem callous and anti-social to refuse to act before we *know* what we are doing, but it is the only *sure* and *permanent* way to advance." At another point in his treatise, Walter dismisses the solutions of those who have an *imperfect* understanding of our political structure. Implicit in all this is the suggestion, first, that Telluride is to be judged by Time on Mount Olympus in terms of eons and not by men in an imperfect society in terms of our effect on *this* civilization, and, second, that the purpose of Telluride is to collect matter-of-fact knowledge.

Carl Becker, in another part of the same essay from which Walter quotes, observes that we cannot evaluate an institution unless we set up criteria in terms of which we can judge it. He lists various criteria—intelligence, morality, tolerance, etc.—ordinarily invoked by men in evaluating men and human institutions. "There is, (he says,) no question as to the validity of these values for us and for our time; and so long as they remain values for us it is right, necessary indeed, that we should endeavor to make them prevail." We cannot, then, say whether or not Telluride has advanced unless we define its purpose—unless we agree upon the goal towards which it is supposed to be advancing. This test must be specific enough to have some validity for our time, some meaning to men of this era. Walter's definition, I believe, is too general to provide us with a standard of evaluation. It may be Time's criterion (Indeed, it is as Time's criterion that Prof. Becker mentions matters-of-fact) but it does not provide us with a standard by which we can judge our efficacy, or in terms of which we can test a prospective member. We cannot be indifferent to men's purposes; we cannot act irrespective of this civilization; we cannot take into membership only those who de-

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NECROLOGY

Leo Brandenburger, long-time Telluride associate, suffered a fatal heart attack on February 11, while he was taking a short vacation at Long Beach, Calif. He was born at Linneus, Missouri, in 1880, and graduated from the University of Missouri in 1904. Having begun work for Mr. Nunn the previous summer at Nunn's station, he continued to work for Telluride Power Company and its successor, Utah Power and Light Company, for about ten years, and later became sales engineer for numerous utility equipppers. Mr. Brandenburger was always an active supporter of Telluride and the Utah alumni group.

Elton Hoyt, one of the few re-

maining close personal friends of Mr. Nunn, died in Pasadena, Calif., on April 3. His life-long friendship with the founder began when they were school boys together in the Cleveland Academy. Mr. Hoyt was secretary and treasurer for the San Miguel Gold Mining Company, from which the Telluride Power Company developed.

William H. Maguire, constitutional member of the Association, succumbed to pneumonia on February 23, in Portland, Ore. Born in Toledo in 1889, Mr. Maguire received his law degree from Cornell in 1917, and served as a captain in the field artillery during the War. Lately he was associated with Dey, Hampson and Nelson.

Milton H. Wright died of colonic poisoning on April 4. He was born in Enid, Okla., in 1911. After two years at Carleton College, he spent the year 1929-30 at Deep Springs, and returned again to teach there in 1933-34, having in the meantime graduated from North Western University with highest distinction.

NOTES AND QUOTES

Cynthia Nourse Cavanaugh was born in Washington on February 13, to Lt. and Mrs. Robert L. Cavanaugh. Cynthia is their second child. On March 2 John Devaux Olmsted was born to the John Olmsteds, their second son. The George C. Lyons announce the birth of Penelope Adair Lyon on April 5.

Dorothy Gene Fisher, daughter of Dr. L. E. Fisher, was married to Eric K. Reed in Santa Fe, N. M., on January 15.

Ruth Eliza Gordon, daughter of Mr. Edward Forbes Gordon was married to Julius Brauron at Sage Chapel, Ithaca, New York, on April 16. After May 15 their address will be 59 West 12, New York City.

Chancellor Johnson's recent trip through the country has elicited an amusing letter from Jim Draper, in Chattanooga, Tenn., in which he says:

"I was treated last month to a most welcome and joyful surprise. Late one Saturday morning, a wire came from none other than Dr. Jawn Johnson, himself, saying that he and his tribe would pay us a visit that afternoon. The wire was sent from upper East Tennessee, and Mattie (that's the wife of my bosom), who has heard me talk of Jawn for the last eighteen years, and who has been

looking forward to meeting him that long, remarked that he would probably arrive in the late afternoon, or after nightfall. I said to her: "You don't know this Jawn Johnson. 'His driving is like the driving of Jehu; he driveth furiously,' unless he has reformed." If my memory of Holy Writ serves me accurately, Jehu set a record for future generations to shoot at, and out in Boise in 1913-14-15, Jawn used to shoot at it assiduously. Jehu didn't spare the hosses, nor Jawn the EMF."

Before Hitler marched into Austria, Fred Reinhardt was listed among fifteen vice-consuls to be recalled to this country to study at the foreign service school. But evidently his superiors in Vienna preferred to have him remain and his recall was cancelled. Thus he has been there during the exciting days of the German invasion.

PERMANENT FINANCE REPORT

It will be recalled that the 1937 Convention established a "danger point" in each of four indexes or ratios with the idea of ceasing to purchase common stocks or of converting part of our large stock holdings into bonds when any of the danger points was reached. Were we to wait for these indexes to approach their respective danger points it is evident that no action would be taken for some time. Or, were we to judge the soundness of our actions by the present values of these ratios, we might think well of ourselves. However, most Telluriders will now admit that something was wrong with our decisions. How seriously our endowment will ultimately suffer we have yet to discover. But it seems apparent that despite our weighty discussions on Telluride financial policy in recent years we must give it even more consideration this June. Perhaps we will decide that we must sit tight for the present; yet can we afford to let our trust fund again reach its present precarious condition?

The Permanent Finance Committee has no specific recommendations as yet, but it proposes that members of Telluride Association begin now to formulate their thoughts on the subject of our financial policy. It is hoped that serious consideration of the problem will result in contributions to the next issue of the *News Letter* so that all members may calmly reflect upon any definite proposals before the rush of Convention begins.

BANK ROBY*(Continued from page 1)*

The bandits were pursued in the precipitous flight for several days, they finally managed to get away and to cross over into the famous wilderness hide-out, Robbers' Foot, in southeastern Utah.

Here they hid out for months until, in Matt's words "we were plum fed up with our own company and crazy to bust out and spend our money." Matt attributes nothing but evil to the ill-gotten gains. Each of the "High-Riding Three" had \$10,000 in it galled awful sores during the long flight. They were disappointed at finding "only \$31,000." in the sacks, for which they had sacrificed their herds in the hills worth far more than that (that they could no longer carry on as gentlemen cattle-rustlers); Matt complains: "Every dollar I have ever stole has gyped me out of two dollars I would otherwise have made, I figure. Crime has always brought me bigger losses than gains." Probably he was lucky, then, that his criminal career began young—at fifteen—so that he could learn this lesson in time to settle down as a law-abiding citizen, and occasional sheriff or justice of the peace in Price.

DEEP SPRINGS NOTES*By Randolph Newman*

This year the destination of the Spring Trip is Grand Canyon. Because of the greater distance the trip will last longer than usual. The planned itinerary is via Las Vegas to the southern rim of the canyon, around to the northern rim, possibly to Bryce and Zion National Parks, thence to Las Vegas to Deep Springs. Trips of the present student body are made with far greater personal comfort than past student bodies have experienced. The body of the Ford truck purchased last year is large enough for the fellows to ride without half a dozen feet in their laps or a heel grinding into their sides.

During the last three years large sections of the cleared land have been resown with alfalfa seed. Last year 16 acres were changed from corn to alfalfa, and this spring 25 acres which were planted in corn are being levelled and turned into alfalfa fields. We have been fortunate in that for the most part the new checks of alfalfa have had a good first year's

growth. An experiment in dry farming is planned for this summer. At the northern end of the ranch there are 24 acres of cleared ground which will be plowed and planted in corn. The ground is quite moist from the rains and snows of the last two months, and we have irrigated these acres for two weeks. With this summer's rain, the corn may grow two or three feet. Little expense is connected with the experiment; and if the results are good, we shall have a large amount of additional fodder for the cattle. The Ranch Manager says the ranch will not again have insufficient hay to feed cattle during a hard winter. With this in mind, we brought 250 head of cattle—mostly steers—in to feed from the haystack. By May 15, when they will be taken to the summer pasture we rent in Long Valley, they will have gained about 50 pounds weight more than they would normally have gained in grazing about the valley during the winter months. At approximately six cents a pound, this procedure affords a nice profit.

Under the Labor Committee's guidance a study was made of the efficiency of our irrigation system. The results of the investigation called for changes: old ditches were abandoned; one central ditch employed instead of two. Reworking the system is expected to save water otherwise lost from seepage.

Several new committees have been organized this spring. A Heating Committee is co-operating with the administration in investigating the expense of a heating plant in the Boarding House and a water-softening-filtering plant for the upper ranch. A committee is drawing up plans and estimates of cost for redecoration. To provide for the participation of the student body in decisions concerning allocation of money, a committee has been created to aid the administration in working out a budget for next year.

Brenton Bergh, of Pasadena, California, has accepted an invitation to attend Deep Springs for the remaining spring months. He is an applicant for next year. Because of unfortunate circumstances which would not allow Mr. Bergh to continue his formal education, the student body and administration agreed that he should be given a chance to improve

his standing in relation to other applicants before selection of new men is made. We have found Harrison Brown, obtained through the Institute of International Education, an invigorating speaker who has a wealth of first hand information on current affairs. With such a lecturer, open discussion meetings are of particular benefit.

During the past year we have acquired valuable additions to our music library. Four concertos, two symphonies, two operas, and numerous records of incidental music have been added. The student body has the old worn-out ones.

"THE ITALICS ARE MINE"*(Continued from Page 1)*

vote themselves wholeheartedly and with supposed objectivity to the task of extracting matters-of-fact from the chaos of the unknown. I do not believe that we should compete with General Electric's House of Magic. Man, this civilization, needs men who know not only how to extract matter-of-fact knowledge but also how to use matter-of-fact knowledge; for as Charles Beard says, knowledge of facts does not dictate to what use such knowledge will be put, and this civilization is threatened with disaster because men do not use this matter-of-fact knowledge to attain a worthy objective.

I believe that Telluride Association was established for the purpose of accomplishing more than is expected of the average educational institution—that Telluride has a unique purpose which distinguishes it from a college or university, or a commercial laboratory. It is this purpose which we must define and strive to attain if we are to justify our expensive existence. I am not overly confident that we can ever develop an effective consensus as to what this purpose is, because to decide upon a purpose is to make a value-judgment and the thing which, more than anything else, distinguishes a value-judgment from a so-called matter-of-fact is that almost all men agree upon the validity of the latter and disagree upon the validity of the former; the more intelligent the group, the more agreement in the one case and the more disagreement in the other case. But because our effectiveness would be so much increased, I believe we should endeavor to reach an agreement; each of us, therefore, should make an

effort to draw up a statement of purpose upon which we may be able to agree and which will be specific enough to be of some use in evaluating our efforts and testing our applicants.

The most satisfactory statement of purpose which I can suggest is this: The purpose of Telluride Association is to preserve and extend the principles of democracy. I make the decision, the value-judgment, that democracy is good and should be preserved and extended. We cannot prove that democracy is the best form of government, but we can strive to realize the principles for which it stands. Certainly we ought to be able to agree that it is better than oligarchy or dictatorship. No educational institution dedicated to discovering the abstract truth could make such a decision or strive to reach such a specific goal.

I believe that Telluride Association can best accomplish this purpose, first, by endeavoring to train a large proportion of its men for actual public service, that is, for jobs in the various branches and departments of government; second, by training the balance of its men to take an active and intelligent part in the political life of the community, state, or nation—even to the extent of developing professional "politicians," that is, men whose *job* is to persuade. In other words, I believe that Telluride can best accomplish its purpose by training its scholars, doctors, architects, teachers, lawyers, politicians, etc., to be good active citizens. I hope that in so doing it will give to the world a decent number of statesmen.

In order to train citizens we must know what the duties of a citizen are. His task seems to be three-fold: first, he must study the problems confronting his society, that is, he must collect data and analyze the alternative solutions; second, he must decide what is the correct solution; third, he must act in accord with that decision and stand ready to alter it to fit the new data which he discovers in the course of action. Action consists of urging others to accept his solution, of communicating this decision to his representative or to his fellow citizens. He communicates by writing, speaking and voting.

Most of us, reared in an age of

science, feel that a citizen can best perform his duties if he strives to be objective in his thinking and if he employs, as far as possible, the scientific technique. But the application of the scientific technique in the social field requires action on the part of men; because only by acting can men collect data and test their hypotheses. This action cannot be irresponsible because it affects the lives of men, not the lives of mice or bacteria. Yet we cannot refuse to act, for inaction means death. And if intelligent men, university trained men, refuse to act, unintelligent men will be sent to concentration camps to continue thinking. Walter says that we must not act until we *know* what we are doing. He strongly implies that before we act, we must know, with the same certainty that we know a matter of fact, first, that the theory upon which we act is correct, and second, what the exact effect of our act will be.

In the field of factual knowledge or the physical sciences, men can predict with a fair degree of certainty that hitting one free billiard ball with another free billiard ball will set up motion in the ball that is hit. But men never can predict with this factual certainty what the effect upon society will be of enacting such a measure as the reorganization bill. Honest men vote for or against the reorganization bill in the belief, in the hope or on the hunch that it is a good bill or a bad bill. One who supports it cannot *know* that it is necessary, he cannot know it is the best bill or that it will do what he hopes it will do; he can only study and collect data up until the time when action becomes imperative, then he must make a decision and act, hoping that the bill is a good bill and that it will accomplish what he dared to believe needed to be accomplished.

It is in protest against Walter's apparent dismissal of value-judgments, against his undue emphasis on matters of fact, and against his demand for scientific certainty in the field of social action that I labor so long on a point which must be obvious to most of us: that every decision to act or not to act on a social or political issue involves making an ethical decision based on insufficient data.

Now, if there is any justification for the elaborate system of education

in this count is that educated men will make better decisions than uneducated men. And if there is any reason for putting a premium on intelligence, it is that intelligent men will make better decisions than unintelligent men. Most of our educational institutions were founded upon the belief that intelligent and educated men will make the best decisions and the best citizens. Why, then, was Telluride founded? Aren't our big universities training intelligent men for citizenship? The answer to these questions is contained in a famous quotation of L. L. Nunn's: "It is a mistake to expect too many students to be the ill-paid hirelings of the avaricious, or, what is worse, the participators in the results of an evil system." Even though they do not succumb to the material bribes of this system, too many educated and intelligent men prefer the luxury of intellectual impartiality to the strife of partisan activity. They refuse even to make political and ethical decisions much less to persuade others that they are right. They abjure the arena; announce that they take no interest in politics and march off to the nearest bar, golf club, library or laboratory. Telluride Association was founded to specialize in a job which is too often, and perhaps properly, neglected by other educational institutions. Telluride was founded to train men who will make ethical decisions and men who will dare to persuade. It gives to intelligent men the best available technical knowledge and training. It, at the same time, seeks to develop in them a sense of social responsibility and to equip them with a set of values which will direct their use of matter of fact knowledge to worthy ends. Most of what I have tried to say is concisely stated by Charles Beard: "Deprived of the certainty which it was once believed science would ultimately deliver, and of the very hope that it can in the nature of things disclose certainty, human beings must now concede their own fallibility and accept the world as a place of trial and error, where only those who dare to assume ethical and esthetic responsibility, and to exercise intuitive judgment, while seeking the widest possible command of realistic knowledge, can hope to divine the future and mould in some measure the shape of things to come."