DS Summer Session
Intense, Rewarding

The summer semester at Deep Springs began June 16 with the return of the older students. Some of the new men also arrived that day, and the rest came June 17. The older students returning for the semester were: John Baird, Steve Oliver, Ken Hovey, Eric Schneiderewind, Hal Sedgwick, and Alan Wright. In addition, Court Hensel was here for the first quarter, and Hugo Blasdel was here for the second. The new students are: Ron Alexander (Portland, Oregon), J. R. Gatsinger (Concord, Mass.), Danny Hana (Garbeyan, Calif.), John Landahl (Los Alamos, New Mexico), Tom McDaid (Drexel Hill, Penn.), Bill McDowell (Guthrie, Okla.), Steve Noll (Arlington, Virginia), Mike Stryker (Oxon Hill, Maryland), and Doug Von Quaian (Dwight, Illinois). Elected officers for the summer were: Ken Hovey, Student Body President; John Baird, Labor Commissioner; Steve Noll, Treasurer; Steve Oliver was re-elected Secretary; and Hal Sedgwick continued through the summer as Student Body Rep. In response to a suggestion from Mrs. MacLeod, one student was given the responsibility of writing the Deep Springs portion of the chain letter that circulates between Cornell, Berkeley, and Deep Springs.

The major activities for general labor in the summer were baying (three crops), spraying and inoculating the cattle, branding and cutting the calves, replacing three old hay fields and adding two new fields, spraying and burning all the ditches and enlarging many of the ditches, and moving a house from the lower ranch to a rise overlooking the lake. All the regular student jobs were handled very ably, and everyone developed a wholesome attitude and spirit for the labor program.

The academic program this summer was more varied than is usual with four instructors: Dr. Childs (English and (Continued on page 3)

New Home, New Members Give
New Look to Berkeley Branch

After surviving the first Convention of its life, the Berkeley Branch of Telluride Association has begun its second year with a clearer understanding of its goals and a more refined idea of the responsibilities involved in developing a major TA project. The start of the new year was facilitated by the dedicated souls who remained in Berkeley during the summer and completed the task of relocating the physical plant of BBTA. Although the new quarters are not as lovely as those rented by the branch last year, they provide a single dwelling for the entire branch. At the close of last year it was anticipated that BBTA would house branchmen in two dwellings. The "oldtimers" are taking advantage of the situation that facilitates their task of introducing new men to the responsibilities and opportunities of branch life.

In spite of the reduction in the quality of the housing, finances are tighter than was anticipated at the 1964 Convention, because of carryovers from last year. Regardless of financial straits, we have no doubt that this year will be characterized by rigorous and fruitful investigations of branch programs, and by a keener intellectual atmosphere than was last year's branch.

The condition of the physical plant at the beginning of the year gave the first opportunity for the branchmen to work together in the primary branch spirit. The dining room and all of the bedrooms were painted in a cooperative project as part of our orientation program. Other aspects of the orientation were not highly organized. In line with Convention recommendation, however, we are seeking to introduce into our branch functions the structure required for thorough orientation of the branchmen and for careful execution of the trust. More frequent organized meetings of outside and inside branch members will increase the transfer of ideas within the branch and will help eliminate any tendency toward superficial and unreal unity.

At the outset of the year, it remains difficult to describe "the sense of the climate of operation, the temper of purpose beyond self-justification, the image being sought." The character of the branch has changed from that of the original BBTA. A diversity of attitudes and ideas among the residents will be more evident than in the past, when branchmen were largely a group of well acquainted friends. The new branchmen are independent and intelligent and have developed outside the influence of both Telluride affairs and Deep Springs isolation. They will form the core of the branch for the next two or three years, and comprise more than half of this year's branch. It is only a matter of time before they become well acquainted among themselves and with the older men so that their ability to exercise a strong and positive influence on branch life will become evident.

BBTA is currently operating along lines established by last year's activities. Bob Gay and Don Atwood are the current president and vice-president, respectively, and Miles Everett and John Neville are the other members of the advisory committee. Our major investigations of branch programs are centered around the operation of the neighborhood project in North Richmond and on close cooperation with the University of California committee on the Kennedy House project in Berkeley. The faculty guest program and seminar events are an outgrowth of last year's efforts and are cast in the image of the analogous programs at CBTA. We expect that the enlarged BBTA will be able to pursue these activities more intensively than did BBTA in the first year of its life.

The branch has originated its first semester activities at the neighborhood house under the direction of Don At- (Continued on page 2)
CBTA Opens Year

CBTA looks forward to a continuation of last year's successful operations. Some of the intensity of 63-64's philosophic disputations may vanish; but it seems certain that the House will lack neither burning issues nor excitement.

The composition of the House has changed slightly. Last year's senior class, reduced by marriage and premature graduation to two persons, has been replaced by a senior class of five, and the number of resident graduate students has risen to six. They include: Miss Gayatri Chakravorty (English literature), Michael Echerno (English and American literature), Michael Ormond (political science), Constantine Papadantonakis (economics), William Wallace (political science), and Anthony Pugh via the Lincoln College route (law). From Deep Springs we have Lincoln Bergman, French horn player and able representative of his former institution. The under-graduate members of the Women's Program are Miss Arlene Eisen, Miss Barbara Herman, Miss Sally Phillips, and Miss Claire Selgrin, Charles Fairbanks, a philosophically-oriented junior, comes to us from Yale.

Miss Frances Perkins, permanent guest of the House, will of course be with us again this year. She remains active in state and national political affairs in addition to teaching in Cornell's school of Industrial and Labor Relations and working on a book about Al Smith. Mr. Bloom, political philosopher extraordinaire, has left us for the joys of a penthouse, but his place has been taken by Professor Grice, an Oxford philosopher. A piano player and cricket enthusiast, Mr. Grice will be teaching a course on Will and Emotion. He tells us that he was born in Birmingham, England in 1913 and took his undergraduate degree at Oxford. He then became a schoolmaster. About this period of his life he says, "I disliked it intensely. When after the first term the thought struck me I had 39 1/2 years to go, I couldn't take it." He quit at the end of the year and went back to St. John's College, Oxford, as a graduate student in philosophy. World War II intervened, and Mr. Grice spent five years in the navy, returning after the war's close to Oxford, where he has remained until the present. Questioned about his political allegiances, Mr. Grice revealed that he was a Liberal Party supporter but now favors the Conservatives, not because of the capability of its leadership but because of the hateful influence which certain Labour Party leaders could have on the British educational system.

One other group should be mentioned — the freshmen. The Orientation Program was handled in the traditional manner and met with its traditional success. The Orientation party was one of the largest of its kind in recent years and remarkable for the even division of the sexes: the freshmen's alacrity in taking up the burden of social obligations inspired even stodgy older House members to meet the challenge. The freshmen have now taken up their Hourly burdans (Attendance Assistant Personal Treasurer, Athletic Manager, the various committees) and the usual early fears about "integrating the new members into the life of the Branch" have died an early death.

On September 28, the second meeting of CBTA took place and elections were held. Norman Brokaw was elected president of the Branch, Paul Wolfowitz vice-president (hence chairman of the Advisory Committee); the third and fourth members of AdCom are Philip Blair and Miss Barbara Herman. David Bolotin became Branch Treasurer and William Galston, comptroller. At the same meeting, last year's creation, SuperCom, was abolished, since the major function which it was created to fill, the formulation of a Great Books proposal (Telluride College) seemed to exist at best in a much altered form. The present setup includes an old-fashioned Library Committee and a Public Speaking Academic Affairs Committee, which has jurisdiction over the seminar program, public speaking, and new ideas and proposals relating to the academic program of CBTA. The work done last year on the Great Books scheme will not be discarded, in spite of the Cornell administration's refusal to sanction; further efforts will probably be made to combine the purposes of the Great Books proposal with the existing Branch seminar program.

At this point, one of the major challenges facing TA is the fight to live within its means while continuing to operate the wide and growing range of activities which it considers desirable. Cornell Branch is feeling very directly the results of this struggle. Because of the necessary budget cuts imposed on it by Convention, the Branch can no longer afford a full-time house man or a linen service. The Branch has hired a house man on a two-day-a-week basis; the difference between what he can accomplish and what a full-time house man formerly did will be made up through a work program organized and carried out by Branch members. In addition, Branch members have undertaken to pay for their own linen service. A further unfortunate concomitant of budgetary restrictions is that Cornell Branch is now virtually incapable of inviting qualified applicants from the Cornell student body to live in the House second term.
Dear Associates:

The Office needs a new dictionary, but according to the tattered Webster left here by a twenty-years-back secretary, the word "association" is defined as "a union of persons in a society for some common purpose".

The name of Telluride’s common purpose, originally architected by L. L. Nunn in collaboration with the Constituutional members, has been interpreted with a healthy flexibility through the Association’s fifty-odd years of history. And the annual Convention, open to Deep Springers, alumni and friends as well as the active membership, has been the forum where debate can refine and specify the current shaping of this purpose.

The number of Association member-trustees remains fairly constant; the mailing-list steadily grows, as our TASP and guest relationships increase the numbers of those whose lives are touched by Telluride. And now in 1964, with three groups of students actively engaged in Nunn enterprises, any sense of “union” must depend on successful communication.

The Newsletter, at best, can report actions, some facts, and vital statistics, supplemented occasionally by editorial comment and feature stories. Even here, Editor Paolillo in the wilds of Illinois is dependent on perspectives of his reporters in Ithaca, Berkeley, Deep Springs and elsewhere. And the Office is little better off when it comes to actual knowledge of the fabric of life and thought elsewhere than at Cornell Branch.

One suggestion made at Convention is being implemented. Towards the end of the summer term, Deep Springs sent off to Berkeley Branch its first contribution to a round-robin letter which should, each month, make its way around the three-stop circuit. If, through this device, the two Branches and Deep Springs can keep in closer touch, can develop a sense of the personalities involved, the climate of activity as well as the accomplishments, “common purpose”, however variously pursued, may re-establish some meaning in the Telluride glossary. At least the Convention confrontations will be based on some degree of previous acquaintance.

Such a plan, however, does nothing to improve communications with Associates not presently in residence at Deep Springs or at one of the Branches. Here the Newsletter-distribution is the Association’s only means of keeping in touch, and for the most part it is a one-way reach. Even active members, unless they are serving as Custodians or working for TASP, may disappear totally from one year’s end to the next.

If Associates have neither news to poetry), Dr. Mahrohls (geology), Mr. Kading (philosophy and ethics), and Mr. Beebe (German and French). The lecture program for the summer included as guest lecturers an artist, a clarinetist, a practicing psychologist, a geologist, and a philosopher. One excellent feature of the program was a two-week visit by Mr. James Rosen as an artist-in-residence. Both in and out of class the summer session was an intellectually rewarding semester for all the students.

In line with recently adopted policy, the Student Body trips this summer were to nearby places. The first trip (July 18-20) was to the Shadow Lake area, a place which rivals Yosemite in scenic beauty, if not in grandeur. The second trip (August 15-17) was to the Palisades Glacier and surrounding area.

The student body government has seen improvements both in efficiency and vitality. The “new blood” of new students and an active Advisory Committee proved sufficient to eliminate several of the poorer aspects of student government, nor comment to express, so be it. If they wish at least to keep informed via the Newsletter, the Office would appreciate prompt notification of all address changes. Each Newsletter returned for lack of a current address (and bulk mail is not forwardable) costs eight cents to reclaim, plus the price of its two mailings — a poor way to spend Association funds. Perhaps it should be said, also, that those who have no interest in reading the Newsletter would do well to ask that their names be removed from the mailing-list.

Communication with alumni and other Associates of former years, has however inestimable value for the office which expedites Telluride affairs. Over the years the keeping of records has been sporadic, as responsibilities have moved from hand to hand. Items of desired information could be forever lost if contact were broken with alumni memories. For example, it is hoped that some reader of this issue can tell us how and under what circumstances the Association came by its six Midjo paintings of the Deep Springs area; were they a gift, a purchase, or a loan? They are regularly included in our inventory, but their acquisition is shrouded in mystery. Such questions, unanswerable from any evidence in office files, turn up with fair frequency.

As the world shrinks and Associates become more peripatetic, the foreign assignments of Telluriders become important — in the search for top candidates for graduate preference, in providing help to other travelling Associates, in opening up resources of information and opinion. But all of these require open lines of communication, constant knowledge of where Associates are, and why. A recent letter from member Klaus Heide, in Zurich, asks for “a list of Telluriders in those countries I shall touch upon in my journey to and from India: Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Greece.” Last spring, the knowledge that John Mellor was in New Delhi made it possible to check on a promising TASP candidate from a school over there. (And she made it.)

For Telluride, “union” will never imply “unnanimity.” The Home Office would emphasize only that it behooves an Association to associate, a) if it is to pursue a common purpose, and b) if the executive staff is to function in implementing this purpose.

Do write, do report, do keep in touch.

Your humble servant,

Beatrice MacLeod
Executive Secretary

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Charter Member Biersach Succumbs

William Louis Biersach died on August 12th, 1964, at the residence of his son, William L. Biersach, Jr., 5146 Greencrest Road, LaCanada, California. During the past three years, he had some periods of illness requiring hospitalization. About four months ago, he left the hospital to be with Bill and family but had failed slowly since until the end.

Mr. Biersach, known as Will to many generations of Telluride associates, was born at Versailles, Missouri on November 5th, 1874. As a small-town boy, he worked in his father's general store and gained local fame as a baseball player. In 1897, he went to Denver to look for a job as a salesclerk, and met Mr. and Mrs. Paul N. Nunn. Through them, he became acquainted with L. L. Nunn and began the work that he followed throughout his life.

After a brief turn during 1897 in the First National Bank of Telluride, Will was moved to the newly opened office of Telluride Transmission Company at Provo, Utah, but for nearly three years, spent much of his time in travel as assistant to L. L. Nunn. In the Fall of 1901, at Woodshole, Massachusetts, he married Estelle Knight of Provo who was then a student at Osterlin College. She predeceased him by precisely ten years.


During much of his life, Mr. Biersach suffered from gastric ulcer. Approximately 25 years ago, he underwent what was then a newly devised form of radical surgery. From that time nearly until his death, Mr. Biersach enjoyed good health. He was nearly 90 when he died, and he continued his keen interest in Telluride Association and Deep Springs to the last.

Private funeral services were conducted at Forest Lawn in Los Angeles on Monday, August 17th, 1964. He asked that they be private so that his friends would not be inconvenienced by the necessity of attending his funeral and that flowers be omitted. His son, Bill, has suggested that contributions to Deep Springs, in lieu of flowers, would be appropriate. Mr. Biersach is survived by his son, William L. Biersach, Jr., a "charter member elect" of Telluride Association, two grandsons, a sister, Mrs. Drumgold of Sedalia, Missouri, and a brother, Arthur, of Paris, Texas who is a charter member of Telluride Association and a graduate of Cornell.

Other Deaths

The Office of the Association has been informed of the deaths of two Deep Springs alumni:
