ing it to have been only half as wide as it was long, an idea may be formed of the vast number of animals it contains.³

For the greater part of this distance the country was flat and covered with short grass, kept so probably by these animals feeding on it. A few scattered mezquit trees also grew among them. Rivers did not limit the colony for they were found on both sides of several streams. In several places I noticed a colony on the summit of elevated plateaus or hills, where the country was exceedingly barren, and the herbage so scant as to appear entirely inadequate to their subsistence. In this case it was evident that the colony was not in a flourishing condition, as many of the habitations were deserted.⁴

³If we suppose that this community extended 50 miles in one direction and but 10 in another, we have a superficies of 500 sq. miles; and allowing them to be 30 ft. apart, or 900 sq. ft. for each (a large allowance), it would give about 30 thousand habitations to the sq. mile, or 15,000,000 in the 500 miles. Estimating but two of these little creatures, which is the smallest supposable number to a habitation, we have a total of 30 million in this community. I think it would be quite safe to reckon three or perhaps four animals to each hillock.

⁴Footnote by the editor: We thought these astute observations of one of the explorers of the Southwest might be of interest to you. As an additional sidelight, a colony of prairie dogs has been established at the Fort Worth Nature Center. The manager of the Center related to some of us how they attempted to establish the colony in an ungrazed area of fairly tall grasses. The prairie dogs left the site chosen by man and moved to a nearby higher and closely grazed pasture field of much shorter grasses that did not obstruct the view of the small animals. Based on this limited knowledge, perhaps the prairie dog was a companion to areas heavily grazed by buffalo and other animals. Nevertheless, this little animal must have played a significant role in the genesis of some of the soils of the prairie region.

Daughters of Mississippi Soil Classifiers Enter Medical School at the Same Time

Medical school enrollment in Mississippi and Tennessee has received a boost from Mississippi soil classifiers. Three daughters of soil classifiers began their studies in August 1983.

Norma Lynne Allgood, daughter of Velton C. Allgood of Meridian, is a May 1983 graduate of Mississippi University for Women with a degree in biology. She is a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, Beta Beta Beta, Mortar Board, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Alpha Psi Omega, Theatre Guild, and the MUW Dance Company. She was selected to Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities, and graduated magna cum laude.

Betty Lea Davis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rex E. Davis of Hattiesburg, is a May 1983 Graduate of University of Southern Mississippi with a degree in chemistry. She is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and the American Chemical Society. She was selected to Who’s Who Among American Colleges and Universities and the USM Hall of Fame.