

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 14.2

From:

American Dialect Society
Allan Metcalf, Executive Secretary
English Department
MacMurray College
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

FIRST CLASS

To:

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May 1982

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members and subscribers. Send ADS dues (\$20 per year), queries and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.

CALENDAR OF ADS MEETINGS

August 1982: SUMMER MEETING WITH LSA

In association with the Linguistic Society of America 43rd Summer Meeting (for information on the LSA meeting, accommodations etc. write LSA, 3520 Prospect St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007)

University of Maryland, College Park

Sunday, August 1, 12:30 p.m. (immediately following the last LSA session), Reckord Armory 0108 (directly east of the Administration Building)

Chair: Jeutonne P. Brewer, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

Program:

"Discourse Intonation in Conversational, Narrative and Implied Interaction." **John P. Broderick**, Old Dominion Univ.

Brazil, Coulthard and Johns (*Discourse Intonation and Language Teaching*, Longman 1980) have proposed that the status of information in tone groups is typically signalled by the assignment of one to five tones to the nuclear syllable. *Proclaiming tone* (falling) marks the information as new. *Referring tone* (falling-rising) marks the information as given. *Intensified proclaiming tone* (rising-falling) is contrastive, and *intensified referring tone* (rising; used in yes/no questions) emphasizes that the information is in the listener's domain. *Neutral tone* (level) signals that the speaker is not actively signaling information status. This paper reports on the patterns of occurrence of these five tones in three usage varieties that have not been defined or elicited according to generally accepted categories of usage variation (e.g. speech vs. writing or casual vs. careful). Rather they are defined according to the mode of interaction between the speaker/writer and listener/reader. Students in an undergraduate linguistics course were recorded in spontaneous conversation discussing their preparation for the course midterm exam. Each was next recorded narrating the process of preparation to the professor. Finally, each wrote a formal paper describing the preparation process for the benefit of future students and was recorded reading it aloud.

The analysis of intonation patterns in these three interactional modes will of course test the exhaustiveness of the five tones proposed by Brazil, Coulthard and Johns. But the special purpose of this research is to test the validity of the three interactional modes as viable categories in the analysis of usage variation. Preliminary analysis indicates that intonational resources are deployed differently in each of the interactional modes.

"Umlaut and Analogy." **Michael I. Miller**, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.

American English includes a tiny class of nouns (*foot, goose, louse, man, mouse, tooth*) that form the plural irregularly as a result of prehistoric palatal umlaut (*u* becomes *i*, *o* becomes *e*, *a* becomes *æ*). Though Old English and Middle English included more umlaut plurals than Modern English (e.g. *oak, cow, book*), the class has seemed remarkably stable in written English since the 15th century.

However, field work for the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States discovered unexpected variants of the plural of *tooth* in the lower South, including *teet, teef, toothes, teethes*, and even a reversed set (*teeth* singular, *tooth* plural). Using this data as a clue, this study investigated the plurals of *tooth, mouse* and *foot* (anatomical) in one Southern community. The formal variants include *teeth, teef, teethes; feet, feets, foot* (plural), *foots; mice, mices, mouse* (plural), *mouses*. Additional variants include *a mice* (singular), *womens, women people, mens, and stremens*.

All variants other than "standard" *teeth, feet*, and *mice* occur exclusively in black speech and establish a distinctive caste heterogloss. Obviously, racial caste partly accounts for the variation in usage. But the forms now confined to black speech once occurred more commonly. Dated texts and current British folk speech attest *foots, mices, mouses, teef* and *toothes* along with other variants from the tenth century to the present. Furthermore, "nonstandard" forms do not characterize black speech; most blacks use the standard forms. The influence of caste on these common words testifies eloquently to the lack of intimate communication across the caste barrier and the weak effects of either urbanization or education on the oldest strata of Southern black speech. But the absence of "nonstandard" forms in younger, urban black speech provides objective linguistic evidence of the breakdown of caste-related communication barriers.

NEWS THERE WASN'T ROOM FOR

Our cup of news runneth over. Look in the September NADS for: a report of new directions for both ACLS and NEH, and the latter's request for advice; a review of important computer developments, thanks to Tom Paikeday and the ACLS Council of Secretaries; new books by ADS members; questions from the public about American dialects; the Executive Council's approval of a contingency plan for LAMSAS; and a request for judgment on a disputed point of usage. We'll try to make room for it all!

October 1982: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association
Salt Lake City, University of Utah, October 21-23

Presiding: Grant W. Smith, Eastern Washington Univ.

Regional Secretary: Thomas L. Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas

"A Cross-Dialect Comparison of Double Modals." **Marianna Di Paolo**, Univ. of Utah.

"Toward Tracing Dialect Boundaries in Billings, Montana." **Arthur M. Kompass**, Eastern Montana College.

"Speech Sounds of Isolated Communities." **Darwin L. Hayes**, Brigham Young Univ.

"Stylistic Variation in Paul Laurence Dunbar's Dialect Poetry." **Cordell A. Briggs**, Loma Linda Univ.

October 1982: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Central Modern Language Association
San Antonio, Texas; Friday, October 29

Chair: Raouf J. Halaby, Ouachita Baptist Univ.

Regional secretary: Scott Baird, Trinity Univ.

"Age as a Factor in the Use of the /hw/ Phoneme." **Lea Anne Dickson** and **Fred Tarpley**, East Texas State Univ.

"Creole Patois in Dr. Alfred Mercier's Louisiana French Novels." **Sam Dickinson**, retired associate editor, Arkansas Gazette and Arkansas Democrat.

"Language Variation in the English Speech Codes of Southern Louisiana." **Margaret M. Marshall**, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge.

November 1982: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Midwest Modern Language Association
Cincinnati, Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers; Thursday, November 4

Chair: Jim Vandergriff, Central Missouri State Univ.

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

"'Kentuck' Dialect Features in the Cutover Region of Northern Wisconsin." **Donald Larmouth** and **Marjorie Remsing**, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay

"Heckewelder and the Ohio Valley Indians: Language and Culture on the American Frontier." **Beverly Olson Flanigan**, Ohio Univ.

"Attitudes and Actions: The Language Content of College Composition and Language Arts Textbooks." **Virginia McDavid** and **Thomas Creswell**, Chicago State Univ.

"Stylistic Shifting in the Missouri Ozarks." **Michael L. Pulley**, Southwest Missouri State Univ.

"Faulkner's Changing Dialect Styles." **Alvin L. Gregg**, Wichita State Univ.

"Cats, Cats and More Cats." **Stewart A. Kingsbury**, Northern Michigan Univ.

November 1982: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association
Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza Hotel; Saturday, November 13, 9 a.m.

Chair: Crawford Feagin, Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center

Regional secretary: Jeutonne P. Brewer, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro

Nominating Committee: Carole P. Hines, Old Dominion Univ.; Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina; Ronald Butters (Chair), Duke Univ.

"Prime Disadvantages of Inadequate Phonetic Transcriptions in Dialectological Investigation, Phonetological Explanation, Speech Synthesis, and Language Teaching." **Charles-James N. Bailey**, Technical Univ. of Berlin.

"Porchmouth for Portsmouth." **David L. Shores**, Old Dominion Univ.

"Can Y'All Function as a Singular Pronoun in Southern Dialect?" **Gina Richardson**, Georgetown Univ.

"The Personal Dative in Appalachian Speech." **Donna Christian**, Center for Applied Linguistics.

"Gullah and Caribbean Creole English." **Patricia C. Nichols**, San Jose State Univ.

"Recent Work on Southern English." **Michael Montgomery**, Univ. of South Carolina.

November 1982: NCTE CONCURRENT SESSION

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English
Washington, D.C., November 20-21

Chair: Bethany K. Dumas, Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville

Recorder-Reactor: Andrew F. Downey, Jr., Washington, D.C.

Program:

"Nouns of Measure Once Again." **Michael I. Miller**, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.

(Title unavailable.) **Lawrence Davis**, Univ. of Haifa, Israel.

"Making the Study of Linguistics More Meaningful: On Involving Students in Dialect Studies." **Raouf J. Halaby**, Ouachita Baptist Univ.

December 1982: ANNUAL MEETING

In association with the Modern Language Association of America

Los Angeles, Biltmore and Bonaventura Hotels, December 27-30

(A special dinner and an Executive Council meeting will also be scheduled. Details in the September Newsletter.)

First session:

Presiding: John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia

"Grammar and Good Taste: American Usage Controversies — A Historical Overview."

Dennis E. Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana.

"A Lexicographer's Correspondence in the Mid-Nineteenth Century." **Allen Walker Read**, Columbia Univ.

"L.M. Montgomery and the Dialect of Prince Edward Island, Canada." **A. M. Kinloch**, Univ. of New Brunswick.

Second session:

Presiding: Virginia G. McDavid, Chicago State Univ.

"Complementation in West Texas." **Marianne Cooley**, Texas Tech Univ.

"The Stressed Vowels of the Speech of Tangier Island, Virginia." **David L. Shores**, Old Dominion Univ.

"Evidence of Canadian French Substrat in the English of Jack Kerouac." **Anthony B. House**, Univ. of New Brunswick.

Third session: Annual Business Meeting

Presiding: Marvin Carmony, Indiana State Univ., ADS President

December 1982: SPECIAL SESSION ON REGIONAL ARCHIVES

The MLA has approved a Special Session at the December meeting in Los Angeles on "Archives of Regional Speech: Conservation, Continuity, Completion," organized by Raven I. McDavid, Jr. of the Univ. of Chicago. Custodians of regional archives, whether of American English or of related languages, are especially invited, but the meeting is open to all MLA Convention registrants. For further information write McDavid (see the Directory for his address).

DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS

Four hundred odd (or at least unusual) individuals were current members of the American Dialect Society as of May 26, 1982. Their names and addresses appear here, as accurate as the editor can make them; if your listing needs emendation, please notify the Executive Secretary so he can make the necessary corrections and additions.

Special categories include *Life membership*, available at any time for \$400 (minus the current year's dues, if paid); *Emeritus membership*, free to retired members, but including only the *Newsletter*; and *Student membership*, including all publications, at \$10 per year for as many as three years. A student's application should be accompanied by a note from an ADS member confirming the student's full-time status.

- ADAMS, Carol M., Route 6, Box 158, Redlands, Charlottesville, Va. 22901
 AGEE, W. Hugh, 125 Aderhold Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
 AKERS, W. Gerald, 1317 Sussex Place, Norfolk, Va. 23508
 AL-AZZAWI, Mary Lee, 2611 North Sayre, Chicago, Ill. 60635
 ALEONG, Stanley, 374 Fairmount St. West, No. 1, Montreal, Quebec H2V 2G4, Canada (Univ. de Montreal)
 ‡ALGEO, John, Dept. of English, Park Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
 ALLEE, John G., English Dept., George Washington Univ., Washington, D.C. 20052
 ALLEN, Harold B., 8100 Highwood Drive, Apt. B342, Bloomington, Minn. 55438 (Univ. of Minnesota, emeritus)
 ALLEN, Irving, Dept. of Sociology, U-68, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, Conn. 06268
 ALLSOPP, Richard, Univ. of the West Indies at Cave Hill, P.O. Box 64, Bridgetown, Barbados
 ALVA, Charles, 412 Walnut Drive S., Monmouth, Ore. 97361
 ‡AMEMIYA, Tsuyoshi, 1455-4 Aihara, Machida, Tokyo, Japan
 AMES, Jay, P.O. Box 5, Station G, Toronto, Ont. M4M 3E8, Canada
 ANSHEN, Frank, Prog. in Linguistics, SUNY Stony Brook, N.Y. 11794
 APPLEBY, Jane, English Dept., Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
 ARAKELIAN, Paul G., Dept. of English, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, R.I. 02861
 †ARCHER, Jerome W., Dept. of English, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, Ariz. 85281
 ARONOFF, Mark, 420 Moriches Rd., St. James, N.Y. 11780 (SUNY, Stony Brook)
 ASHMEAD, John, Dept. of English, Haverford Coll., Haverford, Pa. 19041
 AULETTA, Richard P., 154 Stratford Road, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040
 BABITCH, Rose Mary, Prof. of English, Centre Universitaire de Shippagan, Shippagan, N.B. E0B 2P0, Canada
 BAILEY, Guy, 480 Martindale Court, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083
 BAILEY, Richard W., Dept. of English Language and Literature, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
 BAIRD, Scott, Dept. of English, Trinity Univ., Box 105, 715 Stadium Dr., San Antonio, Tex. 78284
 BAMBAS, Rudolph C., Dept. of English, Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman, Okla. 73019
 BAND, Benjamin, 208 Deering Ave., Portland, Me. 04102
 BARNHART, Clarence L., Box 250, Bronxville, N.Y. 10708
 BARON, Dennis E., 409 West High, Urbana, Ill. 61801 (Univ. of Illinois)
 BASSETT, Marvin W., 1348 Willivee Dr., Decatur, Ga. 30033 (Emory Univ.)
 BEAM, C. Richard, Editor, Pennsylvania German Dictionary, 406 Spring Drive, Millersville, Pa. 17551
 BEENE, Lynn, Humanities Bldg. 217, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131
 BENNETT, Jacob, Dept. of English, Univ. of Maine, Orono, Me. 04469
 BERDAN, Robert, Southwest Regional Laboratory, 4665 Lampson, Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720
 BERGDAHL, David L., 23 Graham Dr., Athens, Ohio 45701 (Ohio Univ.)
 BERGER, Marshall D., 5 Greywood Dr., Orangeburg, N.Y. 10962 (City Coll. of New York, CUNY)
 BILLS, Garland D., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131
 BIRD, Donald A., 1637 North Dillon St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90026
 BLACKMAN, Sylvia B., 2056 - 81st St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214
 BLOOMFIELD, Morton W., Dept. of English, Harvard Univ., 3 Warren House, Cambridge, Mass. 02138
 BOLINGER, Dwight, 2718 Ramona St., Palo Alto, Calif. 94306
 BOLLARD, John K., G. & C. Merriam Co., 47 Federal Street, P.O. Box 281, Springfield, Mass. 01101
 BOONE, Lalia, 519 N. Grant, Moscow, Idaho 83843
 BORDIE, John G., 14454 Merriltown Road, Round Rock, Tex. 78664
 BOWMAN, Elizabeth, English Dept., Western Washington Univ., Bellingham, Wash. 98225
 BRENGELMAN, Fred H., Linguistics Dept., California State Univ., Fresno, Calif. 93740
 BREWER, Jeutonne, Coll. of Arts and Sciences, 105 Foust Bldg., Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro, N.C. 27412
 BRINKMAN, Elizabeth, Dept. of English, Wittenberg Univ., Springfield, Ohio 45501

- BRONSTEIN, Arthur J., 36 Brokaw Lane, Great Neck, N.Y. 11023 (Lehman Coll., CUNY)
 ‡BRYANT, Margaret M., D 205 Clemson Downs, Clemson, S.C. 29631 (Brooklyn Coll., CUNY, emeritus)
 BUCHHEIT, Robert H., Dept. of Foreign Languages, Morningside Coll., Sioux City, Iowa 51106
 BURKETT, Eva, Parkview Apt. B-7, 1922 Bruce St., Conway, Ark. 72032
 BURRESS, Lee A., Jr., 2008 Main Point, Stevens Point, Wis. 54481
 BURROWS, George S., 1416 North Lake Road, Lake Forest, Ill. 60045
 BUTCHER, Clifton H., Steward Towers 705, 200 Fort Meade Road, Laurel, Md. 20707
 BUTTERS, Ronald R., 322 Allen Building, Duke Univ., Durham, N.C. 27706
 BUTTS, Arthur, 61 North Pease Road, Woodbridge, Conn. 06525
 BYRD, Patricia, 3835 N.W. 17th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32605
CAISSE, Michelle, Phonology Laboratory, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720
 CALLARY, R.E., English Dept., Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb, Ill. 60115
 ‡CARD, William, 225 N. 56th St., Lincoln, Neb. 68504
 CARDENAS, Daniel N., California State Univ., Spanish-Portuguese Dept., 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, Calif. 90840
 CARLSON, David R., 34 Spaulding St., Amherst, Mass. 01002 (Springfield Coll.)
 CARMONY, Marvin, Coll. of Arts and Sciences, Indiana State Univ., Terre Haute, Ind. 47809
 CARPENTER, C. Leslie, Ohio State Univ. at Marion, 1465 Mt. Vernon Ave., Marion, Ohio 43302
 CARVER, Craig, 3210 Ridgeway Ave., Madison, Wis. 53704 (DARE)
 CASSIDY, Fred G., DARE, 6125 Helen White Hall, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. 53706
 CHAMBERS, John K., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A1, Canada
 CHEDIN, Georges, 7 Rue Saint Hyacinthe, 75001 Paris, France
 CHING, Marvin K.L., Dept. of English, Memphis State Univ., Memphis, Tenn. 38152
 CHRISTIAN, Donna, Center for Applied Linguistics, 3520 Prospect St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007
 CLARK, Thomas L., English Dept., Univ. of Nevada, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nev. 89154
 CLARK, Virginia P., Dept. of English, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, Vt. 05405
 CLARKE, Gordon W., 838 East Powell Street, Monmouth, Ore. 97361
 ‡CLOUGH, Mrs. Wendell, 7104 Pinetree Road, Richmond, Va. 23229
 COHEN, Gerald, Humanities Dept., Univ. of Missouri, Rolla, Mo. 65401
 COLEMAN, William L., Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro, N.C. 27412
 ‡COLTHARP, Lurline H., 4263 Ridgecrest, El Paso, Tex. 79902
 COOK, Daniel, Dept. of English, American Univ. of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon (Emeritus)
 COOLEY, Marianne, English Dept., Texas Tech. Univ., Lubbock, Tex. 79409
 COOPER, David, 150 West End Ave., New York, N.Y. 10023 (Hunter Coll., CUNY)
 COUCHMAN, Gordon W., 311 Berneau Ave., Elmhurst, Ill. 60126 (Elmhurst Coll., emeritus)
 CRABTREE, E.L., Apdo Postal 27-108, Mexico DF 06760, Mexico
 CRESWELL, Thomas J., R.R. 2, Box 184, Michigan City, Ind. 46360
 CRIST, Edward W., 407 East Broadway, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872
 CRONQUIST, Stanley, 1601 East Drive, Bartlesville, Okla. 74003
 CROWELL, Michael G., English Dept., Knox Coll., Galesburg, Ill. 61401
 CUMMINGS, G. Clark, 350 East 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10022
 CUNNINGHAM, Irma, 2F Hiltin Place, Hiltin West, 5400 West Market St., Greensboro, N.C. 27409
 CURRIE, Eva G., Regional-Research Associates, 1811 Alameda Drive, Austin, Tex. 78704
D' COSTA, Jean C., R.D. 1, Box 2, 111 Campus Road, Clinton, N.Y. 13323 (Hamilton Coll.)
 DAGGETT, Rowan K., Box 61, Manchester Coll., North Manchester, Ind. 46962
 DAVIS, Alva L., 65 South 21st St., Terre Haute, Ind. 47803
 DAVIS, Boyd H., 1115 Cedarwood Lane, Charlotte, N.C. 28212
 DAVIS, Lawrence, Dept. of English, Univ. of Haifa, Haifa 31999, Israel
 DI PAOLO, Marianna, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712 (After Sept. 1, 1982: Linguistics Program, Stewart Bldg., Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112)
 DONOGHUE, Mildred R., Prof. of Education, California State Univ., Fullerton, Calif. 92634
 *DORRILL, George T., 73 University Terrace, Columbia, S.C. 29201 (Univ. of South Carolina)
 DORSEY, David F., Jr., Box 263, Atlanta Univ., Atlanta, Ga. 30314
 DOWNEY, Andrew F., Jr., Box 1808, Washington, D.C. 20013 (Southern Railway)
 DOYLE, Charles Clay, English Dept., Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
 DRESSMAN, Michael R., English Dept., Univ. of South Carolina, Spartanburg, S.C. 29303
 DREW, S.S., St. Martins, Saint John County, N.B. E0G 2Z0, Canada
 DRYSDALE, Patrick D., Gage Publishing Limited, 164 Commander Blvd., Agincourt, Ont. M1S 3C7, Canada
 ‡DUCKERT, Audrey R., One Maplewood Terrace, Hadley, Mass. 01035
 DUSSERE, David, Box 339, Virginia State Univ., Petersburg, Va. 23803
EAGLESON, Robert D., Dept. of English, Univ. of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia
 EBLE, Connie C., English Dept., Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514

- EHRENSPERGER, Edward C., 1002 Mulberry Street, Yanktown, S.D. 57078
 EICHHOFF, Juergen, Dept. of German, 838 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, Wis. 53706
 ENNINGER, Werner, Am Krusen 8, D43 Essen 15, West Germany (Univ. Essen)
 ESCURE, Genevieve, Dept. of English, Lind Hall, Univ. of Minnesota, 207 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55455
 EVANS, William, English Dept., Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, La. 70803
FARACI, Mary E., English Dept., Florida Atlantic Univ., Boca Raton, Fla. 33432
 FEAGIN, Crawford, 2312 North Upton St., Arlington, Va. 22207 (Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center)
 FEHL, Alfred P., Route 3, Box 100, Smithsburg, Md. 21783
 FERNANDEZ, Joseph A., Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, East Carolina Univ., Greenville, N.C. 27834
 FINEGAN, Edward, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
 FLEXNER, Stuart, Reference Dept., Random House, 201 East 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022
 FLYNN, Margaret, 27 Yacht Club Cove, Staten Island, N.Y. 10308
 FOLEY, Lawrence M., English Dept., James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg, Va. 22801
 FOUCUE, Virginia Oden, P.O. Box 3101, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35404 (Univ. of Alabama)
 FOSTER, Joseph F., Dept. of Anthropology, Mail Loc 380, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221
 †FRANCIS, W. Nelson, Brown Univ., Box E, Providence, R.I. 02912
 FRAZER, Timothy C., Dept. of English, Western Illinois Univ., Macomb, Ill. 61455
 FROMKIN, Victoria A., Graduate Div., UCLA, Los Angeles, Calif. 90024
GATES, J. Edward, 330 South 22nd Street, Terre Haute, Ind. 47803 (Indiana State Univ.)
 GAWTHROP, Betty G., Purdue University, Calumet Campus, Hammond, Ind. 46323
 GINGISS, Peter J., Dept. of English, Univ. of Houston, Houston, Tex. 77004
 GLOSSNER, Alan J., Monroe Community Coll., English Dept., 1000 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14623
 GLOWKA, Arthur W., Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia Coll., Milledgeville, Ga. 31061
 GREEN, Eugene, 15 Russell St., Brookline, Mass. 02146
 GREENBAUM, Sidney, Dept. of English, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis. 53201
 GREGG, R.J., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of British Columbia, 2075 Wesbrook Pl., Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5, Canada
 GRIMES, Dorothy G., Dept. of English, Station 151, Univ. of Montevallo, Montevallo, Ala. 35115
 GUNN, John, English Dept., Univ. of Sydney, Sydney, N.S.W. 2006, Australia
 GUNTER, Richard, English Dept., Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208
 GURALNIK, David B., Simon & Schuster, Citizens Bldg., Suite 306, 850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114
HAGEMANN, E.R., 10216 Hartley Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40223
 HAINES, James L., Dept. of English, Univ. of Oulu, SF-90100 Oulu 10, Finland
 HALABY, Raouf J., Dept. of English, Ouachita Baptist Univ., Arkadelphia, Ark. 71923
 HALL, Joan H., 2724 Regent St., Madison, Wis. 53705 (DARE)
 HALL, Joseph S. 1455 Lemoyne St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90026
 HAND, Wayland D., 716 Courtland St., Venice, Calif. 90291 (UCLA)
 HANDSCOMBE, R.J., Dept. of English, Glendon Coll., 2275 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ont. M4N 3M6, Canada
 HANES, Louise, Route 2, Flowery Branch, Ga. 30542
 HARDER, Kelsie B., State Univ. Coll., English Dept., Potsdam, N.Y. 13676
 HARRIS, Barbara P., 1004 Terrace Ave., Victoria, B.C. V8S 3V3, Canada
 HARRIS, Patricia Harn, 202 West Broadway, Columbia, Mo. 65201
 HARTMAN, James W., English Dept., Univ. of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan. 66045
 †HATTERY, Carl M., 563 Wilson Bridge Drive, No. A-2, Oxon Hill, Md. 20745
 HAUGEN, Einar, 45 Larch Circle, Belmont, Mass. 02178
 †HAYAKAWA, S.I., Box 100, Mill Valley, Calif. 94941
 HEAD, Brian F., Dept. of Hispanic and Italian Studies, State Univ. of New York, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12222
 HEFLIN, Woodford A., 3400 Dartmouth Circle, Montgomery, Ala. 36111
 HERRICK, Earl M., English Dept., Texas A&I Univ., Kingsville, Tex. 78363
 HETHERINGTON, Mary S., English Dept., The College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. 29424
 HILL, Archibald A., Box 8120 University, Austin, Tex. 78712
 HINES, Carole Phillips, Dept. of English, Old Dominion Univ., Norfolk, Va. 23508
 HIRSHBERG, Jeffrey, 3821 St. Clair, Madison, Wis. 53711 (DARE)
 HOCKETT, Charles F., 145 North Sunset Drive, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850
 HOFFER, Bates L., Dept. of English, Box 165, Trinity Univ., San Antonio, Tex. 78284
 HOFFMAN, Melvin J., Dept. of English, State Univ. Coll., 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14222
 HOLM, John A., 117 W. 13th St., Apt. 34, New York, N.Y. 10011 (Hunter Coll., CUNY)
 HOLMES, Elizabeth B., 1434 Punahou St., No. 1131, Honolulu, Haw. 96822
 HOLS, Edith, 408 Lakeview Ave., Duluth, Minn. 55812
 HORN, Thomas D., Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712

- HORNER, Winifred B., 11 South Glenwood, Columbia, Mo. 65201 (Univ. of Missouri)
HOUCHIN, Thomas D., St. John's Univ., 300 Howard Ave., Staten Island, N.Y. 10301
HOUCK, Charles L., Dept. of English, Ball State Univ., Muncie, Ind. 47306
HOUSE, Anthony B., 1100 Lincoln Road, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 4X2, Canada (Univ. of New Brunswick)
HOWARD, Martha C., 360 Mulberry St., Morgantown, W.V. 26505
HOWE, Nicholas, English Dept., Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, N.J. 08903
HOWELL, Edgar C., IV, 2909 Tapo St., Simi, Calif. 93063
HOWLETT, C.R., 72 Curzon St., Reading, Berks. RG3 1DA, England
HOWREN, Robert, Route 1, Box 141-1, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514 (Univ. of North Carolina)
HUFFINES, Marion Lois, Dept. of Modern Languages, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg, Pa. 17837
IRWIN, Betty J., English Dept., Park Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
JAFFE, Hilda, English Dept., Univ. of Houston, Houston, Tex. 77004
JAVOR, George, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Northern Michigan Univ., Marquette, Mich. 49855
JEUDA, David M., Dept. of Modern Languages, Florida International Univ., Tamiami Campus, Miami, Fla. 33199
JOCHNOWITZ, George, 54 East 8th St., New York, N.Y. 10003 (Coll. of Staten Island)
JOHNSON, Edith Trager, 951 Cocopah Drive, Santa Barbara, Calif. 93110 (Speech Technology Lab)
JOHNSON, Falk S., 7624 Maple St., Morton Grove, Ill. 60053
JONES, Morgan E., 6 Lincoln Place, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561
KAYE, Alan S., Dept. of Linguistics, California State Univ., Fullerton, Calif. 92634
KELLER, Thomas G., 1145 Greenleaf Drive, Bethlehem, Pa. 18017
‡KEY, Mary Ritchie, Program in Linguistics, Univ. of California, Irvine, Calif. 92717
KING, Warren J., 207 East Falletti Ave., Claremore, Okla. 74017
KINGSBURY, Stewart A., Dept. of English, Northern Michigan Univ., Marquette, Mich. 49855
KINLOCH, A. Murray, Dept. of English, Univ. of New Brunswick, Bag Service No. 45555, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 6E5, Canada
KIRK, John M., Dept. of English Language, Univ. of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, England
KIRWIN, William J., Dept. of English, Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland, St. John's N.F. A1C 5S7, Canada
KLAMMER, Enno, Eastern Oregon State Coll., La Grande, Ore. 97850
KNAPP, Donald, 33 Locust Ave., Westmont, N.J. 08108 (Temple Univ.)
KNIPP, Donna S., 821 Tejas Trail, Apt. E, Richardson, Tex. 75801
KOYKKA, Thomas V., 1255 Oakridge Drive, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44121
KRETZSCHMAR, William A., Jr., English Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Wis. 53190
KRUCK, William E., Dept. of Linguistics, Dey Hall 014-A, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
KUHN, Sherman M., 225 Buena Vista, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103
‡KURATH, Hans, 1125 Spring Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103
KYTE, Elinor C., Box 6032, Northern Arizona Univ., Flagstaff, Ariz. 86011
LABOV, William, 204 N. 35th St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19104 (Univ. of Pennsylvania)
‡LAIRD, Charlton G., 777 Washington Ave., Reno, Nev. 89503 (Univ. of Nevada, emeritus)
LAMB, Anthony, Foreign Languages Dept., Purdue Univ., Calumet Campus, Hammond, Ind. 46323
LANCE, Donald M., Dept. of English, 231 Arts & Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. 65211
LANDAU, Sidney, John Wiley & Sons Inc., Publishers, 605 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10158
LARMOUTH, Donald W., Communication Processes, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis. 54302
LARSEN, Eric V., 400 West 119th St., No. 5F, New York, N.Y. 10027
LARSEN, Vernon S., 1160 East 53rd St., Chicago, Ill. 60615
LATTEY, Elsa, Sem. fuer Englische Philologie, Univ. Tuebingen, Wilhelmstrasse 50, D-7400 Tuebingen 1, West Germany
LAWRENCE, Telete Z., 3860 South Hills Circle, Fort Worth, Tex. 76109 (Texas Christian Univ., emeritus)
LAWTON, David, 1314 E. Bennett St., Mount Pleasant, Mich. 48858 (Central Michigan Univ.)
‡LAZERSON, Barbara Hunt, Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction, Illinois State Univ., Normal, Ill. 61761
LE COMPTE, Nolan P., P.O. Box 2020, Nicholls State Univ., Thibodaux, La. 70301
LEDERER, Richard, St. Paul's School, Concord, N.H. 03301
LEE, Dorothy M., Linguistics Dept., Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712
LEHMANN, Winfred P., 3800 Eck Lane, Austin, Tex. 78734
LEWIN, Frank, 113 Magnolia Lane, Princeton, N.J. 08540
LICKLIDER, Patricia, 39 South Adelaide Ave., Highland Park, N.J. 08904
LIGHTER, Jonathan E., 860 Fifth Ave., 8F, New York, N.Y. 10021
LINDEMANN, Erika, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
LINDSEY, Edith D., 520 Fifteenth Ave., Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401
LINN, Michael D., English Dept., 420 Humanities Bldg., Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth, Minn. 55812
LINT, Robert G., English Dept., California Polytechnic State Univ., San Luis Obispo, Calif. 93407
LIVENSPARGER, Clark C., Simon & Schuster, Citizens Bldg., Suite 306, 850 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44114
LOCKARD, E.N., 1422 Park Ave., Richmond, Va. 23220 (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.)

- LOGAN, Grace E., 320 May Ave., Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60137
LONG, Richard A., 883 Edgewood Ave. SE, Inman Park, Atlanta, Ga. 30307 (Atlanta Univ.)
MALMSTROM, Jean, 1324 Long Road, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49008
MARTIN, Charles B., Dept. of English, North Texas State Univ., Denton, Tex. 76203
MAYNOR, Natalie, Dept. of English, Mississippi State Univ., Drawer E, Mississippi State, Miss. 39762
McCLUSKEY, John, English Dept., Univ. of Tennessee, Martin, Tenn. 38238
McDANIEL, Susan Leas, 1141 Monroe Dr. N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30306 (Emory Univ.)
‡McDAVID, Raven I., Jr., 5736 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637 (Univ. of Chicago, emeritus)
‡McDAVID, Virginia G., English Dept., Chicago State University, 95th St. at King Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60628
McMILLAN, James B., 7 North Pinehurst, Tuscaloosa, Ala. 35401 (Univ. of Alabama, emeritus)
MEDEIROS, Regina Del Negri, P.O. Box 5065, San Jose, Calif. 95150
MELE, Joseph C., Dept. of Communication Arts, Univ. of South Alabama, Mobile, Ala. 36688
MENZEL, Peter, Inst. f. England- und Amerikastudien, J.W. Goethe-Universitaet, Kettenhofweg 130, 6000 Frankfurt/M. 1, West Germany
METCALF, Allan A., English Dept., MacMurray Coll., Jacksonville, Ill. 62650
MEYERS, Miriam, 2000 West 21st St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55405
MILLER, Mary R., 2825 - 29th Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008 (Univ. of Maryland)
MILLER, Michael I., 2704 Kensington, Apt. 2, Richmond, Va. 23220 (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.)
MILLWARD, Celia, 53 Forest St., Providence, R.I. 02906
MINTON, Mary Frances, 2626 Stratford Rd., Richmond, Va. 23225 (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.)
MISH, Frederick C., G. and C. Merriam Co., 47 Federal St., P.O. Box 281, Springfield, Mass. 01101
MITCHELL, Eleanor R., Dept. of English, Sam Houston State Univ., Huntsville, Tex. 77341
‡MOE, Albert F., 4729 North Washington Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22205
MOELLEKEN, Wolfgang W., 14 N. Loudon Hts., Loudonville, N.Y. 12211 (SUNY Albany)
MONROE, George K., Jr., English Dept., Kutztown State Coll., Kutztown, Pa. 19530
MONTGOMERY, J. Anne, 1709 North College, South Bend, Ind. 46628
MONTGOMERY, Michael B., Dept. of English, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208
MORRIS, Kenneth M., 331 Hudson Terrace, Piermont, N.Y. 10968
MOULLER, William G., 68 Lovers Lane, Princeton, N.J. 08540 (Princeton Univ., emeritus)
MUELLER, Erik T., Britton House, Roosevelt, N.J. 08555 (UCLA)
‡MURRAY, Thomas E., 8899 Trudy Ave., Jennings, Mo. 63136
‡MURTO, Richard B., Musashidai 3-38-22, Fuchu-shi 183, Japan
‡NAGAI, Yoshimi, 2-10, Honkomagome 4-chome, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113, Japan
NASH, Rose, Dept. of Humanities, Inter-American Univ., Hato Rey, P.R. 00919
NESS, Robert, Dept. of English, Dickinson Coll., Carlisle, Pa. 17013
NETSKY, Martin G., M.D., 1405 Chickering Road, Nashville, Tenn. 37215
NEUFFER, Claude Henry, 4532 Meadowood Rd., Columbia, S.C. 29206 (Univ. of South Carolina)
NEWMAN, John B., 146-15 Twentieth Road, Whitestone, N.Y. 11357 (Queens Coll., CUNY)
NEY, James W., English Dept., Arizona State Univ., Tempe, Ariz. 85287
NICHOLAS, Karl, English Dept., Western Carolina Univ., Cullowhee, N.C. 28723
NICHOLS, Patricia C., 1430 Westmont Ave., Campbell, Calif. 95008
NICOLAISEN, Wilhelm F.H., Dept. of English, State Univ. of New York, Binghamton, N.Y. 13901
NIEDZIELSKI, Henry, Dept. of European Languages, University of Hawaii, 1890 East-West Road, Honolulu, Haw. 96822
NIX, Ruth, American Speech, 312 Old Chem. Bldg., Duke Univ., Durham, N.C. 27706
NYGARD, Holger O., English Department, Duke Univ., Durham, N.C. 27706
‡O'CAIN, Raymond K., 6533 Litchfield Dr., Columbia, S.C. 29209
OBRECHT, Dean H., Lang. & Ling. Dept., Univ. of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y. 14627
OLIVER, George, English Dept., Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, La. 70803
ORD, Priscilla A., Dept. of English, Iona Coll., New Rochelle, N.Y. 10801
ORDOUBADIAN, Raza, Box 275, Middle Tennessee State Univ., Murfreesboro, Tenn. 37132
ORNSTEIN, Jacob, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Texas, El Paso, Tex. 79968
PADDOCK, Harold J., Linguistics Dept., Memorial Univ., St. John's, N.F. A1B 3X9, Canada
PAIKEDAY, Thomas M., 1776 Chalkdene Grove, Missisauga, Ont. L4W 2C3, Canada (New York Times Everyday Dictionary)
PAPA, Eugene, 100 Memorial Dr., Apt. 2-18B, Cambridge, Mass. 02142
PARKER, Frank, Linguistics Program, Allen Hall, Louisiana State Univ., Baton Rouge, La. 70803
PAYNE, A.K., Dept. of English, New Mexico State Univ., Box 3E, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
PAYNE, James Robert, Dept. of English, New Mexico State Univ., Box 3E, Las Cruces, N.M. 88003
PEARCE, T.M., Dept. of English, Humanities Bldg. 217, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131
PEDERSON, Lee, 1364 Springdale Road N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30306

- †PENZL, Herbert, Dept. of German, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720
PETIT, Herbert H., 103 Wellington Apts., 245 Melwood Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213 (Duquesne Univ.)
PHILLIPS, Betty S., 3553 N. Hills Rd., Murrysville, Pa. 15668
PHILLIPS, Jean McCabe, 11341 Dona Teresa Drive, Studio City, Calif. 91604 (UCLA)
PICKETT, Penelope O., 601 Marcia Lane, Rockville, Md. 20851
POPE, Mike, Box 359, Virginia State Univ., Petersburg, Va. 23803
PORTER, Mary Gray, Box 4904, University, Ala. 35486
PRATT, Terry K., Dept. of English, Univ. of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 4P3, Canada
PRESTON, Dennis R., State Univ. of New York, Coll. at Fredonia, Fredonia, N.Y. 14063
RANDALL, Phyllis R., 2620 University Dr., Durham, N.C. 27707 (North Carolina Central Univ.)
RANDEL, William P., R.F.D. 1, Alfred, Me. 04002
RAPHAEL, Lawrence J., 6 Longview Place, Great Neck, N.Y. 11021 (Lehman Coll., CUNY)
RAY, Richard E., Box 314, Rt. 1, Indiana, Pa. 15701 (Indiana Univ. of Pennsylvania)
‡READ, Allen Walker, 39 Claremont Ave., New York, N.Y. 10027 (Columbia Univ., emeritus)
RECTOR, Monica Paula, Caixa Postal 38004, PUC - ZC 19, Rio de Janeiro 22.580, Brazil
REDFERN, Richard K., 1600 First Ave. West, Apt. 303, Bradenton, Fla. 33505
REED, Carroll E., Dept. of German, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01002
REED, David W., Northwestern Univ., Dept. of Linguistics, 2016 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Ill. 60201
REESE, Jay Robert, Inst. for Appalachian Affairs, East Tennessee State Univ., Box 19180A, Johnson City, Tenn. 37614
REINHARDT, Karl J., 7500-B West Loop South, Bellaire, Tex. 77401 (Univ. of Houston)
RICH, John Stanley, P.O. Box 2582, Aiken, S.C. 29801 (Univ. of South Carolina, Aiken)
‡RICH, Paul J., P.O. Box 1300, Doha, Qatar (Head of Supervisory Programs, State of Qatar)
RICKFORD, John R., Dept. of Linguistics, Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif. 94305
ROBERTS, A. Hood, English Language - Linguistics, Room 200, McKinley Bldg., The American Univ., Washington, D.C. 20016
ROBERTS, Craige, Linguistics Dept., Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass. 01003
ROBERTS, Norman F., 2273 Apoepoe St., Pearl City, Haw. 96782
ROBERTSON, Thomas L., Jr., 631 Maplewood Ave., Anderson, Ind. 46012
RODGERS, Bruce, 1051 Harrison, Santa Clara, Calif. 95050
RODMAN, Lilita, Dept. of English, Univ. of British Columbia, 2075 Wesbrook Mall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5, Canada
ROE, Robert T., 6 Old Peach Ridge Road, Athens, Ohio 45701
ROMM, Ethel Grodzins, 555 Main St., No. 901, Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044
ROSENTHAL, Jane M., 5532 S. Blackstone Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60637
ROSS, Jonathan, 440 W. 34th St., 12F, New York, N.Y. 10001
RUBRECHT, August, Dept. of English, Univ. of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Wis. 54701
RUDOLPH, Robert S., 2802 Sagamore Road, Toledo, Ohio 43606 (Univ. of Toledo)
RULON, Curt M., P.O.B. 6861, Denton, Tex. 76203 (King Faisal Univ., Al-Hasa, Saudi Arabia)
RUSSELL, I. Willis, Rt. 3, Box 582, Cottondale, Ala. 35453 (Univ. of Alabama)
SAFIRE, William L., The New York Times Washington Bureau, 1000 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036
SALTZMAN, Mark, 630 West End Ave., New York, N.Y. 10024
SAUNDERS, Gladys E., Dept. of French, 302 Cabell Hall, Univ. of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va. 22903
SAUNDERS, Patrick E., M.D., Woodland Clinic Medical Group, 1207 Fairchild Court, Woodland, Calif. 95695
SAWYER, Janet B., 26641 Westvale Road, Rolling Hills, Calif. 90274 (California State Univ., Long Beach)
SCHLAGER, Walter, P.O. Box 302, Bangor, Calif. 95914
‡SCHNEIDEMESSER, Luanne von, 625 West Lakeside, Madison, Wis. 53715 (DARE)
SCHNEIDER, Edgar W., Universitaet Bamberg, Englische Sprachwissenschaft, Fleischstrasse 2, D-8600 Bamberg, West Germany
SCHROCK, Earl F., Jr., Route 1, Box 150, Dover, Ark. 72837
SCHWARTZ, Judith I., 175-20 Wexford Terrace, Apt. 14S, Jamaica, N.Y. 11432
SCOTT, Garrett H., 1601 West Hovey Ave., Normal, Ill. 61761
SEABURG, William R., 2016 N.E. Ravenna Blvd., Seattle, Wash. 98105
SEDELOW, Sally Y., 1401 Engel Rd., Lawrence, Kan. 66044
SEDELOW, Walter A., 1401 Engel Rd., Lawrence, Kan. 66044
SEHMEI, Ted, 13423 - 56 Drive N.E., Marysville, Wash. 98270
SEIGEL, D.M., Northeastern Illinois Univ., 5500 North St. Louis, Chicago, Ill. 60625
SEITS, Laurence E., English and German Departments, Waubensee Community Coll., Sugar Grove, Ill. 60554
SEYMOUR, Richard K., Dept. of European Languages, 1890 East-West Road, Univ. of Hawaii, Honolulu, Haw. 96822
SHAFER, Robert E., Dir. of English Education, Dept. of English, Arizona State Univ., Tempe, Ariz. 85281
SHARP, Ann W., English Dept., Furman Univ., Greenville, S.C. 29613
‡SHARPE, William D., 62 University Court, South Orange, N.J. 07079
SHAYER, Howard B., 32 Brighton Tenth Path, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11235
SHERRILL, Barbara D., Apt. D-12, Park Place West, West Columbia, S.C. 29169 (Univ. of South Carolina)

- SHIELDS, Kenneth, Jr., 210 Gertrude St., Philipsburg, Pa. 16866 (Millersville State Coll.)
 SHILLING, Alison Watt, Box N4912, Nassau, Bahama Islands (Coll. of the Bahamas)
 SHORES, David L., Dept. of English, Old Dominion Univ., Norfolk, Va. 23508
 SHUY, Roger W., Linguistics Dept., Georgetown Univ., Washington, D.C. 20057
 SIMMONDS, Albert W., Dept. of English, Le Moyne-Owen Coll., 807 Walker Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38126
 SIMPSON, Dagna, 9517 Cleveland St., Crown Point, Ind. 46307
 SIMS, Diana Mae, 4017 Kerr Circle, Dallas, Tex. 75234
 SINNEMA, John R., 204 Franklin Drive, Berea, Ohio 44017 (Baldwin-Wallace Coll.)
 SLEDD, James H., Dept. of English, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712
 SLOTKIN, Alan R., Dept. of English, Tennessee Technical Univ., Cookeville, Tenn. 38501
 SMITH, Celia V., 1009-B East Dunklin, Jefferson City, Mo. 65101 (Lincoln Univ. of Missouri)
 SMITH, Evan, 310 Lindley Hall, Bloomington, Ind. 47405
 SMITH, Grant W., Chair, Dept. of English, Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney, Wash. 99004
 SMITH, Philip H., Jr., 20 John Street East, Waterloo, Ont. N2J 1E7, Canada (Univ. of Waterloo)
 SMITH, Raoul N., GTE Laboratories, 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, Mass. 02154
 SMITH, Riley B., Dept. of English, Bloomsburg State Coll., Bloomsburg, Pa. 17815
 SOCKWELL, Sandra M., P.O. Box 1507, Florence, Ala. 35631 (Univ. of Alabama)
 SOUDEK, Lev I., 107 McCormick Drive, DeKalb, Ill. 60115
 SOUTHARD, Bruce, English Dept., Oklahoma State Univ., Stillwater, Okla. 74078
 SPEARS, Richard A., 717 Long Road, Glenview, Ill. 60025
 SPECK, Gordon R., 214 Koenigsmark, Waterloo, Ill. 62298
 STAGEBERG, Norman C., 1710 Tremont St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
 STEIN, Jess, Bookmark Publishing Associates Ltd., 11 Sherman Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10605
 STEINMETZ, Sol, 2707 Young Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10469
 STEPHENSON, Edward A., Dept. of English, Univ. of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30602
 STERN, Henry R., Dept. of Foreign Languages, Univ. of North Carolina, Asheville, N.C. 28804
 STEWART, Robert, Apt. 1G, 1201 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11230
 STOCKWELL, Robert P., 4000 Hayvenhurst Ave., Encino, Calif. 91436 (UCLA)
 STRICHERZ, Gregory, 5735 Washburn Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55410 (ESL International)
TABBERT, Russell, English Dept., Univ. of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
 †TALMAGE, George E., 5110 Wexford Road, Indianapolis, Ind. 46226
 TAMONY, Peter, 2876 - 24th St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110
 TARPLEY, Fred A., East Texas State Univ., East Texas Station, Commerce, Tex. 75428
 TERASAWA, Yoshio, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Univ. of Tokyo, 3-8-1 Komaba - Meguro, Tokyo, Japan
 TERRELL, Tracy David, 1118 N. Corrida Place, Orange, Calif. 92669 (Univ. of California, Irvine)
 THORBURN, J. Alexander, Dept. of English, P.O. Box 739, Southeastern Louisiana Univ., Hammond, La. 70402
 TIDWELL, James N., 4932 College Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92115
 TINKLER, John, Dept. of English, Univ. of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37402
 TODARO, Martin T., P.O. Box 356, Austin, Tex. 78767
 TORNIAINEN, Maarit-Hannele, 5118 Oneida St., Duluth, Minn. 55804 (Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth)
 TRAUOGOTT, Elizabeth, Linguistics Dept., Stanford Univ., Stanford, Calif. 94305
 TROIKE, Rudolph C., Educational Policy Studies, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. 61801
 TSUZAKI, Stanley M., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Hawaii, 1890 East-West Road, Honolulu, Haw. 96822
UNDERWOOD, Gary N., Dept. of English, Univ. of Texas, Austin, Tex. 78712
 URDANG, Laurence, Box 668, Essex, Conn. 06426
VANDERGRIF, Jim, 211 S. Mitchell, Lower West Apt., Warrensburg, Mo. 64093 (Central Missouri State Univ.)
 VAN METRE, Patricia D., 2224 E. Adams St., Tucson, Ariz. 85719 (Univ. of Arizona)
 VAN RIPER, Mrs. William R., 1125 Magnolia Wood Drive, Baton Rouge, La. 70808
 VAN VLIET, E. Richie, Dept. of Foreign Languages, State Univ. Coll. of Arts and Science, Geneseo, N.Y. 14454
 VEST, Eugene B., Delaware Towers, Apt. 6-J, 25 East Delaware Place, Chicago, Ill. 60611 (Univ. of Illinois, Chicago Circle, emeritus)
 VIERECK, Wolfgang, Englische Sprachwissenschaft, Universitaet Bamberg, Fleischstrasse 2, D-8600 Bamberg, West Germany
 VON SCHON, Catherine V., 2866 Marshall St., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104
WAITE, Richard A., R.F.D. 1, Box 2729, Plainfield, Vt. 05667
 WALKER, Dr. James A., Apt. 1, 222 South St. Clair Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206
 WALLACE-GADSDEN, B.F., Ph.D. Prog. in Linguistics, CUNY Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036
 WALTON, Gerald W., Coll. of Liberal Arts, Office of the Dean, Univ. of Mississippi, University, Miss. 38677
 ‡WARKENTYNE, H.J., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. V8W 2Y2, Canada
 WEBER, Robert H., 2973 - 68th Ave. South, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33712

†WHITING, B.J., Rt. 1, Box 467, Belfast, Me. 04915
 WHITLEY, M. Stanley, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Chitwood Hall, West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, W.V. 26506
 WILLIAMSON, Juanita V., 1217 Cannon St., Memphis, Tenn. 38106 (Le Moyne-Owen Coll.)
 ‡WILSON, H. Rex, 35 Annadale Dr., London, Ont. N6G 2B5, Canada (Univ. of Western Ontario, emeritus)
 *WITKOSKI, J. Michael, Box 5677, Columbia, S.C. 29250 (Univ. of South Carolina)
 WOLFRAM, Walt, 12401 Venice Place, Silver Spring, Md. 20904 (Univ. of District of Columbia, Center for Applied Linguistics)
 WOOD, Gordon R., 12 Briarcliffe Dr., Collinsville, Ill. 62234 (Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsville, emeritus)
 WOODY, Lester G., Box 422, Union Coll., Barbourville, Ky. 40906
 WOOLF, Henry B., 45 - 528 Willow Street, Springfield, Mass. 01103
 YORKEY, Richard, Route 1, Box 96, Waterbury Center, Vt. 05677
 ZINKIN, Vivian, 1823 Attaya Road, Lakewood, N.J. 08701 (Glassboro State Coll.)
 ZWICKY, Arnold M., 63 W. Beaumont Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43214

PLANNING AHEAD: SUMMER 1983 WITH DSNA

At the invitation of Allen Walker Read, president of the Dictionary Society of North America, the ADS Executive Council has voted to hold our Summer Meeting 1983 in association with DSNA's biennial meeting. This will be June 9-11, 1983, at the University of Delaware, with Roger Steiner serving as host. The tentative schedule includes a banquet June 10 and escorted tours of the region June 11.

ADS' call for papers will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

BROADCASTING ANOTHER 1983 OPPORTUNITY: CCCC, DETROIT

Again in 1983 the ADS will propose a session for the annual meeting of the NCTE's Conference on College Composition and Communication. This time the meeting will be in Detroit, March 17-19. *Richard Bailey* of the University of Michigan will organize the ADS session on "The English of Broadcasting." If you have a proposal on that topic, get in touch with Bailey (see Directory) promptly, but in any event no later than *October 1*.

PUBLICATIONS: MORE AND BIGGER

As promised, ADS is producing a record number of publications this year. *American Speech* 57.1 and *PADS* 67 and 68 were mailed in March; *American Speech* 57.2, summer 1982, is due to be mailed by the start of June. Later this year *PADS* 69 will be published, along with the remainder of *American Speech*.

And in 1983 *American Speech* will be 20 percent bigger — 96 pages per issue instead of the current 80, in order to allow more room for the many excellent papers editor Ron Butters reports receiving.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING GETS ITS ASSIGNMENT

Donald M. Lance of the Univ. of Missouri, Columbia has been appointed chair of the new Committee on Teaching; Crawford Feagin of the Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center, will be vice chair. Other members are Lynn Beene, Univ. of New Mexico; Lawrence M. Davis, Univ. of Haifa; Arthur W. Glowka, Georgia College; Virginia G. McDavid, Chicago State Univ.; Rose Nash, Inter-American Univ.; John Tinkler, Univ. of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

As announced in the January *Newsletter* (p. 2), this committee is to concern itself with any and all aspects of teaching about contemporary American English.

THE DIRECTORY OF AMERICAN SCHOLARS, 8th ed., to be published in November, should include your name if you meet its criteria: 1) Achievement, by experience and training, of a stature in scholarly work equivalent to that associated with the doctoral degree, coupled with current activity in such work; or 2) achievement as evidenced by publication of scholarly works; or 3) attainment of a position of substantial responsibility by reason of achievement as outlined in (1) and (2). Write no later than June to Editors, *DAS*, Jaques Cattell Press, Box 25001, Tempe, Ariz. 85282.

NEWS FROM THE RENEWED COMMITTEES

The *Committee on Non-English Dialects* has a new chair, Juergen Eichhoff of the Univ. of Wisconsin. He writes in a March 31 letter that most of the committee members "express a desire to become better informed about work which is going on in our field. This could be achieved by compiling an annual bibliography, or at least a survey report on major projects, to be published in *NADS*. . . . Meanwhile, Committee member Werner Enninger (Essen, Federal Republic of Germany) informs the Chair that ADS members visiting Europe can be invited to give a talk at Essen, and that his University has been able to offer transportation expenses inside Germany as well as a small honorarium. . . .

"It must be one of our foremost tasks to make our Committee more representative of the various non-English languages and dialects which are either native to this continent or brought over by immigrants. At this time German is clearly overrepresented. . . . One might actually ask whether our Committee should not be named 'Committee on Non-English Languages and Dialects' in order to emphasize that what we are concerned with is not the quaint and old-fashioned but rather the function and problems of non-English languages and language varieties in a predominantly English-speaking environment."

The first chair of the *Committee on Usage*, Thomas Creswell (Chicago State Univ., emeritus), included the following in his report for 1981: "In July, the chairman wrote to all members suggesting 1) beginning an informal collection of all references encountered to usage, scholarly and non-scholarly, and 2) making suggestions for additional committee activities. . . . Members William Evans, Michael Linn, Richard Redfern and Laurence Seits responded with numerous clippings and citations to the first request. Almost all members had some suggestions for committee activities."

Unable to keep up with the correspondence as he had planned, Creswell resigned as chair, and Edward Finegan of the University of Southern California was appointed in his place. In April Finegan wrote members of the committee inviting proposals for projects and comments on projects already proposed — such as a review of research, review of the treatment of usage in new textbooks, education of the public in matters of usage.

REGIONALISMS AND LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY: REPORT FOR 1981

In the four years which have elapsed since the last report of this committee (see *NADS* 10.3), a number of developments concerning the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada have taken place. This report, accordingly, will focus on the current status of various LAUSC projects, while the 1982 report will cover publications of interest to ADS members, as well as survey recent theses and dissertations concerning dialect study. The committee would welcome any information about dissertations and theses completed since 1977 or currently in progress (send information to Bruce Southard — address in Directory). This report has been compiled from information presented by Martha C. Howard, A.M. Kinloch, Michael Dressman, Raven I. McDavid, Jr. and Bruce Southard; their cooperation is gratefully acknowledged. The full text of their reports is on file with the Executive Secretary.

Canada: In Newfoundland, most of the work done and in progress relates not to the LAUSC but to the Linguistic Survey of England, while in Prince Edward Island two field records have been completed using the LAUSC questionnaire. In Nova Scotia, investigation is complete in the western part of the province and in one of the four Cape Breton Counties. In anglophone New Brunswick, fieldwork is about two-thirds complete, while in Professor House's study of the English of francophone New Brunswick, field work is completed. Professor R.J. Gregg reports that fieldwork in British Columbia is also completed, with the lexical product of the questionnaire ready for computer processing. Additional field records in Canada may be found in the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*, the *Linguistic Atlas of the*

Upper Midwest, and the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States. Additionally, A.M. Kinloch has collected about 30 field records from various Maritime communities, mostly in New Brunswick, which were made over the I.I.T. questionnaire and provide some information about the pronunciation of Canadian English. Lodged in the University of New Brunswick are some 150 tapes and cassettes which compose the Avis Collection of Recordings of Canadian English. Both Kinloch's records and those of the Avis collection are available to interested scholars.

Gulf States: Since Lee Pederson's fourth interim report on the Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States has recently appeared (*American Speech*, Winter 1981), the current status of LAGS will not be discussed here.

Middle and South Atlantic States: After three fascicles of LAMSAS had been delivered to the University of Chicago Press for publication, a series of crises brought about a suspension of publication and a reorganization of the editorial operations of the project. The English Department of the University of South Carolina withdrew its support of the project, and efforts to locate another site of operations were immediately begun. For the present, editorial operations have been transferred to the University of Chicago, where Raven I. McDavid, Jr. and William A. Kretschmar, Jr. are proceeding with the preparation of the Handbook and organization of materials (as reported in NADS 14.1). A number of LAMSAS field records have already been microfilmed as part of the University of Chicago Microfilm Series in Cultural Anthropology, series LXVII. A complete listing of records available may be obtained from Photoduplication Services, Joseph Regenstein Library, Univ. of Chicago, 1100 E. 57th St., Chicago 60637.

Oklahoma: The 49 full interviews and eight partial interviews completed by William R. Van Riper have been reproduced for transcription, and the original tape recordings placed in the archives of the Library of Congress, where they are available for use by interested scholars. Raven I. McDavid, Jr. has now completed transcriptions for 16 of these interviews, which are being recopied by Bruce Southard for microfilming by the University of Chicago Microfilm Series in Cultural Anthropology. Some 250 lexical questionnaires collected by students of Van Riper are also currently being analyzed by Southard, whose work has been supported by a number of grants from Oklahoma State University. Although preliminary arrangements had been made with the University of Oklahoma Press for 1983 publication of the *Linguistic Atlas of Oklahoma*, it now seems likely that editorial operations will not be completed before 1985.

Pacific Coast: The 300 field records (270 in California and 30 in Nevada) collected under the direction of David W. Reed for the Linguistic Atlas of the Pacific Coast are available on microfilm from the Microforms Division, Bancroft Library, Univ. of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720. Also available at the Bancroft Library is a Guide to the LAPC compiled in 1978 by Allan Metcalf. The original LAPC records are in the possession of David W. Reed (address in Directory). Allan Metcalf (see Directory) has a complete copy of the records, and either Reed or Metcalf may be contacted for additional information. The one major published and generally available work based on LAPC data is Elizabeth S. Bright's *Word Geography of California and Nevada* (Univ. of California Publications in Linguistics 69, Berkeley, 1971).

Rocky Mountains: Lynn Beene, Dept. of English, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, has received all of the notes of Thomas M. Pearce and is attempting to contact other workers on the Linguistic Atlas of the Rocky Mountain States in attempt to get the project started again. Little work on the project has been done since the late 1950s.

The Committee on Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography would appreciate receiving notification of any publications derivative from LAUSC materials. Information should be sent to the chair, Robert E. Callary (see Directory).

CHANCE NO. 14 TO HELP DARE DO A BOX-OFFICE BUSINESS

THANKS ONCE AGAIN to readers who responded to our last set of queries. Some queries drew blanks, but others were very useful in getting us good evidence, or putting us off false trails. Address Prof. F.G. Cassidy, *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, Wis. 53706.

bower (or should it be **bougher**?) — In Arkansas, a Christmas gathering at which there is a *bower* and "gifts are hung on ropes covered with cedar." Where, besides Arkansas, is the custom known? Can we have more details about it?

box-office business — has evidently superseded the *land-office business* of a hundred years ago. Or is this some individual's adaptation? We have only one example — would like to know more.

fannie-daddie — The *Yankee Cook Book* says "we are told that Fannie Daddies is the Cape Cod name for fried clams." Apparently it's not well known — some family word? An individualism? Has anyone heard it in actual use?

courage — Given in the glossary of the Broadus collection of folklore from central-eastern Kentucky (as of 1958) in the sense of "sexual desire." Can anyone testify to this? Especially as to currency, time, place.

burning — a verbal noun — appears to be a place where woods or undergrowth have been burned away: the "ruffed grouse is occasionally found . . . on the sumach side hills of the old burnings." Michigan. How widely used is this term?

grousted — from eastern Tennessee — said of cloth that has had dirt or soil rubbed into it to the point where it can no longer be cleaned: it's *grousted*. One can surmise a connection with *grime*, *grungy*, etc., but is the word in use elsewhere? We need more evidence.

pluff mud — PADS 14 gives it as a South Carolina word: "the soft, rich, sedimentary mud of the marsh lands in the coastal area." Where else does the word survive? How is the word understood?

cotton berry — Reported as a wild berry that grows in Vermont, but by only one informant. Yet it may be a commonplace. No identification or even description has been found. Does anyone know it?

burp — A great American echoism now generally adopted. As variant forms we have *burk* (Georgia, Kentucky) and *burch* (Georgia). Are these variants, or any others, known elsewhere?

wodge or wadge — a thick bunch: "I have a wodge of papers about that in my desk." It is no doubt a variant of *wad*; perhaps influenced by *hodge-podge*? How widespread is this word?

coffice worm — One Alabama informant: the "common worm used for bait." Is this in use elsewhere? And why the name?

cornstalk pine — Another name for the loblolly pine (from 1897). Is this still in use? And what is the significance of the term?

(Turn the page for a first look into the fruits of these inquiries. Similar samples were displayed Feb. 22 at the first and only meeting of the Committee for DARE, a contingency committee established recently to ensure the continuity of the project in case of emergency. Audrey Duckert chaired the committee; Cassidy and Associate Editor Joan Hall represented the DARE staff; Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf represented the ADS, which had endorsed the contingency plan in December — see NADS 14.1, p. 8, item 6. The other nine members of the committee are from the University of Wisconsin, six of them from the host English Department. For those interested in an exemplary way to care for the future without encumbering the present, copies of the minutes are available from Metcalf.)

AT LAST WE DARE YOU FOR REAL

As the April *Smithsonian* reports (pp. 100-108), Fred Cassidy and his staff at the ADS' *Dictionary of American Regional English* in Madison really are hard at work. The first volume of *DARE*, with introductory articles and entries for the big letters ABC, is not far from publication — perhaps as soon as next year.

Included in *DARE*'s columns will be responses to the queries we have published in *NADS* (see p. 15 for more). To thank and encourage respondents, and to whet our appetite for the main course, Cassidy has culled from the galley proofs these excerpts — five items in which the responses from *NADS* queries were a definite help.

Because the phonetic character font is not yet fully operational, computer codes are used: for example, \A stands for [æ].

"Lest the donors of this information feel they are being forgotten," Cassidy explains, "I say that we plan to thank them by name in a section of the Introduction.

"Five lines from the bottom, *Letters* should be italic. Otherwise we have found no typos."

In addition to the ABCs, the first volume of *DARE* will describe the methods used to collect *DARE* materials, list field workers and the communities they worked in, and explain the choice of communities. Volume 1 will also include James Hartman's survey of American pronunciation.

Volumes 2-4, to be published later, will hold the rest of the alphabet. Volume 5 will have "semi-raw material" not found in the alphabetical entries, including all questions asked and all answers given.

Maps showing variant social factors will be collected in an appendix. Maps showing geographical distribution will be interspersed in the text.

DARE is to be published by Belknap Press of Harvard University Press.

asp n Also ~ worm TX

A caterpillar with stinging hairs: see quot 1982.

1967-70 *DARE* (Qu. R21, . . . *Stinging insects*) Infs TX12, 73, Asp; TX9, Asp [\Aesp]; TX27, Asp-furry, stings many times, raises large lump—very dangerous to children—found on ash trees; TX40, Asp—a woolly worm, gets on trees, very poisonous; TX33, Asp worm; (Qu. R9a) Inf TX17, Asp—poisonous sting; TX91, [\Aesp]; (Qu. R27) Inf TX39, Asp—a hairy, poisonous caterpillar [FW: this is a central Texas usage, not common to High Plains; Inf must have got it from his family.]; TX62, Asps; TX52A, Asp here is a kind of stinging poisonous caterpillar. 1982 *NADS Letters TX*, Your *asp*, according to our biology department [Sam Houston State University], is the caterpillar of the *puss moth*, the hairs of which make a really bad sting.

bread and skip n Cf bread and with it

A scanty meal.

1976 *Yankee 56*, *Dear Oracle*: A friend of mine told me that . . . whenever he asked his mother what they were having for dinner, she always answered "bread and skip." He never found out what that meant. Do you know? *Answer*: No second course. 1981 *NADS Letters Sth*, Bread and skip: "bread and molasses, and skip the molasses," or whatever the sweet stuff mout be.

gall shirt n chiefly Sth chiefly among Blacks, somewhat old-fash

A shirt-length undergarment, with or without sleeves, made of thin, transparent material.

1965-70 *DARE* (Qu. W15) Infs FL948, SC970, TN953, VA35, Gall shirt; FL951, Undershirt! [Laughter] Gall shirt [is] the right name—old people used to wear them till May; VA969, Gall shirt, same as undershirt—long, lightweight, knitted undershirt; [you] can't buy [them] any more; VA973, Gall Shirt . . . Older women wear them. Slipover shirt [is the same thing]. [6 of 7 Infs Black] 1971-72 *Agee Student Talk 4 GA*, (Sleeveless undergarment) 7 Infs, Gall shirt.

game for the widow n

See quotes.

1968 *DARE* (Qu. EE38b, *If the game [tick-tack-toe] comes out so that neither X nor O wins, you call that _____*) Inf DE3, Game for the widow. 1978 *NADS Letters swAR* (as of 1950s), I seem to recall that my mother used the term *a game for the widow* when she taught us how to play tic-tac-toe. 1978 *AP Letters*, A game for the widow . . . My grandfather . . . who was born in Chateaugay, New York in the 1850's explained that if you neither win nor lose, the contest is a draw—so get rid of it by saying "give it to a widow."

hang the moon v phr, usu in constr to think someone hung the moon chiefly S Midl

To be important; to rank high in another person's opinion.

1953 *Randoiph Down in the Holler 250 Ozarks*, Hang the moon . . . To be very powerful or important. "Lucy thinks that fool boy of hern is God's own cousin! She thinks he hung the moon!" 1954 *Harder Coll cwTN*. 1956 *Delaware Folk. Bull.* 1.24, She thinks he hung the moon (she has a high opinion of him). c1960 *Wilson Coll csKY*, Hang the moon . . . Be a VIP, esp. to one's followers. 1979 *NADS Letters TX, OK*, Used only in the past tense . . . "Mary Sue thinks Billy Bob hung the moon," that is, she admires him so much she thinks he is the one who put the moon in the sky; AR, We say "He thinks so-and-so hung the moon" in Benton Co., Arkansas, and I believe I have also heard it from as far north as Springfield, Missouri.