

Telluride Newsletter

1971 March Volume 58, Number 3

TASP Board Faces New Recruitment Problems

By BARRY WELLER TA '64

During the past few years the operation of the summer programs has encountered a growing number of obstacles, as other educational institutions on which we have been accustomed to rely for help have been forced by their own financial needs to retrench on their commitments to us. Princeton and Hampton Institute have ceased their support or subsidy of Telluride Summer Programs on their campuses. Cornell has granted us at least a temporary extension of its support of one program, but feeling the need to justify this expenditure *vis-a-vis* other demands placed on the Arts College budget, has stipulated that the Summer Program Board seek faculty for *both* Ithaca programs at least initially from among Cornell faculty. Our cooperative venture with Deep Springs places even greater restrictions on the Board's actions, since the Dean and the Board of Trustees reserve the right to choose faculty for the joint summer program there (which is, after all, also the first term of the Deep Springs academic year). A recent action by the directors of the Educational Testing Service in Princeton strikes at our recruitment and selection process, and raises the question in the minds of some as to whether the enterprise of running the summer programs, either in their current form or some variation on it, should not simply be abandoned.

Under the arrangements of the past decade, the Educational Testing Service sends to the Ithaca Office, by mid-December, the names and addresses of between 2500 and 4000 high-school juniors who have both scored high on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT—a kind of rehearsal for College Boards, still actively recommended by guidance counselors, particularly outside of East Coast urban areas), and have expressed interest in the Telluride Summer Programs by checking a box on the PSAT. Applications are sent to these students; somewhere over one thousand of them are eventually completed and returned in time for readers at Cornell Branch (and in previous years, Berkeley Branch) to do the bulk of the reading over intersession. There are, of course, lamentable gaps in the student population we reach by this method, and we try to repair these gaps through personal recommendations of Associates (including past participants in TASPs) and the Special Recruitment Program, directed particularly at urban areas; the recommendations of guidance counselors are also solicited. Nevertheless, by far the largest number of candidates come through PSAT scores received from the Educational Testing Service, and

the test, whatever its defects, allows us to reach bright students in locales too scattered and too remote for any network of Telluride contacts to cover directly. Screening and selection of candidates is normally completed by early April, which enables us to offer applicants places in the programs before they have been tempted by offers to participate in NSF programs, have accepted jobs, or made other plans for the summer which would compete with the opportunity to be in a TASP.

The Educational Testing Service now informs us that, in the future, they can supply us with names no earlier than January 15, and that if we wish to continue to use the test scores as at present, we must mail, *at our own expense*, a description of our programs to their entire list of 23,000 schools. (This contrasts with the previous arrangement, but which a brief description of the TASPs was included with ETS's own materials supplying information about the test. Given the volume of mail which crosses a guidance counselor's desk and the fact that even this year ETS received many complaints of "no information" about TASP, it seems unlikely that this mailing would have much usefulness independent of accommodating ETS.) This would cause several problems. There is, to begin with, the expense of a huge mailing and printing to be added to our normal recruitment budget. The dates involved also mean that a big influx of applications would arrive at Telluride House after the second term was well under way, and it is at least uncertain whether House readers could sacrifice enough time to do the job as quickly or as well as it is normally done, and, in any case, the selection process would drag on until mid-May when a number of the most interesting candidates for the program would already have made other firm commitments for the summer. To be able to use this arrangement, with all its drawbacks, we will have to make an affirmative decision in the near future (how soon is as yet uncertain, but probably before Convention would have an opportunity to consider the situation), since ETS wishes to print up its own materials for next year's PSAT as soon as possible.

An alternative is to forget about the PSAT scores (as it seems likely we will have to do eventually), and rely on the recommendations of guidance counselors and our Associates for applicants. Presumably guidance counselors would now send us more recommendations, since they would no longer rely on their best students' high PSAT scores as a way of receiving applications. On the other hand, without the prestige of association with a national examination like PSAT, the Telluride Summer Program brochure might well get lost among innumerable other summer-institute flyers which litter every guidance counselor's desk. Our programs are different in quality and conception from other summer institutes, and a careful reading of the advance flyer we send out would reveal as much, but can we rely on this kind of attention? The only way to arrive at a definite answer to this question is to try it for at least one year.

Or we might consider abandoning the summer programs.

Although we organize and run the summer programs as independently valuable experiences, it is nevertheless clear that

(continued on page 9)

1971 Convention Workshop Proposed

Plans are under consideration to open Convention this year with speakers and seminars to center on some topic of public concern. Although the speakers have not yet been selected, alumni and Branchmembers are interested in someone connected currently or in the past with some aspect of government work, rather than an academic. The spring issue of the Newsletter will report further developments in consideration of the event.

News from Cornell Branch

by DAVID RETONDO TA '70

Perhaps the most characteristic aspect of House life during the past term was the informal nature of House activities and exchange among members. Aside from this (and the generally remarked friendly and unantagonistic tone of life in general) there was nothing else about it that differed in a fundamental way from previous terms. The differences just mentioned are nonetheless themselves fundamental, and should not be discounted simply because they tend not to manifest themselves in formally conceived activities or events; the virtues they promote are evident enough when such occasions arise. It is necessary to emphasize these virtues because the informal activities which encourage them tend to conflict with the more formally valuable ones also available. It is largely a question of choice, and neither alternative is without advantages and disadvantages. Some of these observations are illustrated by fall term's Branch.

Among the sparse number of valid generalizations that can be made about the term is that although natural groups within the Branch (centering on academic interests, political sympathies and established friendships) were formed, more arbitrary or incidental overlappings, like room-mateships, were no less cordial, and in some case productively brought together people who differed considerably in these respects. The range of academic interests represented was not insubstantial, and included mathematics, economics, and biological sciences, at one extreme, and art, aesthetics, and classics at another (with history, politics and philosophy occupying the middle). Political sympathies ranged from classical conservative right to both Trotskyist and New Left.

People were friendly and unantagonistic in most discussion; at the same time, they seemed generally quite eager to learn from each other—this sort of mutual interest being one of the virtues especially encouraged by the informality and friendliness of mutual education. There were several members whose (often political) activities outside the Branch turned out to be positive influences. They were easily tolerated, and sometimes even encouraged by the Branch, which managed to profit from them in most cases. Such activities included the Cornell Senate and Women's Liberation, and radical politics in general. One member was in the process of writing a book about his experiences with the New York City educational system. Various political groups met at one time or another in the House (including occasional Women's Liberation meetings, and a weekly Revolutionary Marxist Caucus study group attended by several Housemembers).

Cornell Branch Notes

Several Branchmen received awards recently. Stephanie Seremetis CB '68 was elected one of the student body members of the Cornell Board of Trustees. Timothy Greening, DS '66, TA '70, and Arthur Melzer CB '69 were awarded Woodrow Wilson Fellowships for graduate study next year.

Professor Donald Patterson, Semitic studies, returned to Oxford after spending fall term as faculty guest at the Branch. Faculty guests for spring semester are Donald Lancaster, a member of the Asian Studies faculty, and Peter Michelson, visiting professor of German literature. Madugba I. Iro, a graduate student in sociology from Nigeria, continues as a guest at the Branch.

House officers for spring term are Timothy Greening, president; Steve Sestanovich, vice-president; Jeremy Rabkin, secretary; David Epstein, treasurer. Additional Ad-Com members are David Epstein and Joel Schwartz, and Catputter is Mark Dolliver.

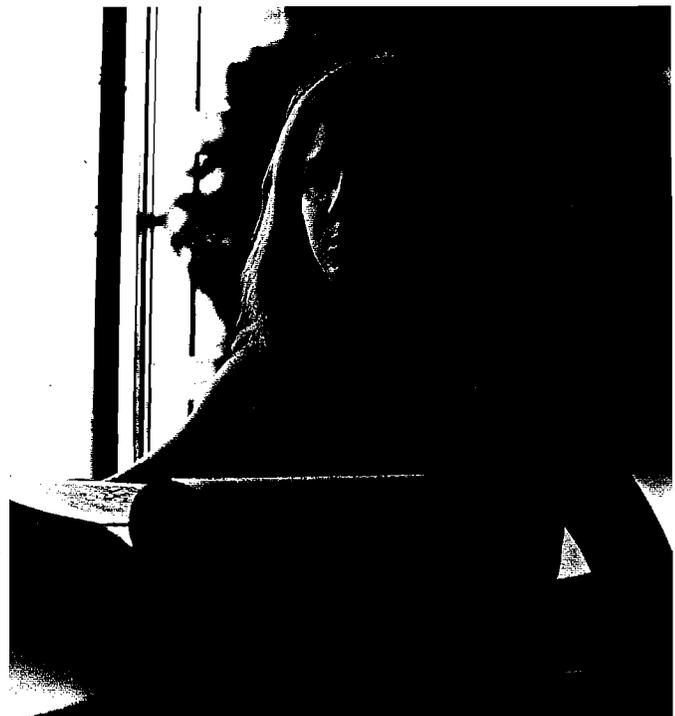
Aside from politics, one of the most common interests of members was music (with almost all tastes represented). One House member belongs to a rock band—riverrun—that established itself in Ithaca in October, and contributed both good music and stimulation of the considerable musical interests and talents of Housemembers. A small group of Housemembers is interested in photography and improvised a dark room in the laundry room.

Three receptions for lecturers visiting Cornell were held with interesting results in two cases. A reception early in the term with Tom Hayden demonstrated the fragmentation and confusion on the left; a reception for William Kunstler attracted a large number of people after his speech on campus, but added nothing of much interest. The German philosopher, Hans Gadamer, was invited for a reception and dinner,



staying long afterwards to speak with interested people.

A rock party in October deserves notice for its relative success, for which the band, riverrun, was largely responsible, and the faculty Christmas party for its success with the faculty, many of whom came and apparently enjoyed them.



selves. There is less to say about other formal activities. Well-chaired House meetings mitigated occasionally painful or sloppy decisions and usual business. There were only two seminars in the Academic Affairs program. The quality of public speaking was fairly good, at least compared to other recent performances, and a few speeches were excellent.

The conflict between formal and informal activities is partly one of time and individual interest, and partly one of general attitudes toward House life. Informal discussion can occur in circumstances which discourage formal programs, one important case in point being that such programs put a limit on the diversity represented. On the other hand such diversity beyond those limits still makes valuable contributions to informal life. De-emphasis of formal programs has the inevitable consequence that House meetings and committee work tend to become less central to the active life of the House. This is not to say that good formal programs might not make such a House all the better; it does mean that House members will not exert as much effort on their behalf as they might otherwise, and that their worth will depend more on external circumstances. On an even more general level, an emphasis on the informal tends to be more compatible with the way in which the House ordinarily discovers



a direction in its life, which takes the form of the coalescence of a common interest from a collection of different individual ones. The formal approach is, on the other hand, favored by a well-defined (or at least explicit) purpose, which might serve as a basis for membership and is directly applicable to Branch activity.

It is difficult to convey a fair image of the activity which constitutes one of the two major Association programs. It is bound to be misleading in some respects; it is difficult to get an accurate image of Branch life without the benefit of some remove. It is all the more tricky to judge the educational value of House life, because it is difficult to state precisely where its value in a given case lies. I have tried to suggest that several alternatives are more or less equally valuable, and that there was something valuable about this past term. Certainly there was in the judgment of the majority of Housemembers who considered the term at least partially successful.

News from Deep Springs

by JEFF BOYD DS '69

One of the most important operations at Deep Springs is the functioning of the Applications Committee, which is now considering requests by many of the student body for reinventions for next year. The committee has as yet received only four new applications for admission this June, but it is hoping for many more in the immediate future.

The current faculty consists of Dr. Reid, Dr. Mawby, Mr. Balachowski, Mr. Starkweather and Mr. Dell. Additionally, one extra teacher was here for a seven-week term last fall. Mr. Brian Murphy, a graduate of Williams College and a teaching assistant at the University of California at Santa Cruz, offered two intensive courses in political science. Dr. Rod Robertson TA '50, who teaches drama at Queens University at Kingston, will be here in the spring to teach an intensive course in modern drama. Plans are being made, also, for the Deep Springs TASP in June which will be taught by Dr. Reid, Dr. Schaar of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Dr. Carney of the University of California, Riverside.

The work force of Deep Springs' students and staff has been quite active this year as always. A large amount of routine hay work was done last fall, as well as a thorough renovation of most of the fence lines around the ranch. Mr. Holloway and the student cowboys have also been busy caring for the cattle, now in their winter feeding areas, and the spring calving will begin in a few weeks. There has been no lack of special projects; the permanent pasture was releveled, the milk-cooling room was moved to the dairy barn to make it more convenient for the dairy men, and a large number of telephone poles, given us by the telephone company, were brought down from their original sites in Wyman Canyon to be cut up and used for fence posts.

Work is in progress on the extension of the main concrete irrigation ditch, which now reaches only two-thirds of the way across the ranch, and on the remodeling of the basement of the boarding house, the site of the old dairy milk room, which will be made available as a cutting and preparing room for the cooks. The major projects planned for this spring are the installation of a pair of new boilers in the main building, and the possible releveled of field four. It should be noted that all construction work—past, present and future—owes or will owe most of its success to the ability and energy of our construction man, Wallace Rooney, who has now been here a little over a year.

Spring elections were held in January. Denis Clark is president, Bruce Eggleston, student body trustee, and Jeff Boyd, labor commissioner. The new secretary is Bruce Proctor and the treasurer is Mike Quinn.

Altogether, this year has been a profitable one at Deep Springs in all aspects, and we hope the situation will continue to be as good as it has been in the past under the competent directorship of the dean, Dr. Reid, and the ranch manager, Mr. Holloway.

Correction

The fall *Newsletter's* report of the death of Kim Hooper was overstated. He is alive and well and living in Oakland. The misunderstanding arose when Kim reported his "death" to the *Cornell Alumni News*, in desperate hope of stopping the continued solicitations that every alumnus is subjected to. Your eagle-eyed editor picked up the notice, and, after confirming the "death" with the Cornell News Bureau, duly published it. Apologies and blushes.

TELLURIDE NEWSLETTER

The *Telluride Newsletter* is published four times a year in Ithaca, New York.

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The *Newsletter* editors welcome letters, comments, and suggestions from the readers. Please address correspondence to Mrs. Faith Westburg, Telluride Association, 217 West Avenue, Ithaca, New York, 14850.

Photographs on pages 2 and 3, John Kristensen. Drawing by Robert Kraynak.

Soundingboard

Soundingboard is a forum for discussion among alumni and current members. Please send questions, ruminations, etc. in care of the Editor.

The future of our Summer Program should not be decided, I believe, on considerations of feasibility (financial and practical) alone. The TASP format we have followed, the kind of content on which we've spent our energy and money, has not basically changed since 1954. In 1963 a hard-working Survey Committee under Don Noel reviewed the Summer Programs in depth, concluded that they were worth continuing, gave some cautionary advices, and made one positive suggestion (for a work-study program open to past TASPers, Branchmen and Deep Springers). It was a good committee and there were some splendid reports in the files, but TASP's continued as before.

The originally established pattern, designed around the Telluride of the fifties, had a threefold purpose: to identify and challenge a small group of superior students, to provide possible applicants for Cornell Branch, and to provide some experience in planning and management for Association members.

The "small group" ranged from fifteen the first year, to sixty-four at its maximum in 1966. Women have been included since 1963, though not in equal numbers. And since 1960 an effort has been made to include minority-group students. Thus there have been some variations in manner but not concept, of the first objective. As for the second, TASP has for some time been providing virtually all the incoming freshmen for Cornell Branch. Management experience for TASP Chairmen and their Boards has been rewarding, frightening, productive, disastrous, revealing—as crisis and triumphs have marked the progression of programs.

Are these three objectives still valid and workable? Are programs of the kind we run appropriate to the needs and natures of today's high school juniors? And to Telluride's self-image?

My informant at ETS tells me that the powers there are not very happy to find themselves promoting a program which is so exclusive. They sent us this year four thousand names of interested students; we have forty places to fill. We lick our chops when the number of actual applications passed the thousand mark—with so many to choose from we can afford to be *really* choosy. In the early years of the Program, the choice was limited both in numbers and in range. Candidates came largely from "good" schools, "good" families, of middle and upper middle class status. Because there was less diversity to choose from, there was less diversity in the programs. Were they less productive?

Our use of the PSAT is partly responsible for changing all that; geographically and economically it extended our reach.



We now get candidates from small towns and great cities, from the families of tycoons and the families of the unemployed. Brains, it seems, are not the exclusive property of the well-born or well-heeled.

But even without the PSAT, there is no escaping the fact that we can't in 1971 recruit the All-American Junior of the fifties. For one thing, he doesn't exist; for another, potential leaders of this generation come in differently-designed packages. For still another, there is an uneasy sense abroad in the Association that the training of leaders these days is a new ball-game in which Nunnian plans and purposes have little place. The comfortable line of least resistance is to prepare for a profession and earn the wherewithal to sit in the stands.

Our efforts at minority recruitment, our five-year stand with a field program at Hampton, our sporadic consideration of a service program (always dropped with the rationale that others can do it better) have represented tentative breaks from Association tradition. At this particular moment we have banished "relevance" from our vocabulary and practice. Except for token efforts at diversity, TASP's have settled on a search for a brain-pool from which Cornell Branch can draw. Inevitably, Branch application-readers, like Association Membership Committees, look for smarts, and approve the candidates whose interests and abilities are most like their own.

Convention's insistence that it be presented with five non-arts candidates next June is evidence that we are not entirely satisfied with complacent self-perpetuation. But it's clear that unless we change TASP, the chief provider, Branch and Association will remain basically unchanged.

There are some untried possibilities. We could do an international program, recruiting from the sons and daughters of foreign nationals in this country. We could do an inter-racial program specifically designed around the problems of tolerance. In the files is a proposal from Mike Yarrow that we try a work-study program, perhaps in Alaska. A field program concerned with rural poverty, migrant workers or the like, has already been suggested. To date, however, we have been unwilling to give up the implicit assumption that Telluride's real interest is in top scholarship. It's a comfortable position, but it produces more professors than public servants.

Word has just come that we have only until May 15 to decide whether we will continue using the services of ETS (see Barry Weller's statement on the stipulations we'd have to accept). If you have thoughts, speak now: this issue can't wait for Convention.

BEATRICE MACLEOD
Executive Secretary

The Editors wish to thank the anonymous donor of \$5.00 to the *Newsletter*. The knowledge that some of our audience really enjoy reading the *Newsletter* pleases us greatly.

1971 Joint New Funds Drive Receives \$18,000

The Telluride-Deep Springs Joint New Funds Drive has had a successful year so far. As of March 1, 1971, Telluride Corporation had received gifts totaling more than \$18,000 from over 140 contributors. This compares favorably with last year's total contributions. As of June 1, 1970 the Corporation had received approximately \$11,500 from 141 contributors.

Part of the increase in both contributions and number of contributors may be due to the closer cooperation between Deep Springs and Telluride in coordinating their alumni solicitations drive. Whether this accounts for most of the rise in contributions will not be able to be verified until after the books are closed on June 1, 1971.

Telluride Corporation also received the assets of the Telluride Association Alumni which decided not to collect dues toward a loan fund as they have in the past. These assets, \$6,000, will be divided equally between Telluride Association and Deep Springs.

Those in charge of the drive point out, however, that, though they are gratified by the response this year, there is a continuing need for alumni contributions. In order for Deep Springs to attract the necessary endowment funds, it must show continuous and increasing alumni support of the college. The percentage of alumni giving to an annual drive is one of the major yardsticks by which the health of an educational institution is judged. In this respect, neither Deep Springs nor Telluride Association matches up very well. New Funds letters are sent out to over 1100 alumni of both institutions which means that so far this year, only 1.3% of the recipients have responded. It is hoped that during the remaining months of the fiscal year more alumni will contribute to the support of both institutions. The small contribution is as important to us as the large one.

TAA to Reorganize

Telluride Association Alumni, dormant for several years, shows signs of revival. After meeting with Abram Shulsky, Telluride Association president, and Frederick Laise, Deep Springs' trustee, Robert Gatje TA '46 has begun to set up an alumni counsel. He also hopes to have a draft of a new constitution ready before the Deep Springs reunion in June, so that it can be discussed and ratified there.

The old TAA, which was dismantled last year, found that its primary function of making loans to former and current associates became too complex to administer. The assets of the group, which were amassed from the \$5.00 a year dues collected from retiring members of the Association, amounted to \$6,000, and they have been turned over to Telluride Corporation to be equally divided between Telluride and Deep Springs.

Mr. Gatje hopes that alumni will discuss the possible functions of the new group among themselves and at area dinners this spring. He would appreciate thoughts and suggestions. His address is: Hopp Ground Lane, Bedford Village, New York, 10506.

Deep Springs Reunion Set

June 19 and 20 are the dates set for the Deep Springs Reunion. Arrangements are being made for a chartered transportation (buses, possibly planes) from the Bay area and Los Angeles to Deep Springs Friday, June 18; there may also be a chartered bus from Las Vegas to the valley on Friday afternoon for the convenience of alumni flying from East Coast. Activities are planned for all day Saturday and for Sunday morning. Charters will leave the valley at noon on Sunday. If you plan to attend or want further information, contact Curtis Karplus, 14 Bridge Road, Berkeley, California 94705.

1971 JOINT NEW FUNDS DRIVE Telluride Association and Deep Springs

Enclosed is my contribution of \$.....

I hereby pledge \$..... with payment deferred until

Please make checks payable to Telluride Corporation

Telluride Association (General Operations)

Deep Springs (General Operations)

Other (Please specify)

NAME

ADDRESS

Many companies match employees gifts to educational institutions. If you are employed by such a firm, would you please ask it to match your contribution? Both Cornell University and Deep Springs are qualified to receive these gifts. Cornell has agreed to use such funds, so earmarked, as scholarships for current Cornell Branch members. Such checks should be made out to either Deep Springs or Cornell University.

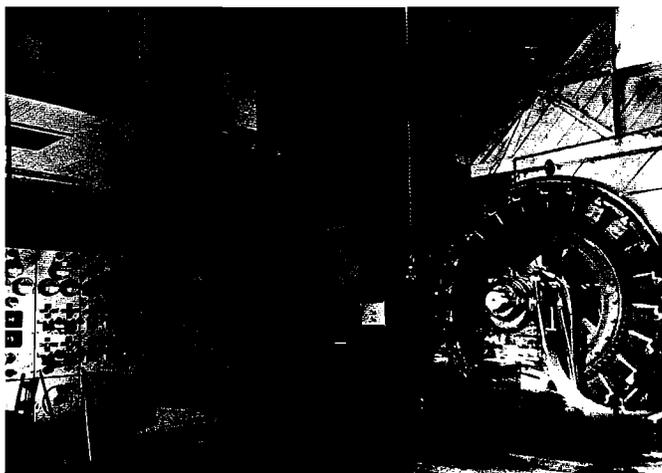
From Out of the Past: Who Done It?

The following article is excerpted from the manuscript by Orville Sweeting TA '34, Telluride Association historian. The manuscript will provide material for a pictorial history to be published sometime this year.

In the late 1880's L. L. Nunn was faced with the complete shutdown of the productive gold mines in Colorado. The Gold King mill had been attached by creditors, and all of the Nunn gains appeared to be lost. With the aid of his brother P. N., who was teaching in Massachusetts, L. L. began to study the possibility of using electricity for power purposes. With this decision Nunn entered the historic controversy over the virtues of direct and alternating current which pitted him against Thomas A. Edison, the best-known exponent of electricity in the world.

Current electricity was known, of course (the principles having been discovered in the early 1800's), but the only variety considered safe and practical was direct current, the type in which the surge of current flows continuously in the same direction in a conductor. This method of conducting power has severe limitations, since it involves large loss of current over distances greater than a few miles and demands large-diameter wire. This meant that if a large city were to be lighted adequately, a multiplicity of small generating plants would have to be installed, each designed to serve a circle of about one mile radius. In fact, by the time L. L. entered the picture, Edison and others had invested many hundreds of thousands of dollars in plant and equipment for distribution of direct current for illumination of both streets and buildings in Eastern cities.

Although direct current was not feasible for machine power purposes, Edison was convinced that alternating current was extremely dangerous: "There is no plea which will justify the use of high-tension and alternating currents, either in a scientific or a commercial sense. They are employed solely to reduce investment in copper wire and real estate. . . . The only way in which safety can be secured is to restrict electrical pressures. The continuous current should be limited to six hundred or seven hundred volts, with a variable range not exceeding a few volts. As for the alternating current, it is difficult for me to name a safe pressure. . . . The electric-lighting company with which I am connected purchased some time ago the patents for a complete alternating system. . . . Up to the present time I have succeeded in inducing them not to offer this system to the public, nor will they ever do so with my consent."



Interior view of the old station at Ames, Colorado, about 1896, showing the generator which supplied power to the Gold King Mine in Alta Basin and to Telluride.

The general public, abetted by the press, agreed with Edison about the dangers of alternating current. A few newspapers set up a special department for publicizing injuries inflicted, damage suits were entered, charitable funds were started for adults crippled or children orphaned—"all in consequence of the indifference of the great mass of citizens to the arch destroyer hovering in the wires over their heads." One fatal accident was exploited through ten papers, under this variety of headlines: "Horrible Death of a Lineman," "The Wire's Fatal Grasp," "One Martyr More," "Wire Has Another Victim," "The Electric Murderer," "Another Lineman Roasted to Death," "Electric Wire Slaughter," "Again a Corpse in the Wires," "Death's Riot," "Electric Wires Add to Their List of Victims." An article in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, datelined October 24, 1889, appeared under the following headline:

ELECTRICAL MURDERS Over One Hundred Victims Slain by the Deadly Wires in New York City

Harold P. Brown, the Famous Electrical Expert, Describes the Three Currents: the Continuous, the Pulsating, and the Deadly Alternating—How Death is Produced and How It May Be Prevented—It's the Heavy, High Tension Voltage, Pounding at the Vitals, That Kills—How It Will be Applied to Condemned Murderers.

The lineman had been killed while installing direct current lines (which accidentally crossed), and, the argument ran, if he can be killed by wires carrying no more than 500 volts, what would happen if alternating current lines were installed which carried far greater voltages.

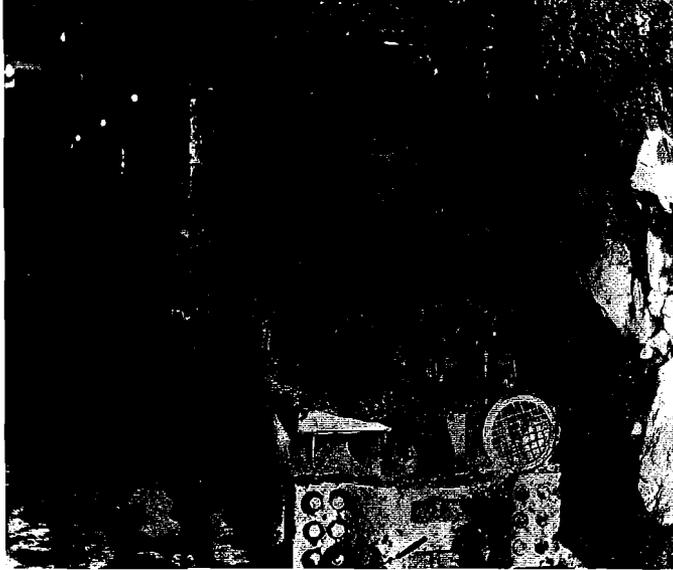
But the objections of Edison, and the numerous inflammatory articles in the press about the deadly alternating current, did not deter L. L. and P. N. L. L., when P. N. told him that he had made no progress with Edison's engineers, suggested that P. N. make inquiries at George Westinghouse's power plant in Pittsburgh. It turned out that Westinghouse engineers were also deep in experiments with alternating current light, but the development of power transformers and motors was so rudimentary that they were reluctant to talk. Westinghouse, it would appear from Telluride records, had not yet taken the time to inform himself fully about the controversy over the currents as it related to powering machines.

Both L. L. and George Westinghouse, however, were shrewd enough businessmen to realize that Edison's opposition might have its origin in the fact that Edison Electric already had opted for direct current (which did not carry enough power for running machines) and had invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in plant and equipment. Westinghouse was convinced from his own observations and the counsel of his electrical associates that, of the two, the direct current brought greater risk to life and property. This was not because one form of current was, in its nature, more dangerous than the other, but because of the conditions of use. In addition, house currents in an alternating system could be kept at a completely safe level, unlike direct current systems.

The transformer is at the heart of all long-distance electric power transmission systems, and in 1889 it had not been brought to a stage of development capable of any power use. Transformers were still rated by the number of 16-candle-power lamps they could light, and somewhere around 100 was the practical limit, a minuscule quantity of electricity for the operation of machinery. In 1885, Westinghouse imported experimental transformers from Britain and began experiments in Pittsburgh with them. By the following autumn, a number of converters and four hundred lamps were placed in a building at Lawrenceville, about four miles

from the dynamo which supplied two thousand volts. Edison's men were sure that such high voltage would burn out the lamps, but they were kept burning continuously for two weeks, and Westinghouse visited them daily to observe their action. This was the first successful exhibition ever made in the United States of the transmission of electrical energy for any considerable distance through the medium of the alternating current.

L. L. was cheered by this news and wrote to P. N. in 1890, outlining his plan: "I wish you would investigate the subject



An early electric locomotive, pulling an ore train under Telluride power. Smuggler mine, about 1895.

of transmission of power by electricity. I have surveyors now at work laying out a line over the mountains for a cable for the transmission of about 175 horsepower from a water power to three mills distant from two and a half to six miles. I am not sure of putting in the plant, but if I do I want you to take charge of the construction, and not let anyone know that you are not an old hand at the work. Post yourself thoroughly and know whom to send for as an assistant if necessary. The mills have cost over \$100,000, and of course the power to run them must be sure. It now costs upward of \$2,500 per month for power, and I believe it can be furnished when the plant is put in for \$500."

Both the generator and the power motor itself were very new and untried in practical situations when P.N. Nunn visited Pittsburgh. The Westinghouse Electric Company could not meet its commitments for small generators and low-voltage transformers, so great was the demand. Mr. Westinghouse could not see any advantage to dissipation of effort at so crucial a time for a test in the mountains of Colorado two thousand miles away, working with men who were ignorant of the technical details of electricity, even so far as it had been developed at that time. P. N. received the cold shoulder, with a polite reception, but a "No, sorry."

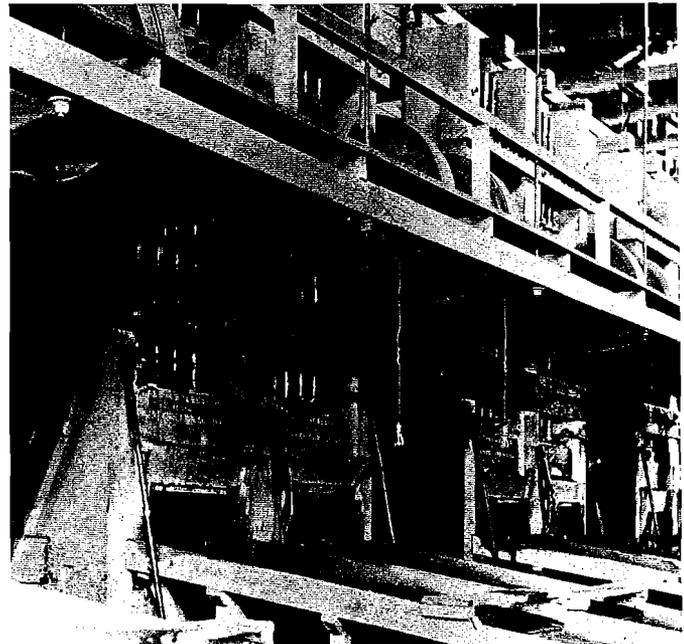
After a momentary disappointment, L. L. decided that he must risk all, or lose all, and in fervid desperation he decided his course. He was sincere in risking everything on a venture into hydroelectric power at Ames, Colorado.

So he sought and got the favor of another hearing with Westinghouse and his engineers. This time he came prepared for a bold wager. After explaining the situation and outlining the chance for a breakthrough in power development, L. L. placed on the conference table in Pittsburgh \$100,000 in gold (which represented the total output of the Gold King mine for the year), and is said to have put the proposition to Mr. Westinghouse as follows: I am ready to wager \$100,000

gold on the success of our proposed venture into alternating power development, if you will wager an equal amount in the time and experience of your staff in manufacturing the needed equipment. Still Mr. Westinghouse demurred, but his chief engineer, William Stanley, thought that the proposed long shot was not hopeless. Others urged that Westinghouse accept Mr. Nunn's challenge. And so, late in 1890, Westinghouse reluctantly agreed to do all possible to speed the design and construction of two identical machines, one for power generation at the water wheel and the other for developing motive power at the mill—both to operate at volts, without transformers. He refused to make any guarantee that the machines would perform satisfactorily, or in any way predict the outcome of the experiment. It was of no small advantage to the Company that the scene of the experiment would be in a remote canyon in Colorado, not in full view of the world and Edisonian critics, in case it gloriously failed.

P. N. was to work with Westinghouse in expediting the design and building the equipment and getting it shipped to Colorado. L. L. returned West to complete preparations for electrifying the Gold King, which included construction of all works necessary to house and operate the equipment when it arrived, as well as building of a power line from Ames to the mill.

Henry G. Prout, a Westinghouse biographer, says, "Watt and the steam engine made the manufacture of power possible and changed society. The next great step was to concentrate the manufacture of power at points where, for one reason or another, it could be manufactured cheaply, and that could only be done when cheap transmission was provided. Westinghouse, more than any other one man, opened up the way for cheap transmission of power—this by the use of the alternating current."



Stamps in the Bear Creek Mill, Telluride, Colorado, 1893. Powered by Telluride Power Company from Ames and Ilium plants on the San Miguel River.

Perhaps in the light of L. L.'s wager, we should not be so convinced that Westinghouse accomplished this breakthrough singlehandedly. It is quite clear that Nunn pushed Westinghouse into this position, and there is some doubt that the latter fully recognized what had happened, even after the complete success of the first power station at Ames, installed in the winter of 1890-1891.

Eco-Community: Generating Alternate Life Styles

by ROBERT CASTLE GAY TA '64

Bob Gay is working on two books concerned with eco-community, under the auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is not currently living in a community as he describes it in the following article. "My hesitation is threefold: wanting to learn more about how not to fail (both from 19th century experiments and current ones); considering the possibility of expanding this work into a Ph.D. thesis; and gathering compatible people takes time. In the long run, I hope to do it; otherwise my words here have a tinge of hypocrisy."

Conditions

1. A series of crises is revealing that the American Dream of "the greatest good for the greatest number" is slipping through our fingers like water. Among other things, we are slowly learning the mathematical law that you cannot simultaneously maximize two competing variables. The good life is being sacrificed to ever greater numbers of people seeking the good life.
2. In the United States, unprecedented individual affluence, a soaring Gross National Product and awesome, sophisticated and generally unrestrained technologies have begun to be considered more costly than beneficial. But this questioning is not widespread and has not been transformed into more than token action to eliminate the failures, defuse the crisis and guarantee us a habitable future.
3. Human relationships are becoming more fragmented in time and space: neighborhoods and communities have been steadily dissolving under the pressures of contemporary personal mobility, chaotic—even cancerous—expansion of urban and suburban areas, and the increasing separation of working, shopping, recreational and residential places. With the rare exceptions of some ghettos, institutions, and rural areas, the isolated nuclear family prevails. Extended families and other types of primary groups are a disappearing social form.
4. As for daily experience, our present culture offers unsatisfying and impersonal work, diluted personal relationships, bombardment of the senses, and a treadmill of increasing material consumption. It expects members to submit themselves to the syndrome of deferred rewards by yielding the pleasures of here and now to the projected, but never realized, pleasures of the future.
5. Human interference with the life-supporting ecosystems of the world threatens us with a number of possible catastrophes. The planet is over-populated and Americans lead the world in over-consumption of energy and resources. We wipe out a species of insect or plant with same glib shortsightedness that leads us to pour uncounted tons of gases and particles into the air or unload hundreds of kinds of toxic chemicals into the water.
6. Together these social and ecological malfunctions are eroding the chances for fulfillment at all levels, from the foundation level of physiological survival to the level of maximum self-realization.
7. "The future isn't what it used to be." The present deteriorates and the future gets bleaker; evidence points to such a grim decade or two that we are forced to leave our comfortable chairs to seek the deepest roots of our various present and approaching stresses and disasters. Crises are agents for radicalization and unified effort.

Diagnosis

8. Considered individually, social and ecological problems have previously seemed unrelated: most ecologists, resource economists, anthropologists, and sociologists sit

in their respective corners and publish the results of super-specialized research in their respective journals. But the study of cybernetic structure in mechanical and ecological systems during the last thirty years has led to the systematic awareness and mode of thought needed to span these and other traditional disciplinary gaps.

9. If the diagnosis is expanded sufficiently, a unified underpinning appears: an increasingly pathogenic system of cultural premises, a system now unsuited to the requirements for the continuation of the human species.
10. This lethal system of premises rests on:
 - a) atomism and specialization as ways of viewing the world and of dealing with problems;
 - b) arrogant anthropocentrism, leading to unrestricted exploitation of eco-systems, natural resources and other men; and
 - c) faith in the unlimited expansion of economies and the human population as indices of human progress.
11. The historical development of this pathology is understandable. For Americans, the conquest of the seemingly infinite Western Frontier and its unequalled cornucopia of resources was combined with a couple of centuries of rationalism and a longer Western history of Judeo-Christian anthropocentrism. These historical coincidences generated the cultural momentum which has propelled us into our present condition.
12. So the sickness does not stem from bad legislation, inadequate governmental policies, economic weaknesses, bad environmental design, or interpersonal breakdowns. It is neither advertisers nor manufacturers nor city planners nor government leaders who are the bad guys; they too are agents of the system of premises. These men, the rest of us, and many of our institutions must be seen as symptoms of a cultural pathology of staggering proportions.

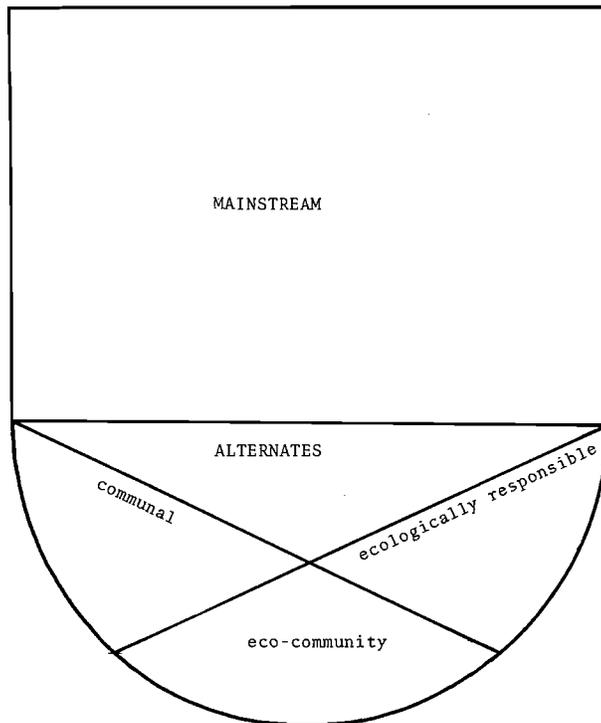
Action

13. Confronted either experimentally or conceptually with the overwhelming mass of evidence, some observers, including more and more young people, opt out of the action altogether. Feeling overcome by personal impotence, they might fall into disregard of the facts, cynicism, heavy drug use, psychosis or, occasionally, suicide.
14. But what positive approaches are meaningful? Basic as it is, the above diagnosis points toward something which may be achievable: cultural change. Other forms of relief will be (in Paul Ehrlich's words) "like giving aspirin to a cancer victim."
15. More studies, papers, books and armchair discussion may offer occasional insights, but they are only insights about the changes. Making public utterances and tinkering with the institutional machinery does not change the way we live. Consider for instance the hypocrisy of an air pollution group meeting to which all the members drive. For sufficiently basic changes to occur, our lives must change. Since many people do not know what the alternatives are, one necessary strategy is the generation and diffusion of alternate life styles, not as a panacea, but as one of many desirable levels of crisis response. Ghandi said, "My life is my message."
16. Alternate life styles have always existed in America; there have always been deviations from the mainstream. Besides the very rich or very poor, others who develop non-mainstream life cycles include criminals, entertainers, drug users, Bohemians, and career military officers, for instance. (These categories are, of course, not mutually exclusive.)
17. Although rejection of the conventional wisdom about

how to live has always occurred in one form or another, the present wave of questioning the old order began in the 1950's (after the general unifying external threat of World War II) and gained momentum during the '60's, leading to the two primary alternatives of the black and youth subcultures. The realization grew that if you can't change the system, at least you can change your own life.

18. In light of the conditions and diagnosis above, two kinds of alternate life styles seem particularly worthy of exploration in this country: ecological responsibility and communal living.

L I F E S T Y L E S I N T H E U . S .



19. Ecologically responsible life styles are based on a deep recognition of the frailty and currently perilous condition of the plant's life-support systems. One element is simply the selection of "healthy" products and processes in everyday life: unleaded gasoline, phosphate-free soaps, together with can and bottle recycling. A second aspect of ecologically responsible life styles is a drive to cut down the consumption of energy and resources. Riding a bicycle, cutting grass by hand (if at all), turning off unused lights, not buying electric hairdryers, etc.
20. The general reasoning behind reducing consumption of energy and resources is three-fold: The finiteness of mineral resources, the environmental costs of power generation and transmission, and the need to de-escalate the machinery of production and consumption.
21. The details and rationale of ecologically responsible life styles are collected in two places: a poster called "Be EcoLogical" by Life of the Land, an ecological research and action group in Honolulu, and *The User's Guide to the Protection of the Environment*, a 1970 Sierra Club/Ballentine paperback, by Paul Swatek.
22. With regard to communal life styles, there are now perhaps eight to ten thousand generally young Americans living in roughly 500 communes. Some are rural and maximally self-sufficient; others are urban and socially involved, and still others somewhere in between.
23. International communities can extend the range of cultural change beyond an individual or a single family in several ways. Communities can reestablish the primary

groups, contribute a diversity of viewpoints to issues and problems of mutual concern to community members, improve the division of labor for certain tasks, generate more ideas and alternate forms of behavior than can a single family, share skills, equipment and responsibilities, and more.

24. The present commune movement is not new in American history. Starting with the communal ventures at places like Jamestown and Plymouth, the deliberate experimentation with forms of community continued with the religious and ideological social experiments of the 19th century, slumped with the rise of industrialization, and has been recently reincarnated. Paralleling the experimental communities has been a continuing tradition of Utopian thought.
25. Results of these experiments offer insights for future and present communities; the ahistorical attitude of some of the new generation of communitarians is often wastefully antiintellectual. Although the design of a social experiment is less rigorous than the design of a scientific experiment, Isaac Newton's maxim applies: "If I have seen further than others it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants."
26. "Utopian" is a generally misunderstood term. A community, or any other social design, is not going to suddenly remove all problems by the miraculous achievement of heaven on earth. But in social experiments, such as changes in life style, new and healthier challenges can be substituted for the old ones, and joys and satisfactions not available at present can be offered. Paradise is having your life be a richly satisfying process—and the process includes hassles. Any realistic and durable small community must develop a sense of conflict-resolution.
27. The two groups of life styles—ecological responsibility and communal living—overlap; this is a new life style called eco-community. The specific features of such a community can take many forms, according to the people involved, their perceptions, wants, talents, group visions and the place they choose to locate. In sketching out the range of possibilities, alternatives should be presented with the same pluralism and opportunity for individual creativity with which the *Whole Earth Catalog* presents its "tools."

TASP Board Problems . . .

(continued from page 1)

Cornell Branch and the Association (particularly after the demise of Berkeley Branch) depend heavily on the programs for their personnel. A quick glance at the membership of the Board of Custodians, for example, will reveal the extent to which this is true. We could return to the policy of recruiting members solely from Deep Springs and the Cornell campus, but those who remember the rapid turnover and uncertain quality of the House population in the years immediately preceding the institution of the summer programs (which was at least partially addressed to this problem) are less than ecstatic at such a prospect. Four years may well be too long to spend in Telluride House, but an average tenure there of no more than two years may pose even more serious institutional problems.

In short, there are some important decisions to be made, and some of them may well be forced upon us before Convention. The Summer Program Board, which is the direct recipient of these problems at the moment, earnestly solicits your opinions and advice on our immediate dilemma, and the *Newsletter* may prove a good forum for more general speculations about the course which the Association should map for itself in the future.

Frederick Reinhardt Dies

G. Frederick Reinhardt TA '29 died February 23, 1971, in Geneva, Switzerland. At the time, he was senior director of the international division of Stanford Research Institute.

Mr. Reinhardt joined the Stanford Institute after serving 30 years in the Foreign Service. He began his career as a Foreign Service officer assigned to Vienna. Later his foreign assignments included Estonia, Latvia, and the Soviet Union. During and after World War II he served as a political adviser to military officials in Europe, including Generals Eisenhower, Ridgway and Gruenther. Later he was deputy for civil affairs at the North American Treaty Organization Defense College in Paris.

In 1945 he returned to Moscow as First Secretary of the Embassy and the Consul General. He was assigned to the Department of State in 1948 as chief of the Division of Eastern European Affairs, and in 1950 was named director of the Office of European Affairs. In 1955 he became Ambassador to Vietnam, where he stayed for two years. In 1960, President Eisenhower appointed him Ambassador to Italy, where he remained until 1968.

Mr. Reinhardt attended Deep Springs from 1925 to 1928. He received his B.A. degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1933. He lived at Cornell Branch in 1933-34 and in 1936, receiving a Master's degree from Cornell in 1935. In 1937 he received a diploma from the Cesare Alfieri Institute in Florence, Italy.

Alumni Events

New York

New York area alumni attended an area dinner on February 16. There was some discussion of an increase in alumni activity brought on by the ETS-induced crisis. Some people felt that ETS has been such an excellent source of candidates that it would clearly be worth our while to pay a few thousand a year to retain the present box-checking system. Others felt that we don't really need such a massive screening procedure for our limited operation, and that in New York, at any rate, a fleet of alumni could be mobilized to recruit in high schools if the operation were well organized from Ithaca.

News of Telluride Associates

■ *Dr. Robert B. Aird* TA '24 has received two awards for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of psychiatry and neurology. He received the Royer Award and \$15,000 from the Regents of the University of California and the International William G. Lennox Award and \$1,000 at the Annual Meeting of the American Epilepsy Society in New York. Dr. Aird is currently Professor of Neurology at the University of California at San Francisco, a member of numerous medical advisory boards and committees, and a trustee of Deep Springs.

■ *Douglas Bailey* SP '59 is finishing his doctorate in philosophy at Columbia University while teaching at the University of Vermont.

■ *Christine Bishop* SP '63 received her M.A. in economics last year and is now a teaching fellow at Harvard.

■ *Barney Brawer* SP '64 is working on community projects at Dwight Hall, Yale University, while living, somewhat apprehensively, in a building Yale wishes to tear down. His apprehensions were the subject of an article, "I Live in an Old Building Near Here," which was published in *Yale Alumni Magazine*, November 1970.

■ *Norman Brokaw* TA '63 was married to Mary Ruth

Dr. Apstein, who has been charged with dredging up a TASP interviewing committee, expressed skepticism about this speculation, but was stoutly contradicted by several voices, fortified by retsin and moussaka. The dinner had abandoned the relatively wholesome, middle-American atmosphere of the Cornell Club for the murkier Byzantine surroundings of a Greek restaurant on West 47th Street. On balance, all present were willing to shoulder the burden of recruiting and reviving Telluride alumni activity, but uncertain that there were enough willing members to succeed.

Among those attending were Dr. Don Reis TA '54, Dr. and Mrs. John Lindenbaum TA '53, Mr. and Mrs. John Lankenau TA '53, Dr. Harvey Mansfield TA '23, Dr. and Mrs. Simon Whitney TA '21, Dr. and Mrs. Carl Apstein TA '60, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Lesh, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Zipser DS '66, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Szasz TA '49, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ohlinger TA '33, Christopher Keene BB '64, Dr. John Copeland CB '48, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Robbins TA '46, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Nagel TA '58, and Edwin Wesley DS '45.

Washington

Washington area alumni gathered at the Foreign Service Club for cocktails and a buffet dinner on December 14th. After dinner, various aspects of Deep Springs and the Association were discussed. Paul Greenberg, a TASP at Deep Springs last summer and current student body member, answered questions about life at the ranch and presented a slide show prepared by the Deep Springs student body. Fred Laise DS '31 spoke in his capacity as Deep Springs' trustee of the efforts under way to gain increased funding for the college through its Endowment and Capital Funds Campaign.

James Withrow TA '30 explained how Telluride Association escaped the ax of the 1969 Tax reform act and Al Arent TA '30 got a round of applause for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Association in negotiating with the Internal Revenue Service. Paul Szasz TA '49 explained the events of last June's Convention and answered questions about current Association thinking.

Also attending the dinner were James Dean TA '62, John Edgerton TA '39, John Burchard TA '31, Melvin Kohn TA '46, Brandt Kehoe TA '54, Lindsey Grant TA '47, Jack Laylin TA '22, John de Beers TA '35, Bill Allen DS '42, Norton Dodge TA '46, Gregory Votaw TA '47 and Mrs. Votaw, and Mrs. Szasz.

A second dinner is being planned for the spring.

Hoornastra in Sioux Ste. Marie, Michigan on September 19, 1970. They are living in Ann Arbor, where Norman is an executive in an electronics firm, and spending free time as a gentleman farmer.

■ *McIntyre Burnham* TA '61 is spending this year in post-doctoral studies at the Montreal Neurological Institute, after receiving his degree from McGill University in psychology.

■ *Duane J. Carnes* TA '31 has retired as Deputy County Counsel of San Diego County after 32 years and he is now a member of the law firm of Walker, Gann and Carnes of Escondido, California.

■ *Mike Chanowitz* TA '61 finished his doctorate in physics at Cornell at the end of the fall 1970 term. He will spend a year as a NATO post-doctoral fellow at the University of Rome before taking up teaching duties at Stanford University.

■ *Barber B. Conable, Jr.*, TA '47 was reelected to the United States Congress as Representative from the 37th District, New York. He is a leading figure in the Republican Party in Washington and is Republican House Research Chairman.

■ *Robert Dawidoff* TA '66 will be an assistant professor in American history at the University of Virginia, beginning in September.

■ *Sally Philips Hayes* CB '64 is now teaching 7th grade

English at Edison Junior High School in Brighton, Mass.

■ After a year's tour of Air Force duty in the Philippines, Courtney Hensel DS '62 and his family moved to Germany where he will be stationed for three years. Court's wife, Marilyn, gave birth to their first daughter, Corilyn Elizabeth, in September, 1970.

■ Christopher Keene BB '64 continues to make cultural headlines in the New York Times. He and Gian Carlo Menotti arranged to present operas free to underprivileged children under the auspices of the New York Theater of Opera and Dance, a new organization headed by Chris. He is also a conductor of the New York City Opera and music director of the American Ballet Company. And he is the first Tellurider to make Frank Sullivan's New Year's wishes' column in the New Yorker.

■ Gary Kopff SP '62 is working in Washington at the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs. He is spending weekends at Cornell Branch while doing research in this field at Cornell.

■ L. Jackson Newell DS '56 is on leave for two years from the University of New Hampshire while he pursues a doctorate in higher education administration at Ohio State University.

■ David Nierenberg SP '70 has been selected to represent the state of New Jersey in the Ninth Annual Senate Youth Program. He will spend a week in Washington meeting senators, congressmen, the Supreme Court Justices, the President and his Cabinet officers. The award also includes a \$100 dollar scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation.

■ Robert L. Sproull TA '38 was recently elected to the board of directors, Security Trust Company, Rochester. He is president of the University of Rochester.

■ Frederick J. Rarig TA '37 spoke recently to The Franklin Institute Branch of The Scientific Research Society of America on "The Researcher and Society." He is also the author of a recent article on "Plastics and the Building Code." He is secretary and legal counsel for Rohm and Haas Company.

■ Roderick Robertson TA '50 will be teaching drama at Deep Springs during the spring term. Because Canadian universities begin summer vacation early, his Deep Springs teaching will not conflict with his duties at Queens University in Kingston.

■ Richard Ryan CB '39 is program coordinator for the Easter Seal Society, after spending seven months in Florida setting up a home health agency.

■ A son, Matthew David, was born December 2, 1970, to the Earl Salos TA '65. Earl is currently fulfilling his alternate service obligation as an admitting clerk in a psychiatric hospital in Los Angeles. He hopes to enroll in Yale Law School next September, "or if worse comes to worst, at Harvard."

■ Connie Parrish, former Telluride alumni secretary, is now working for Friends of the Earth, an ecological action organization in San Francisco.

■ Hasso von Falkenhausen TA '58 was elected to partnership in McKinsey & Company, Management Consultants, on July 1, 1970. He and another colleague of his in the Düsseldorf office of McKinsey are the first Germans to join the increasingly international group of partners. Hasso will continue to work out of the Düsseldorf office.

■ Arthur Weston PB '51 received his Ph.D. in botany from the University of California at Berkeley in June, 1970. He spent the summer as visiting professor of biogeography at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and is currently spending the spring term teaching in a field-oriented tropical biology course sponsored by the Organization for Tropical Studies in Costa Rica.

■ William C. Wooldridge SP '60 is currently in the Judge Advocate's General's Corps, stationed in Heidelberg, and celebrating the publication of a book, Uncle Sam the Monopoly Man, published by Arlington House and a Conservative Book Club selection. It affectionately records the history of private competition with the post office and other government monopolies. "In the ten years since Deep Springs, I have enjoyed a conventional progress: college (Harvard, 1965), wife (Joyce Norton, Oberlin 1968), law school (Virginia 1969), and son (William Charles Wooldridge, Jr., 1970)."

All Your News That Fits We'll Print

(No kidding — your friends and TA Associates are interested in what has become of you. Do write us about your recent travels and adventures, honors and awards, books or papers published, promotions or job changes, marriages, births and address changes — not necessarily in that order — for Newsletter publication.)

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