

# TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

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## DEEP SPRINGS NOTES

*By Francis Tetreault*

In many ways the second half of the fall term at Deep Springs has been unusually active and interesting.

On December 18 Mr. R. J. MacKenzie left Deep Springs, terminating his long association with the school as ranch manager. He had supervised the range cattle and farm phases of Deep Springs work for nearly seven years. During this period he became closely acquainted with many Telluride men and other friends of the school.

On January 10 Bob Rust, a Cornell graduate and friend of many Telluride Association members, assumed the duties and responsibilities previously performed by Mr. MacKenzie. Charles Uhlmeier, who has served as cowhand at Deep Springs for several years, will be in direct charge of the range cattle, but responsible to Bob Rust.

Mr. MacKenzie recently completed a round-up and count of 758 Deep Springs cattle. Dr. Kimpton, a member of the Student Body, and another cattleman verified this number. In the future a similar inventory will be taken annually, or in some cases semi-annually. Deep Springs begins the new year knowing more about its range cattle than ever before. We at the ranch are convinced that the more intelligent and business-like management which is planned for the range cattle will appreciably increase the school's income from this particular enterprise.

Shortly after this complete and painstaking round-up and count of the herd, 297 head were sold. This sale reduced the herd to 468, which apparently is the optimum number for Deep Springs to maintain. The alfalfa hay which is raised on the ranch together with the various Deep Springs pastures can support in excellent condition a range cattle herd of between 450 and 500.

The last News Letter told how the Student Body has simplified its committee organization to achieve greater efficiency. The time saved by the more efficient handling of committee work was used by students for outside reading, hiking, and other individual projects, for which formerly they had been unable to find time. For the first six weeks of the fall term it seemed that reorganizing the Student Body committees had secured to the students sufficient free time for pursuing those individual activities which are considered so important a phase of Deep Springs life.

During November, however, it became apparent that students, because of lack of time, were having to confine themselves to Student Body, ranch, and academic work, to the neglect of those other individual activities which are necessary if a man is to derive everything he may from his years at Deep Springs.

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## THE REVOLUTION OF NIHILISM

*By Victor Lange*

To say that the present European war is essentially one between ideological issues is neither entirely just nor reasonable. But it is a popular and, of course, not untenable notion that the economic and intellectual development of post-war Germany with its curious movement towards what we call Naziism has resulted in a political tension so great that only war seems a possible if temporary release. It may not be easy for a good many of us to see both issues in a detached manner, but not only among those who disassociate themselves from the German scene, there is a feeling that the Nazi ideology is not shared by a majority of the German people. Such a distinction between Nazis and Germans has its obvious dangers, but it is justified by the admitted fact that beneath the smooth totalitarian surface there appear from time to time signs of active heresy and open popular disagreement. It is certain that there is among the German people more dissatisfaction with the Nazi regime and more restlessness than becomes apparent through the available channels of public opinion. But there is as yet neither a tangible body of political opposition nor a revolutionary ideology sufficiently attractive to the mass of the German people. With a helpless shrug of the shoulders the average German is likely to ask, "Well, if not Hitler—what else?" He will not and cannot forget the grim confusion of the political chaos from which, as he sees it, Hitler eventually freed him. Even if this change from "freedom" to "obedience" should have involved the loss of much personal independence, he remembers that he suffered economically and spiritually while he had a large share of liberty and he is now willing to forget the dubious privilege for at least some years to come.

It is well to keep in mind that the Germany of 1914 and that of 1934 are separated by a national experience of dimensions almost beyond the grasp of a distant observer. To non-Europeans the first world war had but an academic meaning. To the Germans it represented the first and earliest experience of a totalitarian organization. It is not improbable that the efficiency of Hitler's revolutionary machine was due in a large measure to an extraordinarily psychological and physical national discipline which may not be, as some have thought, an essential part of the German character, but which, under the superhuman strain of tense and organized living, became part of the makeup of the present generation. To those in the trenches of the first war the profoundest experience was not the impact of physical hardship and death, but the realization that their life of hazard and the Bourgeois world of romantic illusion had very little in common. It must have seemed to many who came

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### ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

Since the last issue of the News Letter, in which were outlined the plans for the Deep Springs cottage, there has been considerable progress in various phases of the work; the purpose of this note is briefly to review this progress.

Contributions and pledges received to date amount to more than half of the Committee's goal, which is \$7,000.00. Such a degree of success is encouraging, but if the money is to be raised by April 1 as planned, a somewhat accelerated rate of progress will be necessary.

Plans and contractor's specifications for the cottage have been completed by Member Earl Ohlinger, whose work has saved Deep Springs the usual architect's fee. Those attending the Chicago alumni meeting Dec. 11 had at that time an opportunity to see the blueprints.

The Deep Springs student body has concrete mixing and casting machinery ready and plans to start work as soon as the danger of frost is past. It is expected that all of the work on the new cottage will be done by students, supervised by a carpenter. In order that the work, once started, may proceed without interruption, it will be necessary that Deep Springs have adequate funds available from April 1.

The Endowment Committee would like to emphasize that all contributions, of whatever size, are welcome. Each person knows best what amount he can afford to contribute; none should hold back because he cannot give quite so large a sum as he would like to give. Checks should be made payable to the Endowment Committee of Telluride Association; either they may be sent directly to the Committee in Ithaca, or they may be turned over to the men in the various areas who solicit funds.

Although the work of the Endowment Committee has been primarily with the Deep Springs Cottage, the George Lincoln Burr Memorial Fund has not been neglected. Some contributions have been received from members of the Association group, and a letter will go out early in the Spring to a large group of former students, colleagues, and friends of Professor Burr not connected with the Association or Deep Springs.

### TA ALUMNI MEETINGS

One of the best-attended and most enthusiastic meetings in the history of the TA Alumni Association was held on December 4 at Levy's Tavern in Hollywood, California. Those present were: G. C. Lyon, J. H. Ebaugh, G. A. Fjelstrom, G. W. Monk, D. H. McAllister, J. R. Broughton, J. B. Sebree, J. W. Olmstead, J. A. Nielson, R. G. McKelvey, R. M. Gorrell, E. M. Johnson, L. A. Kimpton, R. H. Townsend, W. L. Biersach, Sr., R. P. Fairbanks, E. P. Bacon, F. C. Noon, Robt. Noon, H. R. Roodhouse, A. W. Kelly, W. L. Biersach, Jr., A. A. Anderson, C. N. Whitman, J. J. Nunn, Casey Robinson, Bert Scott, P. F. Bacon, R. H. Mansfield, Howard Leedom, J. B. Tucker, and Deep Springers Robert Sullivan and Francis Tetreault.

On the evening of 6 December members of the Alumni Association of the Utah Area met at the University Club in Salt Lake City. A feature of this meeting was a talk by ex-Senator Reed Smoot on his memories of an old friend, L. L. Nunn. Officers re-elected at this meeting were as follows: H. B. Waters, President, D. S. Tucker, 1st Vice-President, P. D. Vincent, 2nd Vice-President, P. P. Ashworth, Secretary. Those who attended the meeting were: D. H. Beck, H. E. Smoot, D. S. Tucker, A. D. Smith, C. A. Wolfrom, L. R. Edwards, L. J. Farrer, F. L. Lundberg, E. C. Wright, H. W. Davy, Reed Smoot, P. P. Ashworth, A. E. Buckler, J. F. Rowe, E. M. Johnson, P. D. Vincent, Lucius Laudie, D. L. Brundige, H. B. Waters, B. C. Luth, L. R. Fournier, W. O. Cluff, F. W. Ballard, and Guests Rene Fournier and John Cluff.

Those present at a meeting of the alumni of the Chicago Area at the Palmer House on the evening of December 11 were: Robert G. Evans, John S. deBeers, Otis Whitecotton, W. L. Cook, Robley Williams, Huntington Sharp, E. M. Johnson, Jose Pijoan, Earl W. Ohlinger, George G. Bogert, and Robert Jackson.

The following gathered at the Statler Hotel in Cleveland for an Alumni Association meeting on December 13: C. C. Grandy, W. C. Kinney, J. R. Harsch, C. N. Rakestraw, McRea Parker, E. M. Johnson, J. E. Beaumont.

### NOTICE

The Arrangements Committee for the 1940 Convention would like to hear from friends and alumni of the Association who are planning to attend all or part of the Convention at Deep Springs (Convening June 18, 1940). If possible, include details as to date of arrival, length of stay, etc. If those who plan to drive would include information on the number of passengers that could be carried and approximate route to be taken, it would be appreciated. Address all correspondence to Bruce Netschert, Cornell Branch.

### NECROLOGY

John A. Bonnett, well-known associate of L. L. Nunn and father of ex-Member Stanley Bonnett, passed away in Provo on November 7 at the age of 73. Mr. Bonnett lived at Olmstead for fourteen years where he was engaged mainly in flume and pipe-line maintenance. An associate of his in this period writes of him: "A fine, friendly gentleman, loyal and industrious always."

Judge Samuel Alschuler, United States Circuit Judge and long a friend of Mr. L. L. Nunn, died in Chicago on November 9. Judge Alschuler was a distinguished public servant in many capacities during his lifetime. He had served as a federal judge for twenty-one years prior to his death. As a legal adviser and friend of L. L. Nunn for a long period of years, he was keenly interested in Mr. Nunn's ideas about the formation of the Telluride Association, and is said to have contributed much to the final form which these ideas took.

Dr. D. T. Bailey, Association Alumni Charter Member, died in January at Cleveland at the age of 65. He was a brother of Mr. S. A. Bailey. Doctor Bailey was graduated in medicine from Western Reserve and was widely known as a proctologist. He is survived by his elder son, Lucien Lucius Bailey.

## CORNELL BRANCH ENTERTAINMENT ACTIVITIES

Highlighting the house social calendar was the annual Christmas formal on the 16th of December. The dance was an unqualified success for the 360 persons attending. Chairman Koo and Jim Tucker of the entertainment committee laid the groundwork for the affair with the usual Yuletide decorations, and Olof Swenson provided the highly successful punch.

Dr. Victor Lange pondered the question of whether or not Hitler had defeated the conservative reaction in Germany at a Sunday evening entertainment on December 10th. A large faculty group was in attendance. John Murray and Roland Ball offered a joint, but not duo, piano recital for the Sunday evening entertainment of January 14th.

Guests at the Branch during November included: Professor and Mrs. Erwin Goodenough of New Haven, Conn., Alumnus B. F. Armstrong and Mrs. Armstrong, and Dr. Martin P. Nilsson, Professor of Classical Archeology and Ancient History at the University of Lund, Sweden. Dr. Nilsson was our guest for six days.

Mr. Paul Todd, father of resident guest P. T. Jr., visited for an evening at the House while en route to New York. Dr. Moltz J. Bonn, lecturer on Nazi economic policies, was our guest on January 10th. A number of years ago Dr. Bonn was entertained by the House during his stay at Cornell.

The Branch is looking forward to the arrival of Dr. Peter Debye of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute, Berlin, Germany, whom it will entertain during his stay on the campus. Dr. Debye is to lecture on molecular structure and comes to Cornell under the auspices of the Baker Foundation.

## COVILLE CALLS ATTENTION

Professor Knight Biggerstaff announced on Nov. 16, 1939, the gift of a rare set of Chinese dynastic records to Cornell University's famous Wason Collection. The set contains 1,220 volumes and is made up of the original records of the Ch'ing dynasty. It was presented to the university library by the Manchukuo government. Similar copies were presented to Columbia, Harvard, and various European institutions. It was through the unofficial efforts of Cabot Coville, who is on the staff of the American Embassy in Tokio, that the attention of the Manchukuo government and the Japanese Foreign Office was called to the importance of making this addition to Cornell's Wason Collection.

## LAWYERS GET JOBS

Ralph N. Kleps, graduated from the Cornell Law School last June, began work this autumn for Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, in San Francisco. Kleps was at Deep Springs 1932-35 and did all his subsequent study at Cornell.

Harvey R. Wellman and Earle B. Henley, both in their final year at the Cornell Law School, begin work this autumn with the New York City firm of Mudge, Stern, Williams and Tucker. Henley and Kleps were classmates at Deep Springs and both achieved distinction in law school as members of the Cornell Law Quarterly Board. Wellman came to the Association as a student at Cornell. In addition to his study at Cornell, he spent 1937-39 at Brasenose College, Oxford, as a Rhodes Scholar.

## NEWS NOTES

C. J. Hinman, guest at the Cornell Branch in 1932-33, writes to the Chief Letter Elicitor of the Association that he and Mrs. Hinman are located at Charlottesville, Va., where he is doing work for a doctorate in English at the University of Virginia under the auspices of a DuPont Research Fellowship. For the two years previous, he has been "off to the remote Mid-West" teaching English at the University of Missouri. He says that he is "not yet so completely overcome with Barditis that he would not rejoice to greet old Tellurideans who happen into Jefferson's erstwhile stamping grounds."

Joseph W. Sobel, Constitutional Member of the Association, is Milwaukee Traffic Supervisor of the Wisconsin Telephone Company. He resides at 6931 W. Wisconsin Ave., Wauwatosa, Wis. Since the War in which he served as Captain of Field Artillery, Sobel has worked with the telephone company. His daughter, Myrtella Josephine, is a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin.

Paul F. Cadman, Deep Springs Trustee, president of the American Research Foundation in San Francisco, and formerly professor of Economics at the University of California and executive secretary of the San Francisco Stock Exchange, has been appointed economist of the American Bankers' Association. He will assume his new office on February 1.

Philip E. Mosely, assistant professor of European history at Cornell and Cornell Branch guest in 1938-39, has been elected to the advisory board of editors of the Journal of Modern History. This Journal, now in its eleventh year, is regarded as one of the leading historical publications of the country.

Dr. Frank Monaghan, Assistant Professor of American History at Yale University and official historian of the New York World's Fair, is engaged at present as the historical consultant for the popular radio program "Cavalcade of America." This program, which dramatizes scenes from American history, is broadcast over 94 NBC stations on Tuesday nights.

Keith Murray is working in London in the Ministries of Economic Warfare and of Food. Michael Barton is working with the Dunlop Rubber Company in Birmingham. Keith was a graduate guest at Cornell Branch during the year 1928-29, Michael was our guest in 1937-38.

## BIRTH

Grace and Harvey Mansfield announce the birth of a son John Tuckley Mansfield on January 13, 1940,—weight: 7 lbs., 11 ounces; hair: red.

## WEDDING BELLS

Member W. L. Biersach, Jr., was united in marriage on the tenth day of December to Miss Cleo Hefflon at Los Angeles.

Member A. E. Arent and Miss Frances Feldman were married in late November at Washington, D. C. They are at home at 362 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Va.

## THE REVOLUTION OF NIHILISM

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back during the bleak November days of 1918 that the past four years had been but the dawn of a new century.

The most pressing internal task of the early twenties was that of a drastic political reorganization. A new constitution, the most "liberal" constitution in the world, became the focus of much hope, but of equal suspicion. To some it seemed indeed a possible basis for a post-war organization upon new "antitotalitarian" ideals. But to others—and not the smallest group—the new constitution appeared to be an instrument so weak and unsatisfactory that it was designed for only one purpose—the perpetuation of dissension and small group feuds. Internal and external events soon showed the weakness and inadequacy of the new order. It became clear in the course of events that the liberal principles of the constitution were gradually and irreparably undermined, not by the extremest rebels, by Communists and Nazis, but by an indolent Bourgeoisie which insisted on the expression of its particularist temper through the channels of more than thirty political parties. Economic difficulties increased the tension: a virtually expropriated political class and a rapidly growing proletariat soon became politically "self conscious." The decisive feeling which led up to Hitler was the sense of the discrepancy between the inexorable pattern of a new economic and social order and an inadequate political organization. Hitler's tremendous victory over the democratic masses was largely the result of a supreme attempt to bring this discrepancy to the attention of an unsettled Bourgeoisie. That *Hitler's* efforts, and not those of the Communists, eventually succeeded was due not, of course, to superior arguments, but to the radical emotional appeal of the Nazi organization. Hitler proceeded upon the fundamental principle that for the success of any revolutionary movement its ideology is important only during the preliminary stages of the struggle. The function of Hitler's "program" was almost entirely emotional. Moreover, what Hitler promised between 1920 and 1933 was not only "freedom," not only bread, but above all, active revenge.

There is no doubt that, in spite of a relatively large following, Communism failed to hold the German masses because the rigorous intellectualism of the Communist ideology could not effectively remove the innate sentimental prejudice of a profoundly bewildered bourgeois society. At the same time, intellectuals, Communists as well as Nazis, fought for the same general objective: the removal of these middle-class prejudices and the creation, paradoxically enough, of a front against the nineteenth century. The values of that century can here only be conveniently summarized: the principle of individual choice, the belief that man is good, the efficiency of abstract moral precepts and the responsibility to a common European inheritance of classical and Christian knowledge. Undoubtedly the technological and political experiences of the last twenty years must have persuaded many Europeans of the problematical nature of some of these propositions—the increasing importance of anonymous forces in our organized life makes it difficult to speak, sociologically, of "individual choice." The "individual," it seems, is to only a small extent a decisive part of the "masses"; the "masses" have become

passive, variable, and moveable—a fact which becomes readily apparent when we try to examine those social and political relationships which are still "contractual" in the old sense. It is possible to say that the degree to which the individual can "give notice" determines the degree to which he still stands in the nineteenth century.

The liberalism of the nineteenth century had, of course, long before Hitler, ceased to be a plausible or effective political philosophy; but that the Nazis should succeed, as they have, in destroying the fundamental tenets of the German Bourgeoisie—a social group more essentially rooted in the nineteenth century than any other in Europe—is one of the most far-reaching phenomena of our times. Today the German middle class has turned so radically against the values of the liberal-conservative tradition from which it grew that the term "revolution of nihilism" does not seem an unduly emphatic description of the Nazi victory.

## DEEP SPRINGS NOTES

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To remedy this difficulty the Student Body, with the sanction of the administration, adopted a plan which had been attempted with some success during the first years of the school. This "free Monday plan" provides that no outside ranch work, except necessary chores, shall be required of students on Mondays. The four free hours which are gained in this way are used for outside reading, for taking hikes into the surrounding hills, or for other worthwhile but unrequired projects of individual choice. Mondays are free, of course, only when in the opinion of the Student Body Labor Commissioner and the ranch manager this day of work is not needed to keep the ranch in good condition and functioning. Thus far the students have had a number of free Mondays and without exception have made worthwhile use of the free time so gained.

During the fall Student Body Labor completed the three projects of installing a lawn sprinkling system in the circle at the upper ranch, of laying a pipe line to supply the lower ranch with filtered water, and of extending the shale retaining wall past the museum. In addition students did considerable riding assisting Mr. MacKenzie to gather the range cattle in preparation for the recent count.

Former Fire Chiefs will be interested to know that the mettle of the present Deep Springs Fire Department has been put to the test. During November a potentially serious gasoline fire started in the Boarding House furnace room. Within four minutes after the ringing of the Boarding House bell all volunteer firemen were on the scene with equipment. Within another two minutes the fire was extinguished. No one was burned seriously, and although some of the furnace controls had to be rewired, there was no costly damage. The experience of this fire demonstrated to us the need for certain equipment which we lacked. Smoke masks and foam extinguishers for oil fires have been ordered.

Student Body officers elected for the spring term were: President, Francis Tetreault; Labor Commissioner, Richard Brodhead; Student Body Representative, Herbert Gustafson; Advisory Committee, John U. Anderson, Henry Beal, Jame Olin; Chairman Applications Committee, Lewis Lawrence; Chairman Budget Committee, David Spalding.