Report of the President, 1958


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Our Society had a good year in 1958, starting with the fine Annual Meeting at Phoenix. This Tulsa Meeting, in collaboration with the American Grassland Council, has a splendid program that reflects the continuing development of the Society.

The publication of Volume 11 of the Journal of Range Management, with its great variety of information, was a very tangible and creditable accomplishment for 1958.

Good progress was made on two special projects. The Society’s brochure on Careers in Range Management is expected off the press very soon. The book on Range Research Methods and Techniques, now several years in preparation, has gone to the National Research Council editors.

The Society held its second summer field meeting at Kamloops, B. C., in July. This was a highly successful affair, thanks to the Pacific Northwest Section and the Kamloops Experiment Station. I am sure that hereafter the summer field meeting will be a regular event. The ASRM participated in the Intersociety Forage Evaluation Symposium at Purdue University in August. During the year, the Society was represented at many other meetings of scientific, educational, and trade organizations. The range resource manual completed in 1957 by the Committee on Cooperation with Youth Organizations was distributed to the Sections and, at the end of the year, was being adapted for local use with high school students in several western states.

The Civil Service Committee continued its work on entrance standards for professional positions in range management. All indications are that the Society must exert a continuing effort if such standards are to be raised to a level which we consider satisfactory.

The membership approved several revisions of the Bylaws. The present Bylaws, however, were written 12 years ago around a framework to meet the needs of a small new Society. We now have developed to a point where we need a fresh look at our whole Society organization and activities. For example, it is almost impossible for the President of the Society to carry to completion any major project during his one-year term. There is always uncertainty as to who will be the new President until shortly before the successful candidate takes office. We need better continuity in this office. This could be obtained by having a two-year term for the President, or a President-elect in addition to the Vice President. I have asked the Committee on Program of the Future to study the organization and activities of the Society and to come up with a whole new set of Bylaws, if that appears necessary. This study may take two years or more. In 1958 we reorganized the committees of the parent society but I will comment on this at greater length later. Revision of the Handbook for Society Committees is in progress and that for the Sections is proposed.

The financial position of the Society has improved. The increase in dues was generally well accepted by the Membership as a necessary step in our growth. Within two or three years, we hope to pay current costs from current year’s dues.

We did well to increase our
membership to 3,500 in 1958. If we continue an active, well-rounded program, we will continue to attract new members.

The office of the Executive Secretary is functioning smoothly. A number of improvements were made during 1958 to assure more efficient handling of membership records. I hope the Society soon can afford to pay the Executive Secretary the salary he deserves.

We can all be proud of the Trail Boss Society emblem issued during the year. Have you purchased yours?

The greatest contribution to the advancement of our Society objectives was made through the Sections. It was a real satisfaction to follow the activities and accomplishments of the Sections through their newsletters. The variety and scope of meetings and projects was astounding. My compliments to every one of you in the Sections. The fine start made by the new section in Mexico was especially gratifying. This Section doubled its membership and held two field meetings, which were participated in by men in the southwestern U.S.A.

Now I wish to indulge in a bit of philosophy, with a restatement of the Society objectives, particularly as embodied in the new setup of committees.

The masthead of every issue of our Journal carries the objectives of the Society, as stated by the founding group in 1948. It was the original intent, and still is the Society policy, that membership is open to all who are interested or engaged in any form of range or pasture management or related subjects. The interchange of ideas between all who are concerned with range is highly desirable and beneficial in the long run. At the same time, it places a real responsibility on the Society to provide full participation and activity by all kinds of members. I am very hopeful that the new setup of national committees will help to meet this difficulty and at the same time retain the advantages of membership for all range men within a single society.

The new setup provides for several standing committees on cooperation with other groups. Two of the committees are new, one is a continuation of a present committee. They are Cooperation with Scientific Organizations, Cooperation with Youth Organizations, and Cooperation with Foreign Organizations.

The purpose of the Committee on Cooperation with Scientific Organizations is to systematize and encourage the Range Society's relations with other scientific groups, such as the American Society of Agronomy, AAAS, American Grassland Council, Soil Conservation Society, the Wildlife Society, and many others. This joint meeting with the American Grassland Council is an example of the kind of cooperation we should encourage. At present we have representatives to about a dozen scientific organizations, with little coordination by the President and Board of Directors. This new committee should help develop the scientific activities of the Society and improve our scientific productivity.

The Committee on Cooperation with Youth Organizations is an existing committee which has done a magnificent job in preparing materials and encouraging Society cooperation with youth groups. Its work should be expanded and better financed to reach young ranch folks and youth interested in range and livestock. The Society should continue to spearhead the preparation of study materials and should build up a system of incentives and awards for accomplishment in this field.

The Committee on Cooperation with Foreign Organizations is new. Its purpose is to systematically cultivate exchange of range information and improved relations with foreign countries and organizations, especially through ICA and FAO. Our Society can be a real influence in promoting better understanding between the users of native grasslands, both in the Americas and abroad. We must more and more think of ASRM as an international society with international objectives. Note that throughout this talk I have referred to the parent society rather than the "national society." As a result of action by the Board of Directors last year, flags of the USA, Canada, and Mexico are displayed at each annual meeting. I hope the Society will be well represented at the next International Grassland Congress to be held in the United Kingdom in 1960.

Other standing committees include: Professional Standards, which will absorb the work of the present Civil Service Committee; Program of the Future, and the several Society business committees on meetings, membership, nominations, elections, and the like.

Ranchers are an important part of our membership and have a vital role in carrying out the Society objectives. We need to encourage closer relations between the Range Society and the various livestock and rancher associations. There is at present great variation between Sections in this respect. The Society has a great deal to offer these groups, particularly at the county level. Certainly our range scientists have much practical knowledge and viewpoint to gain through closer and more frequent contacts with stockmen's groups. These relations need to be cultivated mainly through the Sections. Although no standing committee is being set up at present by the parent organization to promote cooperation with rancher groups, we plan to give increased emphasis to this activity through the Meetings Committee.

All these committees offer a
wide range of activities within the sections and the parent society that should afford every member a point of interest and participation. And individual participation is the thing that makes our Society strong. To me the Society represents science, art, and religion inextricably bound together. Our science is the search for facts regarding the range and its use. Our art is the skill we use in applying these facts in everyday management. Our religion in the broadest sense is devotion to the unselfish, open, honest way of life that keeps us all in range work.

Donald F. Hervey
1959 President, American Society of Range Management

Professor and Head, Department of Range Management at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Additional duties are those of Chief of the Forestry & Range Management Section in the Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station. Reared near and in Longmont, Colorado. Obtained B. S. degree Colorado State University, 1939; M. S., University of California, 1948; and PhD., Texas A & M College 1955. Engaged in range development work for the Department of Interior 1940-1943. In the Field Artillery 1943-1946. Assumed duties in teaching and research at Colorado State University 1946. Became Section Chief in 1952 and Department Head in 1957.

Author of articles and bulletins concerned with range seeding and brushland management. Charter member of the American Society of Range Management. Served as first chairman of the Colorado Section. Member of the Board of Directors 1955-1958 and Vice President of the Society, 1958.

A Message from the New President:

Greetings, fellow members of the American Society of Range Management. I consider it a real honor to have the opportunity to serve the Society in the position to which you have elected me. With your help, that of Vice President Fred Kennedy, Executive Secretary John Clouston, and the Board of Directors, I am sure that we can look forward to another year of growth and accomplishment.

The twelfth annual national meeting of the Society at Tulsa has just come to a close and those of you who were in attendance realize the real debt of gratitude which we owe to the Kansas-Oklahoma Section for the fine meeting which they staged for us. You also can appreciate the accomplishments and growth of the Society under the capable leadership of Dr. Robert Campbell. It was both a pleasure and a real education for me to serve alongside Bob in my capacity as Vice President during 1958.

One of our members who sat through the business meeting of the Board of Directors at Tulsa made the comment later that he had not realized that the American Society of Range Management was engaged in so many activities. Since so few do have opportunity to hear all the committee reports, I hope that you will take opportunity to study carefully the report of President Bob Campbell.

This year, for the first time, you paid annual dues of $8. I think that you will be glad to know that the budget for 1959 includes several additional expenditures for the youth program which was made possible by these additional dues. The additional money from the increased dues has also given the Society opportunity to underwrite publication of the brochure on “Careers in Range Management,” prepare a ten-year index