

## **RANGE WINS MAJOR JOURNALISM AWARDS**

On Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016, RANGE magazine received 13 major awards during the Nevada Press Association's (NPA) annual conference in Mesquite, Nev. Of the 13 awards, there were seven first places, three seconds, and two thirds. The Better Magazine competition attracted 249 entries from magazines, and was judged by the Arizona Press Association.

NPA executive director Barry Smith says, "RANGE magazine takes on stories that are vital to its readers, yet often overlooked by other media. That's why it is such an important voice in the West. These awards recognize not only the quality of RANGE but its willingness to kick up the dust on issues that need to be noticed."

### **FOUR TIMES A WINNER**

The first-place awards include one for Freedom of the Press, which makes the fourth consecutive time judges have recognized RANGE with this coveted award. RANGE received the most recent award based on its coverage of "The Grass March Cowboy Express" in the Summer 2015 edition.

RANGE issued a special report on the Grass March and the under-reported death of the March's leader Grant Gerber of Elko, Nev., a respected lawyer, rancher, elected official and passionate advocate for private property rights. An intelligence officer in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star.

His last battle was to lead a coast-to-coast horseback ride of 11 men and women carrying a pouch to Congress containing petitions from several states addressing grievances, a saga that was both heroic and tragic. Gerber, by spearheading the "regulation without representation is tyranny" march, was representing all ranchers trying to cope with government overreach, unreasonable rules and policies, and federal agencies in lockstep with greedy special-interest groups. Gerber's intentions were honorable—and still are—which is why RANGE spoke out for Gerber and the other courageous Grass March participants.

Grant Gerber died on Oct. 25, 2014—a man worth remembering. Honest. Caring. Selfless.

### **MORE FIRST PLACE AWARDS**

#### **Literary Proud: Something Special**

RANGE earned a First Place award in the Special Projects category, which is reserved for outside endeavors, such as books and calendars. The nominees are judged on originality, relevance to readership and quality of content. Judges chose "Reflections of the West: Cowboy Painters and Poets."

"Reflections" is a 160-page hardcover collection of cowboy poems from 53 poets and 115 paintings from 30 artists. Page after page of the color-filled volume contain poetry and paintings from some of the West's best. Five months after "Reflections" debuted in November 2015, 67 percent of the 5,000 hardbacks printed had been sold.

#### **Best Profile/Interview**

Leo W. Banks is a repeat First Place winner in the Best Profile/Interview Category. At the NPA banquet, he was recognized for his feature, "Wide Open Spaces," spotlighting the town of Lochiel, Ariz., which has a great deal going for it. Fame. Beauty. History.

Drug runners. A kiosk situated at the crossroads of two dirt roads serves as the “library” and its stock of 40 books. Anyone who has seen the movie version of “Oklahoma” has actually visited Lochiel. Movie location scouts traveled 250,000 miles searching for an alternative to Oklahoma to film exterior scenes.

In 2015, Banks was awarded NPA’s First Place Best Profile for his feature, “Lost Paradise of Peck Canyon.”

Banks, a frequent contributor to RANGE magazine, where his prize-winning articles appeared, is a journalist well known for his coverage of border issues, including immigration and the flow of drugs. He is the recipient of the 2011 Eugene Katz Award for Excellence in the Coverage of Immigration.

### **A Consistent Winner**

Dave Skinner serves as RANGE magazine’s investigative writer dealing with the politics, people and policies impacting America’s food producers. His body of work this year has earned him two First Place awards in the NPA 2016 competition: Best Feature Writing for “Sheep vs. Sheep,” and Best Critical Writing for three nominated investigative stories.

Skinner has established himself as a tireless and aggressive researcher by following the money, problematic relationships, backroom deals and special-interest groups with hidden agendas. Skinner’s research shines the light on subjects by digging into tax returns and financial connections. He says that knowing who has invested in an election outcome tells more about the real issues in play than any political ad.

Judges commented: “The struggle between ranchers and government continues and seems never ending—this story’s in-depth look at the issue really engages the reader by taking them inside the view of those who live it. Striking photos, too.”

Skinner’s Best Critical Writing award involved three features: “Sheep vs. Sheep,” the First Place winner in the Best Feature category, but was one of three pieces also considered in his body of work for the Best Critical Writing.

The other two features making up Best Critical Writing include “Money Talks, Freedom Walks,” in which Skinner again follows Swiss billionaire Hans Wyss, who in preparation for donating \$5 million to Bill Gates’ Giving Pledge, is streamlining and repurposing his tax-exempt infrastructure. Wyss caught RANGE’s editorial focus because he not only directly supports special-interest groups, but “works to protect open spaces on public and private lands” in the West by making large loans that enable nonprofits to buy ground and flip it to government agencies. Most of the flips so far involve forest held by timber trusts, but ranchland is also on his agenda. Skinner’s money trail is revealing.

The third entry, “Dances with Chickens” has Skinner reporting on the long-running controversy surrounding the sage grouse, a wild bad-tasting bird the size of a chicken.

Judges commented: “A great deal of information here that doesn’t appear to have been pulled together by anyone else. It clearly is an engaging topic for your readers.”

### **RANGE Photographers Honored**

“Portrait of the West,” photo profiles of interesting people that appear in each quarterly issue of RANGE, won First Place in the Best Regular Department category. Winners included:

Dani Jones by photographer Todd Klassy. Working cowgirl Dani Jones is shown clutching the horse's reins in her teeth. She explains her hands are often too small to hold onto both the reins and the lasso rope, so she improvises. Photo was selected for the cover of RANGE's Winter 2016 issue.

Tom Marvel by photographer Ivan Agerton and writer Aaron Hitchins. Old-time buckaroo Tom Marvel's portrait and accompanying essay is an emotion-filled tribute: "There is fear and there is knowledge, there is life and there is truth. I am Tom Marvel, I am Nevada."

Cade and Blake White by photographer Larry Angier. Two sixth-generation cowboys—brothers Cade and Blake White of Plymouth, Calif.—are ready to ride in the mutton bustin' contest at the 73rd Amador County Fair.

The judge commented: "I really enjoyed letting the photos speak and only including a limited amount of text with it. Nice job."

### **RANGE Advertising Hits the Mark**

A First Place win in the Best Print Ad category applauded RANGE's back cover image ads. Art director John Bardwell created a series of four ads for the Nevada Rangeland Resources Commission, based in Elko, Nev.

The full-page ads feature different images promoting the need to keep Nevada rangelands productive and healthy. No models were used in the production of the ads; the people pictured are real individuals engaging in everyday activities.

Each of the ads speaks directly to the consumer and has a strong message supporting RANGE's editorial focus: presenting commonsense solutions that help preserve and protect the land and the people who produce food to fill the supermarket shelves.

Judges commented: "Love using 'real' people and appreciate the natural nature and environmental blurbs. Feels good."

### **SECOND PLACE AWARDS**

#### **They Get It! They Really Get it!**

NPA judges conveyed a Second Place award for General Excellence, which is a remarkable achievement considering the magazine is underfunded, understaffed, and its two full-time and two part-time employees are definitely over-worked.

In a previous press competition, judges remarked: "Of all the entries, this publication probably does the best job of nailing relevance to its readers. Good mix of content, from history pieces, to issues, to warm fuzzies."

Publisher C.J. Hadley says she is happy this year's panel of judges could also accept RANGE's need to sometimes sacrifice "pretty" for its editorial mission. Hadley founded RANGE in 1991 and has accumulated national awards for her leadership.

"I have an amazing, talented staff and an incredible bunch of writers, investigators, and photographers," she says. "And we don't intend to back off."

RANGE is celebrating a Silver Anniversary as the editorial voice for food producers who work the land in order to help feed more than 300 million Americans—most of whom don't see beyond the supermarket as the source of their largesse. RANGE is not a typical agriculture publication. RANGE is a hard-news publication dealing with environmental, bureaucratic, and political policies in need of investigating. Respected

scientists and researchers contribute a point of view not covered in depth by mainstream media.

RANGE's hard-hitting editorial is balanced by photo essays featuring some of the nation's best photographers and profiles of interesting and dedicated people who devote their lives to feeding America—people impacted by policies and seemingly limitless new federal regulations. Playing a starring role are the Green special-interest groups and influential lobbyists whose power influences government rules and decisions.

### **Photographer Grabs the Spotlight**

A six-photo essay, “Branding,” by award-winning California photographer Larry Angier, received a Second Place in the Best Multiple Photo category. “Branding” captures the working cowboys, the people and their traditions in the Summer 2015 issue of RANGE magazine.

Always on the lookout for new photographic innovations, Angier's lead shot of the roping and branding in an old corral offers a unique perspective—from a camera-carrying drone.

Judges commented: “Great use of light and composition. These photos convey a true sense of community. The last two are your weakest and break the energy and intimacy that is created from the first four.” The judge added: “This was a hard category to judge. There were a lot of great images, but I chose the winners because of their abilities to engage and convey an overall concept through their strongest and weakest images.”

### **Applauding Science and Politics**

Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D., was awarded a Second Place in the Best Critical Writing category for three nominated stories dealing with climate change and geopolitics. RANGE also received a First Place for Dave Skinner's work in the same category.

Dr. Coffman's nominated reports include three stories:

“The Big Cure” in the Spring 2016 issue, deals with the December 2015, United Nations agreement signed by 190 nations in Paris—a deal that Dr. Coffman pronounced as “mostly toothless.” He traces the meetings, negotiations and haggling from “chaos to acceptance.”

In “Racing to Tyranny” in the Fall 2015 issue, Dr. Coffman looks into reports that the United Nations believes that the destruction of capitalism is a good thing and it has a plan to accomplish its goals using man-caused climate change.

In “Wow!” in the Winter 2016 issue, Dr. Coffman continues coverage of climate change/global warming by focusing on the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, Nov. 30-Dec. 11, 2015, where leaders from 190 countries met to reach a deal to limit greenhouse gas emissions. He wrote that new information begs to be part of the discussion. A brand new set of ultra-accurate temperature data is now available that utterly destroys the man-caused warming theory. The new measuring stations were installed in the early 1990s using exacting protocols that prevent human error from creeping into the data.

### **THIRD PLACE AWARDS**

#### **From Pitts' Corner**

Lee Pitts is a humorist who was awarded Third Place in Best Entertainment Writing. He contributes a column in each quarterly issue of RANGE magazine.

According to Pitts' column, hundreds of products found in drugstores have ingredients from cattle, sheep and hogs. Out of a 1,000-pound steer, only 568 pounds is the meat so detested. In fact, if anemic blood ever failed to clot, the doctors would probably save your life with a drug called thrombin. It came from a farm animal.

In "Sheep Allergies," Pitts reveals his secret life in the Summer 2015 issue of RANGE. He writes the time has come "before some unscrupulous journalist finds out about my big secret and broadcasts it to the world.... I used to raise sheep," he confesses, asking for forgiveness.

Lee Pitts writes an open letter to urbanites urging them to get off the global-warming sidelines in "Dear Clueless," and share the hassle, expense, regulations, paperwork and government overreach suffered by their country brethren. His tongue-in-cheek column appears in the Fall 2015 issue of RANGE.

Pitts reminded New Englanders that on those cold mornings, "you'll no longer be allowed to burn wood, coal, natural gas, cow chips, or pellets in your stove because they produce greenhouse gases. You'll no longer be allowed to use any appliance or machine that uses fossil fuels that may have been produced by fracking." Affected activities include driving a car, snowmobile, taking mass transit and heating your home.

"Vegetarians should no longer be allowed to eat beans because they produce methane, and their uneaten zucchini is cluttering up our landfills," he notes. He also writes we should stop eating, breathing and having sex.

### **Making the Case for Justice**

Publisher C.J. Hadley guides readers in each quarterly issue of RANGE magazine to problems and successes experienced by the people who live and work on the land. Her column, "Up Front," was rewarded in the Best Local Column category.

Her editorials in the competition year include:

"Up Front: Nefarious feds," which concerns the "Grass March," the topic for the magazine's fourth consecutive Freedom of the Press Award. The story is about ranchers' livelihoods being threatened by bureaucrats in Nevada's Battle Mountain District of the Bureau of Land Management. The boss there, Doug Furtado, is known on the range as an "arrogant bully." The editorial covers important background and political information leading up to the coast-to-coast horseback ride by ranchers to carry letters protesting "regulation without representation" to Congress. On the way home, Grass March leader Grant Gerber died after a fall from his horse. Sadly, his heroic protest ride and tragic death was under-reported in the media.

"Up Front: Looking for Madison." Hadley uses President James Madison as a pivotal point for issues covered in the Fall issue, including climate change, drought problems in California's Central Valley and the massive taking of water brought on by a special-interest group, and the miscarriage of justice dealt forcing Dwight and son Steven Hammond back to prison to serve the maximum sentence for "domestic terrorism" for damage to federal land that the original judge ruled might have been valued at \$100.

In "Up Front: Good sense," Hadley celebrates RANGE's awards conveyed in 2015 by the Nevada Press Association, and then apologized for the bad news in the issue and the search for honorable and righteous behavior—and good sense. "The West could be a treat again if real producers were respected, if forests were managed (with timber cuts), if glorified mustangs were kept to the numbers the resource can sustain, if private property rights were considered sacrosanct, if forage were eaten by cows and sheep rather

than by fire, if a migratory bird treaty were not to take precedence over hardworking people, and if Washington's leaders were to give a damn about anyone west of the Potomac," she wrote.

In "Up Front: Spindled & mutilated," Hadley chronicles the ranchers whose private property rights on federal land are being abused by agents of the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, or the National Park Service. Hadley's editorial makes the case that injustice is rampant as federal agencies pursue ranchers with an unlimited crop of federal attorneys paid for by taxpayer dollars.

Cited in the editorial is the case of the Hammond Ranch, which owns land and private property rights coveted by the BLM and FWS. The agencies have blocked the family's stock waters and access roads to their high-country grazing land, canceled legal grazing permits, and seem determined to destroy ranch and family so that they can add the Hammonds private land to the 187,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Besides being jailed in California, the Hammonds had to pay \$400,000 by Dec. 31, 2015, for destroying federal land (valued at about \$100) and were forced to give first option on their ranch to the BLM—the agency working to destroy them.

### **Feeding America: Seeing Beyond the Supermarket**

A series of 10 stories in RANGE magazine are critically important to every single living, breathing soul. Not just an area or a segment of the population can be impacted. Simply put, it is important to everyone who consumes food, any kind of food. RANGE's editorial package, which earned a Third Place in the NPA's Best Investigation category, illustrates the dire need to protect the land, without which there would be no life. Despite the seriousness of the subject, misinformation, greedy special-interest groups, Mother Nature, and strange attitudes present obstacles.