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NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 28.1

Vol. 28, No. 1 January 1996

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues (\$30 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7115 or (217) 243-3403, fax (217) 245-0405, e-mail AAllan@aol.com.

Labov to Lecture for Tamony XI

"Why Are American Dialects Diverging?" William Labov of the University of Pennsylvania will address that question in the 11th annual Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language at the University of Missouri, Columbia on Thursday, April 25.

Labov has been professor of linguistics at Pennsylvania since 1971 and director of its Linguistics Laboratory since 1976. His 4:15 p.m. talk in Ellis Library Auditorium will be followed by a public reception at the Western Historical Manuscript Collection across the hall.

The lecture series commemorates the gift to the Western Historical Manuscript Collection of the voluminous citations of slang and colloquialisms collected by Peter Tamony of San Francisco during his long life.

For further information, contact Nancy Lankford or Randy Roberts at Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, University of Missouri, Columbia MO 65201; phone (573) 882-6028; e-mail robertsr@ext.missouri.edu.

More exciting news from the Western Historical Manuscript Collection! See Page 13.

Grammar Lessons for NCTE

"Grammar for English Teachers" is the topic for this year's ADS-sponsored session at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English in Chicago, Nov. 21–24.

This topic will give us "a chance to argue for concentration on description, variation and change rather than standardization and prescriptive rules," explains organizer **Dennis Baron**.

March 1 is the deadline for notifying him that you are interested in participating; earlier is better. Write Baron at Dept. of English, Univ. of Illinois, 608 South Wright St., Urbana IL 61801; phone (217) 333-2392; fax (217) 333-4321; e-mail debaron@uiuc.edu.

For membership and convention information, write NCTE at 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801; phone (217) 328-3870.

Summer: Methods IX in Wales

Ronald Butters, Duke Univ., and Peter Trudgill, Univ. of Lausanne, will be the featured speakers at the ninth triennial conference on Methods in Dialectology at the University of Wales, Bangor, July 28-Aug. 2.

Conference organizer Alan Thomas announced this schedule:

Sunday p.m.: the Conference Office will be open for registration, and accommodation available (on campus in single rooms, en suite with toilet facilities and shower).

Monday 9 a.m. to Friday noon: about 50 papers will be presented.

Wednesday p.m.: free, with a coach tour, possibly taking in the world-renowned Bodnant gardens.

Thursday p.m.: Conference Dinner.

Thomas said he expects e-mail facilities will be available, and he hopes that "a demonstration session can be put on, for analytical computer programmes of any relevant kind (statistical analysis, computer mapping etc.). Anyone who wishes to offer a demonstration is asked to contact me soonest, with details of hardware requirements (you can, of course, bring your own PC). The extent and nature of demonstrations will have implications for the accommodation needed, which will need to be reserved early."

The second circular, with full costings, will go out by mid-February. To get on the mailing list, write Thomas at School of English and Linguistics, University of Wales Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG, Wales, U.K.; phone 01248-382-271; fax 01248-382-928; e-mail els030@bangor.ac.uk.

NWAV in Vegas, October

As before, ADS will have a place at the annual conference on New Ways of Analyzing Variation, to be held this year in October at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

NWAV organizer is ADS member Guy Bailey, new dean of liberal arts at UNLV.

Exact dates and a call for papers will be announced in our next issue.

Chicago, January 1997: First Call for Papers

For the first time in its 107-year history, the ADS Annual Meeting will nestle with the Linguistic Society of America rather than the Modern Language Association. LSA will meet at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, 301 E. North Water St., Thursday, January 2 through Sunday, January 5, 1997, and so will ADS.

Deadline for proposals: Since LSA has a later deadline than MLA, we can too. Our deadline for sending abstracts to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover) is August 15.

Early decision: If you already have a topic in mind and would like early confirmation of your place on the program, please get your proposal to the Executive Secretary by March 18. You are encouraged to make a proposal even if you do not have a paper fully developed.

Dialect boundaries: Program chair Walt Wolfram invites proposals for a special session on dialect boundaries: "This session will attempt to highlight some of the critical issues that have arisen over the past couple of decades with respect to defining boundaries. The consideration of both regional and social dialects, as well as objective and subjective dimensions of boundaries, is appropriate for this session. Presentations on theoretical, descriptive and methodological issues related to boundary demarcation will be considered, with particular focus on recent developments in the delimitation of varieties of American English."

With your proposal, please specify whether you want your paper considered for this session, and whether you will need audio-visual equipment.

LSA accommodations: Special rates at the Sheraton Chicago for the 1997 meeting are \$78 single or double. Members should identify themselves as part of the Linguistic Society of America group when calling for reservations at (800) 329-7000 or (312) 329-7000.

Alternate accommodations: We recommend staying at the LSA hotel, both for collegiality and because our guest room reservations make possible our use of meeting rooms. But to accommodate those with families or special needs, space will be available about a mile away at Summerfield Suites, our 1995 headquarters. Ask the Executive Secretary for information.

MLA Deadline: Still March 18

Yes, ADS will continue to sponsor sessions at the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association, this time December 27–30, 1996 in Washington, D.C. But to meet MLA's strict deadline, we must insist on *March 18* as our own. And those who present papers in MLA sessions must be paid-up 1996 members of MLA by April Fools Day. Send MLA proposals, too, to the Executive Secretary. (You may also volunteer to chair a session at MLA.)

Lost and Not Found: Help!

The late C.K. Thomas, author of Introduction to the Phonetics of American English (2nd ed. 1958), is said to have had tapes of American English from over 2500 of the 3000 counties in the United States. But the tapes are missing, and a search at the University of Florida, where he taught, turned up nothing.

If you know where they are, or at least have a clue, please notify C. Fritz Juengling, 1234 Ray Pl., St. Paul MN 55108; e-mail juen0001@gold.tc.umn.edu. He in turn will let the rest of us know.

Nominations Invited for Offices

This year the Nominating Committee will propose candidates for three offices: vice president, succeding to the presidency after two years; member of the Executive Council for four years; member at large of the Nominating Committee for two years.

Send suggestions to the Nominating Committee chair, Michael Linn, Linguistics Program, 420 Humanities Building, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth MN 55812-2496; or to John Baugh, Stanford Univ., or Natalie Maynor, Mississippi State Univ.

Newt and Web Capture Word of the Year for 1995

As happened the year before, the vote for Word of the Year at the ADS annual meeting Dec. 29, 1995 resulted in an exact tie: 20 votes each for World Wide Web and newt.

World Wide Web, also known as the Web, WWW, W3, refers to the newly prominent resource on the Internet. "It seems to us to be clearly the most important of these items and the one that will have the greatest future impact on both language and society," stated John and Adele Algeo, conductors of "Among the New Words" in American Speech.

Newt, meaning to make aggressive changes as a newcomer, but also found in combinations like Newt World Order and Newtspeak, reflects the new prominence of Time's Man of the Year. Newt was nominated by David Barnhart, editor of the Barnhart Dictionary Companion, a quarterly of new words.

(Send your nominations for 1996 to the Algeos at PO Box 270, Wheaton IL 60189-0270, e-mail algeo@ix.netcom.com, or to Barnhart at PO Box 247, Cold Spring NY 10516, e-mail Barnhart@highlands.com.)

Before this final vote, ADS members and friends chose winners in six categories from a list of nominees drawn up in an open meeting of the New Words Committee the previous day. This was the voting:

- —Most Useful: *E.Q.* (for *Emotional Quotient*), the ability to manage one's emotions, seen as a factor in achievement (nom. Algeo); 19 votes; also *meme*, a unit of cultural information that spreads like a virus (nom. Jesse Sheidlower), 11 votes; *brownfield*, a vacant city lot (nom. Barnhart), 3 votes.
- —Most Unnecessary: Vanna White shrimp, large shrimp for the restaurant market (nom. Dennis Preston), 20 votes; also Generation Y, the post-post-Baby Boomers (nom. Algeo), 13 votes; Montanabahn, road without speed limit (nom. Barnhart), 2 votes.
- —Most Likely to Succeed: **World Wide Web** and its variants (nom. Algeo), 22 votes; hello? remonstrative response to ignorance or

inattention (nom. Allan Metcalf), 9 votes; corporate welfare, government economic support of business (nom. Charles Carson), 7 votes.

- —Most Original: **postal** or **go postal**, to act irrationally, often violently, from stress at work (nom. Barnhart), 33 votes; *cybrarian*, computer-literate librarian (nom. Carson), 3 votes.
- —Most Outrageous: *starter marriage*, a first marriage not expected to be the last (nom. Ronald Butters), 25 votes; *Astroturf*, artificial grass-roots lobbying (nom. Algeo), 12 votes; *newt* (nom. Barnhart), 6 votes.
- —Most Euphemistic: *patriot*, one who believes in using force of arms if necessary to defend individual rights against the government (nom. Sheidlower), 24 votes; *home meal replacement*, a takeout meal (nom. Algeo), 9 votes; 24-7, 24 hours a day 7 days a week (nom. Barnhart), 4 votes.

Then came the vote for Word of the Year. In the first round, newt had 13 votes, World Wide Web 10, corporate welfare 7, postal 3 and patriot 1. The runoff resulted in the tie between newt and World Wide Web.

This is the sixth time we have voted on new words of the year. Previous choices were reported in the past five January issues of *NADS* and are also available in the Words of the Year press release at the ADS Web site, http://www.msstate.edu/Archives/ADS/.

Annual Business: Election

Most of the business of the Society is conducted in the open session of the Executive Council (see next page). But it remains for the official Annual Business Meeting to elect officers.

This year there was one position to be filled, a four-year term on the Executive Council 1996 through 1999. No additional nominations having been proposed by the earlier deadline, the Nominating Committee's candidate **Luanne von Schneidemesser** (*DARE*) was elected.

Executive Council Approves Titanic T Shirt Venture

In the morning of Friday, Dec. 29, the Executive Council met for a congenial two hours to accomplish the annual business of the Society. The open meeting was conducted by President Lawrence Davis and attended by Vice President Walt Wolfram, ACLS Delegate Ronald Butters, Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf and Council members Luanne von Schneidemesser, Cynthia Bernstein and Charles Meyer, along with 13 other ADS members.

All decisions were uncontested and unanimous. The most animated discussion came at **Dennis Preston** and **David Barnhart**'s request for authorization to produce official ADS T shirts. These would be offered for sale or perhaps as a premium for joining ADS, and flaunted before members of sibling societies at our 1997 Annual Meeting.

As decoration for the 1997 shirt they proposed, on the obverse, the likeness of **Charles Grandgent**, who seems to have been the Grand Parent of ADS (see *Dialect Notes* I: 1 ff.); on the reverse, **Donald Lance**'s "Everything We Know Up to Now" map of American dialects.

(This map is in American Pronunciation, 12th ed., enlarged, by John S. Kenyon, coedited by Lance and Stewart A. Kingsbury; to be published later this year by George Wahr Publishing Co. of Ann Arbor, Michigan.)

The shirt would be one in a series originally titled "Heroes of the ADS." The H-word being judged unacceptably sexist, the entrepreneurs pondered alternatives, including "Giants," "Legends" and "Titans."

It was suggested that the shirt be offered in long-sleeve and sweat versions as well. To start the project, the Council authorized a \$300 advance to Preston & Barnhart, to be repaid from sales.

In other business, the Council:

1. agreed that our 1997 Annual Meeting would be at the hotel chosen by the Linguistic Society of America, rather than in separate neighboring accommodations. This accorded with the wishes of a strong majority of those who responded to the survey sent with the September newsletter. The Council also agreed that the 1997 Annual Meeting should coincide with that of LSA, rather than beginning earlier or ending later. ADS will continue to have its own registration separate from LSA; specifics of registration are to be negotiated with LSA.

2. decided that when it comes time again to appoint our delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, the position will be advertised in the newsletter and the Nominating Committee asked to make a recommendation. The ACLS delegate is chosen for a four-year term by vote of the Council.

(ADS is one of the 56 constituent members of the American Council of Learned Societies. Somewhat like the U.S. Senate, the governing body of ACLS is an assembly in which each constituent society has one vote and one delegate. The delegates assemble once a year in congenial circumstances to approve ACLS actions and budget. The position is something of an honorary one, but attempts are being made to involve the delegates in substantive activities, including discussions of issues in the humanities and higher education. The Executive Secretary goes twice a year to meetings of the ACLS Conference of Administrative Officers, which also discusses such issues as well as practical matters of society management and governance.)

(Delegates serve four-year terms, and our only stipulation is that a person may not serve two terms in succession. Fred Cassidy has been our delegate several times; more recently we have also had John Algeo, Tom Clark and Ronald Butters. Last summer the Council appointed Richard Bailey our delegate for the years 1996 through 1999).

3. reappointed regional secretaries for twoyear terms 1996-97: South Central, Charles

(Please turn to Page 6)

Executive Council: Appointments, Publications, Budget

(Continued from Page 5)

- **B. Martin** (U. of North Texas); South Atlantic, **Natalie Maynor** (Mississippi State U.); Northeast, **Silke Van Ness** (SUNY Albany).
- 4. reappointed Lawrence M. Davis (Wichita State U.) for a three-year term 1996-98 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.
- 5. approved appointments to the American Speech advisory board for three-year terms, as recommended by Editor Connie Eble: Cynthia Bernstein (Auburn U., reappointment), Jesse Sheidlower (Random House), and Danny Long (Osaka Shôin Women's Coll.); approved appointment of Michael Montgomery (U. of South Carolina) as Associate Editor.
- 6. noted appointments previously approved: in January 1996, Connie Eble (U. of North Carolina) becomes Editor of American Speech: Ronald Butters (Duke U.) becomes General Editor of ADS Publications, with oversight over both American Speech and PADS, as well as Editor of PADS, taking over from interim editor Allan Metcalf. Charles Carson (Duke U.), who already is Managing Editor for both American Speech and PADS, assumes the title of Managing Editor of ADS Publications. The Council commended Butters for his accomplishments as editor of American Speech, including at Butters' suggestion a commendation of Carson for his "ceaseless nagging." At Butters' suggestion, the Council also approved a resolution of thanks for James Hartman (U. of Kansas) for his long and diligent service as an Associate Editor of American Speech.
- 7. appointed **Dennis Baron** (U. of Illinois, Urbana) as chair for the ADS session at the NCTE convention, Nov. 22–24, 1996, Chicago, and approved his proposed topic of grammar for English teachers. (See Page 2.)
- 8. agreed to advertise for someone to chair the ADS session at the Modern Language As-

- sociation annual meeting, Dec. 27-30, Washington, D.C.
- 9. reviewed the Executive Secretary's report of income and expenses.
- 10. asked President Davis to remind the Executive Secretary to bring our financial records to the accountant for review.
- 11. approved this proposed budget for 1996, similar to that for 1995:

EXPECTED INCOME

Dues	\$24,000
Interest	
Gifts, royalties and miscellaneous	1,500
Total income	\$28,500

EXPECTED EXPENSES

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American Speech	\$10,000
PADS, one number	5,000
Newsletter	3,500
Executive Secretary travel	1,500
Office expenses, including cor	nputer. 4,000
ACLS and NHA dues	800
Annual Meeting expenses	500
American Speech computer ex	kpenses 2,000
Total expenses	\$27,300

Three Students Honored

President Lawrence Davis announced the award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 1996-99 to Anne L. Curzan, Univ. of Michigan, nominated by Richard Bailey; Kirk Hazen, North Carolina State Univ., nominated by Walt Wolfram, and Kerrie Sansky, SUNY Albany, nominated by Silke Van Ness.

The four-year complimentary memberships are intended to encourage interest and participation in our field by outstanding students, graduate or undergraduate.

Nominations are now invited for next year's three Presidential Honorary Memberships. All that is needed is a letter of recommendation, although supporting material is also welcome. Send nominations to Lawrence M. Davis, English Department, Wichita State University, Wichita KS 67260-0014; e-mail davis@wsuhub.uc.twsu.edu.

Lines and Labels: Looking Back 50 Years

By Virginia McDavid

(Remarks at the ADS Annual Luncheon, Chicago, Dec. 30, 1995)

It's now about 50 years since I began to study American English. Don't let that half-century span make you anticipate hearing something of great moment. You won't. I have only a few remarks about a very satisfying and happy period.

It really is now about 50 years since I began to study American English, especially dialects and dictionaries. And for more than 30 years I have quite literally lived with linguistic atlases in the house, first in Chicago, and now in Indiana, where I have two, those for the Upper Midwest and North-Central States, and parts of the Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States.

But all that was in the cloud of the future when I became a freshman at the University of Minnesota in June 1943, five days after graduating from high school. And what was my purpose at the University? To become a teacher, of course. It is necessary to tack on that phrase "of course" because in 1943 teaching was a welcoming profession for a woman, and I had never considered anything else than teaching high-school English.

Teaching had been the entry into a profession for the daughter of immigrants like my mother, the only one of a family of 17 to break away from the Wisconsin farm and attend college, a normal school in Superior, Wis. Today we may look at the names of those active in the past in a field like linguistics and lament the absence of women there. I would suggest that this lack partly reflects the culture of earlier times.

So I started college, about as worldly as a minnow. I enrolled in a course taught by the poet and novelist Robert Penn Warren. All the King's Men was not to appear until 1946, but he was already an established novelist and poet. His course in modern literature and a couple of history courses were pretty high-

octane fare for me. I quickly found out that though the University was barely two miles from my home, it was also several hundred light-years away.

It was a lively time at the University, even in the middle of the War, though by 1943 it was clear what the outcome would be. Tuition was \$33 a quarter, about \$100 a year. I lived at home, so I had no room and board to pay, and I typed papers and theses for money.

Though I didn't realize it at the time, the event that really shaped my future professional and personal life took place, all unannounced, in the fall of 1945. I had a vacant hour in my schedule, and I enrolled in a class entitled "American English." It was taught by a man quite new in the English Department, Harold Allen. Allen was a University of Michigan Ph.D., who had written his dissertation with C. C. Fries on "Labeling Practices in Samuel Johnson's Dictionary." Allen had worked on the Early Modern English Dictionary; he knew Hans Kurath and A. H. Marckwardt, and he had done Atlas field work in Ohio and Illinois for Marckwardt's Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States. So there, in that course so innocently named "American English," I found the two major interests of my professional life, dialects and dictionaries.

Even so, after this class I continued with a double major in English and history. Then, one day at the start of the fall term in 1946, I began a class in British economic history. Leaving that first class meeting, I had the closest to an epiphany that I will ever have. I realized that what I wanted to do more than anything else was to study the English language, especially American English. I dropped that course in economic history, and I have never regretted it.

The Second World War ended in 1945. In 1944 Congress had passed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act, better known as the GI (Please turn to Page 8)

After the War: Minnesota and the Michigan Linguistic Institute

(Continued from Page 7)

Bill. It provided aid for housing and education. And with it thousands of men had access to college, some for undergraduate degrees, many others to complete graduate work, as I was doing. These men were exciting colleagues.

Those postwar years were wonderful ones. I realize I am looking back through the heavily rose-tinted glasses with which we view the happy times in our youth. But I can't imagine a better time to have been a graduate student. The English Department at Minnesota was excellent and was starting its program in American Studies.

In his poem "The Prelude," Wordsworth wrote about the early years of the French Revolution: "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, but to be young was very heaven." Wordsworth had something there: evil in the forms of Hitler and Hirohito had been conquered, and the Cold War was not looming very large. It seems to me that many of us studying and teaching together were shaped and joined by the times and our experiences at that very fine university.

I remember nothing in the English Department of any discrimination against women students. Rather the climate was one of enthusiasm that there were so many eager students, both men and women. Higher education had begun its boom. There was more than enough to go round, so let's see who wants a place at the table.

Through Harold Allen I learned about the Oxford English Dictionary and many others. About the American Dialect Society, then a little more than 50 years old, and the Linguistic Society, and the Modern Language Association. And about the Linguistic Institute at the University of Michigan, where there was more intensive and different work for students than was available at their own institutions. That summer Linguistic Institute sounded like heaven to me. I went there in

1947, and it was. (But, I should add, women couldn't enter the men's Union Building through the front door. Not until 1954 was this practice abrogated.)

These years were the heyday of structuralism, of Smith and Trager, and of Twaddell defining the phoneme. At that Summer Institute I had phonetics with Martin Joos and phonemics from Bernard Bloch. And I took what I remember as a grammar course from C. C. Fries. Fries is surely one of the giants of this century. His American English Grammar had appeared in 1938, making the point strongly of the importance of collecting and studying data and then drawing conclusions.

Fries had also been one of those present at the inception of the Linguistic Atlas project in 1928. A common thread linking Fries, Marckwardt and Allen was their dedication to the belief that all teachers, and especially English teachers, must know something about the history of the language and about its grammar, and much of their work dealt with the importance of language study in the training of teachers. All three were active in the National Council of Teachers of English.

But to return to that Summer Linguistic Institute, I also had Hans Kurath's course in linguistic geography. Kurath was just finishing his Word Geography of the Eastern United States. This would appear in 1949 and reshape views of American dialects, which had previously been seen as falling into the categories of New England, Southern (the old Confederacy), and General American, which was everything else. Remember, by the way, that the Linguistic Atlas of New England and its Handbook had been published less than a decade earlier, and that the fieldwork for the Middle and South Atlantic States was yet to be completed.

There were some dozen of us in Kurath's course, learning about the questionnaire, finding informants, conducting the interview, that sort of thing. The Atlas was of folk

Midwest Fieldwork, Gullah, Chicago Teachers College

speech, then disappearing, and it was old, native, rural types that we were after. Towards the end of the summer, a fieldworker who had been active in New York State and South Carolina came in to tell us how it really was out there. He was Raven McDavid, whom I married in 1950.

Harold Allen had come to the Institute to plan with Kurath the *Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest*, for which he did much of the fieldwork in the 1940s and 1950s. This atlas appeared from 1973 to 1976, the second such work after Kurath's *LANE*.

So I returned from my summer in Ann Arbor all fired up with dialectology, and went out to do a little fieldwork. Those were the days before mechanical recording; we worked with notebooks, sharp pencils and carbon paper. Only in the late 1940s did Allen have a recorder—a wire recorder and very heavy.

Our Midwest informants lack, it seems to me, the color of the ones Guy Lowman and my husband had in the East. I was never taken as a revenue agent, as my husband was, but then Minnesota is not a center of illegal distilling. I do remember one informant in Winona, Minn., who was proud of being a descendant of Jonathan Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, the itinerant 19th-century preacher who immortalized himself by distributing appleseeds throughout the Midwest.

By the late 1940s I had settled on a dissertation topic dealing with verb forms in the North-Central States and Upper Midwest, and in 1956 I finally got my degree.

Although I was not aware of it until later, Lorenzo Dow Turner's Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect (Univ. of Chicago Press, 1949) had appeared. Turner had been working on it at least since 1932, and studying with Kurath, Miles Hanley, Bernard Bloch and also Daniel Jones.

Although the unique characteristics of Gullah had earlier been recognized, they had been dismissed as owing to 17th-century British dialects or to some form of simplified speech used by plantation overseers to the speakers, which was in turn distorted and modified by them. Turner's book isn't a descriptive grammar of Gullah, of course, but a study of Africanisms in it. And it was revolutionary.

A Charleston paper had asked my husband to review Turner's book. Which he did—and the review was rejected. It had treated the book seriously and considered how it showed the persistence of African cultural traits in language. The review was later published in Language in 1950. Turner himself, by the way, became a professor at Roosevelt University here in Chicago.

I mention this for one reason: to show that our present oak trees of creole studies have roots that go back many years. And another reason is that in my teaching in Chicago I came to have much reason to be interested in the English of African-Americans, because my institution became almost entirely black.

We lived in Chicago after 1957 because my husband was teaching at the University. I took a position at Chicago Teachers College, as it was then named. In the following decade it had four changes, and by 1965 it was Chicago State University, as it has remained.

The institution was founded in the 1850s as a normal school. By the 1930s its sole mission was to provide teachers for the Chicago Public Schools. Indeed, if you were a graduate, you were almost assured of a position. Graduation was thus a meal ticket to a permanent job, and as a consequence entrance standards were very high. Until the last couple of decades, graduates of CTC numbered heavily among teachers of the Chicago school system.

And CTC had in its English Department from 1915 until his retirement in 1947 W. Wilbur Hatfield, whom you probably (Please turn to Page 10)

NCTE, the Experience Curriculum, Indexing Mencken

(Continued from Page 9)

haven't heard of. He was a founder of the NCTE and for many years its secretary-treasurer, and an editor of College English and The English Journal. He was also author of a widely-used English curriculum, "The Experience Curriculum." which revolutionized English teaching from the primary grades through college. He had long retired when I got to CTC in 1957, but he often showed up around the campus. In 1969 I had the privilege of editing a collection of essays honoring Hatfield, called Language and Teaching. Among those I had as contributors were Harold Allen, Albert Marckwardt, James McCrimmon, James McMillan and Robert Pooley-not a bad group to honor him.

The little college was thus far from a backwater in language studies. One member of the English Department was from the University of Nebraska, where he had been influenced by Louise Pound; later at the University of Wisconsin he had been an office mate of Miles Hanley. And in 1958 Tom Creswell, himself a graduate of CTC, joined the faculty, and he too had an interest in language. Thus, far from being isolated in the English department, I found myself in one with a history of regarding language study as fundamental, and with congenial colleagues.

Almost inevitably, my husband had been corresponding with **H. L. Mencken**, whose *American Language* had appeared in 1936 with supplements in 1945 and 1948. Mencken himself had suffered a severe stroke in 1948 and died in 1956.

During the 1950s, the publisher Knopf had become interested in an abridgement of those volumes, with my husband as editor. There were interesting editorial problems involved: if Mencken's works were to be considered scripture and abridged but never altered, a lot of scholarship would be ignored. But to adequately recognize the major linguistic developments in American English would result in

greatly altering what Mencken had written. The compromise worked out was that the book would be an abridgement and condensation of Mencken's three volumes, with updating where necessary. The new matter would be identified by editorial brackets.

The abridgement has some 900 pages, of which over 100 are two indexes—one of words and phrases, the other of topics and persons. I had worked on the text with my husband, but those two indexes were my very own. Remember that this was in pre-computer days, and making an index involved thousands of differently colored cards to be sorted, and when page proof came, given page numbers. And then alphabetized.

Mencken was delighted with American English in its liveliness and variety, and I think he chuckles at one word he included in his section "The Expanding Vocabulary." That word is *snollygoster*, a Southern term for a political job seeker who talks his way into public office. Perhaps it is derived from Pennsylvania German for a creature that devours poultry and children. Now who revives this term but Harry Truman in 1952 to characterize politicians who pray in public to get votes (Leo Spitzer, *American Speech* 29 [Feb. 1954]: 85). This term is ripe for revival.

The 1960s saw computers beginning to have an impact on our field by way of the Brown Standard Corpus, a collection of over a million words of American English written in 1961. The work was done at Brown University in 1963 and 1964. In 1967 A Computational Analysis of Present-Day American English by Henry Kucera and W. Nelson Francis (Providence, R.I.: Brown Univ. Press) appeared. I don't think this corpus has been fully appreciated or used. It is the first of the databases that we now take almost for granted.

One side effect of the explosion in higher education after the War was in the number of dictionaries that became available. Where

College Dictionaries, Webster's Third, and Studies of Usage

there had been only one college dictionary before, Webster's Fifth Collegiate, by 1947 there were two, with the appearance of The American College Dictionary, edited by Clarence Barnhart. Then in 1953 there were three, now with the appearance of Webster's New World Dictionary. It used to be that a college dictionary was required of an incoming college freshman, and there were many hot debates about the respective merits of these dictionaries.

Then in 1961 Webster's Third New International Dictionary appeared. The initial reception and many later reviews were hostile. Remember Nero Wolfe tearing up the Third and saying he would continue with his Second?

The Merriam Company was sufficiently distressed by the reception of this very fine dictionary to want a study of what had gone wrong, and my husband made such a study for them. His partial conclusion was that the initial publicity releases for the dictionary were not helpful; they claimed that the *Third* would provide entertaining reading for the average family. They emphasized novelty and the trend toward informality. And there was the inclusion and usage note on *ain't*.

I mention the reception of the *Third* because it reveals the woeful ignorance of dictionaries among the college-educated population and English teachers. Nothing I have seen in the past decades makes me think there is a more intelligent appreciation of dictionaries now than then, and this at a time when we have more excellent dictionaries—I'm thinking especially of the college ones—than have ever been available.

Should there be a Webster's Fourth—remember that the year 2001 is near and that 40 years is a traditional measure of fullness and completion—it will be interesting to see what the Merriam Company has learned about publicity and what reviewers have learned about language.

One little sidebar to all this controversy is

rather amusing, now that I look back on it 30 years later. An entry in Webster's Third that roused particular fury was ain't and the accompanying usage note. I look back on this entry, and it still seems good. For example, it distinguishes between ain't as a contraction of forms of be and not and forms of have and not, which is important in its usage.

This entry stirred a professor at the University of Michigan, **Sheridan Baker**, author of a best-selling book *The Practical Stylist*, to write an article in *College English* (November 1964) challenging the evidence for the entry on *ain't*. Some of that evidence was mine, from the Atlas data for my thesis. He accused me of making numerous errors and suppressing evidence. "True to her calling," he wrote, she "is out after *ain'ts* in the usage of cultivated speakers."

Also in *College English*, I raised the question of whether Baker regarded being a practical stylist as requiring that he "sacrifice truth to polemics and name calling" when the "well-suppressed evidence" he accused me of suppressing had appeared in my thesis.

In a later issue of *College English*, Baker conceded his errors and apologized to both Allen and me. But he stood firm in his opposition to the dictionary, and with this example is thus a monument to the hostility towards using data in language study.

To go to another topic, there were several competitors to Webster's Third. One of the most interesting was the American Heritage Dictionary of 1969. Its publisher was Houghton, and the editor was William Morris, a critic of Webster's Third.

The great innovation of this dictionary was its Usage Panel of 105 literary figures, journalists, editors and others—heavily male and with an average age of 64. Some critics of Webster's Third were included, like Dwight Macdonald and the chairman of the panel, Theodore Bernstein. This panel gave opin-

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Usage, Atlases, Dictionaries—and the Computer

(Continued from Page 11)

ions, presented in percentage form, about some 502 usage questions. This method of considering usage—opinion as opposed to evidence—was studied by Thomas Creswell's Usage in Dictionaries and Dictionaries of Usage (PADS 63-64, 1975). When the second edition of the dictionary appeared in 1982, Creswell and I looked at its Panel and opinions, and again concluded that the Usage Panel was more a marketing gimmick than a source of sound information about usage.

Another competitor of Webster's Third was The Random House Unabridged Dictionary (1966). For this my husband and I gave status labels to new entries—slang, informal, vulgar and so on. The tone of this usage material was quite prescriptive. Theodore Bernstein, Consulting Editor of The New York Times, was the usage consultant.

Much more interesting to me was the second edition of the Random House Unabridged. Plans for this began in the 1970s, with Jess Stein as editor. Usage labels and notes and dialect labels and notes were supposed to be the province of my husband and me and Tom Creswell. Hardly had we received our first sets of galleys than in July 1984 Jess Stein died. He was succeeded by Stuart Flexner. Shortly thereafter my husband died, leaving Creswell and me with the original job and also with some of Jess Stein's work on synonymies. Working on that dictionary was surely one of the most fascinating experiences I have ever had.

In 1954 the Linguistic Atlas archives moved from the Rackham Building at the University of Michigan to the University of Chicago. Kurath had overseen some of the work of making list manuscripts of responses in the field records, and three books—his Word Geography, E. Bagby Atwood's A Survey of Verb Forms in the Eastern United States (1953), and Kurath and Raven McDavid's The Pronunciation of English in

the Atlantic States (1961) were based on the materials available then. Not included were most of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, and I am now finishing the list manuscripts for these states. Bill Kretzschmar became editor after 1984, and in 1986 the Atlas archives moved from Chicago to the University of Georgia.

The major development of these recent decades, affecting language study—the Atlas and modern dictionaries as well—is, of course, computer technology, electronic communication, and everything going with these. Lexicography has been quite transformed. We have the revised Oxford on CD-ROM, and many other dictionaries as well, thus making comparisons of dictionaries much easier, as well as the study of individual dictionaries for internal consistency, for example in their use of the labels dialect and nonstandard, with which I have been concerned recently.

This use of new techniques shows up well in Lee Pederson's Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States (1986–92) and in Kretzschmar's Handbook of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States (1993). And also in the increasing use of statistical techniques in studying Atlas data. Before, there was simply too much data to manage effectively. Now there are the means of doing it, and ways to begin finding out what it all means.

Thus, after 50 years, I am still hard at work with Atlas verb items and also with dictionaries and their labeling practices. We have come from sharp pencils and carbon paper to computer screens and ways of manipulating immense quantities of data with lightning speed. So I have come in a circle, but the area enclosed has expanded greatly, and so have its contents. I can't imagine a more exciting field or a more interesting half century to have been in.

Words of the Year 1995: See Page 4

From Malediction to Euphemism: Our New Books

If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover), and we'll mention it here.

Reinhold Aman, ed. Maledicta: The International Journal of Verbal Aggression. Maledicta Press (PO Box 14123, Santa Rosa CA 95402-6123). Volume 11, 1990-95. 160 pages. \$14 U.S., \$18 overseas. After a stint in federal prison (discussed with malediction in the lead article), Aman resumes publication of his truly offensive scholarly journal. Some 20 articles include one debunking the view that John Kennedy misspoke when he said "Ich bin ein Berliner." Also includes "Swearing as a Function of Gender" of college students by Thomas Murray.

Leonard R.N. Ashley. What's in a Name? Everything You Wanted to Know. Genealogical Publishing Co. (1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore MD 21202-3897), 1996. Updated and corrected reprint of 1989 book. 265 pages. Paperback \$17.95 (plus \$3.50 postage & handling). "As Hoyle is synonymous with the rules of games or Roberts with the rules of order, Ashley from now on will be synonymous with names," says the publisher.

Gerald Cohen. Studies in Slang, Part 4. Forum Anglicum, Vol. 21. Frankfurt/M.: Peter Lang, 1995. viii + 169 pages. Paperback DM 65. Discusses gung ho, mort 'woman', rhubarb, ringer, rock 'n' roll, Missouri bankroll, skate, scallawag, sike, cold turkey, hillbilly, yo-yo, lose one's marbles, not to have all one's buttons, hep/hip, The Big Apple. ISBN 3-631-49075-5, U.S. 0-8204-2924-4.

Félix Rodríguez González. Spanish Loanwords in the English Language. Mouton. The first comprehensive book on this subject. Includes papers by well-known members of ADS (Algeo, Cannon, Murray, Ornstein-Galicia).

Miklós Kontra, ed. Beyond Castle Garden: An American Hungarian Dictionary of the Calumet Region. Collected and compiled

by Andrew Vázsonyi (d. 1986); edited and with an introduction by Kontra. Budapest: Teleki László Alapítvány, 1995. In English and Hungarian. Based on tape recordings made by Vázsonyi and his wife Linda Dégh in the 1960s of Hungarian-Americans in the Calumet region on Lake Michigan, southeast of Chicago. Includes articles by Vázsonyi and Dégh. ISBN 963-04-523-4.

David Muschell. What in the Word? Bradenton, Florida: McGuinn & McGuire, 1996. 216 pages. Paperback \$14.95. The book is aimed at a general audience and examines common eponyms, toponyms and anthroponyms. ISBN 1-881117-14-6.

Hugh Rawson. Rawson's Dictionary of Euphemisms and Other Doubletalk: Being a Compilation of Linguistic Fig Leaves and Verbal Flourishes for Artful Users of the English Language. Revised ed. New York: Crown, Oct. 1995. 480 pages. Hardcover \$25. Not just definitions but encyclopedic entries with history and commentary for euphemisms old and new, including the latest political correctnesses. With a 14-page introduction on euphemism. ISBN 0-517-70201-0.

LSA Records Go to WHM

The Western Historical Manuscript Collection, host of the annual Tamony Lecture (see Page 2), is pleased to announce the acquisition of the records of the Linguistic Society of America. The 137 linear feet of documents include administrative files and correspondence, Linguistic Institute records, annual meeting records, membership information, LSA publications, financial records, and records of affiliation with other societies.

Although LSA was organized in 1924, the bulk of the materials in the collection cover the period 1960 to 1985. The collection is an ongoing accession and new materials will be added regularly. A 45-page preliminary inventory is available at the Manuscript Collection (address on Page 2).

Spanish, Russian, French, German: ADS at ILA, NYU, April 13

Four papers will be presented at an ADS-hosted session when the International Linguistic Association holds its annual meeting in New York City April 12–14.

March 20 is the deadline for ILA preregistration: \$30 by check or money order to Dr. Franklin E. Horowitz, Box 66, Teacher's College, Columbia Univ., New York NY 10027; phone (212) 678-3353. Thereafter and on site registration is \$40.

ILA will meet at New York University's main building, 100 Washington Square East, 7th floor. The ADS session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Chair: Silke Van Ness, SUNY at Albany; e-mail SV478@cnsvax.albany.edu. Papers:

1:30 • "The Romance Modal > Temporal > Modal Cycle and Spanish haber-based Structures." M. Westmoreland, State Univ. of New York, Albany.—This study will look at meaning and change of meaning with regard to the Spanish simple future structure cantaré, formed from the Latin modal structure cantare habeo. Various meaning shifts have occurred in this structure, from expressing obligation to prospection to futurity to likelihood or volition. The change is in part explainable by issues of semantic transparency and uniformity vis-a-vis competing structures. It will be shown how remnant uses of the independent verb haber in different Hispanic dialects have come to show different stages of the cycle. There seems to be a differing general American usage of this structure adducible both to an Andalusian rather than Castilian dialect base, and to independent postcolonial evolutions.

1:50 • "New Words in a New Life." Elvira Myachinskaya, St. Petersburg Univ., Russia.—Within the last decade, the Russian language has been virtually attacked by a horde of English words, mainly internationalisms, with neither British nor American associations. The violent but welcome flood of Anglicisms has evidently been triggered by the re-

cent changes in Russia. New adaptation patterns have appeared, some of them overruling traditional ones. The tendency is prevalence of transphonemization over transliteration, e.g. rendering of <h> and etymological <r>. Re-borrowed words appear next to words of the same meaning which were borrowed earlier from other languages in another form, e.g. price-list (preiskurant). In fact, some borrowings are not new at all but have moved from restricted to general use, increasing therefore their frequency. The motivation for the new loans is a feeling of belonging to a new framework of public relations.

2:10 • "Adjective-Noun Concord in Cohoes French." Cynthia A. Fox, State Univ. of New York, Albany.—One aspect of Cohoes French that exhibits incipient morphological reduction is gender. Preliminary analysis of data from 22 consultants suggests that the loss of adjective-noun concord is giving rise to invariant forms. In the case of determiners and prenominal adjectives, retention of a consonant-final variant is retained in post-nominal adjectives. It is argued that this restructuring is the result of language restriction rather than language contact.

2:30 • "Language Convergence and Cognition: Amish Pennsylvania German and English in Contact." J. R. Costello, New York Univ.—Syntacticians often treat English ask like two verbs: ask (request) and ask (inquire). Supporting this analysis are the observations that each verb has characteristic environments which are complementary to the other, and the syntax of ask (request) is acquired before that of ask (inquire). Nineteenth century Pennsylvania German had two lexical items, bitte 'request' and fraage 'request, inquire'. If the acquisition of earlier PG paralleled that of English, one might expect bitte to survive fraage, since it would have been acquired first. However, syntacticians have observed transitional periods characterized by a

(Continued on next page)

Volume 3: I-O, I-O, It's Off to Press We Go

Volume III of our great Dictionary of American Regional English, looking at the vocabulary from I through O, has just gone to press (or rather, the press) with high hopes of publication in the fall. As before, Frederic G. Cassidy is editor, Joan H. Hall associate editor.

Hall reports that the letters L, M, N, and O were sent to the production department at Harvard University Press Feb. 2 (I, J, and K were sent last November). That means that Volume III should be on Harvard's fall list.

Harvard has offered a special price to ADS members with publication of the previous volumes, and we expect to make similar arrangements this time. They'll be announced on these pages as soon as we have the information.

Volume I, which has been out of print for a year, will be reprinted to coincide with the publication of Volume III. We should be able to offer a special price for Volumes I and II, in case you missed them.

ADS at ILA, NYU, April 13

(Continued from preceding page)

disruption of formerly mastered material, resulting in temporarily increased errors with that material. Thus children who mastered ask (request) make mistakes when they begin to acquire ask (inquire). The same could have happened in earlier PG. Further, the additional burden of acquiring English ask while acquiring bitte and fraage could have caused the cognitive process to go awry for PG-speaking children, leaving only fraage. Comparing this with other cases of convergence, it appears that most lexico-syntactic convergence is caused by complexities introduced into the cognitive process by bi- or multilingualism.

March 21–23: Language Legislation and Linguistic Rights, conference at the Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Write Doug Kibbee, Dept. of French, UIUC, Urbana IL 61801; e-mail dkibbee@ux1.cso.uiuc.edu.

The first volume, with introductory essays and 13,978 headwords and senses in clvi + 903 pages, was published in 1985. The second, adding 16,575 headwords and senses in 1192 pages, appeared in 1991. Volume III will take DARE past the midpoint of its word hoard. Two more volumes will be needed to complete the vocabulary, plus a final volume of data from the DARE questionnaires.

An index by region, usage, and etymology to the first two volumes was published as *PADS* 77 in 1993. Plans are afoot for a successor index to Volume III.

Mellon Grant Continues DARE

A grant of \$150,000 from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to be matched by the University of Wisconsin, will fund DARE for an additional six months beyond August 1996. "We are grateful for the time this gives us to work on Volume IV and to continue the search for significant sources of private funds," says Associate Editor Joan Hall. She adds: "While this gift keeps the wolf from the door for a short time, it does not solve our long-term funding problems, so we are still eager to hear from any ADS members who might know of foundations that would entertain a proposal from DARE. We greatly appreciate the gifts sent by individual ADS members."

DARE also received one of the initial Verbatim-DSNA lexicographical research awards (advertised in NADS September 1995): \$2,000 for a graduate student in summer 1996 to verify the quotations published in DARE. John Algeo's letter announcing the award said the DARE proposal "was both rated and ranked first by every member of the committee. That consensus reflects, I believe, the committee's high regard for the work already done on DARE and its realization that the work proposed in your project has clear benefits for historical lexicography generally and a variety of other particular dictionaries as well."

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Rocky Mountain Region

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 24-26; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Sheraton Old Town.

March 15 is the deadline for abstracts (maximum 300 words) to Xiaozhao Huang, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND 58202-7209, Attn: RMADS Session. Phone (701) 777-6393, e-mail xhuang@badlands.nodak.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995-96: Grant W. Smith, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney WA 99004; e-mail gsmith@ewu.edu.

Membership in RMMLA is \$20 regular, \$10 student. Write RMMLA Executive Director Charles G. Davis, C-203, Boise State Univ., 1910 University Dr., Boise ID 83725; phone (208) 385-1199 or (800) 824-7017, ext. 1199; e-mail CDavis@quartz.idbsu.edu.

South Central Region

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 31-Nov. 2; San Antonio, St. Anthony's Hotel.

March 15 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, Elsa P. Rogers, Modern Languages Dept, University of Southwestern Louisiana, P. O. Box 43331, Lafayette, La. 70504; phone (318) 482-5715, e-mail epr5299@usl.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1996-97: Charles B. Martin, Dept. of English, Univ. of North Texas, P.O. Box 13827, Denton TX 76203-3827; phone (817) 565-2149. (In Morocco till July 1.)

Membership in SCMLA is \$20 full professors, \$15 associate and assistant professors, \$10 instructors and students. Write SCMLA, Katherine E. Kelly, Executive Director, Dept. of English, Texas A&M Univ., College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (409) 845-7041; e-mail scmla@venus.tamu.edu.

Future meeting: 1997 Dallas-Fort Worth.

Midwest Region

In association with MMLA, Nov. 7–9; Minneapolis Marriot City Center.

Topic: "Current Trends in American Dialectology." (Whatever you are working on.)

March 25 is the deadline for sending proposals of up to 500 words to the meeting chair, Beth Lee Simon, CM 109, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne, IN 46805; phone (219) 424-8834; e-mail simon@cvax.ipfw.indiana.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995-96: Beth Lee Simon.

Membership in MMLA is \$25 full and associate professors, \$20 other faculty, \$15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English/Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331.

Future meetings: 1997 Nov. 6-8 Chicago, Ramada Congress Hotel; 1998 Nov. 5-7, Regal Riverfront Hotel; 1999 Nov. 4-6 Minneapolis, Marriott City Center.

South Atlantic Region

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 8–10; Savannah, Georgia, Marriott.

May 1 is the deadline for abstracts to the meeting chair, Peter Patrick, Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, New Haven CT 06511-6526. Presenters must be members of both SAMLA and ADS. Presenters are limited to one paper at the SAMLA meeting.

ADS Regional Secretary 1995–96: Natalie Maynor, English Dept., Mississippi State Univ., Drawer E, Mississippi State MS 39762; e-mail maynor@ra.msstate.edu.

Future meeting: 1997 Atlanta.

Membership in SAMLA is \$15 for individuals, \$8 for students. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693.

APRIL 19-21: GENDER AND BELIEF SYSTEMS, Berkeley Women and Language Conference. Write BWLG, 2337 Dwinelle Hall, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA, 94720; e-mail bwlg@garnet.berkeley.edu.