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Volume 11, Number 2

July 1979

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CALENDAR OF ADS MEETINGS

August 2: informal SUMMER MEETING

In association with the Linguistic Society of America Summer Meeting (Aug. 2-4) and Linguistic Institute (July 23-Aug. 31)

Salzburg, Austria; University of Salzburg

Those interested in participating are invited to get in touch with Michael Montgomery, Dept. of English, Univ. of Arkansas, 33rd and University, Little Rock, Ark. 72204; phone (501) 569-3160. He will have a presentation concerning recent research on the interrelationship between Southern Black and Southern White English, including background to the issues involved and a summary of projects studying the question. (He is organizing a conference on the subject for spring 1980). There will be room for other presentations as well.

October: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Central Modern Language Association

Chairperson: Jane Black, Richland College

Regional secretary: Curt M. Rulon, North Texas State University

October 18-20: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association
Albuquerque, Convention Center-Albuquerque Inn

Presiding: James W. Ney, Arizona State University

Regional secretary: Thomas L. Clark, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

November 1-3: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association
Atlanta

Chair: Ronald R. Butters, Duke University

Regional secretary: David L. Shores, Old Dominion University

November 8: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Midwest Modern Language Association
Indianapolis, Hyatt Regency Hotel

Everglades Room, 2:15 to 5:30 p.m.

Chairman: Michael D. Linn, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Regional secretary: Donald M. Lance, University of Missouri, Columbia

Papers:

"Gravity Models, Linguistic Geography, and Inherent Variability." Donald W. Larmouth, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

"Attitudes of Upper Midwest College Students to Selected American Dialects." Susan Kretzer, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

"The Dialect of Polish Immigrants in Grand Rapids, Michigan: A Preliminary Report." **Lawrence J. Zwier**, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

"The Dialect of Newton County, Arkansas." **Bethany Dumas**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"The Flintlock in Modern English" (lecture-demonstration). **James J. Pontillo**, University of Minnesota, Duluth.

Dinner: Mt. Rushmore Room, 7:00 p.m. Details to be announced in the October NADS.

November 23: NCTE CONCURRENT SESSION

At the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English
San Francisco, Hilton or St. Francis Hotel

3:45 to 5:00 p.m. (Concurrent Session C.18)

Chair: Raymond K. O'Cain, University of South Carolina

Associate Chair: Robert A. Peters, Western Washington University

Recorder/Reactor: Virginia McDavid, Chicago State University

Papers:

"Writing About Western Talking." **Thomas L. Clark**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"Mormon Influences on Language." **Samuel C. Monson**, Brigham Young University.

"California: The End of the Line." **Allan A. Metcalf**, MacMurray College.

For information about the meeting and the NCTE, write Robert C. Harvey, Director of Conventions and Conferences, National Council of Teachers of English, 1111 Kenyon Rd., Urbana, Ill. 61801.

December 27-30: ANNUAL MEETING

In association with the Modern Language Association
San Francisco

Presiding: John Algeo, University of Georgia

Papers:

"The Current Status of the Pennsylvania German Dialect Among the Old Order Mennonites of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania." **C. Richard Beam**, Millersville State College.

"Nationalism, Historicity, and the Study of Americanisms: Maximilian Schele de Vere and His Predecessors." **Michael G. Crowell**, Knox College.

"Social Dialectology: A Statistical Appraisal." **Lawrence M. Davis**, University of Haifa.

"Regional Vocabulary in the Arkansas Ozarks." **Bethany K. Dumas**, University of Tennessee.

"The Interdependence of Rural and Urban Linguistic Surveys." **R.J. Gregg**, University of British Columbia.

"*Good and Well* and *Well and Good*." **Carole Phillips Hines**, Old Dominion University.

"Canadian English: The Phonology of Woodstock, New Brunswick, as Derived from the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*." **A.M. Kinloch**, University of New Brunswick.

"The Virginia Dialect Survey: Preliminary Results." **Michael Miller**, Virginia Commonwealth University.

"The Syntax of Indefinite Pronouns." **Frank Parker**, Louisiana State University.

"Hypersemanticization in Neologistic *-ear/iar* Verbs in Mexican-American Spanish." **John M. Sharp** and **Eleanor Greet Cotton**, University of Texas, El Paso.

December 27-29: PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH DISCUSSION GROUP at MLA

San Francisco

4:30 to 5:45 p.m.: Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Inception of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada

Presiding: Allen Walker Read, Columbia University

Discussant: Raven I. McDavid, Jr., University of Chicago

Papers:

Message of Greeting. **Hans Kurath**, University of Michigan. (Read by Richard W. Bailey, University of Michigan.)

"Expectations for Western Atlases." **Thomas L. Clark**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

"The Future of Atlases in Washington and Oregon." **Carroll E. Reed**, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

"The Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma and Computer Cartography." **Bruce Southard**, Oklahoma State University.

"Rules, Predictions and the Linguistic Atlas." **David R. Carlson**, Springfield College.

6:15 to 8:00 p.m.: *Cash Bar* arranged jointly by the American Dialect Society and the Discussion Group on Present-Day English

July or August 1980: SUMMER MEETING

In association with the Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America
Albuquerque, University of New Mexico

Planner: Garland D. Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico,
Humanities Building 526, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131

Suggestions and proposals are still welcome.

NEWBERRY TO CONFER ON MENCKEN'S 100TH

Planning has started for a conference at the Newberry Library next spring to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of Henry Louis Mencken's birth. Eight to ten invited speakers will give presentations; the conference will be open to the public.

Further details, as they become known, will appear in future issues of *NADS*.

Impatient readers may write to co-chairman Warren Scheideman at the Newberry Library, 60 West Walton St., Chicago, Ill. 60610.

NWAVE WILL NOT MEET, NOR ADS WITH IT

An eighth annual meeting on New Ways of Analyzing Variation in English will not be held this year, announces Roger Shuy of Georgetown University and the Center for Applied Linguistics. Consequently, ADS plans for a concurrent meeting in November have been canceled.

DIRECTORY OF ADS MEMBERS

This first publication of the membership list in at least a decade is certain to contain errors and infelicities. Members are asked to notify the executive secretary, H.R. Wilson, of changes in address and errors. If the address is correct but you prefer a different style for the directory, please notify NADS editor Allan Metcalf. Supplements will appear in future issues of NADS.

Use of this list for commercial or promotional purposes is prohibited without prior written permission from the executive secretary: H.R. Wilson, Department of English, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 3K7. Inquiries should be timed to allow for consultation by mail with members of the Executive Council of the Society. A version arranged by Zip code is available under the same conditions.

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A FINAL METHODOICAL INQUIRY

Three institutions so far have inquired into the possibility of being host to the Fourth International Conference on Methods in Dialectology in 1981. Readers interested in bringing this conference to their institutions should write to the former coordinator H.R. Wilson, Department of English, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont., Canada N6A 3K7 stating:

- a) willingness to coordinate this conference
- b) accessibility and amenities of the institution and region
- c) availability of university housing.

Dates may be suggested, but may have to be negotiated in the light of the experience of the former coordinator in dealing with scholars overseas.

Time is getting short.

Newsletter of the American Dialect Society, Volume 11, Number 2, July 1979.
 Published three or four times a year and sent to all ADS members and subscribers. Next issue, October. Send editorial correspondence and back issue requests to Allan Metcalf, editor, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650. Send ADS dues (\$15 annually) and all other correspondence concerning the Society to H. Rex Wilson, executive secretary, English Department, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada N6A 3K7.

DARE INQUIRES FOR CABBAGE CANDY, EASY WALKERS AND A DYNGUS

(Sixth in a series of requests for information from the ADS-sponsored Dictionary of American Regional English.)

Our query about *hang the moon* received the most plentiful response we've had — our thanks to the many responders. It's clearly a widespread midland-and-southern expression, which I should probably have known, and I plead, with Dr. Johnson, "Sheer ignorance, Madam." Some more queries:

dog knife — Our quot is from 1883 (Bagby's *Virginia Gentleman*) about someone who split his thumb open slicing "hoss cakes" with a dog knife sharpened on the grindstone. Is this still current? What kind of knife is it?

fortifications — a marble game. Can anyone tell us how it is played?

force — the north-of-England word for a waterfall. What currency in U.S., if any? Our only quot is from 1789. Does any place name preserve it? (Probably obsolete.)

easy walkers — We have both written and oral evidence, primarily from the Gulf states, of *easy walkers* as rubber-soled canvas shoes. It's also found as a trade name. But which came first, the term in popular use, or the trade name, later generalized? Also, in what area is the term current?

Be-atrice-an'-grease — a medicine used against head lice in central-southern Kentucky up to 20 years ago. Is it known elsewhere? Is the first element a distortion of pharmaceutical Latin?

cabbage candy — 1966 in South Carolina — said to be a bar made of sliced coconut, very hard on the teeth. Why "cabbage"?

half-hammer — a type of movement, motion, or step; a hop-skip-and-jump. South midland chiefly — but why the name? From Tennessee we also have the (apparently associated) verb to *half-ham*, to "go around doin' something ain't got no business doin'." We have *half-hamen* in a context where it may be a noun or a participle. Any evidence on these, including pronunciation, would be helpful.

eesapaduze — probably a bad spelling — a single oral report from a black informant in Kentucky, who says this is the name of an organization for black men associated with the Masons. Can anyone elucidate?

have or get one's habits on, be in one's habits — our present evidence, not consistent, suggests it means getting into a sullen mood, a depression, or drunkenness. How familiar is the phrase? In what sense do you know it? (South Midland, three informants.)

hant's breath — A current of warm air felt out of doors in the evening, especially when one is on horseback or in a buggy. To some, this is the hant itself. Our only evidence is from *PADS* 21 (low country S.C.). Any further evidence would be welcome.

coonass — Louisiana (or any other) members please note. Our earliest quot is Atwood 1962. It must be much earlier. (Not in Read.) Perhaps in news features before this date, or accounts of Cajuns? Etymological hypotheses also welcome.

dyngus — a Polish folk custom transported to the Buffalo, N.Y. area — where else? At Easter time, men whip and throw water on young women. Obviously a fertility rite. Is it kept up? Adapted to the American scene?

eat cooter liver — from South Carolina and apparently black usage. It means to *talk*, to reveal secrets. In the negative, to be close-mouthed. "Don't worry about

him. He don't eat cooter liver." We have this from only one informant. Is it more widely known? Is there a folk tale behind it?

ladies in the carriage — a move or motion in the game of jacks. From one Wisconsin informant, 1966. How is this motion performed — what does the player do? What are the carriage and the ladies?

Send replies to Prof. F.G. Cassidy, *DARE*, 6125 Helen C. White Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. 53706. All contributions will be acknowledged in *DARE*.

EVICTED LANCS FINDS NEW HOME NEARBY

The wrecking crew came at last to a forgotten corner of old Harper Library at the University of Chicago, a corner which had housed Raven McDavid's office and the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States during the NEH-funded boom years. It was time to move out, to make way for a thorough renovation that would eventually enthrone the Linguistics Department where LANCS had stood.

University authorities acknowledged a responsibility to keep LANCS' files, books, maps and manuscripts off the streets, and to provide some space for the work that is still continuing under a six-figure grant from NEH. (One example: Richard Payne's nearly-completed manuscript for the Word Geography of the North-Central States.) At the prodding of office manager Bill Kretzschmar, the dean finally found a home for LANCS in a disused storage room around the corner from the former location.

The move took place June 13, Kretzschmar overseeing the work of a crew of professional movers. A week later, the new LANCS office was in full working condition in Gates-Blake 216.

Above a plain brown door in the yellow second-floor hallway now hangs the familiar shingle, etched in white on black plastic:

THE LINGUISTIC ATLAS OF THE U.S. AND CANADA

Crossing the plain threshold, the visitor enters a treasury, a workshop — one might venture to say a cathedral of dialect study.

Dark steel shelves housing the library of LANCS and McDavid occupy most of the nave. The volumes include complete runs of such important journals as *Orbis*, *Dialect Notes*, *American Speech* and *NADS*. A niche in the shelves at the left houses a portable electric typewriter, complete with table.

Looking straight ahead from the door at the narthex, the visitor sees in the bay-window apse McDavid's wooden desk, running parallel to the east-west axis of the nave, with telephone on top and chairs on both sides. The visitor's chair abuts the Ge-Hak file of offprints, surmounted by a gold-framed photograph of a stern Albert Marckwardt, gazing over the project he initiated and directed for more than three decades.

The office is trinitarian and symmetrical in design, with two aisles paralleling the nave, each entered by an archway near the apse. Above the entrance to the left aisle hangs a watchful photograph of Hans Kurath, guarding the file cabinets filled with field records and offprints, a storage cabinet, a map cabinet, and a light table for studying and drawing maps. Dialect maps of the North-Central States illuminate the walls of the left aisle.

Two icons hang above the entrance to the right aisle: photographs of H.L. Mencken, looking up, and Leonard Bloomfield, smiling down. In the right aisle one encounters the "compositing room," consisting of a work table, a supply cabinet, and an IBM Selectric typewriter, where McDavid types letters and Kretzschmar "composites" — that is, types

camera-ready pages for printing. Here also is the coffee pot, with a cup specially reserved for guests, and a radio tuned all day to the classical music and mellifluous news of WFMT. Further back in the right aisle are more bookshelves and file cabinets.

Although the resettlement is now complete, further amenities are planned, including more photographs of Linguistic Atlas directors for the walls. But even now LANCS is an orderly haven for the scholar attending to the mysteries of language variation. The chambers are especially cheerful in the afternoon, when the sun streams through the bay windows overlooking Ellis Avenue, supplementing the distant fluorescent lights on the ceiling. Guests are welcome, but office hours are irregular, so prior inquiry is necessary. The telephone is still (312) 753-2827; the address is still English Department, 1050 East 59th St., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. 60637.

PACIFIC MEETING HEARS THREE

Three substantial talks filled the program of the 1979 ADS Pacific Coast Regional Meeting, held May 5 at California State University, Sacramento, in association with the annual meeting of the California Linguistics Association.

Keynote speaker Roger Shuy, Georgetown University, spoke on "The Consumer and Insurance Policy Language." Invited speaker Charles Adams, California State University, Chico, spoke on "Boontling: A Local American English Jargon." And Urs Durmuller of Berne, Switzerland and the University of California, Berkeley presented "An Outside View of American English Language Varieties." Manjari Ohala of San Jose State University chaired the meeting.

NOW ON VIDEOTAPE: SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

"Speech of the Upper Midwest," a 58-minute videotape by Harold B. Allen, now is available for rental.

The tape, which had its ADS premiere at last November's Midwest Regional Meeting, is based on Allen's *Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest*. An introduction relates American Atlas work to that in England, and the Midwest work to that on the Atlantic coast.

For \$10 you can rent it from: Audio-Visual Library Service
University of Minnesota
3300 University Ave., S.E.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55414

WANTED: GRIP THE RAT, DEAD OR ALIVE

Where could one find a set of the American Speech phonograph records produced long ago by Columbia/Victor/Linguaphone and involving various local readers of the tragedy of *Grip the Rat*? The editors of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States would like to know. Raven McDavid writes: "There are certain editorial decisions that hinge on our having these, and so far I have not been able to locate a set for dubbing onto tape."

Readers who know of a set that could be copied are asked to get in touch with McDavid at the English Department, 1050 East 59th St., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill. 60637; or Raymond K. O'Cain, English Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

*Newsletter of the
American Dialect Society*

From: Allan Metcalf
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FIRST CLASS

To: