

# NADS 13.1

From: Allan Metcalf  
English Department  
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Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

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*NADS appears thrice yearly and is sent to all ADS members and subscribers. The next issue is intended for May 1981.*

*Send ADS dues (\$15 for 1981), queries, and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.*

To:

## ADS OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR 1981

- President:* Marvin Carmony  
College of Arts and Sciences  
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Terre Haute, Ind. 47809  
(812) 232-6311, ext. 2971
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95th St. at King Drive  
Chicago, Ill. 60628  
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- Executive Council, Members at Large:*
- 1981: James Hartman  
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- 1980-83: Richard W. Bailey  
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Jacksonville, Ill. 62650  
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- Vice President:* A. Murray Kinloch  
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- ACLS Delegate:* Frederic G. Cassidy  
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6125 Helen White Hall  
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(608) 263-3810
- 1979-82: Juanita Williamson  
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Memphis, Tenn. 38126  
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- 1981-84: Bethany K. Dumas  
English Department  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, Tenn. 37916  
(615) 974-5492 or 974-5401
- Editor, American Speech (through 1981):* John Algeo  
English Department  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Ga. 30602  
(404) 542-1261
- Editor, American Speech (starting 1981):* Ronald R. Butters  
322 Allen Building  
Duke University  
Durham, N.C. 27706  
(919) 684-2741
- Nominating Committee 1981:*
- Chair:* John Algeo (see above)
- Member:* Virginia McDavid (see above)
- Elected Member:* Thomas L. Clark  
English Department  
University of Nevada  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nev. 89154  
(702) 739-3473 or 739-3533

The Nominating Committee has a Sept. 27 deadline for proposing a Member of the Executive Council 1982-85.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: ANNUAL MEETING, NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

For 1981 ADS will continue its ancient (well, since 1889) tradition of holding the Annual Meeting at the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association. This year that means Manhattan, some time between the 27th and 30th of December (we've asked for the latter days).

*April 15* is the deadline for sending abstracts of proposed papers to our program chair, Vice President Murray Kinloch. His address appears on the opposite page.

Kinloch mentions that mail delivery across the border sometimes can be slow — so you're encouraged not to wait till the last minute. Why not write him right now?

**CALL FOR PAPERS: NOVEMBER IN BOSTON, WITH NCTE**

As usual, ADS this year will co-sponsor a session at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. The 1981 meeting will be in Boston; our session will be on Saturday or Sunday, November 21 or 22. There should be time for three papers.

ADS Vice President Murray Kinloch will chair the session, and ADS Past President Virginia McDavid will be vice chair. But in this case abstracts of proposed papers should be sent to ADS President Marvin Carmony. His address appears on the opposite page.

Deadline for abstracts is *March 15*.

**CALL FOR PAPERS: SUMMER MEETING, WITH DICTIONARIES**

In recent years the ADS has had the habit of holding summer meetings at the Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America. That won't be possible this year; the LSA has decided not to hold an Institute in 1981 (though it will resume in 1982).

So for 1981 the ADS Executive Council has authorized the experiment of meeting with our friends the lexicographers. That is, we hope to associate with the Dictionary Society of North America, which holds its third biennial meeting in Cincinnati on Thursday and Friday, June 11 and 12.

Exact arrangements remain to be made, but we expect to schedule three or four papers in one ADS-sponsored session before or after the several sessions of the DSNA.

*April 1* is the deadline for proposing papers for our session. Send abstracts to our program chair, Past President Virginia McDavid. Her address appears on the opposite page.

What exactly is the DSNA? It was introduced to *NADS* readers in issue 10.2 for May 1978 (p. 15). But we have an up-to-date explanation from ADS member and DSNA newsletter editor Edward Gates:

“The DSNA was formed at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, in 1975 during a conference here on research in the history of English dictionaries. Its aim is to foster scholarly and professional activities relating to dictionaries. We hold regular meetings every other year (1977, 1979, 1981), and publish a semiannual newsletter and an annual journal (of which the first issue appeared last spring). A special meeting was held in conjunction with the LSA 1978 Summer Institute (at which Ladislav Zgusta conducted a concomitant NEH Seminar in lexicography). We have published one volume of proceedings (of conferences held here in 1971 and 1975) and have two more in the works (1977, 1979). We hope to publish other works in lexicography as funds allow. We have about 150 members — academics who are working on dictionary projects, or who research dictionary making or history; staff members of commercial dictionaries; translators, cryptanalysts, or computer scientists concerned with dictionaries; collectors and rare book librarians; and people just interested in dictionaries.”

## MORE ABOUT OUR CONNECTION WITH THE DICTIONARY SOCIETY

DSNA's affinity with ADS may be gleaned from the announcement of Volume 1 (1979) of its journal *Dictionaries*, published last summer under the editorship of ADS Council member Richard Bailey. Among the ten papers in that volume are "DARE: The View from the Letter F" by ADS member Joan Hall, "Riding Point on the Lexicon of the North American West" by ADS member Thomas Toon, and "A Survey of the Teaching of Lexicography" by ADS member Edward Gates. Copies are available at \$9 from DSNA secretary-treasurer Donald Hobar, Continuing Education, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Ind. 47809. Checks should be payable to Indiana State University.

As for the DSNA itself — regular membership is \$10, and there are also special joint, student, retired, and institutional rates. Write Hobar for details.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: NEW WORDS, REGIONALISMS, NON-ENGLISH, USAGE

Aficionados of the ADS Constitution (last printed in *NADS* 12.1, April 1980, pp. 10-12) will know that the Society has five standing research committees. Old-timers, and browsers through old *PADSes* and *NADSes*, may remember all five. But anyone else may be pardoned for thinking we have only one or two. At last count, one committee remains publicly active; another, relatively dormant, is ready to become visible again; but the three others seem to have vanished. The time has come to revive them, or to send them to the happy hunting ground. The Executive Council has chosen the former alternative.

These are the extant committees:

1. *Proverbial Sayings*, chaired by Margaret Bryant, remains tried and true. See its report in this issue, p. 11.

2. *New Words*, absent from these pages for a number of years, now seeks new volunteers. The volunteers would send in a minimum of 350 citations each year, checking the citations against certain references, to augment those collected by I. Willis Russell and Mary Gray for "Among the New Words" in *American Speech*. Those who would be willing to provide citations in this manner are invited to write for particulars to the chairman:

I. Willis Russell  
Rt. 3, Box 582  
Cottondale, Ala. 35453

Volunteers are even more urgently needed for the other three committees, which seem to have become completely inactive. A principal function of all three is to report on research — producing an essay on the "year's work in dialect studies" for the area of their particular concern. The committees may also encourage or undertake special projects.

These are the committees that need reconstituting:

3. *Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography*. Its most recent survey of research, for 1977, appeared in *NADS* 10.3 (October 1978), pp. 8-11.

4. *Non-English Dialects*. This committee's concern is the second part of the ADS' purpose as stated in the Constitution: "... the study of the English language in North America, together with other languages or dialects of other languages influencing it or influenced by it."

5. *Usage*.

If you might be willing to work on one of these committees, or if you know of

someone else who might, please notify Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on p. 2) by the end of March. The Council can then take steps to get the committees back in full operation before the year is over.

### REGIONAL MEETINGS 1981: CALLS FOR PAPERS

#### *May 1: Abstracts due for SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING*

in association with the South Central Modern Language Association  
Austin, Tex., October 22-24

Chair: Scott Baird  
Trinity University, Box 105  
715 Stadium Drive  
San Antonio, Tex. 78284

Regional Secretary: Curt M. Rulon  
English Department  
North Texas State University  
Denton, Tex. 76203

Papers have a 20-minute time limit, with five minutes for discussion.

*Abstracts:* send to Baird.

#### *April 15: Abstracts due for ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING*

in association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association  
Boise, Idaho, October 22-24

Chair: Charles B. Martin  
Department of English  
North Texas State University  
Denton, Tex. 76203

Regional Secretary: Thomas L. Clark  
English Department  
University of Nevada  
4505 Maryland Parkway  
Las Vegas, Nev. 89154

Papers must be related to dialect study in America and not longer than 15 minutes.

*Abstracts:* send to Martin.

#### *May 1: Abstracts due for MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING*

in association with the Midwest Modern Language Association  
Oconomowoc, Wis., Olympic Resort & Spa, November 5

Chair: Timothy C. Frazer  
Department of English  
Western Illinois University  
Macomb, Ill. 61455

Regional Secretary: Donald M. Lance  
Department of English  
231 A&S Building  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, Mo. 65211

*Abstracts:* send to Frazer.

**MORE ON REGIONAL MEETINGS 1981**

*May 1: Abstracts due for SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING*  
in association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association  
Louisville, Ky., November 7

Chair: Michael Montgomery  
English Department  
Memphis State University  
Memphis, Tenn. 38152

Regional Secretary: Jeutonne P. Brewer  
College of Arts and Sciences  
105 Foust Building  
University of North Carolina  
Greensboro, N.C. 27412

*Abstracts of 300 words: send to Montgomery.*

**PACIFIC COAST REGION**

Since no plans have been announced for a California Linguistics Conference, with which the Pacific Coast Regional Meeting has been associated, Regional Secretary Mary Key is not planning a formal meeting. She and Ed Finegan (University of Southern California) hope to further the idea of making cassettes to illustrate dialects. To learn of possible developments, write:

Mary Ritchie Key  
Program in Linguistics  
University of California  
Irvine, Calif. 92717

**CALL FOR PAPERS: METHODS, VICTORIA, JULY**

The Fourth International Conference on Methods in Dialectology will be held at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, July 21 through 24. The timing represents a break with tradition by not including a weekend, and is intended to make holidaying in the area optional.

Abstracts of proposed papers will be received by the Conference director, H.J. Warkentyne, until February 12. Abstracts should be typewritten and limited to one page, 8½ by 11 inches or 22 by 28 cm. Papers may be in either English or French, and should deal with innovative methods in research on variation in language. The name must *not* appear on the proposal. On a separate slip please attach your name and the presentation time required — 30 minutes or one hour, including discussion.

The program will be announced in March.

To get on the mailing list for the conference, a fee of \$5 is requested. (Make checks payable to University of Victoria.) The fee will be credited towards registration for the Conference. Failure to send this remittance will not exclude anyone from attending and participating, but only those who pay will receive the bulletins.

The address for abstracts, mailing list, or inquiries is:

Dr. H.J. Warkentyne  
Department of Linguistics  
University of Victoria  
Victoria, British Columbia  
CANADA V8W 2Y2

**EARLY WARNING: DUES TO RISE FOR 1982**

As previously announced, dues for the current year, 1981, amount to \$15 all-inclusive. For that price you get the four issues of *American Speech* Vol. 56 (the first in another month or two), three issues of *NADS* Vol. 13 (the first right in your hands), and — yes, really — an occasional *Publication of the American Dialect Society*. In addition, you get voting rights, and the right to participate fully in ADS meetings and activities.

Two journals, a newsletter, and auxiliary benefits for a mere \$15. Unbelievable? Yes, that's what the Executive Council thought at its meeting last month (see p. 11). And so, starting with 1982, annual dues will be \$20.

Precipitating the decision was the report from Editor James Hartman that *PADS* is ready to appear again, "in a rush (comparatively speaking)." (See the more detailed report that follows.) The dues increase affirms the Society's commitment to *PADS* and expectation that our shelves will soon be well-padded with new issues.

With the increase, the question of having a special rate for students and other indigents — something that was abolished in 1972 (see *NADS* 5.1, p. 12) — becomes more urgent, and Council member Bethany Dumas has taken on the task of reviewing the situation and proposing a specific policy. If you have suggestions, write her at the address on p. 2 of this issue.

Those few members who have already paid for 1982 will have their reward. Having had the use of their money for a year at high interest rates, we won't ask them to come up with an extra \$5. (That will also save us the trouble and expense of an extra billing.) But from now on, those who pay for 1982 must pay the designated \$20.

If \$20 a year is not to your liking, you have a way out — life membership. One member who heard the news has already taken advantage of the special opportunity for saving \$100. The cost of life is invariably 20 times the annual dues (see *NADS* 11.1, p. 5). Starting next year, therefore, life membership will cost \$400. But until the end of 1981, you can get life for the bargain rate of \$300. It may not appreciate as rapidly as gold, but wouldn't you appreciate it more?

In historical perspective, the impending increase does not seem out of line. When the Society was founded, in 1889, dues were \$1 a year. In 1933, they doubled to \$2. At this point the Executive Secretary's reference shelves thin out, but he notes dues at \$3 in 1954, and then still merely \$5 in 1969 (with a student rate of \$3). At that point *American Speech* was added to *PADS* as a publication of the Society, and dues accordingly jumped to \$10 (student rate \$5) for 1970, \$12.50 for 1971, \$15 for 1973. Because of the increased expense of including *American Speech*, as mentioned above the student rate was dropped at that time.

So despite the worst inflation in recent memory, dues will have held steady for nearly a decade. If all goes well, it could be a similarly long time before an increase above \$20 is needed.

**PADS IS ALIVE — AND AT THE PRESS**

Last month James Hartman, editor of *Publication of the American Dialect Society*, sent the following report:

- No. 66 W. Kruck, Looking for Dr. Condom: galleys proofed and will soon go to Alabama Press for publication.
- No. 67 Gary Underwood, Dialect of the Mesabi Range: at Press for initial galleys, expected in several months.
- No. 68 Harold Paddock, Dialect Survey of Carbonear, Newfoundland: just into Press for initial workup.

**PLANS FOR PADS — CONTINUED**

No. 69 Raoul Smith, *The Language of Jonathan Fisher*: final revisions now being made by author.

Several other manuscripts are in varying stages of specialist review and negotiations with authors.

So things are moving. *PADS* will be appearing in a rush (comparatively speaking).

By this fall, we should be in a position to "commission" good manuscripts and be able to promise expeditious publication.

**NAMES OF THE WORLD TO MEET IN ANN ARBOR**

From August 23 through 29 the Fourteenth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences will meet at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Papers will be given in English, French or German. To receive announcements and a copy of the conference program with abstracts of papers, send a registration fee of \$10 to the Secretary-Treasurer:

Prof. T.L. Markey  
Department of Linguistics  
The University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48109

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, DECEMBER 1980: DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS**

WHETHER in Indianapolis, San Francisco, or Houston, a Hyatt Regency Hotel impresses upon visiting eyes the height of modernity. Seen through the glass wall of the outside elevator, the earth falls away; seen from the merely shoulder-high parapet of the corridor, the atrium far below offers a dizzying invitation for a quick leap back. Thus it was with some sense of vertigo that members of the ADS Executive Council made their way up the Hyatt Regency Houston to the McDavids' twelfth-floor room on the evening of Monday, December 29, 1980. Perhaps to counter the effects of too much openness, the hotel management carefully fitted Room 1210 with cozy dimensions and the least possible exchange of air, so the atmosphere of the deliberations was close.

Present, nevertheless, for a full-two-hour session was a certifiable quorum of the 1980 Council: President Virginia McDavid, Vice President Marvin Carmony, Council members Murray Kinloch and Juanita Williamson, and Executive Secretary Rex Wilson. Also on hand was Allan Metcalf, representing the ADS' Fourth Estate and sopping up assignments for his imminent Executive Secretaryship. Later they were joined by Executive Council Member-Elect Bethany Dumas, and Raven McDavid. Harmony prevailed; all votes were unanimous, or at least without dissent.

This was their business:

1. President McDavid announced that she had written James Hartman to ask if he would be willing to complete the 1978-81 term on the Executive Council recently vacated by Paul Eschholz. (He said he would, and the Council subsequently appointed him.)

2. No additional nominations for ADS offices had been received by Executive Secretary Wilson. Nominations remained as announced in *NADS* 12.3, and would be reported for approval (which they received) at the next day's Annual Business Meeting.

3. Wilson received many thanks for executing the secretaryship since 1976. Despite the necessity of operating without portfolio for most of his first year (and some of the files never did survive the transition from Washington, D.C.), he earned the awe of all by creating new records out of whole cloth, ruthlessly purging the lists of deadbeats, and filling the coffers to overflowing, acting on the same sort of prevision that Joseph

accurately interpreted for Pharaoh. Wilson's remark about concluding his ADS service by taking off for Acapulco with the treasury was treated as a jest.

4. The Executive Secretary made his financial report: At the end of November, 1980, the Society had on hand the equivalent in U.S. funds of \$26,734, but had commitments of \$27,019, leaving a net deficit of \$285. "It rather looks as though we're sailing pretty close to the wind," Wilson said.

|                              |  |                    |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <i>Received, U.S. Funds:</i> | Dues (incl. 1 life mbrship \$300)                        | \$15,260.80        |
|                              | Interest . . . . .                                       | 1,856.71           |
|                              | Gifts . . . . .  | 405.00             |
|                              | "Royalties" from Ala. Press . . .                        | 844.36             |
|                              | Rental of mailing list; sale of<br>back issues . . . . . | 69.95              |
|                              | <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>                                   | <b>\$18,436.82</b> |

|                              |  |                    |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| <i>Expended, U.S. Funds:</i> | <i>American Speech</i> (Columbia) . .                          | \$3,896.00         |
|                              | (Alabama) . . . . .  | 4,856.00           |
|                              | <i>Newsletter</i> . . . . .                                    | 950.00             |
|                              | ACLS (dues \$400; Council of<br>Secretaries \$271) . . . . .   | 671.00             |
|                              | Center for Applied Linguistics<br>(payment on claim) . . . . . | 1,000.00           |
|                              | Miscellaneous . . . . .  | 92.63              |
|                              | To Canadian account . . . . .                                  | 3,000.00           |
|                              | <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>   | <b>\$14,465.63</b> |

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Net gain, U.S. Funds . . . . .</i> | <b>\$3,971.19</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|

|                        |                             |                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Received,</i>       | Dues . . . . .              | \$639.57          |
| <i>Canadian Funds:</i> | Interest . . . . .          | 10.83             |
|                        | From U.S. account . . . . . | 3,465.00          |
|                        | <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>      | <b>\$4,115.40</b> |

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <i>Expended, Canadian Funds</i> (administrative expenses) . . | \$2,435.48        |
| <i>Net gain, Canadian Funds . . . . .</i>                     | <b>\$1,679.92</b> |

|                               |   |                   |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| <i>Nov. 30, 1980 Balance:</i> | U.S. Funds . . . . .  | \$23,956.94       |
|                               | Canadian Funds . . . . .  | \$3,217.11        |
|                               | (\$1154.32 with U. of Western Ontario,<br>\$2062.79 in Savings Account) |                   |
|                               | Equivalent in U.S. Funds . . . . .                                      | <b>\$2,777.00</b> |

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| <i>Total Balance, U.S. equivalent . . . . .</i> | <b>\$26,733.94</b> |
|---|--------------------|

|                     |  |                    |
|---------------------|--|--------------------|
| <b>COMMITMENTS:</b> | <i>American Speech</i> 52 . . . . .              | \$3,600.00         |
|                     | <i>PADS</i> 66 . . . . .                         | 4,000.00           |
|                     | Rest of claim from C.A.L. . . .                  | 4,500.00           |
|                     | Reserve: life memberships<br>and gifts . . . . . | 6,845.00           |
|                     | Accrued net interest . . . . .                   | 2,074.00           |
|                     | Dues received for 1981 and later                 | 6,000.00           |
|                     | <b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>                           | <b>\$27,019.00</b> |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Net Deficit: Excess of Commitments over Total Balance . . . . .</i> | <b>\$285.06</b> |
|--|-----------------|

|                         |                                  |                 |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>BUDGET FOR 1981:</i> | <i>American Speech</i> . . . . . | \$3,900.00      |
|                         | <i>PADS</i> . . . . .            | 2,465.00        |
|                         | <i>Newsletter</i> . . . . .      | 950.00          |
|                         | Administration, including ACLS   | <u>2,437.00</u> |
|                         | <i>TOTAL</i> . . . . .           | \$9,752.00      |

We operate on a very narrow margin, Wilson said; it now costs \$12.50 of each member's \$15 dues to provide the Society's publications. He suggested raising dues for 1982 (see item 12 below).

5. Wilson said he would encourage another payment on the C.A.L. claim (see *NADS* 11.1, p. 7).

6. The value to the ADS of membership in the American Council of Learned Societies, questioned at the 1979 Council meeting (*NADS* 12.1, Page 6), was affirmed by Executive Secretary Wilson and newly-enlightened Executive Secretary-Elect Metcalf, who referred members to the report in this issue of *NADS*, p. 15, for elaboration.

7. At Kinloch's motion, Metcalf was instructed to investigate incorporation and formal application for tax-exempt status. Impetus for this came in part from an inquiry to Executive Secretary Wilson made by an attorney for a potential donor, asking if the ADS was in fact tax-exempt. Wilson had said yes — but there would be no documentation to back him up, aside from the Society's own scholarly non-profit self. To the best of Archivist Audrey Duckert's knowledge, in its 90 odd years the ADS has never incorporated.

8. For the ADS-sponsored session at the 1981 meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Metcalf was commissioned to handle diplomatic relations with NCTE; Carmony agreed to head the program committee, Kinloch to chair the session, and Virginia McDavid to serve as vice chair.

9. "Journals are in a bad way," reported President McDavid concerning "The Future of the Scholarly Journal," an MLA session she had attended the day before. Suggestions for the survival of journals involved putting the screws on their constituencies: charge considerably higher rates to libraries (which make the journals available to many readers rather than a single one, and which occupy a secretary's time with charming queries and billing complications), require a submission fee for articles to be considered and a page fee when they are published, and have authors send camera-ready copy. None of these turnip-bleeding devices has as yet become ADS policy.

10. Ronald Butters of Duke University was appointed John Algeo's successor as editor of *American Speech*, on the advice of a search committee composed of David Carlson, chair; Bethany Dumas, and Bruce Southard. For the committee, Dumas reported that Duke will provide necessary financial support, and that Algeo is enthusiastic about the choice.

11. At Kinloch's motion, Audrey Duckert was appointed Centennial Historian and Centennial Coordinator. It was March 13, 1889 when the Society was organized, and December 30, 1889 when the first Annual Meeting was held, in No. 5 Sever Hall, Cambridge, Mass. (see *Dialect Notes*, Vol. 1, pp. 1-2). With the assistance of University of Massachusetts Archivist Katherine Emerson, and another archivist who will be working on the ADS files 20 hours a week starting January 1981, ADS Archivist Duckert is getting the Society's archives ready for the centennial and planning a centennial history which finds a golden mean between scholarly pomposity and folksy breeziness.

12. To preserve the Society's financial health while continuing uninhibited publication of both *American Speech* and about-to-bloom-again *PADS*, it was proposed that annual

dues be raised to \$25. Moderation prevailed, however, and the Council set 1982 dues at a mere \$20. (Dues for 1981, of course, remain at \$15.) Dumas took the assignment of looking once more into the question of having special rates for students, a matter that becomes more urgent with dues going up.

13. At Williamson's motion, the President-elect and Executive Secretary-elect were assigned to review the nearly dormant standing committees and recommend to the Council whether and how to resuscitate them. (See p. 4 of this *Newsletter*.)

At last the meeting ended, and the Councilors exited into the cooler air of the Hyatt's vertiginous heights.

### COMMITTEE ON PROVERBIAL SAYINGS: REPORT FOR 1980

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 proverbial sayings 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; the computer programmer, Donald Schlientz; and two summer research grants from Northern Michigan University. After 250,000 citation slips in the ADS collection, 180,000 or 72 percent have now been stored on magnetic tape. The second step of the ADS Proverbs Project has begun with the first print-out of the 180,000 proverbial sayings, which will be made in several batches, the first of which contains A-F.

From this print-out of the 180,000 sayings, ordered according to key words, phase 2 of the ADS Proverbs Project will begin — the compilation of a "duplicate-stop list" or a listing of the unique proverbs together with their key word, a sequence number and a computer project number. This procedure will allow the remaining 70,000 citation slips to be processed for unique proverbs and duplicate listings. It is estimated that these remaining citation slips contain an extremely high number of duplicates.

It is with deep regret that I report the death of a member of the Committee, Professor Alton C. Morris, University of Florida, emeritus.

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*

### DISCOURSE ON DISCOURSE PLANNED FOR GEORGETOWN'S ROUND TABLE

For its 1981 Round Table on Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University will have 21 presentations on "Analyzing Discourse: Text and Talk," including ADS member Roger Shuy's "Topic Analysis as Courtroom Evidence." Registration for the March 19-21 conference is \$25 (\$10 for students). Write Deborah Tannen, Chair, GURT 1981, School of Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057.

**ANNUAL MEETING 1980: MULTUM IN PARVO**

What has eleven mouths and flies? Time — when you have nine speakers, two presiding officers, and a business meeting, all to zip into the confines of two 75-minute sessions. Such was the Procrustean clock by which the ADS moved at its 1980 Annual Meeting, in Houston, on the last day of the Modern Language Association's Annual Convention. The chronological crowding was the result of hap, not malice; it happened, last year, that ADS waited to be asked for its program by MLA, and MLA waited for ADS to ask, until at last the MLA's assistant convention manager fortunately noticed the program in our June Newsletter and kindly arranged for us to have it. Houston may be the nation's fourth largest city, but its downtown hotels weren't built for the quantity of colloquia attendant on an MLA convention, so there might not have been more ADS time on the schedule even if communication had begun earlier. (For 1981, on the other hand, we're making a prompt request, and MLA is back in big old New York.)

But if time was mean, space was not. On December 30, 1980, the ADS was privileged to sit in a handsome room off a third-floor corridor of the headquarters Hyatt: Dogwood A, living up to its name with (presumably dog-) wood-paneled walls and chairs for 60, comfortably accommodating the 50-odd who attended.

Behind the table at which the speakers sat was a bay alcove with a triptych paneled in solid blue cloth. In this cerulean arboreal bower, Time performed his dance, so rapidly that your reporter's notes are blurred. This is what they seem to record:

As President Virginia McDavid presided, Dennis Baron inaugurated the first session with a review of plans for the English language in the young United States. To the reformers of the 18th and 19th centuries, American English was "at once the best and worst of all possible tongues." Americans, it was once argued, should speak Greek, the most democratic of languages; Hebrew, because we were the chosen people; or French, to spite the English.

Raven McDavid recounted H.L. Mencken's important connections with the ADS. Though Mencken did not join the Society until 1945, already in 1942 he responded to an appeal to help liquidate the printer's bill. The ADS and its publications provided much of the scholarly underpinning of Mencken's work on the American language. In turn, Mencken recognized the importance of the Society, rejoiced at its survival, and was generous in recognizing individual scholars.

Bruce Southard has set new standards of aesthetic excellence for linguistic illustration. Again this year he handed out four pages displaying three-dimensional relief maps of Oklahoma, suitable for framing or for copying in clay as a conversation piece, and graphically illustrating the subtle differences (a hill here, a valley there) between native and non-native responses to the Linguistic Atlas questionnaire. The artist was a computer.

Equally stunning, though in a more austere genre, was a four-page chart handed out by the next speaker, Murray Kinloch, to illustrate precisely the affinities of New Brunswick verb forms to those found in the various Northern, Midland and Southern dialect areas of the eastern United States. As one might expect, New Brunswick has a strong affinity with the Northern dialect forms of the U.S., but more with the southern part of that Northern dialect than with New England.

With barely a pause for questions, President McDavid proceeded to the Annual Business Meeting, the briefest in recent memory. This business took place:

1. She reported, with sadness, the death of Thomas Pyles, former editor of *PADS* and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society from 1953 through 1956; and of George R. Stewart, famous for his names; and of Frederic Cassidy's wife.

2. She reported the Nominating Committee's nominations of A. Murray Kinloch for vice president, Bethany Dumas for Executive Council, Thomas Clark for Nominating Committee. At Frederic Cassidy's motion, passed without dissent, the nominees were elected.

3. E.C. Ehrensperger handed out copies of his 27-page annual report on place-name studies, which he now prepares under the aegis of the American Name Society. The report makes mention of ADS' "yeoman service" in place-name studies in earlier days.

4. At the time of transition in office, President McDavid singled out for tribute Retiring Executive Secretary H. Rex Wilson: "The Society owes a great debt to Rex for four years of very faithful service," and Retiring *American Speech* Editor John Algeo, concluding his tenth year: "Our debt to John is a tremendous one, for his amazing and magnificent achievement. *American Speech* will always be improved as a result of his labors."

5. She turned the meeting over to newly elected President Marvin Carmony, who remarked: "I hope we can continue to capitalize on the continuing interest the American people have in the American language, and continue to inform it."

6. Executive Secretary Wilson outlined the financial report he had given in the Executive Council meeting (see p. 9), and concluded: "We're just nicely afloat — just don't anybody sneeze." Membership paid through 1980 stands at 636, he added.

7. For *American Speech*, John Algeo reported: The University of Alabama Press continues to treat us very well, and issues are coming out on time. The big question is the missing Volume 52 (1977) from Columbia University Press. We read proof for the first half of that volume in spring 1980, and Columbia was expecting the film from Ireland in September 1980 to proceed with production. We are reading proof now for the second half of Volume 52.

8. For *PADS*, Associate Editor Bethany Dumas read the encouraging report from Editor James Hartman that appears on pp. 7 and 8.

9. For *NADS*, Allan Metcalf reported publishing three issues at a total cost of \$950.

Only five minutes beyond the time limit, Session 1 was able to adjourn. The faithful had a full 25 minutes for lunch, or ambulation, before the start of the second half, governed by President Carmony.

Lurline Coltharp last summer interviewed five acquaintances of the person interviewed in 1967 to represent El Paso in the *Dictionary of American Regional English*. That person died three years ago, but the five acquaintances were of equivalent age and social-economic class. The results emphasize the excellence of *DARE*. For example, fully 15 percent of the responses were the same for all five informants and the same as those of the original informant. The five were also unanimous in praising the virtues of the El Paso climate.

Bethany Dumas has been a-studying the *a-* + verb + *-ing* in the speech of eleven 1970 informants from Newton County, Ark. She was a-finding that the older males were especially likely to employ the prefix, in contexts like "Next Sunday they got together to go a-courting," "It was a-bearing walnuts," and "They just kept a-hammering and a-nailing."

With his customary velvet glove, James Sledd ripped to shreds the political and linguistic positions of certain investigators of Vernacular Black English. The "agnostic but vexed spectator" was less than sanguine "as Goneril arrives to justify what Carter tolerated."

"It is not fashionable these days to give proof — only conclusions," remarked Juanita

Williamson, but she could not refrain altogether from giving evidence for her argument that Southern whites did not simply learn their English from black mammies. "I do not think the ruboff was only one way," she observed. "People get together and ruboffs take place." Even Queen Elizabeth, 500 years ago, wrote in what has been called Black English, to judge by samples like these: "as your secretary term it," "our subjects looks after it."

Curt Rulon, with Time's winged chariot at his heels, could only point to his two-page handout and remark that he finds a leveling of dialects in Denton, Tex. He offered, however, to send the complete text as well as his handout to anyone who wants them.

Write:

Curt M. Rulon  
English Department  
North Texas State University  
Denton, Tex. 76203

With that, the meeting adjourned, and the ADS audience lugged luggage into the mild Houston sunshine for the long freeway ride to the airport or other destination. Next year in New York!

### CALL FOR INFORMATION ON LANGUAGE RECORDINGS

ADS member Michael D. Linn has been asked to chair the NCTE Committee on the Bibliography of Language Recordings. The committee's function is "to prepare for publication an annotated bibliography of commercially produced disc, tape and cassette recordings illustrating states in the history of the English language and national, regional, and social varieties of current English."

Members who know of any such recordings are urged to send bibliographic data so the committee can order the material to:

Michael D. Linn  
Department of English  
University of Minnesota  
Duluth, Minn. 55812

"We've been able to find a fair amount of material," remarks Linn, "but there doesn't seem to be any central location that lists all of the recordings."

### NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

*With the following sample entries we inaugurate a new feature of NADS. If you have recently published a book, send pertinent information to Editor Allan Metcalf (address on p. 2), and we'll mention it here.*

CLARENCE L. BARNHART, SOL STEINMETZ, ROBERT K. BARNHART. The Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English. Bronxville, N.Y.: Barnhart Books, 1980. Cloth \$19.95. — Over 6,000 entries selected from 450,000 citations added to the Barnhart files from 1973 to 1979.

DWIGHT BOLINGER. Language — The Loaded Weapon: The Use and Abuse of Language Today. New York: Longman, 1980. Hardcover \$25. — Chapters include "Stigma, Status, and Standard"; "A Case in Point: Sexism."

J.K. CHAMBERS and Peter Trudgill. Dialectology. (Cambridge Textbooks in Linguistics.) New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1980. Cloth \$34.50, paper \$11.95. — Integrates the work of sociolinguists with the more traditional research by dialect geographers.

(One more on p. 16)

## ACLS: GOOD COUNSEL FROM THE GOOD COUNCIL

When the decimated ADS Executive Council met in San Francisco in December 1979, no one there had direct acquaintance with ADS' role as a constituent society of the American Council of Learned Societies, and an immodest but plausible question was raised: Why should ADS lend its prestige to the ACLS, when it has to pay through the nose to do so?

The cost is not to be sneezed at — \$400 a year for dues, plus half the expense of the Secretary's attending two meetings a year of the ACLS Council of Secretaries. (The other half, plus entertainment, is paid by ACLS, as is the entire expense of our delegate's attendance at the ACLS Annual Meeting.)

Even while looking forward to the opportunity for stepping out twice a year, your reporter wondered what the value of the ACLS expense could be. Perhaps, he thought, it was a perquisite in lieu of salary, to make the ADS Executive Secretaryship more tolerable.

In November 1980, brought to Philadelphia for his first Council of Secretaries meeting by predecessor Rex Wilson (who traveled at his own expense), he learned that the answer to the ADS Council's question is quite different. The ADS is getting its money's worth.

The Council of Secretaries is, first of all, an intensive seminar in management. In two days it offered your new Executive Secretary the collective wisdom of years of experience. For example, on annual meetings: how to obtain the lowest air fares (shop around, pay for tickets early), how to work with a local arrangements committee (provide detailed checklists with time lines), where to get audio-visual equipment (borrow from host institutions), how to get free child care (use a child-care class at a local university), what happens when the program is opened to anyone who wants to be on it (members protest at the lack of standards, but attendance increases), how many speakers have their expenses paid by the association (very few, very few). On journals: troubles ahead (a National Periodical Center that would reduce library subscriptions), possible economies (a non-profit press owned by a conglomerate of learned societies). On membership lists: when to drop non-renewing members (at least within six months), how to phrase a letter to get laggards to renew (surely no one in the ADS needs such a reminder), how to encourage members to hang on (publish a directory).

That's one benefit. Another benefit is collegiality. In our case, it is particularly helpful to have the acquaintance of the executive director and convention manager of the Modern Language Association — not to obtain special favors, but to anticipate problems and promote cooperation. It is like the Senators from Nevada meeting the Senators from New York.

Third, and equally important, is the direct connection with national planning for (and funding of) the humanities. The ACLS, it may be remembered, sponsored the *Linguistic Atlas of New England*; the ACLS was also instrumental in establishing the National Endowment for the Humanities. At the annual meeting in Washington this April, the secretaries will attend to the recent report of the Commission on the Humanities. As the ADS makes plans and seeks support, this connection with the larger world should be of value.

But if ACLS membership is valuable, ADS members have a right to share in the wealth. Accordingly, your old reporter and new Executive Secretary will make a point of relating in these columns matters of value from the meetings your Society wisely arranges for him to attend.

## DARE HOPES FOR MORE BLARNEY, CRAZY WEATHER

ANOTHER *DARE* list of queries to start the new year! Address correspondence to Professor F.G. Cassidy, *Dictionary of American Regional English*, 6125 Helen White Hall, Madison, Wis. 53706. And thanks to all of you who have responded to our earlier questions.

**crawl** — We'd like more information on the noun **crawl**, an enclosure where creatures (turtles, fish, even sponges) are kept in the sea until ready for use. Where, in the U.S.A., is the term now current and what things are kept in crawls?

**crazy weather** — In the Colorado River valley of Arizona, we are told (McNichols *Crazy Weather*), there are recurrent spells of great heat followed by electrical storms. Is **crazy weather** an established local term, or is it merely descriptive?

**chains and rings** — From one Massachusetts informant we have this term for a children's outdoor game. Does anyone else know it? How is it played? (If we knew the rules, they would explain the name.)

**blarney** — Does anyone know this as a noun meaning an Irish person? We have some uncertain evidence and would like to check it from other sources before accepting or rejecting.

**blare-eye, blared eye, blarey-eyed** — Wide-open, bulging eyes; wall eyes — this seems to be the sense, with examples from Florida and Mississippi (including Faulkner *The Hamlet* 288), and one from New York City (young black woman). Is this usage known elsewhere? Is there any special association with horses?

**Achilles heel** — One Washington informant identified this with the wildflower Pearly Everlasting (*Anaphalis margaritacea*). Does any wildflower buff from the Northwest — or elsewhere — know the term? Is the identification right for the U.S.A.?

**bread and skip** — We have one report of this as the answer a mother regularly gave to her child's question, "What are we having for dinner?" She never explained what the phrase meant. How widespread was it, and where? And what *did* the riddling lady mean by it?

**brasshead** — In northwest Florida this is a nickname for a mosquito. Eloquently descriptive. Where else is the term used? And is **brasshead** used about other things?

**Indian shutters** — From central-south New Hampshire we have an advertisement describing an old home as being equipped with "Indian shutters." This is our only example: can readers explain the name, describe the shutters, and tell us where and to what extent the term is used?

**China match** — We have two reports from the Northwest (Oregon and northern California) of this as the type of match you can strike anywhere. First, do other readers know the term? Where is it in use? Without indulging in wild surmises (very tempting), why the name?

**duck on davy** — A children's game, the same as *duck on a rock*. We have had it reported from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana. Has anyone any hint about the meaning of "Davy"?

**chicken-foot ice** — The first thin ice to form on a pond or other surface of water: one report from Oklahoma. Is it used elsewhere? What is the meaning of the term?

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### NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS — from p. 14

RAVEN I. McDAVID, Jr. *Varieties of American English*, ed. Anwar S. Dil. (Language Science and National Development Series.) Stanford, Calif.: Stanford Univ. Press, 1980. Hardcover \$15.95. — Sixteen essays written between 1948 and 1979, including a revision of "New Directions in American Dialectology"; author's postscript and bibliography.