Monthly meetings were held throughout the year. Dean Gerald Thomas presented an interesting program on the potential range resources of Angola, Africa. Charles E. Fisher, Superintendent of the Texas Agriculture Experiment Station at Lubbock, presented an informative program on brush control. Messrs. Jack Douglas and Don Allison, representatives from the New Mexico SCS spoke on opportunities for future graduates in Range Management. David Stephens, Superintendent of Panhandle National Grasslands, was the last guest speaker and spoke on employment opportunities in the U. S. Forest Service.

The Texas Tech Range Plant Identification Team won first place in the ASRM Annual Meeting contest at New Orleans in February, 1966. Jimmy Brown was high individual. Other members of the team were Darrell Ueckert, Jack Prichard, and George Mitchell; coach is Dr. J. L. Schuster.

**UTAH**

The Section made final arrangements for Annual Summer Meeting of ASRM at Logan July 27 to 30. Program included technical session and two days of tours. Congratulations from the parent ASRM Society to the Utah Section for all-out effort. Section Annual Meeting will be in Salt Lake City December 10.

**WYOMING**

The Section sponsored two young people to attend the First Range Youth Fact Forum at the Annual ASRM Summer Meeting in Logan, Utah. Delegates were selected by means of a Statewide essay contest. Section Summer tour was planned for the Pinedale area on August 13.

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**SOCIETY BUSINESS**

**Is Range Management a Worthwhile Profession?**

**MELVIN S. MORRIS**

President, American Society of Range Management, Missoula, Montana.

It is not uncommon for an individual to take stock of himself; to attempt to assess his efforts in terms of his abilities, achievement on the job, and finally the satisfaction with what has been done. In some activities, as in salaried employment or in business, this can sometimes be measured readily by income. In some professions where service to the public is largely involved, the dollar return is at best a limited one.

To many of us assessment occurs at various times and places. It may come after contact with another individual. It may follow an evaluation of a project. It may come during or after a day in the field. It may be the consequence of meeting an emergency condition or at the end of a routine day behind a desk. A rancher may ask it of himself at marketing time as he recalls many trying days through the year.

It seems appropriate for me to express my thoughts to the members of the Society on a question of this kind. The human animal is an interesting beast. Regardless of where he is or what he does, he is uncertain of himself. He seeks assurance. He needs a measure of fulfillment. The psychic forces which make him different from other animals must be satisfied.

Range management (in its broadest meaning) is a worthwhile profession for many of us. It has been an opportunity for service in the interest of people, individually and collectively, with a major land resource. We operate in a historical, political, and social framework which mirrors the experience of people from the time of the westward movement to the present day.

We are part of a new and growing profession with a unique origin on the frontier of modern land management in the plains and mountains of the West and in the Southern timberlands. It is a land-oriented profession. Figuratively, we have our feet and hands on the ground and our heads and eyes to the horizon. One billion acres of land in the United States and millions of acres elsewhere are our concern and demand our attention. It is one of the most diverse of our natural resources to contend with. It is important to people as a source of water, animal products and recreation. The public demand on this resource is at an all-time high. It has direct economic as well as social value. The variety in our day-to-
day activity is considerable and should excite our interest and challenge our ability.

Scientific range management is an integral part of the conservation movement. While other voices are raising questions about our land and its use, no professional field is more involved in environmental science. We are and have been engaged in the day-to-day job of good resource management and all that it implies. We as a profession see more clearly the need and the methods to come to terms with nature. The very success and permanence of the range livestock business, the production of quality water and wildlife, depends on a realistic understanding of nature. Of necessity we need to use modern science and technology to rehabilitate some lands and return them to their former productivity. Our science and philosophy of land management have strong naturalistic roots. We take some satisfaction from the realization that such is our understanding the resource as nature.

A sense of accomplishment is an important product of one's effort and gives not only satisfaction but justification for the professional choice. When one looks close to home or expects to find change in a short period of time, it may, in some cases, be disappointing. When one travels through miles of sagebrush or mesquite-covered lands or sees an extensive grassland producing below potential, one may wonder how long it takes to sell range management. One should also ask how can we ever manipulate the vegetation on the scale it exists or reverse a trend which has been going on for many years.

Much has been accomplished. The use of fertilizers on California annual ranges has had a significant effect on the yield and quality of feed. The practice is definitely beyond the experimental stage. Sagebrush lands in southern Idaho and northern Nevada are now producing from 10 to 20 times more forage than a few years ago. We even hear of surplus grass. Mesquite control is now being done more effectively on thousands of acres in the Southwest. We are learning to use fire as a tool for cover modification for water yield and forage production on areas in Arizona and California. There are now available supplies of native and introduced grasses for general and specialized revegetation of lands. Species adaptability can be closely specified for many seeding projects. Systems of grazing including rest-rotation, deferred-rotation as well as deferred grazing are being applied extensively. Results are such that stocking rate trends are being reversed. Newer materials and equipment are being used for water supply development and fencing. Quality ranges in the Great Plains and in many mountain valleys attest to the fact that ranges are getting better. Of special importance is that training, education, communication and general extension of knowledge about range has increased considerably in the last 20 years.

The western range country is still beautiful to the eye whether it is the rolling grasslands of the plains, the basins and ranges of the intermountain country or the high mountain valleys and parks which are being viewed. Cattle, sheep, wildlife; cloud or sky; mesas, mountain slopes or peaks —this is nature, wild but being lived with and used to meet many needs.

A profession can also be measured by the intellectual challenge which its practice may demand. The range resource is not only complex in terms of species, community types, soils, climate variability, animal behavior and response, and biological interrelationships but in the economic and social aspects of its use. We are still in the process of quantifying our knowledge of the resource and its behavior. Sound management practices which are flexible and adaptive to local conditions require problem solving at a high level using the best intellectual tools available. There are few easy formulas to solutions of many biological, economic and social problems of range management. The resource and its use requires the attention of the best minds. Intellectual ability has not been wanting. It has faced some real and original problems.

Membership in the American Society of Range Management offers perhaps the most unique opportunity for personal satisfaction for a professionally involved individual. Attendance and participation at Society and Sectional meetings provide a means of expression in a large group of people with related interests. One can help determine and give direction to the activities of an organization which is international in scope—a real sense of dimension of his professional field can be gained by reading the Journal of Range Management.

We have a profession which is strongly identified with the western portion of the United States. This would suggest some provincialism. And yet, we are anything but that. Many of you have worked in more than one geographic portion of the West or South. Administrators, researchers and teachers are travelers. Transfers, special assignments, new jobs generally mean a different geographical setting. Some have worked overseas. We communicate with people the world over who are working with range. At times this moving is considered a liability; and yet it is a personal opportunity, a chance to innovate, to try new ideas. This helps develop an individual. Finally, we have what
the best of people want and that is to serve society in a constructive way.

Perhaps the best measure of the profession can be determined from the personal values secured. Over the years it has been my good fortune to observe and sometimes share in the many expressions of personal reward. Range men have an identification with community leadership. They engage in planning and execution of many community activities. They represent the public's interest in natural resources. They help guide and develop conservation practices. They are listened to with respect and confidence. This is common on many Soil Conservation Districts. Planning and sharing costs of cooperative range improvements on National Forests and Grazing Districts involves considerable assurance of competence to the land user. The amount of technical information sought by and made available to the rancher is also considerable and suggests a reasonably high degree of acceptance of what the professional has to offer. There will always exist a degree of non-acceptance by ranchers or sportsmen. This is in the nature of people. Examples exist in many other areas. The land user knows our language; he may not want to use it. Many pleasant associations are developed out of a community of interest in the land. You, no doubt, can point to many in your own experience.

We can say that range management as a professional field has been worthwhile. We identified ourselves with it out of an interest in livestock, wildlife, plants, land, and even an association with the old West. It has not only given us an employment opportunity but a unique situation in which to serve society, to meet intellectual and physically challenging situations; to gain satisfaction from many accomplishments; to associate ourselves with a wide variety of people who have helped enrich our lives. This is more than many people can expect out of a lifetime of living.

Journal Reorganization and Page Costs

Business management of the Journal was transferred to the Executive Secretary's office effective with this issue. Hereafter, page dummy, page proofs, and reprint orders will be handled entirely in the Portland office. Items for News and Notes, With the Sections and Society Business should be sent directly to the Executive Secretary.

Authors should continue to send manuscripts for articles, Technical Notes, and Management Notes directly to the Editor in Quincy, Illinois.

Effective with the January 1967 issue, a charge of $35.00 per page will be made on each article for pages in excess of the new 4-page free limit.

Notice

The Executive Secretary will pay $1.50 for each copy of the Journal in good condition, Vol. 17, No. 1, January 1964.

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