Delegation, U.S.–U.S.S.R. Metrology Exchange, 1963; received Medal, Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, 1949.

AAAS activities: chairman, Gordon Research Conference on Instrumentation, 1953; Council, 1954–; chairman, Council Agenda and Resolutions Committee, 1958; chairman, Committee on Council Activities and Organization, 1959–60; Committee on Council Affairs, 1961–63.

Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division

The Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science held its 39th annual meeting in Albuquerque, N.M., 28 April to 2 May, 1963.

Eighty individual research papers were included on the programs of the sections of the division, and 12 reports were made on undergraduate research projects by student members of Beta Beta Beta, which held a concurrent district meeting.

Special symposiums consisting of invited papers included "Aridity and man," under the sponsorship of the Committee on Desert and Arid Zones Research, and "Improvement of science teaching," sponsored by the divisional committee concerned with subject.

The 30th John Wesley Powell memorial lecture, a public event featured in each year's meetings of the division, was given by Kirtley F. Mather on "The earth sciences in the sixties."

In an address at the opening session of the meetings, Alan T. Waterman, president of the Association, delivered a very penetrating analysis of "The national and regional role of the AAAS."

Anton H. Berkman, president of the division, diverted from the usual pattern of a presidential address and conducted a panel discussion on the challenge to the division of arid land studies. Members of the Committee on Desert and Arid Zones Research made up the panel. The president's program was further featured by the presentation of the first annual award of a certificate of merit for outstanding contributions in the field of arid zones progress. This award was made posthumously to Clayton W. Botkin, a past president of the division, and was accepted in his name by his son Charles Botkin.

At the close of the meeting Edwin R. Helwig of the University of Colorado succeeded to the presidency of the division. Aden B. Meinel of the University of Arizona was selected as president-elect, and Howard J. Dittmer of the University of New Mexico as a member of the Executive Committee. Marlowe G. Anderson, New Mexico State University, will continue as secretary-treasurer and council representative. The next annual meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division will be held in Lubbock, Texas, 26–30 April 1964.

MARLOWE G. ANDERSON
New Mexico State University, Albuquerque

Society for General Systems Research

One of the eight societies elected at the 129th AAAS annual meeting 30 December 1962, as an affiliate of the Association, was the Society for General Systems Research.

The principal aim of the society is to encourage the development of theoretical systems which are applicable to more than one of the traditional departments of knowledge. All sciences develop theoretical systems of concepts, relationships, and models. Many of these systems are isomorphic, but their similarity is undetected because of differences in terminology and of other barriers to communication among specialists. Furthermore, systems which have been well worked out can be of assistance in the development of others.

The major functions of general systems research are therefore: (i) to investigate the isomorphy of concepts, laws, and models in various fields, and to help in useful transfers from one field to another; (ii) to encourage the development of adequate theoretical models in the fields which lack them; (iii) to minimize the duplication of theoretical effort in different fields; and (iv) to promote the unity of science through improving communication among specialists.

The feeling that such a scientific society would fill an evident need crystallized at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California. The response to the issuance of a manifesto in 1954 was extremely encouraging. Therefore, at the 1954 AAAS meeting in Berkeley, the Society for the Advancement of General Systems Theory was started.