UNANIMITY—OUR KEY TO PROGRESS IN RANGE MANAGEMENT

Presidential Address—Sixth Annual Meeting

The American Society of Range Management

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The bylaws of the American Society of Range Management provide that the President shall deliver an address before the annual meeting. Presumably this provision was made to permit the President to inform the membership of Society affairs and accomplishments during the past year and perhaps express his ideas as to future objectives of the Society and how these goals might be reached.

First, let me express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve as President of our Society during the past year. This has been an experience which I value highly. The duties of this office have made evident to me many things which I had not previously realized. The complex inner workings of the organization, of its sections, its committees, and its Journal still amaze me.

Correspondence from hundreds of our members shows the great variation in interests, in willingness to take part in Society affairs, and in what our members want from the Society. Some are very pleased; some very unhappy about what we are doing. But despite these inevitable differences in opinion it has been highly satisfying to note a general feeling of interest in and a certain sense of duty toward our common goal—improving range production.
FAITHFUL SERVICE OF SOCIETY OFFICERS

Before progressing further, I would like to express deep appreciation for the efforts of the many officers and other members who have aided in the conduct of the affairs of the Society. Particular attention should be called to the activity of our new Executive Secretary W. T. White who is completing his first year in this office. Although employed by Society officers as a paid executive and in full control of the Society purse he has refused to draw one cent of his budgeted salary! Unless you have studied carefully the fiscal problems and bookkeeping problems of a society such as our own you cannot appreciate what this generous act has meant to us and to our bank account. The faithful conduct of the business of the Executive Secretary's office during the past year has been of direct aid not only to Society officers but also to the most distant individual member.

We are also indebted to another member who is just now finishing his 3-year term as Editor of our Journal of Range Management. R. S. Campbell has served at almost no cost to the Society in this post which must have required virtually all of his spare time and perhaps a little bit more! That his work has been of high quality and effectiveness is well known to every member and is attested by our Journal's high place among technical journals of the world.

Other Society officers, our Vice-President B. W. Allred and Directors J. A. Campbell, J. S. McCorkle, A. P. Atkins, Fred H. Kennedy, E. J. Dyksterhuis, and Harold F. Heady have worked diligently in these offices and deserve the thanks of every member of our Society.

Perhaps many members do not realize the work done by such groups as national committees, society representatives, section chairmen, and our Editorial Board. Time will not permit details of the contributions of these men but I want to call especial attention to the tremendous amount of work done by Robert V. Boyle as arrangements chairman and by B. W. Allred as program chairman in planning details of this meeting. I am sure all of you will appreciate this more and more as the meeting progresses.

VALUE AND ACTIVITIES OF SECTIONS

I would like to emphasize the importance of our sections to the welfare of the parent society and to the benefits an individual gets from the Society. I urge each of you to affiliate yourselves with your local section. Here is where many real benefits from our association are derived. At the same time, I would urge sections to realize their responsibility to the parent society. Sections have unlimited opportunity to further the interests and objectives of the Society with action programs which reach to the rancher and the range administrator on the land.

With the establishment of a Nebraska Section during the past year all of the western and most of the southeastern states are now within an approved section. I wish each of you had an opportunity to see the action and enthusiasm which has come from these sections during the past year. Time will permit but brief mention of their programs but I would like to tell you of a few examples.

The Pacific Northwest Section held a range camp for Washington boys in which they were given instruction for a full week in six phases of range management. Prizes were awarded three boys producing best management plans for the range area studied. The winners were also guests at the Section meeting in November. A similar camp was held in Oregon with $25 scholarships as awards.

The Nevada Section started a project
to erect informational signs along major highways to call attention to range types and grazing use within view of the passing tourist. To show the resourcefulness of our members, the state highway department agreed to make the signs, the Bureau of Land Management agreed to furnish posts, and some chambers of commerce have agreed to aid in financing of the project.

Several sections are sponsoring or aiding in the selection of a "Grassman," a "Top Hand," a "Cattleman," or a "Range Livestock Champion" each year. This is the man who has contributed most to good range management in the state. Usually several local champions are selected and from these a state champion. These contests have already accomplished wonders in creating interest in, and awareness of, America's grazing lands.

Several sections are similarly interested in forage plant identification contests, generally for boys. These also usually commence with selection of a county winner and end with a state champion. Suitable awards are granted to each winner.

Either of these last programs could well be expanded by the Society to select each year a national champion who might be an honored guest at our national meetings.

Our Canadian members staged what was perhaps the biggest section affair of the year when they entertained Washington and Oregon members at Kamloops, British Columbia, for two days in June. Some 250 members not only saw practically all of British Columbia's range types and operations but many enjoyed sessions with the famous Kamloops trout. Arrangements were made to meet American members at the International Boundary and to conduct them by caravan, stopping at each town enroute where, by previous arrangement with chambers of commerce, the visitors were served refreshments of the type for which Canada is justly famed. Kamloops City proclaimed "Range Management Week," decorated her streets, furnished a trout breakfast, and threw open her new country-club house and golf grounds! Support like this is what makes society efforts really worthwhile. Active sections, their field trips and their local contacts, put range management on the land where it belongs.

INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

You will be interested to know that our Society has played an important part in national and international affairs during the past year. We were one of the sponsoring organizations for the Sixth International Grasslands Congress held in August at Pennsylvania State College and attended by 1500 delegates from throughout the world. Our members were prominent on numerous committees and programs. Displays of our magazine and descriptions of the Society were constantly before the group and an attendant explained the purpose of the Society to hundreds of foreign visitors.

As a member of the Natural Resources Council of America we contributed to formulation of a national policy for renewable resource management and have had opportunity to express ourselves on several matters pertaining to important legislation before the United States Congress.

We have been invited to participate in the White House Conference on Resources for the Future which will be held in Washington, D. C. This citizens' conference has been endorsed by both Mr. Truman and Mr. Eisenhower to undertake long-range programs of research and education to assure the resources essen-
tial to the progress, vigor, and security
of the nation.

As a result of actions by our college
curriculum committee, we have approved
a standard curriculum for college training
in range management. This has been
printed and sent to the U. S. Civil Serv-
ce Commission, to federal and state
land managing agencies, and to more than
76 American universities and colleges.

The directors have approved and com-
pleted a contract with the Utah State
Agricultural College for establishment of
a depository library which, with support
from our members, could become the
world’s most complete library in range
management. Books, bulletins, manu-
scripts, and even photographs will be
filed and indexed without cost to the
Society and will be available on a loan
basis by mail to members throughout
America, also without cost.

Much remains to be done in the matter
of improving professional standards in
range management. We have studied
Civil Service standards for several years
but to date little has been accomplished
in arriving at a united opinion. I urge
this Society to recognize professional
standards in range management so that
when we diagnose our range problems
we can expect the same professional
ability as the American Medical Associa-
tion expects of its members in diagnosing
human ills. I firmly believe that a tech-
nical range manager should not be em-
ployed by our federal Civil Service until
he has demonstrated by training and by
written examination a thorough knowl-
dge of range and livestock problems.
Our Society should give us the strength
to insist upon these standards.

Our Articles of Incorporation state
that our objectives shall be to “foster
advancement in the science and art of
grazing-land management, ... and to
stimulate discussion and understanding
of scientific and practical range and
pasture problems ...” Perhaps in our
formative years we have neglected this
objective somewhat because of the pres-
sure of organizing, forming sections,
placing business details in the hands of an
executive secretary, building up a good
and adequate membership, and financing
our Journal. We now are ready to begin
a technical program of investigation,
compilation, and publication in the
complex field of range management.

Your officers have authorized and organ-
ized a committee known as the Tech-
nical Planning Committee which has
begun an extensive analysis of the field
of range management for formulation
of long-time plans involving establish-
ment of numerous technical groups within
the Society. These groups, after compre-
hensive study, will prepare books for Soci-
ety publication, organize symposia for pub-
lication in our journal or for delivery at our
annual meetings, and they will plan
means whereby we can carry to the gen-
eral public correct information on utili-
zation and conservation of range lands.

Already your officers have formed a
committee on range research methods
and have authorized assembling of a
manuscript on this subject for publica-
tion by the Society in book form. Our
Society can benefit from active interest
in range research. I am sure range pro-
duction can be doubled by a technical
understanding of plant and animal
responses provided this knowledge is
handed down to the man on the land in
a form that he can understand and
apply under laws of sound economics.
Each of us can be a salesman to put our
knowledge of range management into
practice. Many of us, ranchers and tech-
nicians too, are like the farmer who when
asked to support farm research replied,
“Why do more research—I don’t farm
half so good now as I know how.” A
good program in range management extension is a crying need throughout the range area.

Membership Problems

Like the links of a chain, membership determines the strength of our Society. When we first organized we decided, and I am sure rightly, that we would put almost nothing in the way of restriction upon our membership. As a result we have expanded rapidly—far beyond the expectation of most members. This year has been no exception. We have enjoyed a 21.5 percent increase in total membership giving us an approximate total of 2710 at the end of 1952.

Time has proved the old saying, "In numbers there is strength." Yet we also must remember that "United we stand; divided we fall." Large numbers of people with diverse interests and backgrounds face an inevitable threat of division. As a Society, we must guard against this pitfall. We have a membership of broad interests—stockmen, professors, economists, seed growers, land administrators, students, and many others. It is difficult to attain solidarity under these conditions. Continued increase in membership under our policy of almost totally unrestricted membership requirements will make this problem even greater. Of course, this very thing, multiple interests, is exactly what makes our Society strong. With such diverse membership our opinions, once agreed upon, are sure to command respect among livestock producers and land administrators as well.

There has been talk among our people of limiting new members to those who have demonstrated a real interest in becoming active and permanent members. This arises from what might be called a dangerously high turn-over in members. We have too many who join, perhaps under slight pressure and without due consideration, and never pay another assessment. Such people cost the Society more money than they bring us and contribute nothing to our welfare or their own.

Perhaps rather than talk of limiting our membership to really interested and active members we should think more of how we can make our Society more interesting to prospective members, and make it stronger, more productive, and more vital to the needs of all members. Larger membership might enable us to have an even larger and finer journal, and to take a greater part in national and international affairs pertaining to range-lands. If we are to keep dues at the present level and still be an active Society with a good journal and services of a reliable executive secretary we must have even more members than at present.

Review of correspondence back in 1946 relative to the formation of an independent range management society reveals that I wrote, "I do not think we could ever expect over 500 members," and "I believe it impossible to support a creditable independent publication." I was very wrong on both these points. I do not intend to be caught underestimating again! I now think we can have 5000 members of the kind we want. But to do this all of us must unite to give something to this Society. We must make it profitable to ourselves and only we ourselves can do this. If our present members really profit from the Society, they can and will sell it to their friends and neighbors. People are quick enough to seize upon anything which will benefit them personally. To expand our Society and increase our membership we need only to have something genuine to sell.

United Effort

After five years devoted largely to organization, our Society already has
become a comparatively large one but it remains for us to make it a really great one. This we can do best by establishing solidarity among our members—all for a single cause. Strength among people interested in range lands is more important now than ever before. We perhaps are facing the establishment of a new national policy regarding land conservation and land use. We as an organization have real opportunity to aid our nation and ourselves in such important issues.

I do not believe that we need to nationalize our range management if range users are taught basic, economic, conservation. Why should the nation be more interested than the rancher in conserving the land from which he derives his livelihood? Too universally stockmen oppose technical aid in their range management. This is not a reaction from a dissatisfied few—it is the heartfelt expression of thousands in the public land states. This can mean only that range management has not given them what it should. We must face this fact. It calls for serious thought and, perhaps, revised thinking.

Fearless examination of principles, techniques, and policies, irrespective of agency or personal interests, seems fundamental to harmonious solution of the many problems which now face the range user and the range administrator. Personally I feel this very keenly. I do not believe that we are basically different in our objectives in range management regardless of affiliation—regardless of whether we call ourselves ranchers, conservationists, experimenters, or administrators. Disagreements stem from misunderstanding, mistrust, established policy, and bureaucratic rivalry, not from inherent differences in personalities or goals. The tragic result of this disagreement to us as an organization is that it weakens the cause of range management—the one mutual interest common to us all. Our bylaws declare us to be a Society with only one real requirement for membership—an interest in range management. This term range management is no mere word, it is a cause; it is our banner! It embraces the ideals and philosophy of cooperation with nature to produce the meat and the wool which feeds and clothes mankind. It means conservation, but it also means production.

Range management should be as welcome to the rancher as rain. Too often he associates it with curbs and controls—he fears it. In reality it is his partner in business—it is his livelihood. I am sure the public-land stockman has hurt his cause by fighting against the inroads of increasing population and increasing land-use demands in these changing times. Because a few self-styled “conservationists” have accused him of selfishness and profiteering at the expense of conservation, the stockman has rebelled. He has tried to break away from control by attaining title to public lands.

Many range lands are not used for grazing alone. In this respect range lands differ from cultivated lands where a single use is common. Range lands where watershed, recreation, timber, and flood control are important often must remain as public trusts. On such lands, the public administrator must have an absolute right of control if he is to be held responsible for a unit of land by his employer, the public. Necessarily, then, the land user must bow to the administrator’s decision and perhaps be subjected to some degree of uncertainty in his planning. All that reasonable stockmen should ask for is just and prior consultation concerning necessary control and a freedom from excess officiousness which so often accompanies authority.

Perhaps the stockman needs to show
himself to be bigger in his concept of America's newly arising social problems. I have before me a copy of a Colorado newspaper dated October 13, 1952 on one page of which are 8 large, paid advertisements signed in all by 21 ranchers; a typical example of which reads, "The undersigned owners of properties herein described notify the public that no trespassing will be allowed or hunting of any kind on any of the grounds owned or controlled by the individuals signed to this notice." This, I appreciate, is brought on by unthinking people who do damage on private land but it inevitably poisons the public against the rancher and brings about firm resolve to tighten control over every acre of remaining public land.

Conflicting interests on range land are here to stay and the old-time rule of the open range is gone. Stockmen must realize this and adjust their thinking to modern times.

These social relationships are of utmost importance to our Society. Our goal should be one of creating understanding among our members of such widespread interests. When we band together and discuss our problems, minor differences soon melt away. Perhaps what we need to sell to our membership is not range management so much as faith and trust in each other. It is because I think this faith and trust comes only from intimate affiliation and mutual respect that I think the American Society of Range Management can and will take a place filled by no other organization or agency to bring about the much-needed unanimity among people interested in range management. Accord among its membership of broad and diverse interests will make the American Society of Range Management a truly great Society.

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR 1954 ANNUAL MEETING

Members who wish to present papers at the annual meeting in Omaha, Nebraska in January, 1954 are invited to offer them now. This is in accordance with Article V, Section 6 of the Bylaws. (See March 1951 Journal, Vol. 4: 134.)

Titles and approximately 200-word abstracts should reach the Program Chairman as early as possible to permit consideration by the Program Committee in completing a well-balanced program.—Floyd D. Larson, Chairman, Program Committee, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, 326 Stapleton Bldg., Billings, Montana.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1954 ELECTIVE OFFICES

Your Nominations Committee will prepare a slate of three candidates for each of the elective offices of President, Vice President, and two Directors for 1954. These will be on the ballots in addition to any candidates nominated by petitions which conform to the procedure outlined in Articles II and III of the Bylaws. (See March 1951 Journal, Vol. 4, 131-132.)

All Section Chairmen have been furnished full information about this procedure. In order to expedite the work of ballot preparation by the Executive Secretary, it is requested that petitions be sent to the Nominations Committee Chairman before July 10.—Milo H. Deming, Chairman, Nominations Committee, P. O. Box 659, Salt Lake City, Utah.