

LESTER A. McKENZIE



Lester A. (Les) McKenzie passed away August 31, 2011, in Elko, Nevada. Except for service with the US Army Air Corps just after World War II his whole life was involved with rangelands, conservation, land use and production agriculture. It began July 23, 1927, at the Mahoney Ranger Station in Jarbidge, NV where his parents Lewis (Ed) and Esther (Womack) McKenzie lived while Ed worked for the US Forest Service. He grew up around Lamoille, NV, graduated from Elko High School in 1945 and went on to Utah State in Logan. After the military interruption Les returned to studies at the University of Nevada and graduated in 1950.

He worked for the US Soil Conservation Service in NV at Mountain City, Elko, Ely, and in Cedarville, CA until 1973 when he retired and became the Modoc County planner in Alturas, CA. In 1979 he and his wife Marian moved back to Elko, County and formed HTT Enterprises. They



bred and raised quality horses. Lester worked primarily as a Certified Range Management Consultant and taught computer classes at the community college. He was a pioneer in developing computer assisted methods for rangeland evaluation and monitoring and co-authored the first NV Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. His ideas and innovations helped define rangeland evaluation methods that are still widely used. McKenzie was a founding member of the group now known as the Association of Rangeland Consultants.

Les joined the American Society of Range Management (now SRM) in 1950, the year the NV Section was organized and remained active for 61 years. He was serving as Section Historian at the time of his death and wrapping up work for a publication on 60 years of SRM in NV. He received numerous awards from the NV Section including Rangeman of the Year. He was Membership Chairman, published the Section Newsletter for several years and served as Section President. Lester was in charge of posters at both the 1990 and 2007 SRM Annual Meetings in Reno. He received SRM's Sustained Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 at the annual meeting in Guadalajara in recognition of his technical and professional contributions and support for production agriculture on rangelands.

Lester will be greatly missed by Marian, his bride of 56 years; daughters Wynarda, Bonnie, Wanda, and Pat; sons Edward and Paul; 11 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and one

great-great-grandchild. He will also be missed by the members of NV Section SRM and many other friends and associates.

Memorial contributions are suggested for the NV Section SRM Endowment Fund c/o Erica Freese, 8905 Little Creek Road, Reno, NV 89508.