

NADS 12.1

Vol. 12, No. 1

April 1980

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Published three or four times a year and sent to all ADS members and subscribers. This issue is later than ever, so the next one should follow promptly — probably in June.

Send editorial correspondence and back issue requests to Allan Metcalf, editor, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois, 62650. Send ADS dues (\$15 annually) and all other correspondence concerning the Society to Executive Secretary H.R. Wilson, English Department, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont. Canada N6A 3K7.

*From: Allan Metcalf
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To:

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John Algeo (see above)

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The Nominating Committee has a Sept. 1 deadline for proposing a Vice President 1981 (or 1981-2, if the constitutional revision passes), a Member of the Executive Council 1981-4, and a Member of the Nominating Committee 1981 (or 1981-2).

CALL FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

H. Rex Wilson's term as executive secretary ends in December, and a successor is needed. Wilson describes the job as within the spare-time efforts of one active person working ten to twelve hours a week with a student aide. The chief running responsibility is the collection of dues, depositing checks, and paying bills. The executive secretary also prepares the budget. Institutional support such as a student aide, released time, supplies is highly desirable.

Persons interested in serving the Society in this way should write Virginia McDavid (see directory, Page 2). Wilson has done a heroic task during his term of office in straightening out the records of the Society and deserves our heartiest thanks. — *Virginia McDavid*

CALL FOR EDITOR

John Algeo will have served ten years as the editor of *American Speech* at the end of 1980 and wishes to be relieved. He has had generous institutional support from the University of Georgia — released time, quarters and equipment, and editorial assistants. Again, members interested in serving the Society in this way should write Virginia McDavid. Algeo has done a magnificent job in getting *AS* back on schedule. — *V.M.*

(Those interested in the position might wish to write Algeo for a copy of his detailed description of the current operating procedures of American Speech — a document titled "The Editorial Mill." Space permitting, this document will appear in the next issue of NADS.)

CALL FOR PAPERS: ADS ANNUAL MEETING

As usual, May 1 is the deadline to submit abstracts of papers for presentation at the ADS Annual Meeting. Once again, the Society will follow MLA, this time to Houston, Dec. 27-30. Send abstracts to our new vice president, Marvin Carmony. His address appears in the directory on Page 2.

CALL FOR PAPERS: NCTE CONCURRENT MEETING

The ADS will offer a concurrent meeting at the Cincinnati meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English in November. Our topic is Unity and Variety in American English. (The NCTE insists that we have a topic, explains Virginia McDavid, and that one seems broad enough to cover about anything.) Members desiring to give a paper should send a title and 250-word abstract by *June 15* to Virginia McDavid. The NCTE does not like persons to appear on more than one spot on the program.

PACIFIC COAST MEETING SEEKS MATERIALS FOR DIALECT COURSES

The Pacific Coast Regional Meeting of the ADS will be held at the same time as the California Linguistic Association Conference at California State University, Long Beach, May 3 and 4.

This year there will be a completely new format. Students from classes in sociolinguistics will participate in an experience and learn-teach program. Cassettes, tapes and albums that might be useful in courses for listening to varieties of languages will be on display, with information on how to obtain them. A list is being prepared, and suggestions are welcome. Write Mary Ritchie Key, ADS regional secretary, Program in Linguistics, University of California, Irvine, Calif. 92717.

The program should be of particular interest to instructors who teach or anticipate teaching a course in sociolinguistics or dialects.

CALL FOR PAPERS: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING

The Midwest Regional Meeting of the ADS will be held in Minneapolis, November 6, in association with the Midwest Modern Language Association meeting at the Hotel Leamington.

ADS members are invited to submit abstracts for papers to be read at the meeting. In addition to reports of completed dialect research, papers discussing problems, puzzles, and anomalies in dialect study are invited, as are update reports on current projects.

Abstracts must be submitted by May 1. Send them to Donald W. Larmouth, chairman, 1980 Midwest Regional Meeting, Communication and the Arts, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis. 54302.

SUMMER 1980: ADS IN THE SOUTHWEST

At Albuquerque, in the midst of the 50th Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America and the second Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages Summer Institute, the ADS will meet:

Thursday, July 17 (the exact date is still tentative)

University of New Mexico

Papers:

"Tombstone Talk: Multilingualism in South Texas and Consorts in North Carolina." **Scott Baird**, Trinity University.

"English Language Varieties in the San Francisco Bay Area." **Urs Durmuller**, University of California, Berkeley.

"Closure Duration of Initial Stop Consonants: Chicano and General Californian English." **Manuel Godinez Jr.** and **Mona Lindau-Webb**, University of California, Los Angeles.

"Native American Dialects of English: The Alabama-Coushatta Reservation." **Bates Hoffer**, Trinity University.

"Stress and Intonation in Mexican-American (Chicano) English." **Joyce Okezie**, University of Texas, El Paso.

"Homogeneity of Phonological/Grammatical Variants of Mexican American English in a Five-State Area." **Jacob L. Ornstein-Galicia**, University of Texas, El Paso.

"Negation and Scope Restrictions on *anymore*." **Frank Parker**, Louisiana State University.

Exact details of place and time will appear in the June issue of this newsletter. If you can't wait, contact the chairman, Garland D. Bills, Department of Linguistics, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131; phone (505) 277-6353.

MENCKENFEST SCHEDULED FOR MAY, CHICAGO

ADS members Raven McDavid, Virginia McDavid, Einar Haugen, David Maurer and Allen Walker Read will be among those speaking or presiding at a centennial appraisal of H.L. Mencken to be held at the Newberry Library May 8 and 9.

Other speakers include Walter Blair, Carl Doimetsch, William Nolte, Douglas Stenerson and Arthur Weinberg.

One session will focus on Mencken's influence on American linguistics. The conference is open to the public.

For information write J. Warren Scheideman, Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago, Ill. 60610.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: TWO OR THREE GATHERED TOGETHER . . .

Decimated by death and illness, the ADS Executive Council could convene only a remnant instead of the intended quorum for the December meetings in San Francisco. Walter Avis, Council member and nominee for the vice presidency, had died suddenly the month before; Rex Wilson, executive secretary, had to remain at home because of his wife's serious illness. Others of the nine Council members found the accelerating airfare to San Francisco too steep. Who did show up? Three in all: President John Algeo, Vice President Virginia McDavid, and Council member Murray Kinloch.

Even had a quorum been present, the Council would have been hard pressed to keep the cart behind the horse, because Mother MLA had scheduled the ADS Annual Business Meeting for Thursday evening, December 27, and the Executive Council meeting two days later, for the afternoon of Saturday, December 29. With Avis' death preventing the intentions of the Nominating Committee for the vice presidency, the rump-Council needed time to determine an alternative, and so Algeo announced on the evening of the 27th that the election of new officers would be postponed until the second meeting of the membership. Meanwhile, other business was conducted on schedule, as reported elsewhere in this issue.

Elbowing the Dante Society of America out of cozy Governors 2 in the Hyatt on Union Square — a room with soft chairs around a conference table, warm atmosphere, and one wall a window looking south — the three musketeers of the ADS Executive Council met officially, as scheduled, at 2:45 p.m. Saturday, December 29. They were joined by Regional Secretaries Tom Clark (Rocky Mountain) and Mary Key (Pacific Coast); Bethany Dumas, representing PADS, and Allan Metcalf, for this Newsletter.

Lacking a quorum, the meeting could take no official action, but it nevertheless considered and commented on a number of matters.

1. Members unanimously approved the appointment of Bethany Dumas as associate editor of PADS. The appointment came at the request of Editor James Hartman.

2. Final touches were approved in the wording of the Constitution and Bylaws, carrying out decisions of the Annual Business Meeting. In particular, John Algeo offered a number of changes to make the documents completely non-sexist. The approved wording appears elsewhere in this issue.

3. Provisional financial reports from Executive Secretary Rex Wilson were noted and discussed. They included the following brief statement:

Receivables 1978-1980	\$9,300	
Balances in hand	<u>21,292</u>	
<i>Total</i>		\$30,592
Check outstanding	\$ 56	
Advance payments 1981-83	1,230	
PADS 66	2,100	
1980 budget	10,500	
Endowment capital	5,626	
<i>American Speech 51 and 52</i>	<u>8,400</u>	
<i>Total</i>		27,912
<i>NET</i>		\$ 2,680

Also included was this outline budget for 1980:

<i>American Speech</i>	\$ 4,200
<i>PADS</i>	2,917
<i>NADS</i>	900
Non-publication	<u>2,483</u>
	\$10,500

4. Members questioned the cost of membership in the American Council of Learned Societies, asking that the advantages of ACLS membership be inquired into, and ADS' further participation be reconsidered.

5. It was concluded that nothing could be concluded about appointing an Executive Secretary to succeed Rex Wilson at the end of 1980. (A call for nominations has now been issued; see elsewhere in this issue.)

6. The \$5,572.59 claim from the Center for Applied Linguistics for past services (see *NADS* 11.1, p. 7) again met with less than complete sympathy. John Algeo had responded to CAL's John Hammer as recently as November 6, 1979, and it was agreed to leave the next move to CAL.

7. The dues policy announced in italics in *NADS* 11.3 was approved with enthusiasm. In accord with the policy, a pink slip reminder of dues for 1980 is enclosed with this issue.

8. Now that most ADS terms of office have been changed to two years, members agreed that all elections to two-year terms would take place at the same time, once every two years.

9. Algeo reported that Marvin Carmony had been approached about the ADS vice presidency, to replace Walter Avis on the list of nominees.

THE ANNUAL MEETING: THINNED RANKS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Shaken and wan with care at the unexpected absence of two prime movers, the American Dialect Society nevertheless managed to convene almost on schedule for its Annual Meeting in San Francisco, a little after 7 p.m. Thursday, December 27, 1979. President John Algeo called the Society to order in Continental 7 of the San Francisco Hilton — a high-ceilinged boxy room, ample for the audience of 40, with orange reflective decorations on walls that were capable of folding away, but didn't.

Before the scheduled papers, President Algeo asked that a letter be sent to Rex Wilson expressing regret at his absence and concern for his wife's illness, and conveying the best wishes of all present. Algeo then reported Wally Avis' death, suggesting that we think not about that loss, but about his great accomplishments in dialectology. With the assent of the group, the meeting was dedicated to Avis. Raven McDavid and Murray Kinloch read tributes, which are printed elsewhere in this issue.

After a moment of silence in Avis' memory, four speakers presented papers. (John M. Sharp and Eleanor Greet Cotton found themselves stuck in El Paso because of canceled flights, and thus were unable to present their scheduled discussion of hypersemanticization. For abstracts of the papers, see *NADS* 11.3, pp. 8-9.)

Bethany Dumas, who has studied "the most sparsely populated, most isolated, poorest county in Arkansas," said her current project is computerization of all her vocabulary data. It is not true, she said, that an informant will give responses typical of others in a community, and so her study does not entirely confirm the findings of *DARE*. To which *DARE*'s chief, Fred Cassidy, courteously replied: It has a good corrective effect to do such studies. When you get into a more intensive study, a finer meshed net — you get a lot of local variety.

Michael Crowell illustrated Maximilian Schele de Vere's successful search for both autonomy and historicity in American English with examples from Schele's writing on

the language of the American West. Language is a key to the habits and temper of a people, Schele believed, and the language of the West was grand and bold, rejecting laws and rules. "To fly off the handle," for example, reflects the frontiersman's reliance on the ax.

Carole Hines, who carries a supply of 3 by 5 cards to pen down examples in conversation, spoke good and well (adverbial) of well and good (adjectival). Her examples included her own "I know good and damn well there is something wrong." In the ensuing discussion, Raven McDavid cited the expression, "I want it good and bad."

Murray Kinloch tabulated the vowel phonemes in a field record for Woodstock, New Brunswick, made in 1933 by Guy Lowman for the Linguistic Atlas, and then compared the Woodstock informant's phonemes with those for eastern New England and general Canadian English. Woodstock differed from ENE in always realizing /r/, not having the New England short /ə/, and lacking five other vowels. Woodstock also differed from GCE, but less notably. The political boundary between Maine and New Brunswick was a strong linguistic boundary as well, Kinloch concluded, and we may nowadays have to extend the GCE boundary to include Woodstock.

After an opportunity to stretch, 25 members stayed for the Annual Business Meeting. This was the business:

1. Algeo said he would offer no presidential speech, except: "Thank heavens we got through this year."
2. Virginia McDavid said she would offer no vice presidential remarks, except to thank the people who volunteered to give papers.
3. Algeo summarized the Society's financial health: We are solvent — not flush, but in the black.
4. For *NADS*, Allan Metcalf reported having published three issues and spent about \$800, the greater part of it for postage.
5. For *American Speech*, Algeo handed out a report on The Editorial Mill, an inside view of how the Society's journal is put out. He then reported that *AS* is coming out on time with the Alabama Press, which "is doing just splendidly by us." The story is different for the two volumes that have still not appeared from Columbia University Press. They were printed, but not in sufficient quantity, and somebody forgot to order the needed reprinting. "I have begun a campaign to bug Columbia," Algeo said, "but we don't have much leverage; we're not high priority."
6. For the Rocky Mountain region, Regional Secretary Tom Clark announced that Kay Barkan is secretary for the October meeting in Denver with RMMLA.
7. For the Midwest, Regional Secretary Donald Lance announced that Donald Larmouth is chairman for the November meeting in Minneapolis with MMLA.
8. Then Algeo turned to the major item of business — revision of the Constitution and Bylaws, as proposed in *NADS* 11.3, with further ameliorations. The revised Constitution goes to a mail vote of all members (see the green slip enclosed with this issue); the Bylaws were adopted by voice vote, without dissent. The revised standard versions of both are printed elsewhere in this issue.

Before adjournment, Raven McDavid offered a vote of thanks for those who labored so hard in the vineyard. It was received with acclamation.

PAST AND PRESENT: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE ATLAS

In the bowels of the Hyatt on Union Square, San Francisco, well shielded from any ray of sunshine, lies the Butron Room, paneled in gray plaid, trimmed with yellow, and suffused by a steady rumbling from some infernal machine overhead. There, late in the afternoon of December 29, 1979, an audience of 40 assembled, under the

presidency of Allen Walker Read, to hear five speakers commemorate the 50th anniversary of the inception of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States and Canada.

The session began with a message of greeting from Hans Kurath himself, read by Richard Bailey: We have learned much in 50 years, and fortunately substantial progress is still to be expected.

For the western states, Tom Clark observed that the Linguistic Atlas project has passed its mid-life crisis, and "we will treat the collected records of the Linguistic Atlases as archival data," a base for current and future studies. Linguistic Atlas data is like fine California wine: it ages well, but if it ages too long, it turns to vinegar.

Carroll Reed, custodian of Atlas archives for Washington, Oregon and Idaho, said he hopes to return to the Pacific Northwest in a couple of years and take up the remaining work; some 60 field interviews are still needed — as are studies of small foreign-language communities, and of the vocabularies of forestry, fishing, ranching, and mining.

Bruce Southard offered stunning computer-produced three-dimensional maps of linguistic features in Oklahoma, based on W.R. Van Riper's Atlas interviews in the early 1960s.

David Carlson provided analyses by informant type and age for a dozen items from the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*, whose usefulness, he said, is a testament to Kurath's fastidiousness in scholarship and farsighted methodology.

Raven McDavid ended the meeting with a tribute to Kurath as a scholar and as a person. He concluded:

"Although he has high standards of scholarship, and freely expresses his informal opinions, he does not badmouth others; when attacked — even when attacks smack of vicious ignorance — he does not engage in vendettas; he feels that sooner or later the world will recognize the essential difference between good work and bad. He is especially generous to those he has chosen to work with him; when they falter — as I did, badly enough, in my first year of field work — he still sees virtues in them that they may have forgotten. When the Atlas files were transferred from Ann Arbor to Chicago, he observed to me that he had taken over two large research projects, and had left both of them in excellent hands. We should all hope that, when we draw near to fourscore and ten, we may have the same record of serenity, of confidence in the value of our work, and of generosity to our colleagues and our students.

"In honor of Hans," McDavid added, "we should have the cash bar in here before beginning the discussion." So the meeting ended — and members were rudely turned out into the hallway while keepers of the mystery of Cash Bars rearranged chairs and tables, and prepared the high altar with its sacred libations.

Some, if not all, of the papers and tributes may appear in a 1981 issue of *American Speech*.

SAN FRANCISCO, ACT 2

Straggling in after a day of meetings and the Present Day English-ADS Cash Bar, two dozen of the ADS vanguard returned in the evening of Saturday, December 29, 1979, to the Ballroom Floor of the San Francisco Hilton. The room was next door to the locale of the first meeting, and undistinguishable from its predecessor except for three television sets in front, aimed at a later audience. These engines aside, President Algeo called the second session of the ADS Annual Meeting to order, and presented the amended Nominating Committee report, proposing Marvin Carmony for vice president, Murray Kinloch to complete Walter Avis' term on the Executive Council, Richard Bailey for a four-year term on the Council, and Charles E. Billiard for the 1980 Nominating Committee. At Bethany Dumas' motion, the entire slate was elected without dissent.

Virginia McDavid then assumed the presidency and the chair, and four papers were presented.

Lawrence Davis urged dialectologists to learn elementary statistics — in particular, to become familiar with standard deviation and chi square. Without statistics one cannot know what is significant, he said, even if the results are in some cases obvious. To let graphs and tables speak for themselves can be misleading, as Davis illustrated with examples from Labov, Wolfram and Fasold.

Frank Parker used tag questions to test singularity and plurality of indefinite pronouns. He asked 26 undergraduates — the majority majoring in English or English education, and all linguistically naive — to complete sentences with tag questions, and found 93 percent choosing plural pronouns to refer back to indefinite pronouns and correlatives. Everyone agreed with his conclusions, didn't they?

Richard Payne offered the first fruits of his volume on vocabulary for the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States, including a map showing the major boundaries. The Inland Northern region, he said, is remarkable for its uniformity, the North Midland notable for its variety. And while the Inland North is basically a simple westward expansion of dialect territory to the east, the North Midland and South Midland in this region are not. Except in eastern Kentucky, the term South Midland must refer to a blend newly created in this region, not imported from the east. Similarly, only central Ohio in the North Midland region is an extension of the North Midland found in western Pennsylvania.

Michael Miller provided transcriptions and a tape recording illustrating his Virginia dialect survey, and he compared his samples with records of the 25 informants interviewed by Guy Lowman for the Linguistic Atlas between 1934 and 1936. Nowadays younger, more elegant residents of Richmond are starting to pronounce postvocalic *r*. The more conservative lower class retain the old odd pronunciation of *house* with a centralized vowel; the fashionable now have the general U.S. pronunciation. And the black middle class is forming its speech on the model of Washington, D.C.

Occasional applause entered the room through the acoustically transparent wall on the left, while a steadily growing gabble from the right suggested a neighbor meeting fueled by a Cash Bar. At 9 o'clock President McDavid adjourned until 1980, when the ADS will follow MLA to Houston for its next adventure.

CHICAGO AGAIN BECKONS FOR SUMMER DIALECT STUDY

As he did three years ago, Raven McDavid in 1980 will lead an NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers at the University of Chicago. With 12 stipended disciples (the deadline for application passed April 1), he will explore "American Dialects: Regional and Social" June 23 through August 15 — after which he will spend three-fourths of a year as a Fulbright lecturer in Scandinavia, first in Odense, Denmark, then in Trondheim, Norway.

McDavid notes that this year's summer seminar will make use of materials not available in 1977: his own collections *Dialects in Culture* (University of Alabama Press, 1979) and *Varieties of American English* (Stanford University Press, 1980); the first fascicles of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States* (University of Chicago Press, 1980); the complete Basic Materials for the *Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States*; the microfilmed California-Nevada field records of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Pacific Coast* (Bancroft Library, 1979); McDavid's bibliography in *American Studies International*, and *Towards a History of American Linguistics*, ed. O'Cain and Davis (Benjamin, 1980).

ADS REVIVES THE POLL TAX FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PURPOSES

No matter how deficient your scholarship or what turpitude you display in your private life, you can be an ADS member in Good Standing — if you pay your dues. Members, GS, for 1980 have the added privilege this month of voting on the proposed changes in the Constitution printed below. Use the green ballot enclosed in this *NADS*; if you can't find it, send a note with your vote to Executive Secretary Rex Wilson. Ballots must arrive at his office by May 15.

Careful readers will note that the changes are more extensive than those proposed in *NADS 11.3*. This is the result of discussion at the Annual Meeting, as specified in Article IX.

Proposed changes appear in *italics*. The current constitution was printed in full in *NADS 11.3*.

CONSTITUTION

I. NAME

The name of this association is the American Dialect Society.

II. PURPOSE

The American Dialect Society is organized in the interest of the academic community and not for profit. Its object is the study of the English language in North America, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing it or influenced by it.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership is open to all persons interested in the object of the Society. *Members are in good standing if they have paid dues for the current calendar year.*

2. Dues are established by the Executive Council and are for the calendar year.

3. A person may become a life member by paying an amount set by the Executive Council. A life member shall be exempt from further payment of dues.

4. *After retirement, a person who has been a member of the Society for 20 years may become an emeritus member with the privileges of voting, presenting papers, and receiving the Newsletter.*

IV. ANNUAL MEETING

The Society shall hold an Annual Meeting at such time and place as the Executive Council shall determine. The Business Meeting shall be held during the Annual Meeting. Those members in good standing present at the Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

V. OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Society shall be a Vice President, a President, and a Past President. Each shall hold office for *two years* beginning at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting at which the Vice President is elected.

2. The Vice President shall serve as the chairman of the program committee for the Annual Meeting, shall perform the functions of the President during the latter's absence or

inability to serve, and shall succeed to the Presidency.

3. The President shall preside at the Annual Meeting and at meetings of the Executive Council. *The President*, or an appointed delegate, shall represent the Society in appropriate official functions. *The President* shall work with the Executive Secretary to promote the interests of the Society, and shall succeed to the Past Presidency.

4. The Past President shall act as the liaison officer between the Society and the regional secretaries and at the Annual Meeting shall report upon their activities.

VI. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. There shall be an Executive Council, composed of the three officers, *the Executive Secretary*, the delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies, and four members-at-large, each elected by members in good standing present at the annual meeting, for a term of four years, one post falling vacant each year.

2. The Executive Council shall convene at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as may be desirable and convenient. No member of the Executive Council may be represented by a proxy. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

3. When necessary, vote upon an immediate matter may be taken by means of a mail ballot to be distributed by the Executive Secretary. For a mail vote five affirmatives shall be required for passage.

4. The Executive Council shall direct the activities of the Society within the general policies determined by the membership.

5. The Executive Council shall appoint an Executive Secretary under such arrangements as the situation may require. The Executive Secretary shall have the functions of a secretary-treasurer and shall serve as secretary of the Annual Meeting and of the meetings of the Executive Council. *The Executive Secretary shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. An audit of the Executive Secretary's financial records shall be made*

annually by an auditor appointed by the President, and the results reported at the Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting the Executive Secretary shall propose to the Executive Council a budget for the succeeding year, which the Council shall approve with such modifications as it deems appropriate.

6. The Executive Council shall fill any vacancy occurring between business sessions.

VII. ELECTIONS

1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the two immediate Past Presidents, and one member elected by the Society at an Annual Business Meeting for a two-year term. The senior Past President shall chair the Nominating Committee.

2. Not less than 90 days before the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee shall report to the Executive Secretary its nominees. Within 30 days of receiving this report the Executive Secretary shall inform the Society membership by mail or through the Newsletter of the Committee's nominations. Additional nominations may be made by a petition signed

BYLAWS TAKE NEW BYWAYS

Final action was taken on extensive revisions of the ADS Bylaws at the December 1979 meeting. These changes are now in effect, having fulfilled the requirements of Article V. As with the Constitution, the changes went further than those proposed in NADS 11.3. For the former text of the Bylaws, see that issue of NADS.

BYLAWS

I. PUBLICATIONS

1. The Executive Council shall appoint the editors of the Society's publications. Each shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. After consultation with and upon the advice of the editors, the Executive Council may appoint associate or assistant editors. Each shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed. After consultation with and upon the advice of the respective editors, the Executive Council shall appoint a publications committee for the *Publication of the American Dialect Society* of three members serving three-year terms, one to be appointed each year, and an Editorial Advisory Committee for *American Speech* of twelve members serving three-year terms, four to be appointed each year.

2. Copyrights and reprint rights are covered by contracts drawn up by the Executive Council and executed jointly by the editor and the Executive Secretary.

3. Each editor shall make an annual report in person to the Executive Council. A written copy of such report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary.

II. COMMITTEES

1. The standing research committees of the Society shall be as follows: Regionalisms and

by at least ten members in good standing, to be received by the Executive Secretary not later than 15 days before the Annual Meeting. Election shall occur during the Annual Meeting.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS

Any resolution on political or social matters not clearly and immediately related to the purpose of the Society shall be submitted to a referendum vote of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting within the time limit set by the Executive Council shall prevail.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be approved by five members of the Executive Council or submitted in a petition to the Executive Secretary 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The petition must be signed by at least ten members in good standing. The amendment shall be discussed and may be amended at the Annual Meeting and then submitted to a referendum by mail of the members in good standing. A majority of those voting shall prevail.

Linguistic Geography, Usage, Non-English Dialects, New Words, and Proverbial Sayings. Members and chairs of these committees shall be appointed annually by the President with the advice of the Executive Council. Chairs of standing committees shall report on the committees' activities at the Annual Meeting.

2. *Ad hoc* committees for the execution of particular tasks may be set up by vote of the Executive Council or the annual business meeting. Members and chairs of such committees shall be determined as are those of the standing committees.

III. REGIONAL MEETINGS

1. The Executive Council may authorize the holding of regional meetings of the Society. Such regional meetings may be held during the conventions of the regional associations affiliated with the Modern Language Association or of the Canadian Linguistic Association or upon such other occasion as may seem desirable.

2. To facilitate the holding of regional meetings the Executive Council shall appoint regional secretaries, one for Canada and one for each region in which there is an affiliate of the Modern Language Association. Regional secretaries shall hold office for two years and may be reappointed. They shall have the

responsibility of providing liaison with the Canadian Linguistic Association, the regional Modern Language Association affiliate, or any other appropriate organization in their region. They shall plan the program for the regional meeting with the assistance and counsel of the regional chairs or they may initiate, or cooperate in, such arrangements for a cosponsored meeting as regional circumstances may require.

3. At the regional meeting the Society members in good standing who are present shall elect a chair whose responsibility will be to preside at the next annual meeting and to assist the regional secretary in planning the program.

4. At least 30 days before the Annual Meeting each regional secretary shall report to the Past President the regional program and other relevant information. The Executive Council may invite regional secretaries to report in person at a Council meeting in order to consider matters of regional import.

WALTER S. AVIS 1919 – 1979

The following tributes were offered at the start of the ADS Annual Meeting, December 27, 1979.

For the second time in two years I have the sorrowful duty of announcing to the American Dialect Society the death of one of its strongest and most indispensable members. Two years ago it was Bob Van Riper, our President; this year it is Walter Avis, our Vice-President designate. I mention them together because they were dear friends of each other as well as of mine; they were fellow students at Ann Arbor, and members of the extraordinary seminar I conducted in the summer of 1952 — a seminar which convinced me that I might really have a future in teaching despite my unhappy previous experience.

Wally died December 11, suddenly and peacefully, of a heart attack. It was not the first; he knew his condition and lived an active and happy life.

Of his many achievements, the most important was the *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* — the most attractively designed of all the historical dictionaries in English. If Wally looked like Joseph Wright — a physical resemblance noticed by many who have seen the group picture of the Oxford lexicographers in *Caught in the Web of Words* — his self-discipline was more like Murray's. Assuming editorial responsibility over materials of uneven quality, he fulfilled his publisher's promise to deliver the *DCHP* in time for the Centennial of Confederation. Like all dictionaries, it was imperfect: Wally discovered to his horror that his predecessors were not interested in sports; he had to supply most of the hockey terms as he was editing, and admitted that their dating was inadequate. But at least he included them.

Most important, though, was Wally as a person. Without the slightest bit of ostentation, he held himself to high standards, not only as a scholar but as a husband and parent and friend; and he inspired such standards in others. We shall miss him.

— *Raven I. McDavid, Jr.*

Walter Spencer Avis was born in Toronto, early enough to serve overseas in the Royal Canadian Artillery in the Second World War. He died, suddenly, unexpectedly, and peacefully, in his home in Kingston, Ontario, in December 1979.

While this is no occasion for a detailed account of his achievement, it is appropriate to say that, with his passing, we have lost a great scholar and a great Canadian.

Remembering him as a scholar, we recall with gratitude the energy and diligence

IV. DELEGATES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

1. At the appropriate time the Executive Council shall appoint a member to serve the customary four-year term as the Society's delegate to the American Council of Learned Societies. Such a delegate may not serve two consecutive terms.

2. The Executive Council may appoint delegates to other learned societies whose purposes are consonant with that of the American Dialect Society. Such delegates shall hold office for two years, and may be reappointed.

V. AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a majority of members in good standing present at an annual meeting.

with which he served this Society. Had events taken their expected course, he would have been our Vice President in 1980, to be our President thereafter. Remembering him as a Canadian, we recall with gratitude the energy and diligence with which he served the Canadian Linguistic Association, of which he was a founder-member.

In his many publications, his interests as a scholar and as a Canadian came most happily together; and what marvelous service he gave in his chosen field of Canadian English! The most recent bibliography of this topic, a bibliography of which he was first author, contains 723 entries. Fifty-two of them begin with "Avis, Walter S." And the dictionaries which these entries enumerate establish him, once and for all, as a leader in his field; the *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles* is, quite simply, among the finest and most scholarly dictionaries in existence. It is no belittlement of the work of C.J. Lovell, or of that of Hans Kurath and Raven McDavid, to say that it was Avis who put Canadian English on the map. I don't say he invented it; like Australia, it was there all the time. But his writings, perhaps more than those of anyone else, helped to gain recognition for its existence and its importance.

To leave it at that, however, would be to miss the essential Wally Avis: the energy; the sharp — the very sharp — mind; the meticulousness; the enthusiasm; the sense of comradeship and the sense of fun; all of which made him not only a great scholar, and a great Canadian, but a man we all loved and admired.

I am sure that that is the message we would all send to Mrs. Avis and to his family.

— A.M. Kinloch

GEORGE B. PACE 1915 — 1979

George B. Pace, C. Middlebush Professor of English at the University of Missouri, Columbia, died May 16, 1979 after a long illness.

Born in Augusta, Georgia, he grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and was one of many students stimulated to scholarship in a school system whose superintendent, James L. Mann, had taken a doctorate at Grenoble after studying Germanic philology in Berlin. He received his B.A. at Furman University in 1937, one of many distinguished students in various fields who learned the craft of writing under A.T. O'Dell: his contemporaries still recall his dry humor and his outrageous puns. At the University of Virginia he wrote his dissertation on Chaucer's minor poems (1942) under the direction of Archibald A. Hill. After four years of naval service, and teaching at Virginia and Michigan, in 1951 he joined the University of Missouri at Columbia, where he remained for the rest of his life.

A distinguished medievalist — whose achievements in this field are recounted elsewhere — he had the sensitivity to dialects of present-day English found in many educated Southerners. From the summer of 1952, when he was studying in Ann Arbor, he was actively interested in the extension of Linguistic Atlas coverage to Missouri, and in particular problems of Missouri speechways and shibboleths. Two articles in *American Speech* exemplify this interest: one on the final syllable of *Missouri* and similar names; the other on the eastern affiliations of Missouri speech.¹ He directed the dissertation of Rachel Faries, a statewide survey by checklist,² assisted Robert Ramsey in editing *The Place Names of Franklin County, Missouri*,³ and arranged for the field work for

¹Linguistic geography and names ending in -i, AS 35.175-87 (1960); The eastern affiliations of Missouri speech, AS 40.47-52 (1965).

²Rachel Faries, A word geography of Missouri. Dissertation (microfilm), U. of Missouri, 1967.

³U. of Missouri Studies 26 (1954).

DARE and the first stage of Atlas coverage. Most important, he developed a climate of opinion favorable to future work.

Those of us who knew him also treasure our recollections of George as a person. Four years his elder, I did not know him when we were growing up in Greenville; our friendship really dates from the summer of 1952. But we immediately found ourselves at ease, in one of the warmest friendships I have known. He was gentle, perceptive, loyal, understanding; there was never a need for explanations. We felt at home when we visited each other. The news of his illness we accepted, and said nothing further.

In linguistics, regrettably, the concepts of scholar and gentleman have of late too often been incompatible. George was an exception. We shall miss him. — *Raven I. McDavid, Jr.*

COMMITTEE ON PROVERBIAL SAYINGS: 1979 REPORT

The collecting of proverbial sayings continues. The chairman still records all proverbial sayings heard in conversation and on the radio and television and found in reading.

The chairman can report that the computerizing of the proverbial sayings begun in 1976 continues at Northern Michigan University Data Center through the help of Dr. Stewart A. Kingsbury, director of U.S. Place Name Survey and Dialect Studies in the Upper Peninsula, Michigan, and the computer programmer, Donald Schlientz. The keypunching and storing on tapes of 51,811 proverb-specimen cards reported in the 1978 report has increased considerably during the past year. In like manner, a printout showing an alphabetical listing of the proverbial sayings, arranged by key word and including the text of the proverb, informant, source, and state in which the proverb was collected, has gone forward.

The Committee consists of: Harold B. Allen (Minnesota, emeritus), Frederic G. Cassidy (Wisconsin, emeritus), Ernest R. Cox (Florida, emeritus), Byrd H. Granger (Arizona), Herbert Halpert (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's), Wayland D. Hand (California, Los Angeles, emeritus), Kelsie B. Harder (State University College, Potsdam, N.Y.), Muriel J. Hughes (Vermont, emeritus), Thelma G. James (Wayne State, emeritus), Lorena E. Kemp (West Virginia State College), Stewart A. Kingsbury (Northern Michigan), William E. Koch (Kansas State), James B. McMillan (Alabama), Wolfgang Mieder (Vermont), T.M. Pearce (New Mexico, emeritus), Henry A. Person (Washington), W. Edson Richmond (Indiana), G.M. Story (Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's), and Margaret M. Bryant (Brooklyn College of The City University of New York, emeritus), chairman.

— *Margaret M. Bryant*

SPEAK UP, EARN CASH IN WEST CENTRAL ILLINOIS

Until June 1, 1980, I will consider paying up to \$25 for the taped conversation of any resident of west central Illinois (from an area south of the Quad Cities; no southern boundary). Tapes must include at least 20 minutes of free conversation; speakers must be lifelong residents of communities they represent; tapes must be accompanied by complete biographies of the informants and their families, and detailed description of the circumstances in which the interview was obtained. All tapes must be on cassette. No tapes will be accepted which are of poor audio quality, which include much background noise, or which record mostly monosyllabic answers to questions. Speakers may be any age or socioeconomic class.

Contact Timothy Frazer, English Department, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill. 61455. Home phone(309) 836-9886.

The carefully-planned conference on Black and White English in the South, scheduled for March 27 (and announced in *NADS* 11.3, p. 10), was canceled when a request for funds from NEH was turned down.

THE LAW LENDS AN EAR TO BLACK ENGLISH

By Richard W. Bailey

Widely reported and sometimes misunderstood, the Ann Arbor Black English case is of interest to most ADS members. In deciding in favor of the plaintiff children, the federal district court found that Black English may elicit unfavorable stereotypes from teachers and that the failure of teachers to recognize the integrity of BE as a language system constitutes a "language barrier" of the kind cited in 20 U.S. Code 1703(f). Passed in 1974, this law — the Equal Educational Opportunities Act — asserts that "no State shall deny equal educational opportunity to an individual on account of his or her race, color, sex, or national origin, by . . . the failure by an educational agency to take appropriate action to overcome language barriers that impede equal participation by its students in its instructional programs."

Testimony from expert witnesses in linguistics, education, and psychology convinced the judge that the plaintiff children are indeed speakers of BE and that the elementary school teachers assigned to teach them had not been assisted by the school board so that they might "recognize the home language of the students and use that knowledge in their attempts to teach reading." The thrust of the plan prepared by school personnel in response to the court order is directed toward helping teachers distinguish reading in BE from abnormalities requiring the attention of a speech therapist or special education teacher.

Far from any radical solution to the problem of stereotypes associated with language varieties, the case is directed simply at assisting little children in learning to read conventional written English.

Linguists who testified on behalf of the plaintiff children were Geneva Smitherman (Wayne State), Jerrie Scott (Florida), William Labov (Pennsylvania), J.L. Dillard (Northwestern State College of Louisiana), and Richard W. Bailey (Michigan). The best source of information about the case is found in the judge's ruling and the plan submitted by the school board in response to it: any law librarian can assist dialectologists in finding 473 F. Supp. 1371 (1979). Newspaper accounts vary considerably in quality. Probably the best (and most accessible) are the reports in *The New York Times*: June 12, 1979, p. 20A; June 18, p. 16A (editorial); July 13, p. 8A; Nov. 27, pp. 1C, 4C.

A bibliography of press reports on the case (including letters, local columns and features, and editorials) is available for the cost of copying and postage (\$1.50) from Richard W. Bailey (English, U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109). ADS members who have collected press clippings concerned with the case are urged to send copies for inclusion in the bibliography.

(The Center for Applied Linguistics will send a copy of the court's "Memorandum Opinion and Order," and the implementation plan of the Ann Arbor school board, for \$1.75. See any recent issue of The Linguistic Reporter or write Center for Applied Linguistics, 1611 N. Kent St., Arlington, Va. 22209.)

A PLACE FOR NAMES

Papers on literary onomastics, place names, and miscellaneous names are invited for the North Central Names Institute at Waubensee Community College, in Illinois, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 18. Papers on Illinois names will be especially welcomed. Send 100-word abstracts by July 1 to Laurence Seits, North Central Names Institute, Waubensee Community College, Sugar Grove, Ill. 60554.

Among the sponsors of the institute is the Illinois Place Names Committee of the American Names Society.

Selected papers from the institute will be published.

DARE POLLS READERS FOR UPSTATE, DOWNSTATE REPORTS

Thanks to those who have written about earlier *DARE* queries. Here are some more. As before, address Professor F.G. Cassidy, *DARE*, 6125 Helen White Hall, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. 53706. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Dictionary*.

echo party — We have only one example of this, 1968, from a woman who had returned from a trip to Hawaii: "We had an echo party of it in St. Louis in the fall — showed our pictures and everything." This does not have the feel of an individualism. Does anyone know of its use elsewhere — or in St. Louis, for that matter?

hitching weight — In horse-and-wagon days, a heavy metal device of any shape, attached by a leather strap or rope to the horse's halter, and set on the ground beside the horse when the driver was not in the wagon. Local names we have collected are *horse anchor*, *hobble*, and *haich*. What others were used, where, and when?

lane cake (or *Aunt Lottie's lane cake*) — a layer cake with brandy butter and chopped pecans. We have reports of it from Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana. Is it known elsewhere? And especially, what does *lane* mean?

catish — stress on the second syllable. A word from the 1930s or earlier, still kept up to some extent. Reported from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. It means elegant, attractive, stylish, and is said of clothing, parties, etc. We need more evidence — where else was or is it used, and has anyone any idea of the source? One report makes it *kitash*.

upstate and downstate — In some states the parts are indicated by compass directions (East Texas, Northern California) but in some others in terms of these words (Upstate New York, Downstate Illinois). What is said in your state? (We need a *census* on this.) And what is the rationale of it — population? Big city vs. country? Something else?

the whole nine yards — This has become current relatively recently, meaning "the whole lot, everything, all the way." What is the underlying metaphor, or its literal use? (Surely not football — that would be ten yards.) Could it be cubic yards? We have been asked repeatedly to explain this. A gold star to the reader who can.

cob fence — in our example (1915) used attributively: "The regulars followed the cob-fence route, playing exhibition games each afternoon with minor-league clubs." This cob can hardly be corn-cob or cob-horse, in reference to a fence. What was a cob fence?

colored chicken — Our sole example: 1943 *Western Folklore* 2.41, "Many California localisms have to do with food. I have noted . . . *ranch egg* for fresh egg; and one term that seems to have no parallel elsewhere — *colored chicken*." Tantalizing. Californians who remember the 1940s, kindly explain.

half sled — We have the phrases *like a half sled on ice* or *in a snowstorm*, meaning unmanageable, wild. Can anyone describe a half sled and explain the simile? (Examples are from 1873, 1893.)

Indian rye — A "wildflower that grows in wet places" — two reports from West Tennessee. Is this known elsewhere? It is not listed in our botanical sources. Can anyone identify it from actual knowledge?

heating-out — A scolding or bawling-out. Reported by one informant from Kentucky. Unless we have more evidence of actual use, we'll be tempted to consider it a variant of *eating-out*. But the metaphor may be of "making it hot" for the scolded. More evidence is needed.

fog — a joking term for bakery bread — from one informant in Maine. Is this an individualism? Is it known to anyone? How do you explain it? (It *could* be the recollection of an old word.)