

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Report of the President, 1956

Presidential Address—Tenth Annual Meeting, American Society of Range Management, Great Falls, Montana, January 29-February 1, 1957.

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We are gathered here this week for our tenth annual meeting. We are celebrating a decade of range management cooperation. The theme of this convention is built around the progress of the Society for the past ten years. So far as I am concerned, about the greatest thing that ever happened was the organization of the American Society of Range Management. We owe a lot to the far-sighted and sound-thinking men who sat up nights and literally "sweated blood" to get it established and going. Many of them are here today. I salute each of you.

I did not attend the organizational meeting held at Salt Lake City, Utah, but I am a charter member and proud of it.

The early leaders had vision and knew what they wanted. Ours is one of the few professional societies that encourages the so-called non-professional to become a member, and to participate and furnish leadership. This combination I'm sure is one of the outstanding reasons for our phenomenal growth and accounts for many of our accomplishments during the Society's short existence of a single decade.

Membership

The American Society of Range Management was organized in 1947

by a handful of technical range workers to promote the interests and objectives of good range management. Today, I am happy to report that we have reached that magical figure of 3,000 members, which includes technicians, ranchers, researchers, educators, bankers, and others—our next immediate goal is 4,000. We need more members for many reasons. An im-



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mediate one is to interest more advertisers to pay for the printing of the Journal so the Society can then get on with more of its aims and objectives.

Twenty-five percent of our present membership are ranchers. We welcome more. To be perfectly truthful—our greatest potential for new members is from the ranchers, since most professional range men are now members. We welcome the application for membership of ranchers who are not members so they may join with their neighbors and friends in this great work. We are anxious to get the benefit of their many years of experience on the ground working with plants. By combining the experiences of the rancher with the skill of the technical range worker, we can assemble more practical and accurate facts for the use of both the rancher and the technician.

There are still many unsolved range problems. Technical men and research people need the cooperation of the rancher to arrive at the answers sooner. As an employee of the Soil Conservation Service, I know from experience that we are up against many of these problems every day. We need practical ranchers' guidance. I believe the Society is helping to bring about better understanding. We must all remember that increased knowledge does not necessarily mean decreased grazing. It actually means more pounds of grass per acre and more pounds of livestock products for sale by the producer.

As we go about our day-to-day work on the range, both ranchers and technicians, let us not lose sight of the fact nor forget that a nation is rich only so long as its supply of soil, water and plant resources is greater than the needs

of its people. We must never let these resources dwindle to a point where they are just meeting our basic needs. We know from history what happens to great nations when they fail to conserve and husband their soil and range resources. We need abundance to prosper, progress, and maintain our standard of living—the highest on earth.

Benefits of Membership

The American Society of Range Management has much to offer its members now—as we grow we can offer even more. There is common interest and fellowship. There is also the Journal of Range Management: Printed every other month, it contains articles written by both technicians and ranchers. It is a constant source of new information. The Journal alone is well worth the six dollars we pay for a year's membership. Most important of all are the meetings and tours of the 18 locally-organized Sections and our National annual meetings, too. These meetings and tours provide an unbiased forum for the discussion of range management problems.

The Society provides a natural meeting place where all interested in range can get together to analyze, discuss and solve many of their common problems. We learn about the latest in range research and hear of personal experiences. The meetings help us all keep up with the times on problems of drouth, noxious plants, rotation and deferred grazing, water development, etc. We come to these meetings for one purpose and that is to learn more about grass and browse, their use and management.

I take pride, and I know you do, too, in being a part of an organization that can bring together folks interested in range. We all become better acquainted and learn to appreciate the other fellow's problems and viewpoint. In such a friendly atmosphere, much good can be accomplished.

I'm sold on the American Society of Range Management and don't

mind high-pressuring occasionally. If I can get a prospective member to promise to attend at least one meeting and read at least one issue of the Journal—then I know he'll become a long-time member. There's something about the Journal and especially about the meetings and tours that gets one all fired up inside. Perhaps it's because the Society is filling a need that has existed for so long.

The Journal is something we can all feel proud of. It offers just the right balance between rancher and technical articles. It is the only publication anywhere devoted exclusively to range management and, consequently, is a highly sought-after magazine. In addition to our regular members, it is subscribed to by libraries from all over the world.

The 1956 November issue was devoted entirely to ranching articles. I have received many favorable comments on it. I'm sure that with a little encouragement from you members to the Board of Directors, and to the Editor, this could become an annual affair.

Society Activities

This has been an interesting year. I've enjoyed serving as your president; it's been fun—but a lot of a hard work too. We have made progress in membership and accomplishments. This is the way it should be. We are a growing outfit, built upon solid principles. We've come a long way in ten years, but we can do even more during the next ten.

Sections as a whole have been more active this year. They have sponsored more meetings, tours, newsletters and other activities. This is an encouraging sign, for Sections are the backbone of the Society. Our strength and leadership, both present and future, are dependent upon their activity—I'm a firm believer in them. They are sound and are building for the future. Their special activities include scholarships, grass-judging contests, "Grass Man" of the year, boys' camps, fair exhibits, roadside

signs, and publishing bulletins.

In keeping up-to-date and in trying to keep things coordinated, we tried something new this year which seemed to go over quite well. Your president personally visited three Sections—Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona—and was on hand at the organizational meeting of the Southern California Chapter. In addition, I prepared messages that were read by National Directors and others to fourteen other Sections. It has been a great experience, and I'm sure that the visits and messages will bring good will and better understanding between the Sections and the National office. That was the purpose of them.

As chairman of the Membership Committee, I wrote eight letters of progress and encouragement to the Section Chairmen; the vice-chairman—Leon Nadeau—got out three letters. The letters were well received and seemed to have stimulated the drive for more members.

In the beginning, it was believed by many that we would be doing well if we ever reached a membership of 500. Now, with 3,000 already on the books, there's no reason why we can't go on to at least 5,000—perhaps more. It's amazing the growth, progress and accomplishments we have made in a single decade. Imagine how much more we can do in the next one. We have so many more now to work—so many more to organize activities beneficial to the Society and its members—so many more to take leadership.

The Society suffered a great loss last month in the passing of our able and lovable Executive Secretary, Terry White. He devoted much time and energy to advancing the Society. He kept the Society's interest at heart at all times. We shall always be grateful and indebted to Terry. Without his counsel and help, I'm sure the Society could not have progressed as it has. His suggestions and advice certainly helped me over many a rough spot this past year.

I want to give credit to others who helped make this a good year.

namely: the Editor, the Directors, past presidents and the Vice-President. And I want especially to commend the various Section chairmen, the committee chairmen and the committee members for the outstanding work they have done. I feel we had teamwork and that's the way it should be. Sure, we made a few mistakes, but what active and growing organization doesn't? We profit from our mistakes. That's where the new group of officers and leaders take off. Your Society is in good hands, and I know this year—1957—will show even more gains and accomplishments.

President's Experiences

I had a thrilling experience last April. I was invited to speak at the Spring meeting of the Southwest Section, Society of American Foresters at Tucson, Arizona. They treated me royally, gave me free tickets for registration and to the banquet, and seated me at the head table where I received further recognition as your President. It was with great pride that I accepted the honor and recognition in behalf of the American Society of Range Management. The SAF National President, DeWitt "Swede" Nelson of California, was also there. You remember him; he was our master of ceremonies two years ago at San Jose. The local SAF boys were really feeling good over having two national society presidents present at their meeting. Yes, it was a great experience.

The biggest thrill of all came three weeks ago when I was one of the principal speakers at the 60th annual convention of the American National Cattlemen's Association at Phoenix, Arizona. It was a great opportunity, to tell 2,000 cattlemen and friends about our Society. Personally, it was one of the highlights of my professional career.

As you will note on the program, their President, Don Collins of Kit Carson, Colorado, is the next speaker. We are exchanging speakers, so to speak. That's the way it should be and I hope we continue to do this occasionally. We are setting the stage for some real cooperation between the scientific range men and the range users.

Broad Participation

We made another big stride this year in being featured on the NBC National Farm and Home Hour.

Our Society participated in many activities last year. In November, Dr. A. L. Hafepriechter was our official delegate at the Seventh International Grassland Congress held in New Zealand. He will report on the Congress at this meeting.

Last month, we were invited to participate and furnish part of the program for the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held in New York City. Fred Renner served as chairman of the session and our speakers included Dr. Hudson Reynolds of Tempe, Arizona; Arnold Heerwagen of Denver, Colorado; John Schwendiman of Pullman, Washington; Dr. Charles Poulton of Corvallis, Oregon; Dr. G. W. Tomanek of Hays, Kansas; and Dr. Wesley Keller of Beltsville, Maryland. They did an excellent job.

Lowell Halls of Tifton, Georgia was our official representative at two meetings of the Joint Committee on Grassland Farming held at Atlanta, Georgia, and Roanoke, Virginia. We have accepted an invitation to participate in their annual meeting this fall at Palo Alto, California.

The Society Grows

Our Society is growing in stature and prestige. We are the rec-

ognized authority on grazing land management. Let's remember this and be forever looking toward the future.

We all have a stake in the future of the Society. It takes all helping to get the job done. The officers, section chairmen, and committee chairmen can't do it alone. I charge each of you to pitch in and make 1957 the biggest and greatest ever for the Society. We can do it.

Always remember that, through the Society, the rancher, the technician, the researcher and the educator can work together and solve local and national problems. Those who have a love for the soil and range are basically sound and honest and want to improve these resources. Sure, there may be differences of opinion, but if we go back to the land and figure out what's best for the land, it's surprising how often what's best for the land is also best for the land user. That's where friendships begin when we work together for the betterment of the land and the community.

In summary—in my opinion, the American Society of Range Management provides the best meeting ground so far where ranchers and technical people can get together, where they can air their problems, look at things on the ground, and bring together the latest information on range research and range management. The American way is to "live and let live"—most assuredly in the fast-moving world we are living in today, the rancher and technical range worker must get to know each other and view things together. The Range Society is made to order for just that. I think you will agree that since the Society has been organized—ten short years—great strides have been made along these lines. As we grow in numbers and experience, we have a bright future and so do our rangelands.