

TELLURIDE NEWS LETTER

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER 1
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ACTIVITIES FOR THE COMING YEAR

THE NEW FUNDS DRIVE

by Barber Conable

The 1951-52 New Funds Drive achieved a marked success, not only financially, but in heightened interest and participation by friends and alumni too long separated from the activities founded by L. L. Nunn. Conducted as a joint drive in behalf of both Deep Springs and the Association, it was an expression of the basic harmony between those two institutions, and the response in terms of joint effort proved that much besides money is to be gained from continuing such a drive on an annual basis. From the financial point of view alone the results were satisfactory: at the conclusion of the drive \$6138.45 was turned over to Deep Springs and a similar figure to the Association. The total was more than has ever before been raised in this group. Approximately 90% of the gifts made were not earmarked for any particular activity, which in itself showed general support among interested alumni and friends for the idea that the two institutions are only independent, complementary parts of the same educational program.

There seems no reason for altering the structure of this year's Drive. At the time of this writing, area chairmen and sponsors are being appointed, and their names will be recorded in the autumn News Letter. Where possible, the burden of organizing a given geographical area will be shifted from those who performed so ably last year. The experience of previous years has taught us to organize the Drive primarily for the purpose of reaching effectively those who have directly benefited from the work of L.L. Nunn. The list of those to be solicited has been reduced somewhat to save solicitors from too much futile effort with respect to those who have not had sufficient opportunity to appreciate the work of one or the other of Mr. Nunn's educational activities. It is expected that each area chairman will supervise an intensive campaign of personal solicitation during three weeks of the October-November period, and that all solicitation will be complete before the Christmas season. As last year, all funds raised which are not specifically earmarked will be split equally between Deep Springs and the Association. It is to be hoped that the practice of giving non-earmarked funds will be continued so that not only the effort but also the yield will truly be joint.

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TELLURIDE LECTURESHIP

by Michael Cohen

The Telluride Lectureship, which was established by the 1952 Convention, may prove a significant extension of the Association's educational work at Cornell. During the coming academic year the Association will bring to the University at least one prominent speaker who will deliver a series of public lectures on an important social problem. Members of Cornell Branch will have opportunity for informal discussion with the speaker, since the enabling resolution stipulates that he will be the guest of the Branch while on campus.

The Association's main purpose in establishing the lectureship is "to promote consideration and discussion in the Cornell University community of those problems upon whose successful resolution depends the continued progress of a society based upon freedom and directed by intelligence." This statement of purpose puts some definite limitations on the topics to be dealt with and in particular disallows talks of a purely scientific or literary nature. On the other hand, a discussion of the control of atomic energy or the social responsibility of the writer would be quite in order. This restriction on the nature of the lecture topics seems in harmony with the Association's emphasis on the training of a specialist who is, nevertheless, an active member of his community. Many members who have been familiar with the lecture offerings on the campus in recent years are of the opinion that, although a wide variety of interesting specialized topics has been covered, there has been little discussion of the current national problems which are properly a subject of careful consideration on the campus. Hence, they thought that the Association could, at a moderate cost, make a contribution to the intellectual life on the campus; at the same time many Cornellians might become interested in the Association's work.

A committee of members and associates will select the lecturer for this year, and will submit to the 1953 Convention a long-time prospectus of the lectureship. News Letter readers are urged to submit their suggestions for lecturers and topics to John Mellor, Chairman of the committee, Telluride Association, Ithaca, New York.

TELLURIDE NEWSLETTER

DONALD N. LAMMERS, EDITOR
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The 1952 Convention appropriated toward the publication costs of the News Letter the sum of \$200.00. As in previous years, this amount was set deliberately below the anticipated annual costs, the expectation being that our readers would continue their traditionally generous support of this useful activity. With this, the first of our five issues, then, we take occasion to remind our readers that we shall again need their help if we are to complete our schedule.

THE ASSOCIATION AND NON-REGISTRATION

At the 1952 Convention the Association members present heard a report presented by a committee specially constituted to examine the problem of non-registration as it related to our educational activities. The examination was prompted by the concern expressed by some of our associates and friends at the relatively high incidence of non-registrants within our group. A clear expression of the factual and philosophical aspects of the problem and the statement of an attitude toward it which would accord with the broader principles of the Association were naturally desirable; these a substantial majority of those present found in the committee's report, considerable portions of which are reproduced below.

No one, however, expected this report to treat definitively a matter involving many individual judgments of value. What was expected, rather, was the enunciation of a policy which would be both comprehensible and defensible, yet which would also be a policy which could be altered upon the presentation of additional cogent arguments. On the opposite page is printed the first expression of a dissenting opinion which has been received; there will doubtless be others, and the editors of the News Letter will welcome the opportunity of affording them publication in future issues.

The first question to be decided is whether the support of a non-registrant at one of our branches constitutes a violation of our Constitution. The legal problem has been examined by the Permanent Judiciary Committee and a number of our distinguished legal experts. Under Article IX of the Constitution, the condition of forfeiture is "violation by the Association of the letter and spirit of this trust." No legal violation by the Association of specific provisions of the Constitution was found.

It has been further argued that the retention of a non-registrant constitutes an expression of endorsement and encouragement of the act of non-registration. However, legal opinion indicates that toleration by the Association of divergent and conflicting views held by its members in no way implies that the Association endorses these views or is in any way legally responsible for them.

From the strictly legal point of view it would appear, then, that failure to expel a non-registrant from our Branch does not constitute grounds for forfeiture of our trust.

A more fundamental issue to be decided by this Convention is whether the retention of a non-registrant at a Branch conflicts with the spirit of our trust. This is a difficult moral question which should be discussed with an attitude of humility on all sides.

Although non-registration is a violation of a federal statute, we should remember that it is entirely possible that there is a higher law -- the law of conscience and righteousness -- which in certain instances should take precedence. This principle was recently reaffirmed at the Nuremberg trials, where Justice Jackson found persons guilty of a crime against humanity because they had obeyed the state. Further back in the history of our own democracy we find the example of the Fugitive Slave Law, the violation of which was condoned rather than condemned by many of our most worthy citizens. The principle that individuals and groups in a democratic society have a higher loyalty than to the government can also be inferred from the phrase of the Telluride Constitution, "self government in harmony with the Creator." The words "in harmony with the Creator" may here be interpreted to imply that in a case of civil disobedience the Association should insist that the decision of the individual concerned represent a bona-fide expression of conscience and not an expression of fear, cowardice, or opportunism. In addition, to be acceptable, the decision should be motivated by ethically sound premises which are consonant with the ideals of Telluride Association. And finally, the individual in question should make no attempt to escape the legal consequences of his act. In this way, although violating the law, the individual is still accepting the role of law in society.

The same phrase of our Constitution, "self-government in harmony with the Creator," has been used to support a second view, contrary to that argued above. It is stated that one of the axioms of a democratic society is that a minority disapproving of its laws is obliged to obey them while at the same time striving to have them changed. It is argued that regardless of the high purpose for which a person finds a law insufferable, he has the moral obligation as a citizen of a democratic society to abide by that law until it is changed. Non-registration or any other act of civil disobedience is therefore considered a denial of the responsibilities of such citizenship. It is not denied that an individual may in good conscience take issue with certain laws, but it is maintained that the Association, because of its constitutional commitment to a democratic form of government, cannot support one who violates such laws.

The Convention recognizes some good sense in both of these interpretations, and is not prepared to recommend that either one of them be taken as definitive. In order to remain vital and to keep its Constitution alive and dynamic in varying circumstances, the Association must allow for and expect differences of opinion regarding the concrete spelling-out of its high ideals. It is the opinion of the Convention that one such legitimate difference exists between those who hold that a Telluride

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A DISSENTING OPINION

by John U. Anderson Jr.

I am writing this to register my strong dissent to the statement of policy regarding non-registration set forth at pages 45-46 of the 1952 Convention Minutes.

The Committee on Non-Registration, in its report to the Convention, buried a slipshod and truncated analysis of the moral issue involved between strata of intelligent examination and reporting. Since the moral issue is the crux of the problem, a careless exposition of that aspect of non-registration has, in my judgment, led the Committee to an improper set of conclusions.

A moral issue of the type here involved cannot be resolved by making an easy dichotomy between the duty imposed by "higher law" and the democratic ideal of abiding by a law until it can be changed by legislation. Any honest thinker will go further than that.

In a sense, it is not hard to blast the second of these theories. No matter how piously we mouth platitudes about the minority in a democracy being obliged to obey its laws, our conduct belies our words in small things, such as the speed at which we drive our cars. There is scant evidence to indicate that even the most worthy of us are willing to follow the law in large and important matters unless the law happens to agree with notions of propriety which we happen to hold independent of any statute. Any theory of absolute duty to obey whatever laws happen to be thrust upon us is in direct conflict with certain rights which we have always been disposed to treat seriously. If Telluride Association had existed two centuries ago, it would not have interposed this dogma to hamper our revolution, and today, it is still possible to envisage wrong laws which merit only disobedience. As the Committee has pointed out, the invasions of the recent war and seizure from within nations by corrupt political forces furnish us with recent historic examples of the duty of disobedience and the right of revolution. It seems to me that a contention that we should obey a bad law is morally untenable, even if legally necessary.

On the other hand, the theory of a "higher law" is perhaps incontrovertible, provided we understand that the term is used in a figurative sense. By "higher law," I take it the Committee means a moral intuition that goes beyond written law. To the extent that "higher law" refers to an absolute system of rules of conduct given ready-made by nature or some god, I must reject it. Assuming the efficacy of the "higher law" concept, as thus limited, has the Committee really dealt with the problems it raises?

Telluride Association must not allow the "higher law" concept to become an escape-hatch. To call it the law of conscience and righteous-

ness leads nowhere unless we bear in mind that every moral decision which calls a higher law to its support is forged in a context of physical fact. Different persons' higher laws lead them in different directions. That misfortune does not require us to subscribe to anarchy and to the view that everyone is as bad as everyone else. Lying behind each appeal to higher law lies one or more premises, expressed or unexpressed, which passes moral judgment on some aspect of human conduct. In our desire to be open-minded, we should not force ourselves in the stultifying position of refusing to pass judgment merely because differences of opinion in fact exist. Opinion may be based on error. No group can be cohesive in its support of an ideal, however nebulous, unless it recognizes the possibility of error and the necessity for its denunciation.

I have espoused a number of propositions as ethical guides to conduct and I have consistently assumed that our Association wholeheartedly subscribed to certain of these propositions. When I first read Plato's Crito, I felt that it expressed fairly well the idea of a man's duty of loyalty to his homeland, an idea which I had experienced in germ since I was a small boy. In my view, the Crito is wrong to the extent that it asserts the theory of duty to obey a bad law, but it is certainly a worthy exposition of a man's debt to the society which forms the whole framework of his existence. My country owes me nothing but it has given me much. I owe it my service, military if necessary, and my country does me no wrong if it takes my life or forces me to take other lives in the course of its perpetuation. Let me not suggest that I advocate the absolutist doctrine of "my country right or wrong." Nations can and do forfeit their right to the allegiance of their citizens. But this forfeiture does not occur upon every slight deviation from the views of an individual citizen. If the United States goes rotten, we owe it no allegiance, but our duty to our country is not out off if we happen to disagree with a facet of the foreign policy of the party in power.

I have likewise come to the realization that we live in an age in which international politics is rooted in power, a power which can result in war. Modern wars are total, and consequently, neutrality is a mere idea without content. In a total struggle, you cannot achieve neutrality by abstaining, because abstinence hurts one side and helps the other. It is not sufficient to give one's allegiance when the shooting starts; the most important part of the power struggle takes place before the shooting. Under these circumstances, since every individual must take a stand pro or con in the present world struggle, I had assumed that Telluride Association would feel obligated to stand four-square pro United States.

It may be urged that others of us properly adhere to other moral propositions which

are equally sound and just as rationally rooted in our experience in the physical world. "Thou shalt not kill." "War is evil." Without going into the merits of this position, I should like to suggest that it is possible to register without leaving oneself open to combat duty. No matter how firmly an individual believes that he should not kill and that war is evil, his attitude will not prevent killing and war. The only practical decision that is left to such a person is as to whether he intends to aid the enemy of his country by putting his country to the expense and bother of maintaining him in jail or whether he is willing to cooperate with his country as a non-combatant in a war which is just as evil in enemy as in us. For some people, this could pose an insoluble dilemma; for Telluriders, I think the choice should be clear.

My ethical thinking has been greatly influenced by Spinoza. As a result, I am much given to a suspension of judgment on moral matters. Human conduct presents a problem in understanding which cannot be resolved by comparing acts with a rigid code. Although to understand is to forgive, to forgive is not necessarily to endorse. In all conscience, I cannot say that a non-registrant is evil or vicious, but that is not to say that he is not wrong. I believe that Telluride Association and its individual members should try to understand non-registrants. That class should not, however, be clasped to our bosom or supported in any way that might suggest an acceptance of the non-registration principle. I am convinced that this Association, as a matter of policy, should never grant preferment or membership to a known non-registrant.

THE NEW FUNDS DRIVE (from page one)

The need of Deep Springs and the Association for supplemental income grows every year as inflation eats its way into annual income. As the economy becomes more unstable, more conservative financing is necessary. The expenses of education are rising. If these problems are not met realistically, the alternative is a curtailment of the educational program carried on at both institutions. Dean Howard of Deep Springs reports that this year will see "the most rounded program of studies in the history of the college." Pride in such a program, and in the unusual advantages offered by Cornell Branch, is not without its concomitant responsibility, and the support of all readers for the coming Drive as in the past is earnestly requested. Only by continuing contribution in the same spirit as that shown by the founder can we extend the vital educational forces he initiated.

There are tentative plans to print a book of collected letters written by Mr. L.L. Nunn. There are a number of illuminating and significant letters in the Historical Files of the Association, and it is hoped that these may be supplemented by letters from personal collections. The Chancellor would like to hear from men who will loan their Nunn letters briefly to the Association.

NON-REGISTRATION (from page two)
conscience may be above the law and those who maintain that the Constitution requires a Telluride member always to abide by majority decisions of society. It is our belief, therefore, that no summary attitude toward all pacifists or non-registrants should be taken. Indeed, such a position would be unprecedented in the history of the Association. Rather the matter should be dealt with on an individual basis through the action of Telluride Association in convention assembled.

At least three reasons may be stated for the relatively high incidence of pacifists in Deep Springs and the Association:

1. The appeal of the Nunn ideals and the unique organization of Telluride branches are altogether unusual; neither urges conformity on members to the extent of most educational institutions. Neither Deep Springs nor the Pasadena Branch experiment could expect to attract the most conservative and conformist candidates, but both have appealed rather to the sense of adventure, experiment, and extraordinary idealism in prospective students.

2. Our selection system places emphasis on independent thought. A markedly individualistic candidate is often attractive to interviewing committees who may, at the same time, object violently to his views as such. Then too, the pacifist position, although most of us may consider it mistaken, may actually appear to a few as a mature and unselfish assumption of social responsibility quite out of the ordinary, and the extreme youth of an applicant may plead further in his favor.

3. Once a man is selected on the basis of promising ability and independent thought, it is not surprising that our further stress on originality and free inquiry encourage widely divergent views as to the nature of effective social action, and sometimes lead to the most liberal interpretations of what extreme idealism means. It may be, then, that our educational principles breed attitudes of non-conformity, and the restrictive action with regard to recruitment might not be entirely successful in solving our problem.

The Convention has examined the legal and moral issues involved in extending the privileges of the Association or of its branches to a non-registrant and has made a full review of the facts. In itself, non-registration, when it rests on a deeply religious or ethical conviction, does not necessarily violate the spirit and letter of the Constitution of Telluride Association and is not ipso facto grounds for expulsion from membership or the denial of a candidacy.

However, this extreme position is contrary to the Association's general presumption regarding any member's obligations of citizenship. The ideal of the Association is to develop and support men having a number of broad attributes of character, intelligence, moral leadership, and practical idealism. Non-registration is a specific attitude of principle which is in its nature extreme, and strong compensating merits must be found in the individual before he may have the support of the Association.

PERSONAL NOTES

Robert Albright spent mid-July in Spain before beginning six weeks of work at Linz, Austria, in a DP camp. Albright teaches English at Anatolia College, Thessaloniki, Greece.

John Mellor has received his Diploma in Agricultural Economics with "Distinction" at Lincoln College, Oxford. Mellor begins work in September as full-time teacher in the Dept. of Agr. Economics at Cornell. He is the recipient of a grant of \$3,000.00 -- with an additional \$300.00 for expenses -- from the Social Science Research Council for a project beginning in February and concerned with the public policy implications of the economics of mechanization in agriculture.

Richard Moore continues his research in Medical Physics in the Department of Radiation Biology at the Medical School of the Univ. of Rochester.

Dr. Chas. A. Moore of the Univ. of Hawaii has presented the Association with Essays in East-West Philosophy: An Attempt at World Philosophical Synthesis, of which he is Editor. Moore is Editor of Philosophy East and West, a quarterly journal of oriental and comparative thought, published by the Univ. of Hawaii Press.

A. A. Anderson is President of the California Section of the Instrument Society of America.

Norman Hugh Barbour, June graduate from the Seabury-Western Seminary at Northwestern, was ordained Deacon of the Episcopal Church at ceremonies conducted by The Right Reverend the Bishop of Chicago at St. James' Church, Chicago, on May 31.

Paul Swatek, chief design engineer of the contracting division of Dravo Corp., Pittsburgh, received the Fuertes Graduate Medal of the School of Civil Engineering at Cornell on June 7. This gold medal is awarded annually by the Faculty to a graduate of the School "who has written a meritorious paper upon some engineering subject tending to advance the scientific or practical interests of the profession of the civil engineer." While he was a student in 1940, Swatek won the Fuertes Undergraduate Medal for his distinguished scholarship. It is reported that Mrs. Swatek will convert the handsome pair of medals into earrings.

Philip R. Ogden, June graduate in conservation work at the Utah State Agr. College, has been assigned as a 2nd Lieut. to the Air Force Security Service. He had done just two weeks of professional work with the Forest Service at the Malheur National Forest when he received his call.

Robin Harper has finished the academic requirements at Haverford College for his MA and is spending the summer on field work connected with his degree.

The Rev. John H. Ross and Mrs. Ross celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on June 25 at their home in Kuna, Idaho. The Rosses are the parents of Arthur A. and Robert Ross and grandparents of Bruce Laverty. Dr. Ross worked with the Beaver River Power Co. in Boise.

Mrs. Charles L. Dickinson attended the Chicago Convention as Republican State Committeewoman from Tompkins County, New York.

Born: James Edward Matson, on July 3, to Dr. and Mrs. Donald D. Matson of Boston. Parental comment: "No. 3 looks just like No. 1 and No. 2. Very satisfactory addition."

U.S. Attorney Thomas E. Fairchild has announced that he will be a Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate. Fairchild, former Wisconsin Attorney General, has started his campaign for the nomination. He says, "I have entered the race because it is my earnest belief it is vital to Wisconsin and to America to replace Sen. McCarthy and to repudiate his methods."

Melvin Kohn received his doctorate this spring from Cornell University. Thesis: "Analysis of Situational Patterning in Inter-group Relations."

Charles Burkhardt has for a number of months been a writer for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe, with headquarters in Liverpool. He has attended Lincoln College, Oxford, for two years on a Fulbright Grant and will present his thesis during the coming academic year for the degree of B. Litt.

Corporal Norris Smith has left for duty with the Far East Air Force. For the past year he has been a student of Chinese at the Army Language School, Monterey, Calif.

MORE PERSONALS

A number of associates attended the Democratic Convention in Chicago. Thomas Fairchild, Wisconsin candidate for the U.S. Senate, was a member of the Wisconsin State Delegation. Austin Kiplinger, Moderator on the ABC-TV IMPACT show on WENR-TV Monday nights, operated a portable radio transmitter-receiver set in Convention Hall. Charles Collingwood did his broadcast reporting for DBS not only at the Democratic Convention but at the Republican Convention as well.

Mrs. Isabel Tablante, wife of Nathaniel Tablante, of the College, Philippines, has received both the Fulbright and the Smith-Mundt Fellowships to do work in elementary education this autumn at the University of Chicago. The Tablantes have a daughter, Esther, born on 10/16.



The manuscript of a new book, "Microwave Theory and Techniques," on which Dr. Herbert Reich has been working for the past five years, and to which three others of the staff have contributed somewhat over 50%, is in the hands of the publisher and should appear about the end of the year. Reich is currently revising his "Theory and Application of Electron Tubes."

Dr. Donald Pederson finished his internship in surgery in June at the Strong Memorial Hospital at Rochester, N.Y. He begins service with the Navy Medical Corps on August 29. The Pedersons have two daughters: Julie, 2½ years, and Christine, 4 months.

John Dieffenderfer, June graduate of the Yale Law School, has become affiliated with the Cleveland law firm of Thompson, Hine, and Flory.

Alumni of the Univ. of Wisconsin and members of the AIEE have established a memorial fellowship fund in memory of Professor-Emeritus Edward Bennett who died in January. Bennett was an instructor at Olmsted in 1906-09 and during that period conducted investigations dealing with high-voltage problems, the development of transmission lines and lightning arresters. He became a staffman of the University in 1909 and remained there until his death. The Historical Files of the Association contain the copy of the letters patent granted Bennett for his lightning arrester, witnessed by L. G. Nightingale and E. A. Thornhill. Telluride associates wishing to contribute to the Bennett Fellowship Fund should make checks in favor of the University of Wisconsin and mail them to Madison, Wis.

WEDDINGS

Lt. (j.g.) Max King Morris and Mary Jane Mull, at Riverside Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Fla., on June 19. Lt. Morris, a graduate of Annapolis, has been flying a jet in the Pacific Area.

Lindsey Grant and Helen Burwell Marshall at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park, Md., on June 20. Grant, with the Dept. of State, has spent the past two years in Hong Kong, and is currently home for reassignment.

Robert H. Peters, Jr., and Ellen Ash, of Yale Medical School and Yale Law School, respectively, in New Haven on June 5. Both will continue their study.

Wm. L. Biersach, Jr. and Elsie C. Kerekes, at St. Joseph Church, Puente, Calif., on June 18. Address: 525 N. Campbell Ave., Alhambra, Calif.

Robert Richter and Miss Anne Kerrebrock were married in Portland, Ore., on August 1.

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