

# NADS 12.3

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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. After January 1, 1981 — well, see Page 2.

From: Allan Metcalf  
English Department  
MacMurray College  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

To:

**FIRST CLASS**

## NOMINATIONS FOR ADS OFFICES, 1981 AND BEYOND

As prescribed by the Constitution (NADS 12.1, pp. 10-11), the Nominating Committee now announces to members its choices for the December election:

A. Murray Kinloch, University of New Brunswick, for Vice President 1981-1982. He will succeed to the presidency for 1983-1984.

Bethany K. Dumas, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for a four-year term on the Executive Council.

Thomas L. Clark, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as elected member of the Nominating Committee for 1981. The other members of the 1981 Nominating Committee will be the two immediate past presidents, John Algeo and Virginia McDavid.

Are there additional nominations? According to Article VII, Sec. 2 of the Constitution, they may be made in a petition signed by at least ten members in good standing, to be received by the Executive Secretary (H. Rex Wilson) not later than 15 days before the Annual Meeting — which means December 15 this year. The Annual Business Meeting, at which elections take place, will be in Houston December 30 (see the program later in this issue).

President for 1981-82 will be this year's vice president, Marvin Carmony. Those with continuing terms on the Executive Council are Juanita Williamson (term ends 1982) and Richard Bailey (term ends 1983). Paul Eschholz, member of the Executive Council with term ending in 1981, recently resigned the office; the Council will shortly appoint a replacement (as specified in the Constitution, Article VI, Section 6), to be announced in December.

This year's Nominating Committee consists of A. Hood Roberts, chairman; John Algeo, and elected member Charles E. Billiard.

## COME JANUARY 1, THE SECRETARIAT MOVES

By action of the Executive Council, on January 1, 1981 Allan Metcalf of MacMurray College will take over as ADS Executive Secretary.

Until January 1, the secretariat will continue in the avuncular hands of H. Rex Wilson of the University of Western Ontario, who has trod the mill since this season in 1976. Wilson had announced his impending retirement some time back (NADS 11.1, p. 6).

The new appointment is for a two-year term, as specified in the revised constitution (NADS 12.1, p. 10).

Metcalf is known to our readers as editor of ADS' most ephemeral publication, a position he intends to retain "until they tell me otherwise." He explains that the new appointment will make communication between the Executive Secretary and the editor of NADS somewhat more efficient.

A child of the south side of Chicago, Metcalf obtained degrees from Cornell University and the University of California, Berkeley, with a year at the Free University of Berlin in between. While on the faculty of the University of California, Riverside, with an office across the hall from Carroll Reed, he first took professional notice of the notably unnotable speech of California. An NEH summer seminar with Raven McDavid, three years ago, helped whet his continuing appetite for studies of California (NADS 11.1, p. 14) and Chicano English. Neither of the aforementioned eminences, of course, is responsible for his curious manner of responding to their influence.

Journalism has remained his avocation. At Cornell he followed distantly in the footsteps of E.B. White as editor of The Cornell Daily Sun; currently he is faculty adviser and publisher of the only small-college daily newspaper east of the Mississippi.

"I am disheartened at the confidence my colleagues have shown in me," Metcalf commented, "but there are times when one must accept one's *karma*. *Do itashimashite.*"

# CALENDAR OF ADS MEETINGS

## October 18: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association  
Denver, Convention Center-Brown Palace Hotel  
Coronet Room, 1:45-3:15 p.m.

*Chair:* Florence Barkin, Arizona State University

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

*Program:*

"Dialect Shift in Twain, Faulkner and Joyce." Bates Hoffer, Trinity University. — Major authors make use of dialect to establish local color, aid in characterization, give the reader insight into a character's personality and motivation and so on. Those who use dialect carefully, such as Twain, Faulkner and Joyce, also use dialect shifts to create certain literary effects. This paper gives examples from each of those writers to illustrate some of the literary effects created.

"A Study of International Students' Ability to Understand Regional American Speech." Charles B. Martin, North Texas State University. — International students do have some difficulty understanding different varieties of American English, particularly if they did not take their intensive English language training in this country before enrolling at a college or university or if they come from a country where British English is one of the official languages. If they study English after arriving in the United States, they seem to have no trouble with the dialect of the region where they are staying. There also seems to be a more positive correlation between their length of stay in the U.S. and their ability to understand different dialects than between their English language proficiency and their ability to understand different dialects.

"Social Constraints on Code Switching." Rosa Fernández, University of New Mexico. — From data collected through conversations among bilingual Mexican Americans from New Mexico, several types of code-switching emerged which are attributable to social functions, and which fall under the main categories of Metaphorical, Sociolinguistic and Sociocultural. This paper discusses the subcategories which resulted from analyzing the data, and how they compare with recent research on code-switching.

## October 30: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Central Modern Language Association  
Memphis, Holiday Inn Rivermont  
3:00 p.m.

*Chairman:* Michael Montgomery, Memphis State University

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

*Theme:* American English Data: Where Is It Found?

*Program:*

"Dialect in the Fiction of Larry McMurtry." Patricia Dean, Clarke College. — Larry McMurtry is a native of Wichita Falls, Tex., and the author of two novels, *Horseman, Pass By* and *The Last Picture Show*, which deal with characters who live in and around Thalia, a small town near McMurtry's home town. Without being too dependent on eye dialect, McMurtry makes frequent use of slang, Americanisms and vocabulary reminiscent of the North Texas region in order to present realistic and believable characters. A comparison of the dialect found in McMurtry's fiction to the findings of recent dialect studies provides insight as to how the correct word choice can enhance characterization.

“Three Variables in Black and White Type I Speech in Upper Middle Tennessee.” William Barnette, Austin Peay State University. — This paper will analyze the speech of two pairs of Type I speakers from upper middle Tennessee recently interviewed. Two of the speakers are female (one black and one white) and two are male (one black and one white). To be compared are their frequency of a-prefixing, a trait often associated with Appalachian speech but not studied in the speech of Southerners; the frequency of final consonant cluster reduction, a trait universally noted in many speech communities; and the structural patterns of oral paragraphing, an interesting feature just now being given critical attention.

“Isolation of Urban Dialects.” Scott Baird, Trinity University. — A major issue in dialect studies has been determining whether dialects are becoming stronger (the way languages seem to have operated in the past) or weaker (the result of a mobile society or of mass communication). An unrelated but major issue in urban dialect studies has been to perfect any methodology which can isolate, for research purposes, any specific regional or social dialect. This paper will show ways in which the frame analysis concept results in a method which analyzes not only the parts (isolated strips of dialects) but how the parts are fused (a discourse analysis procedure).

“The Speech of the Settlers.” Juanita Williamson, LeMoyné-Owen College. — The settlers who came to the South brought with them a speech somewhat different from that of the settlers in the New England area. Their speech, however, reflects features common in England at the time they left. An examination of this speech gives one some idea of where many of the features of the speech of persons speaking nonstandard English came from.

*Business session and election of officers.*

“A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Alba, Tex.” Linda Weaver, East Texas State University. — Alba is a rural community in north-central Texas with a population of approximately 700. This paper shows the correlation between specific social factors and the use of nonstandard speech. The results of this study are compared to results of studies made in other areas of the country, for it is predicted that there is a pattern of sociolinguistic correlation throughout the United States.

**November 6: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING**

In association with the Midwest Modern Language Association  
Minneapolis, Hotel Leamington  
Wilson Room, 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

*Chair:* Donald W. Larmouth, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay

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

*Program:*

1:30 “The Uncertain Progress of a Midwestern Diphthong (/au/).” Timothy C. Frazer, Western Illinois University.

This paper examines the data on variant pronunciations of /au/ in a midwestern community — McDonough County, Ill. — whose speech is set apart from nearby urban centers by a predominance of Midland and South Midland features. Earlier information on the speech of this area is available from several sources, especially the archives of the *Dictionary of American Regional English* and the *Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States*. Now these earlier data can be compared to intensive, more recent information drawn primarily from a project which pays local residents to tape their own family members and neighbors for what is called an oral history project. To date, samples of the speech of approximately 25 individuals have been collected, with all living generations of several families represented. After the completion of the oral history part of the interview, informants were asked to read from a set passage designed to elicit a more

self-conscious style of speech. Not everyone cooperated with this part of the survey, but a number of the informants — mostly younger — agreed.

A preliminary examination of the recent data reveals that a fronted and often raised nucleus is present for /au/ (in words like *town*, *down*) in the speech of younger informants, less frequent in the speech of older informants. The presence of the fronted nucleus itself is not surprising; settlement by South Midlanders should lead us to expect this feature in McDonough County, and a survey of pronunciation by DARE informants shows the fronted nucleus to be common to the southern half of Illinois (which includes McDonough County) and to Kentucky, much of Missouri and southern Indiana as well. What is surprising is that the feature should be more, not less, common in the speech of younger people, even in the reading passage. The pronunciation of, for example, *cow* as [k u] has, according to George Philip Krapp, been under attack by educators for at least a century and a half. Moreover, pronunciation manuals since World War I (including something called *Good American English*) have consistently exhorted students to retract and lower their nuclei. The fronted nucleus is rarely heard in the speech of radio and television broadcasters, including that of Walter Cronkite, himself a graduate of the University of Texas. The impact of the attack is apparent as well among LANCS informants in the southern half of Illinois. Raven McDavid, visiting McDonough county some 30 years ago, did not record a single [ ] for the nucleus of any occurrences of /au/ in the speech of his informants. The fronted nucleus, in fact, is rare for LANCS informants anywhere in Illinois.

Younger, contemporary speakers, then, are most likely to use a pronunciation which would be predicted by the settlement history of their community. The speech of their elders suggests that for a time the impact of the educational system, perhaps supported by radio and later television usage, was well on the way toward molding the speech of the lower midwest in the direction of educated Northern usage mistakenly called by some "General American." More recently, however, this trend has been reversed.

Two possible causes of this reversal suggest themselves as hypotheses. One, and most obvious, would be the abandonment of linguistic prescriptivism among educators as part of the general social upheaval of the sixties. Another, perhaps related, possibility is that the fronted nucleus as an independent feature has somehow escaped stigmatization everywhere, and may in fact have acquired a certain prestige. Other studies indicate that [ .u] is expanding in areas as distant as South Carolina and the Rocky Mountains.

1:55 "Grammatical Patterns in the Folk Speech of the Arkansas Ozarks." Bethany K. Dumas, University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

This examination of grammatical patterns is based primarily upon the 11 interviews conducted in Newton County, Ark., in 1970. The paper will report an inventory of inflectional morphology, observations on derivational morphology, and syntactic patterns. Further, it will examine these hypotheses: 1) Observable differences in grammar in the Western (Arkansas) Ozarks are identical with those of the Ozarks Highland area of Missouri; 2) the Ozark area has close affinities with parts of Southern Appalachia, notably Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee. Techniques used in the analysis include both inventorial techniques and techniques for the analysis of variability.

2:20 "Attitudes of Upper Midwest College Students Toward Selected American Dialects." Susan Kretzer, University of Minnesota.

This study examines the attitudes of freshman composition students at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. The dialects examined are American Indian (Chippewa), working class Black, Southern (North Carolina), Midland (Philadelphia), Midland (Midwest — Duluth), Minnesota Iron Range, and radio-television (national network). Of particular interest is the speech of the Minnesota Iron Range, a dialect which has often been looked

down on because of its many nonstandard features. To do the study, a semantic differential was created by playing taped dialect samples to a group of freshman composition students who then wrote descriptions of the various speakers. The descriptions with the most in common were collected to create the semantic differential which was used for the final study. (This paper was originally scheduled for the 1979 meeting but was cancelled when computer outputs were lost in the mail. With the retrieval of the computerized materials, the paper has been rescheduled.)

2:45 "Dialect Features of the Minnesota Iron Range: Evidence from Chisholm."

Michael D. Linn, University of Minnesota-Duluth.

A work in progress, this study examines the dialect features of Minnesota's Iron Range that set it apart from the rest of Minnesota. It represents a preliminary analysis of the results obtained through 60 taped interviews made during 1978-79. Of major importance is the unique settlement history of the Iron Range. Forty-three different immigrant groups merged with English-speaking Americans, and a hybrid dialect developed which, while sharing many dialect features with the rest of Minnesota, also exhibits many significant differences in vocabulary, phonology and syntax.

3:10 - 3:25 Break.

3:25 "Progress Report: Dictionary of American Regional English." Luanne von Schneidemesser, DARE staff, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

3:50 "Theoretical Ambiguity in American Dialectology." Jay Robert Reese, East Tennessee State University.

American dialectology historically has had little interest in theoretical questions — a lack of concern which is evidenced by the relatively small number of works devoted to dialect theory in an otherwise productive discipline. As a result, American dialectologists have relied heavily on the theoretical principles and terminology of other linguistic schools, such as historical, structural and generative linguistics. It can be shown that the theoretical bent of American dialectologists has generally been set by the school from which they received their primary training, rather than by their experience in investigating American dialects. This fact, coupled with a lack of theoretical concern within the discipline itself, has produced subtle but extremely significant ambiguities in the field's basic terminology, ambiguities that are often perceived both by the experienced and the novice dialectologist.

This paper documents the ambiguity in such basic terminology as *dialect*, *dialect area*, *geographical dialect*, *social dialect* and *speech community*, traces their historical development, and examines the conflict of theoretical principles evidenced in these ambiguities. After explaining the multiple facets of these ambiguities, the paper shows how their existence permits the working retention of theoretical principles that have been rejected in their pure form by the investigators who use them. In an attempt to aid in their clarification, the paper introduces the concept of *dia-language*, a term identifying an artificially abstracted linguistic system constructed from the features and systems of more than one similar dialect, and relates this concept to existing theoretical and working conceptions of *dialect*, *geographical dialect* and *social dialect*.

4:15 "Discourse-Level Dialectology." Sally Yeates Sedelow, University of Kansas.

Developments in linguistics (e.g. raising its upper boundary above the sentence) and in computer science (e.g. computational discourse analysis) are converging in such a way as to facilitate a scientific dialectology of discourse structures. More than a decade and a half ago (see S. Sedelow et al., "A Preface to Computational Stylistics," in J. Leed, ed., *The Computer and Literary Style*), a taxonomy of types of linguistic research which computers could make possible was sketched out; now the research community is ready, at least in principle, to enable us to understand rigorously pattern in discourse, including

those differentiations which give us discourse dialects, as in the telling of folktales and in the verbal components of the behavior of scientists discipline by discipline and sub-specialty by sub-specialty (Sedelow and Sedelow, "Competing Models for Intelligent Systems Analysis of Client-Therapist Transactions," in F. Orthner, ed., *Proceedings of the Second Annual George Washington University Medical Center Symposium on Computer Applications in Medical Care*).

Insofar as what we do in linguistics and dialectology is scientific, it is computable (see Sedelow and Sedelow, "Formalized Historiography," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, July 1978). Now, as linguists and dialectologists, we can begin to approach scientifically the perceptions of stylistic differentiation which heretofore have been left at the epistemological level of humanistic-literary insight. The remainder of the paper discusses some of the procedures a computational dialectologist can utilize in characterizing discourse dialect properties, informed by previous work such as S. Sedelow, "Analysis of 'Natural' Language Discourse," *American Federation of Information Processing Societies Conference Proceedings* 45 (1976).

4:40 "Science as a Dialect, the Sciences as Dialects." Walter A. Sedelow, Jr., University of Kansas.

Public science (*contra* "personal knowledge") is symbolization. Increasingly, the scientist is comprehended within a model of himself as a speaker and writer, and science itself as differentiated language behavior (W. Sedelow et al., "The History of Science as Discourse," *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, 1979). The person who is to be perceived as a scientist negotiates a presentation of himself professionally as a scientist through the successful mastery of a set of specialized linguistic conventions which set him off as a user of a disciplinary dialect, and even an idiolect (W. Sedelow, "History as Language," *Computer Studies in Humanities and Verbal Behavior*, 1968). In the case at the outer limit, the utilization of dialect is so extreme as to grade into a language difference, such that communication is blocked (e.g. recent NSF-funded research on the mutual incomprehensibility across mathematical specialties).

Members of the Kansas Computational Linguistic Systemics faculty seminar have begun exploring the situation as to the language of systematicity as it has followed divergent developmental trajectories in various disciplines — in linguistics itself (e.g. Halliday), in cybernetics (e.g. Ashby), in biology (e.g. J.G. Miller), in general systems research (e.g. the yearbooks of the Society for General Systems Research), etc. This paper reports on the current state of the formal approach being employed in this exploration, via Montague grammars, isomorphism detection, compatible maps, discourse analysis operationalizations, etc. The research objective is to establish in a case study the specifics of dialectal difference at the discourse level across a sample of academic specializations.

5:05 - 5:20 Questions and discussion.

5:20 - 5:30 Business meeting.

7:00 Annual banquet (also in Wilson Room, Hotel Leamington).

The menu includes smoked Alaska silver salmon (the chair's special recipe) with cream cheese, Florida fruit cup, mixed garden greens salad with choice of dressing, chicken a la Kiev, Minnesota wild rice, green beans almondine, cherry suisse parfait, and carafes of a good Chablis.

To obtain the salmon, the chair made a special expedition in August to southwest Alaska's Iliamna region. He reports that the trip "was very successful. Although it is contrary to the instincts of a dialectologist to be puristic, the fact remains that virtually all of the trout and salmon we caught were hooked on flies (not, regrettably, on dry flies, but at least we didn't have to resort to spoons or spinners)."



Advance reservations are required (the chair has to know how many salmon to smoke) and were due, with advance payment, Oct. 22; the late publication of *NADS* may allow a slight extension of the deadline. Cost including tax and gratuity is \$14. Write Donald W. Larmouth, Communication and the Arts, University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis. 54302.

### November 8: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association

Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza Hotel

9:00 a.m.

*Chair:* Carole P. Hines, Old Dominion University

*Regional secretary:* David L. Shores, Old Dominion University

*Program:*

"Prepositions and Determiners: Some Dialectal Variations" (20 minutes). Elisabeth Sommer, University of Central Florida. — A study was made of the somewhat careful conversational speech of four groups of Southern schoolchildren: 9 UM white, 9 L white, 9 UMB, and 9 L black. A total of 180 pages (typed, double-spaced) of transcribed speech served as the corpus. This paper reports on the children's use of prepositions and determiners in ways that deviate, to the best of the author's ability to determine, from national usage. Several dozen examples are cited and analyzed, and generalizations made regarding their distribution according to ethnicity and socioeconomic standing. Of particular interest is the usage of the black children in contrast to the white. The use of these function words has been generally neglected in the literature on the Black English Vernacular.

"On Dialect and Style in the Work of Some Appalachian Writers" (20 minutes). Lester G. Woody, Union College in Kentucky. — No present-day writers who have occasion to quote dialect speakers in their work attempt to reproduce a dialect in such a way that what may be termed "eye dialect" discourages readership. As an artist, a writer chooses a set of dialect variants which become an aspect of his style rather than any attempt to reproduce the dialect from a strictly linguistic point of view.

This was not always the case. If "Appalachian writers" is defined as writers who were born in an Appalachian area confined to Eastern Kentucky and Eastern Tennessee as well as Western Virginia and Western North Carolina, whose published work dates from the mid-nineteenth century to the present, then we see eye dialect carried from the extremes of George Washington Harris in the 1850s and 60s to the more selective eye dialect of James Still and Jesse Stuart, in whose work the use of dialect becomes a matter of style.

From a comprehensive list of dialectal variants — that is, characteristics of the Appalachian dialect found in the region defined above — it is possible to single out exactly what variants specifically appear in the work of selected Appalachian writers. Such variants include shift of primary stress, change of sound segments, addition or omission of sound segments, syllable omission, and, incidentally, regional idioms, syntactic patterns, and semantic variations as well as archaic forms. The term "variant" here applies to distinct differences between some dialectal characteristic and that generally accepted as the grammar, pronunciation, or usage of American English by (so-called) educated speakers. This analysis is applied to sufficiently long passages from fiction writers Harriette Arnow, Earl Hamner, Jr., Wendell Berry, George Washington Harris, James Still, Jesse Stuart, Mary Noailles Murfree (Charles Egbert Craddock), and Wilma Dykeman as well as nonfiction writers Bryan Woolley, Ford Reid, Verna Mae Slone and John Fetterman.

"Dialect in the Warner Brothers' Animated Films" (15 minutes). Michael Witkoski, University of South Carolina, Columbia. — From the 1940s to the 1960s the animated films of Warner Brothers introduced a variety of characters, all of them having



immediately recognizable idiolects, and most of them speaking in definite American regional dialects. The regional dialects were suggested and implied through a clever economy of characterization. The creators of these cartoons, and in particular Mel Blanc, who provided the voice characterizations, seized those essential qualities which most people accept as determining a specific dialect. Thus Foghorn Leghorn assumed an almost archetypal status as "southern," Yosemite Sam was "westerner," and Bugs Bunny a wisecracking metropolitan northeasterner; they assumed these qualities not because they consistently and completely spoke in their respective dialects, but because they successfully suggested them.

By its very nature, the animated film must suggest and imply more than it can actually state and show, and the dialogue and vocal characterization of its "actors" is necessarily limited. That the Warner Brothers cartoons could achieve such regional characteristics, and have them accepted, argues that they could tap the popular conception of dialects in this country. This study will show those few signs, never more than one or two, that signal dialect and region to an audience. It will also point out that the cartoons, while sometimes broad and exaggerated in their dialect characterizations, were often essentially correct. In this way, the "ear dialect" of the animated film joins the eye dialect of the printed page in giving insight into the nature and popular conception of dialect in this country.

*Business meeting (10 minutes).*

"Tokens in the Pocosin" (20 minutes). R.W. Reising, Pembroke State University, and Jeutonne P. Brewer, University of North Carolina, Greensboro. — This preliminary study presents the first formal linguistic analysis of Lumbee English, a variety of English spoken in Robeson County, N.C., by the 40,000 Lumbees, one of the largest groups of American Indians east of the Mississippi. The earliest European settlers noted that the Indians in this area spoke English and had adopted some European aspects of farming and housing. The Lumbees, who are probably the descendants of an amalgamation of southeastern Indian tribes and earlier European settlers, retain even today a number of historically interesting and archaic or obsolete forms. This paper will focus on lexical items such as *tokens* 'a supernatural sign of death or evil', *pocosin* 'marginal land; low ground or swamp', *budges* 'nervous irritation, fidgetiness', *juvember* 'slingshot', *spider* 'iron frying pan with three legs', and the variable use of one phonological characteristic: the tidewater diphthong /əi/ instead of /ai/ before both voiced and voiceless consonants, e.g. *nine* and *night*.

This study is based on 154 writing samples from public school students and personnel, a sample from 83 oral history tapes collected by the Lumbee Regional Development Association in 1978, and personal observations. Each form will be discussed in terms of its occurrence in the materials, its historical background, and its use and distribution in the worksheet data of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States.

"Place-Names as Noun Phrases" (15 minutes). Mary R. Miller, University of Maryland. — A study of more than 3000 place-names in the Northern Neck of Virginia demonstrates that place-names as noun phrases can be classified into one of three types. Some place names occur as full representations of their type, others as partial deletions, a few as either full or partially deleted representations. The types are:

1) (det)	N	N	2) (det)	adj	N	N
The	Potomac	River	The	Northwest	Yeocomico	River
The	Potomac		The	Northwest	Yeocomico	
	Hack's	Neck	Old		Rappahannock County	

3)	(det)	N	N	N
	The	Forest	Meeting	House
		Christ	Church	Parish

The systematic nature of deletion and the occurrence of some names in both deleted and undeleted versions support the analysis intuitively. They also demonstrate that certain understandings are inherent in place-naming. Exceptions are extremely limited and unusual enough to merit special attention.

### November 23: NCTE CONCURRENT SESSION

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English  
Cincinnati, Convention Center

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. (Concurrent Session D.24)

*Chair:* John Algeo, University of Georgia

*Associate chair:* Thomas Creswell, Chicago State University

*Program:*

"Linguistics, Reading, and the Ann Arbor Decision." Juanita Williamson, Le Moyne-Owen College. — Reading is more than just the skill of pronunciation, although the beginning reader must of necessity spend much time learning what sounds the graphemes represent. It involves understanding how the sentence gives meaning, the rhetorical principles used by the writer, and how to evaluate what is read. Linguistics can be of appreciable help only in the teaching of the first two of these. The Ann Arbor decision has added another dimension, that of attitudes. It is somewhat naive to think that learning the dialect of the children on whose behalf the case was brought before the courts will change attitudes. Much more than an understanding of one dialect (and under the circumstances this will not be achieved) is needed.

"Regional Language in Canadian Prairie Fiction." Murray Wanamaker, University of Winnipeg. — Regional fiction is a rich source for research in language variation, and writers from the Canadian prairies are no exception in this regard. Such material is not usually helpful for differing pronunciations, but items of vocabulary and idioms are abundant. These are combined with local color and tone to create a distinctive pattern. The best of such writing concentrates on rural living, or the contrast of town and country, with problems of isolation and perils of climate. The common background is that of the farm and its inhabitants, hardworking and (sometimes) God-fearing.

"Southern Appalachian English and Vernacular Black English Compared." Michael Montgomery, Memphis State University. — This paper will discuss to what extent some of the distinctive grammatical and phonological features of Vernacular Black English studied in Northern inner cities are present in the speech of residents of a Southern Appalachian community. It will be shown that some features, such as existential *it*, are common in East Tennessee and pattern as in Vernacular Black English. It will also be shown that other features, such as continuous *be*, do not seem to occur in East Tennessee at all, although it functions both in Vernacular Black English in the North and in the speech of both blacks and whites in the Lower South.

"The Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States: A Five-Year Report." Raven I. McDavid, Jr., University of Chicago. — The last five years have seen substantial progress in the editing and preparation of summary volumes for this Atlas. Because the NCTE has provided substantial aid for this project, it is especially appropriate to describe the progress at this meeting. (Paper to be presented by Virginia McDavid.)

**December 30: ANNUAL MEETING**

In association with the Modern Language Association of America  
Houston, Hyatt, Dogwood A

*Presiding:* Virginia McDavid, ADS President

*Program chairman:* Marvin Carmony, ADS Vice President

FIRST SESSION: 10:15-11:30 a.m.

"Planning the American Language: A Federal Language." Dennis E. Baron, University of Illinois, Urbana. — This is a section from a work in progress, a history of attempts to mold the language of the New World into a more perfect form. By the end of the 18th century, regional variation in pronunciation and usage within the thirteen colonies was obvious, and provided material for humor as well as for serious linguistic discussion. At the same time, the political ferment that accompanied the Revolution and the establishment of a federal system of government made language a political issue. Attempts were made to steer American English toward or away from British norms. Both Congress and the school system were enlisted in language planning. Joining forces with the political zealots were those more idealistic genteel reformers whose aim was to perfect language whenever and wherever possible. The politicians, schoolmasters and gentlemen established patterns of language planning that were manifested in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and that contribute to the attitudes Americans have developed toward the language they use today. The fact that many of the language plans have failed, either totally or in part, is perhaps not as striking as the fact that language planning is as important a part of American politics, education and belles lettres now as it was in colonial and Revolutionary times.

"H.L. Mencken and the ADS — A Retrospective." Raven I. McDavid, Jr., University of Chicago.

"The Use of Non-Native-Born Informants in Dialect Research." Bruce Southard, Oklahoma State University. — Selection of informants for dialect study poses a considerable problem in areas of recent settlement. The field worker frequently finds it difficult to locate a native of the area, particularly one who represents the second or third generation. On occasion, indeed, informants have been chosen who were brought as children to the area under investigation. In the *Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest*, for example, eight of the twenty-six North Dakota informants did not reach the state until they were over four years old, three of them not until they were ten or more.

I have recently examined vocabulary questionnaires collected by students of William R. Van Riper to determine whether there is any difference between the responses of 81 native-born Oklahomans and 53 non-native Oklahomans who have lived most of their lives in the state. A statistical analysis of the number and types of responses fails to disclose any significant difference between the two groups. However, computer mapping of Northern, North Midland, Midland, South Midland, General Southern and Coastal Southern dialect terms discloses great variation in the distribution of responses for the two groups. This difference suggests that non-native-born informants should not be used in atlas field work, even if they have lived in a region most of their lives.

"Verb Forms in Western New Brunswick." A.M. Kinloch, University of New Brunswick. — This paper will examine the verb forms in western New Brunswick as recorded in the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*. The forms themselves will be considered as will the choice of one form over another, and the results of these examinations will be compared with the conclusions in E. Bagby Atwood's *Verb Forms in the Eastern United States*, with the object of determining the dialectal provenance of western New Brunswick.

*Annual business meeting.*

SECOND SESSION: 12:00 noon -- 1:15 p.m.

"DARE Revisited." Lurline H. Coltharp, University of Texas, El Paso. -- Several El Paso informants comparable to the original DARE informant were recently interviewed using part of the DARE questionnaire. This paper compares the results of the two surveys.

"Variation in Ozark English." Bethany K. Dumas, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. -- This examination of variation in morphology and syntax is based primarily upon an analysis of 11 of the 20 interviews conducted in Newton County, Ark. in 1970. It will treat the verb phrase, tense and voice; aspect; modality (multiple modals and *liketa*, *supposeta*, etc.); person-number agreement; relative pronouns, and negation. It is hypothesized that this study of the speech of older natives of this area will reveal variation related systematically to the variables of sex and style, and further that it will reveal that the dialect of the Arkansas Ozarks, as represented by these speakers, is part of the larger Southern Mountain dialect area also known as Greater Appalachia.

"From Black-White Speech Relationships to the Ethnography of Communication; or, Who Profits from Research?" James Sledd, University of Texas, Austin. -- At the last meeting of SECOL, Ralph Fasold talked again about relationships between black and white speech in the South. I was supposed to be on the panel which discussed his paper, but wasn't able to go. I will use the ammunition that I gathered to make these points:

1. Fasold's "moderate" position on the creolist/dialectologist controversy is a welcome relief from less temperate statements, but he still doesn't do justice to the evidence from dialectology and traditional linguistic history.

2. Fasold is correct in saying that years of research on VBE/BEV haven't done much for the education of its speakers; but there is no reason to expect that the results for education will be better if the research-machinists turn now, as Fasold suggests, from "the homophony between *pin* and *pen*" to "the ethnography of communication."

3. For the time being, the wisest judgment on the creolist/dialectologist controversy is still the agnostic refusal of all sweeping judgments; and the wisest judgment on the social utility of linguistic research in American universities is that state-supported research serves mainly to support the state and its researchers. As the price of gasoline reminds us daily, victims remain victims until they get the power to punish their victimizers.

"The Speech of Black and White Southerners: Who Learned from Whom?" Juanita V. Williamson, Le Moyne-Owen College. -- L.W. Payne, writing almost a century ago, stated, as had others of the same period, that many of the non-acceptable features of Southern white speech had been learned by whites from Negroes. More recently this theory has been espoused by Dillard in his book *Black English*. He states that whites, having learned their English at their mammies' knees, had to unlearn it later.

A study of the speech brought by the settlers who came to the South, many of whom could lay no claim to education (in Virginia more than half the judges could not write their names a century after the arrival of the first settlers), of the letters of the overseers, of the inevitable lists made by early school teachers, and of 17th century British English shows that Southerners did not learn their English from mammies.

"A Linguistic Outline of Texas Dialects." Curt M. Rulon, North Texas State University. -- This paper reports on a pilot research project which attempts to state in highly parsimonious but revealing language major syntactic, semantic and phonological features of Texas dialects in the form of linguistic rule summaries. The data are provided by published accounts of Texas speech (through 1979). It will be suggested that similar summaries can be written from mainstream dialect documents in the form of Atlas materials.

## RMC FUND ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF WALTER S. AVIS

To honor the memory of Walter S. Avis, distinguished member and officer of the ADS, his Royal Military College has established a special fund in his name to encourage English studies. Donations may be made to The Royal Military College Club of Canada Foundation Inc. and marked "In memory of Dr. W.S. Avis"; they should be sent to The Secretary-Treasurer, The R.M.C. Club of Canada, R.M.C., Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 2W3. The Fund will cease to operate on Dec. 31, 1981.

Another perspective on Avis' career is provided in the following epitome from the English Department at R.M.C.:

"After war service with the Royal Canadian Artillery, Wally obtained his B.A. and M.A. at Queen's University and his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. He served in the Department of English and Philosophy at R.M.C. from 1952 until his death: at which time he was Dean of Canadian Forces Military College and Director of the Royal Military College Extension Division. His work in dialectology and lexicography was internationally recognized, and he was particularly associated with the *Dictionary of Canadianisms on Historical Principles*, of which he was editor in chief, and with the *Gage Dictionary of Canadian English*. He was a great RMC personality for nearly thirty years and a popular figure in the cultural life of Kingston. In recognition of his services to teaching and scholarship, he received the Centennial Medal in 1967, and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1978."

(See further NADS 12.1, April 1980, pp. 12-13.)

## HUMANITIES COMMISSION INVITES LEARNED SOCIETIES TO KEEP BUSY

Learned societies (like the ADS, ahem) can play a vital and varied role in strengthening the humanities, according to *The Humanities in American Life: Report of the Commission on the Humanities* (Berkeley: U. of Calif. Press, October 1980; \$12.50 cloth, \$3.50 paper). The work of a 32-member panel sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, the report surveys the humanities at every level of education, the system of humanistic research, and patterns of support for the humanities.

"The highest educational priority for America in the 1980s" is improving our elementary and secondary schools, the report states. Learned societies, the Commission suggests, should help develop guidelines for the training of humanities teachers and encourage college and university humanists to work with high schools in strengthening their humanities curriculum.

Many college administrators and humanists, the report charges, "have abdicated their most basic social responsibility: to help shape a philosophy of education." The Commission urges higher education to "formulate afresh the ideals of liberal education" in a period of vocationalism and fiscal austerity.

"Learned societies are fast becoming professional associations," the Commission observes. New technologies for storing and sharing knowledge, the changed fortunes of higher education, and the many new responsibilities of humanists in a "learning society" all "promise to stretch the meaning of the word *humanist* and change the profession. Regulating the pace of that change, making it work for the benefit of education and scholarship in the humanities," the report states, is a task that the learned societies must share.

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**WANTED:** Complete set of back issues of *American Speech*, possibly in exchange for unbound mint set of original fascicles (uncut, hand-made paper edition) of Joseph Wright's *English Dialect Dictionary* (6 vols., 1898-1905) signed by the author. Write C.R. Howlett, 72 Curzon St., Reading RG3 1DA, Berkshire, England.

## BLAIR, McDAVID SEEK READERS' HELP IN LOCATING SOURCES OF MIRTH

For the anthology *Mirth of a Nation: America's Great Dialect Humor*, to be published by the University of Minnesota Press, editors Walter Blair and Raven McDavid plan to provide an essay indicating "what decent studies of literary dialect are available, at least the studies of the authors we are including," McDavid explained. To make the essay properly comprehensive, they would be grateful for information about any studies of the literary dialect of the authors in the list below. Between now and December 15, McDavid may be reached at Odense University, Engelsk Institut, Campusvej 55, DK-5230 Odense M, Denmark; those who prefer a U.S. address may write Blair at Department of English, University of Chicago, 1050 East 59th St., Chicago, Ill. 60637.

This is the table of contents, as of August 27:

### Introduction (Blair)

### Antebellum Comedy

#### Rustic Yankees

- Seba Smith, "Jack's Grandfather" (1834).
- T.C. Haliburton, "The Clockmaker" (1837).
- James Russell Lowell, "Biglow Papers" (1848).
- Frances M. Whitcher, "Hezekiah Bedott" (1855).

#### Frontier Storytellers

- Hamilton C. Jones, "Cousin Sally Dilliard" (1830?).
- J.K. Paulding and W.B. Bernard, "Nimrod Wildfire's Tall Talk" (1833).
- Anonymous, "The Crockett Almanacks" (1837-1853)
  - "Col. Coon's Wife" (1837).
  - "A Sensible Varmint" (1841).
  - "Crockett's Morning Hunt" (1853).
- Thomas Bangs Thorpe, "The Big Bear of Arkansas" (1841).
- H.C. Lewis, "A Tight Race Considerin" (1843).
- Johnson J. Hooper, "Simon Suggs at the Camp Meeting" (1845).
- Philip B. January, "The Big Dog Fight at Myers's" (1845).
- John H. Robb, "The Standing Candidate" (1846).
- W.T. Thompson, "A Coon Hunt in a Fency Country" (1847).
- William C. Hall, "How Sally Hooter Got Snake Bit" (1850).
- W.B. Brannan, "The Harp of a Thousand Strings" (1855).
- H.E. Taliafero, "Larkin Snow, the Miller" (1859).
- G.W. Harris, "Rare Ripe Garden Seed" (1867).

### Postwar Comedy

#### Funny Fellows

- Charles Farrar Browne, "Interview with Lincoln" (1861), "The Tower of London"
- Charles H. Smith, "Bill Arp to Abe Lincoln" (1861).
- David Ross Locke, "The Reward of Virtue" (1866).
- Josh Billings, "Live Yankees" (1868).
- Finley Peter Dunne, "On the Victorian Era" (1898).

#### Local Colorists

- Harriet Beecher Stowe, "The Minister's Housekeeper" (1871).
- G.W. Cable, "Posson Jone" (1876).
- J.C. Harris, "The Wonderful Tar Baby Story" (1880).
- F. Hopkinson Smith, "Ginger and the Goose" (1882).
- Mary E. Wilkins Freeman, "Gentian" (1887).
- Charles W. Chestnutt, "The Conjuror's Revenge" (1889).
- James Whitcomb Riley, "The Old Soldier's Story."

Alfred Henry Lewis, "Jaybird Bob's Joke" (1897).

Edward, Noyes Westcott, "Horse Trades" (1898).

Mark Twain

"Jim Baker's Blue Jay Yarn" (1880).

"Huck's Visit to the Raft" (1883).

Dialect Humor (McDavid)

#### LIST OF DIALECT RECORDINGS, PLANS FOR MORE EMERGE FROM MEETING

The May meeting of ADS' Pacific Coast region, held alongside the California Linguistic Association Conference at California State University, Long Beach, consisted of a display and a discussion. It led to plans for a possible series of tape recordings to illustrate dialects.

Central to the display was a five-page list of audio-visual resource materials for teaching courses in sociolinguistics and dialects of English. Copies of this list, and of a later cover letter inviting improvements for the list and help with the tape series, are available from the compiler, who is also the meeting organizer and ADS regional secretary: Mary Ritchie Key, Program in Linguistics, University of California, Irvine, Calif. 92717.

#### PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR LAUGHING STOCK

Papers on "The Language of Humor and the Humor of Language," as well as on regional humor, are sought for a Humor Conference to be held at Arizona State University on April 1, 1982. Deadline for proposals is July 4, 1981; they, and requests for further information, should be sent to Prof. Don L.F. Nilsen, Chair, 1982 WHIM Conference, English Department, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz. 85281. The sponsoring organization, WHIM, is Western Humor and Irony Membership.

For insight into the mind at play on this conference, see *Language Play: An Introduction to Linguistics* (Rowley, Mass.: Newbury, 1978), co-authored by the Chair and Alleen Pace Nilsen.

#### 'VISIBLE LANGUAGE' EYES POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles on "eye dialect," from 2500 to 5000 words long, are sought for a special issue of *Visible Language*, a journal produced by the Cleveland Museum of Art, to appear late next year. March 15, 1981 is the deadline to submit two copies of an article and of a separate abstract 100 to 200 words long, to: Dr. Alan R. Slotkin, Guest Editor, *Visible Language*, Box 5053, Tennessee Technological University, Cookeville, Tenn. 38501.

#### NEWSY DARE ASKS ABOUT CANADIAN SOLDIERS, CHAIR-PUSHERS

(*Ninth in a series from the ADS-sponsored Dictionary of American Regional English.*)

HERE WE ARE with some more questions, requesting your help. Thanks for many letters received, helping with previous questions. Address Professor F.G. Cassidy, *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 6125 Helen White Hall, Madison, Wis. 53706.

The "box elder bug" — an insect about half an inch long, with black and red "military" markings on its flat back, which swarms on the trees in summer, is also called **Canadian soldier**, northern Ohio, and **democrat (bug)**, the latter reported from Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas. Our questions: Where else are these names used? What other names are used? The color pattern explains the first name, but why *democrat*? (No guessing, please, especially in an election year.)

The *thank-you-ma'am*, a dip in a road which makes passengers in vehicles suddenly bow forward, is well known, entered in many dictionaries. In Wisconsin this is less



elegantly called a belly-sinker, from the queasy effect it has on some folk. Is this second term known elsewhere? Do you know other terms for this? The names seem to be doubly applied to the dip in the road and the bodily response.

In Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, children who dislike the interest shown in them by elderly people, and consider it snooping, call such people *newsy*. The sense seems complex. Perhaps there is a semantic blend: *nosy* seeking for *news* produces *newsy*. Is this known anywhere else?

From the Atcheson Hench collection, and there only, we have a word that children say while making a gesture meaning "shame on you": the "shamer" points at the "shamed" with one index finger while moving the other index finger across it with a whittling motion and saying *abasicky! abasicky!* A variant is *anbasicky*. Many people tell us they know the gesture, but nobody knows *abasicky* or any other word to accompany it. Are there others? Where and when used? (The Hench examples are from Virginia and South Carolina.)

We have *shats*, 'fallen pine needles' (central Atlantic coast); *chats* 'small gravel' (Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma), and *chats* 'potato peelings' (Vermont). Could these be variants of the same word? Other examples of all kinds would be welcome. Please include origin, meaning, type of speaker, when and where used.

We have had one report (from Kentucky) of *apple chauncey* as a side dish with apples, raisins, spices, vinegar, and sugar. Further details about it, especially where it is known and its origin, would be welcomed.

"When a woman puts her hair up on her head in a bunch" has produced one response, *chawk* (from an informant in Louisiana). It could be a verb or a noun. Other examples, and suggested explanations?

Two dance steps with similar names are *chase the buffalo* (Kentucky) and *chase the squirrel* (North Carolina) — but we have nothing about how they are danced, nor where. Presumably a movement is of the *chassée* type?

The *DARE* questions include one on "very weak coffee." One Georgia respondent has given us *chedge water*, and we wonder what it is literally — though here apparently used metaphorically. Does anyone else know?

From Maine comes a word we have picked up nowhere else, but one which strikes us as one that should be known more widely: *cheeserind*, as applied to some part or feature of a boat. Is it known elsewhere? Why is it — why the name? Old salts and other nautical types please take note and cast us a line.

We want more information on the apparently Black form (North Carolina and Virginia) *chair-back* (preacher) or *chair-pusher*, for an unprofessional or part-time preacher. (Gordon Wood has *chair-backer* from three informants [Oklahoma, Tennessee], apparently a variant.) Can anyone give an eyewitness account?

Numerous versions of cattle calls have come in through our fieldwork, but never the South Carolina call to summon cows, *chay*, reported in *American Speech* 24.107 (1949). Further evidence would be welcome — time, place, phonetic transcription. Ciao!

(With funds from a private gift, *DARE* has produced a multicolor eight-page prospectus, whose centerpiece is an explicated sample of pages 1568-1569, displaying entries in the *Fs* from *fairy wand* to *fall out of (one's, the) (cradle, crib, high chair)*. Supply is limited, but they're available to ADS members on request.)

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COMMENTS ON ETYMOLOGY, a series of working papers on etymology and Indo-European morphology, appears biweekly (October to May); annual cost \$4 for individuals, \$8 for libraries and institutions. Sample copy on request to Prof. Gerald Cohen, Humanities Department, University of Missouri, Rolla, Mo. 65401.