NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

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Nominating Committee Report ........ Page 2
Call for Spring in San Francisco .......... 2
Committee Members Named ............... 2
ADS Calendar for the Fall .............. 3
  South Central, Oct. 23 .............. 3
  Rocky Mountain, Oct. 24 ............ 3
  Midwest, Nov. 5 ................... 4
  South Atlantic, Nov. 7 ............. 5
  NCTE, Nov. 22 .................... 7
ADS Annual Meeting, Dec. 30 .......... 8
Two NEH-Sponsored Conferences ....... 12
Our New Books ....................... 13
Status of ADS Publications ............. 13
On Collecting New Words ............... 14
ACLS, NEH, NHA — and Money ....... 15
American Speech is CIFTed .......... 15
The 12th DARE ...................... 16

NADS appears thrice yearly and is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members and subscribers. Send ADS dues ($20 for 1982), queries and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

With the terms of most ADS officers extended to two years, the Nominating Committee (John Algeo, chair; Virginia McDavid, Thomas L. Clark) had only one official task this year: to propose a new member at large of the Executive Council for the four-year term 1982-85. The Committee's nominee is ADS Life Member Lurline Coltharp of the University of Texas, El Paso. Additional nominations may be made in a petition signed by at least ten members in good standing, to be received by the Executive Secretary no later than Dec. 15. Election will take place at the Annual Business Meeting in New York Dec. 30.

CALL FOR PAPERS: PACIFIC COAST REGIONAL MEETING, WITH CCCC

Next spring's Pacific Coast Regional Meeting of the ADS will be an hour-and-a-half session at the annual meeting of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, Thursday, March 18, 1982, from 4:45 to 6:15 p.m., session C.10. Chair of the session will be Pacific Coast Regional Secretary Mary Ritchie Key; associate chair will be Alan Kaye of California State University, Fullerton; recorder will be Richard Bailey of the University of Michigan.

Proposals for the program are cordially invited. November 15 is the deadline for submitting abstracts to: Mary Ritchie Key, Program in Linguistics, University of California, Irvine, Calif. 92717. Since CCCC is a national meeting, ADS members from all regions are emphatically included in this invitation.

RESEARCH COMMITTEES REFORM

Advised by the Nominating Committee and the Executive Council, ADS President Marvin Carmony in June made the following appointments re-establishing three of the Society's standing research committees. The committees are scheduled to make their first reports to the Annual Meeting in December, and we expect to publish the reports in subsequent NADSe.

Committee on Non-English Dialects: Chair, Nolan P. LeCompte, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Nicholls State Univ., Thibodaux, La. 70301. Vice Chair, Juergen Eichhoff, Univ. of Wisconsin; members, Scott Baird, Trinity Univ., San Antonio, Tex.; C. Richard Beam, Millersville, Pa.; Robert H. Buchheit, Morningside Coll., Iowa; Werner Enninger, Univ. of Essen, Germany; Bates L. Hoffer, Trinity Univ., San Antonio, Tex.; Anthony B. House, Univ. of New Brunswick; Dorothy M. Lee, Univ. of Texas, Austin; Norman F. Roberts, Univ. of Hawaii, Leeward Community Coll.

Committee on Regionalisms and Linguistic Geography: Chair, Robert E. Callary, English Dept., Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb, Ill. 60115; vice chair, O. Bruce Southard, Oklahoma State Univ.; members, Michael R. Dressman, Univ. of South Carolina, Spartanburg; Martha C. Howard, West Virginia Univ.; A. Murray Kinloch, Univ. of New Brunswick; Michael I. Miller, Virginia Commonwealth Univ.; Robert L. Parslow, Univ. of Pittsburgh; Terry K. Pratt, Univ. of Prince Edward Island; Jay Robert Reese, East Tennessee State Univ.

Committee on Usage: Chair, Thomas J. Creswell, R.R. 2, Box 184, Michigan City, Ind. 46360; vice chair, Virginia A. McDavid, Chicago State Univ.; members, John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia; Boyd H. Davis, Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte; Andrew F. Downey, Jr., Washington, D.C.; Kelsie B. Harder, State Univ. Coll., Potsdam, N.Y.; Michael D. Linn, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth; Michael B. Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia; Avis K. Payne, New Mexico State Univ.; Richard K. Redfern, Clarion State Coll., Pa.; Ethel Grodzins Romm, Middletown, N.Y.; Laurence E. Setts, Waubonsee Community Coll., Sugar Grove, Ill.; Alan R. Slotkin, Tennessee Technical Univ.

It's not too late for others to join the committees. If you're interested, write the chair or the Executive Secretary.
CALENDAR OF ADS MEETINGS

October 23: SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the South Central Modern Language Association
Austin, Texas
2:30-4:00 p.m.
Chair: Scott Baird, Trinity University
Regional secretary: Scott Baird (Curt M. Rulon has moved to King Faisal University, Hofuf, Saudi Arabia; the ADS Executive Council has appointed Baird in his stead)

Program:
"Generation Differences in the Austin Area." Patty Reagan, Abilene Christian College.
— An exhaustive study of dialect variation within a ten-county area in Central Texas, including Austin (Travis County) in its southern portion, was conducted over a two-year period. This paper will briefly discuss sampling and elicitation, but it will concentrate on the most significant findings: the correlation between generation differences and dialect variation.

"The Influences of Migratory Routes on Arkansas Dialects." Raouf Halaby, Washita Baptist College. — Distinct dialect differences can be found in the four "corners" of Arkansas. This paper will discuss the methods used to discern these differences, and the relationship between geography and linguistic variation. The focus of the paper will be on the striking correlation between migratory movement, mostly east-west, during the early years of Arkansas development, and present-day dialect variation.

"Regional Variation in American Sign Language: A Look at Texas and California Dialects." Dorothy M. Lee, University of Texas, Austin. — Regional variation is common in American Sign Language (ASL), especially across state lines, and usually stemming from state schools for the deaf. Much of this variation can be seen to be parallel to that of variation in speech. Where in speech, sounds are described by determining place, manner and voicing, signs can be described by specifying hand shape, place, palm orientation, and movement. As in speech, distinct lexical items may vary in different localities. This paper will discuss both signing variation and lexical variation between California and Texas users of ASL.

"George Washington Cable's French-English Dialect and the Free Indirect Style." William Evans, Louisiana State University. — One unexplored facet of Louisianian George Washington Cable's 1870s literary dialect is his use of a method resembling the free indirect style first noted in contemporary French writers. It strikes an English reader particularly in the portrayal of French-English-speaking characters, of course, because of the un-English ring of things like "it must not that anything de trop take place in his house." Though the method appears in several forms throughout Cable's New Orleans fiction as a subtle means of suggesting French speech, or simply milieu, it tends to diminish in his later Creole stories, where, interestingly, the French-English dialogue is increasingly abundant.

October 24: ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING

In association with the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association
Boise, Idaho, Red Lion-Riverside Inn
9:00-10:30 a.m., Garnet Room
Chair: Charles B. Martin, North Texas State University
Regional secretary: Thomas L. Clark, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Program:
"Dialectology in a Completely Homogeneous Speech Community." James W. Ney,
Arizona State University. - Probably one of the most important linguistic constructs to appear in the latter part of the 20th century is the notion of Inherent Variability articulated by Labov, a dialectologist, and the notion of the variable rule. The dialectologist should follow Labov’s lead to explain his discipline. In particular, he should attempt to explain why various pronunciations of items such as *stairs* are found with low or mid front vowels but not high front vowels or back vowels.

"Place Names in Whatcom County, Washington." **Grant W. Smith**, Eastern Washington University. — Place names in the western half of Whatcom County fall into four dominant categories (cf. F.G. Cassidy): 1) For a local person, 2) Descriptive, 3) Indian and 4) Charted. They reflect the personal and professional relationships of the first English explorer and the earliest impressions and experiences of the first American settlers. Dominance by later ethnic groups and business enterprises has had much less effect on local naming. However, there are several examples of renaming which reflect commercial and civic development.

**November 5: MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING**

In association with the Midwest Modern Language Association
Oconomowoc, Wis., Olympic Resort & Spa
2:00-5:15 p.m., Wisconsin A

*Chair:* Timothy Frazer, Western Illinois University

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

**Program:**

"The Front Vowels Before *r* of the North-Central States." **Erika Hartmann**, Thornton Community College. — Among the problems in American dialectology is the shrinking of the number of contrasts in the phonemic systems. This is exemplified by the loss which has been occurring in the New England short *o* (*coat, stone, road*). Widespread simplification of the phonemic system(s) is taking place particularly in the loss of contrasts before *r* so that words like *pork* and *fork* rhyme. This study concerns itself with the falling together of front vowels before *r* as in *Mary, marry* and *merry* by using data from the field records of the Linguistic Atlas of the North-Central States. The raw data are complicated by the large number of phoneticians who transcribed the records and the disparity in their phonetic training. This paper then also addresses itself to the problem of working out a means of equating transcriptions by different fieldworkers.

"The Midland Dialect Nationwide: The Evidence from DARE." **Craig Carver**, DARE. — More than thirty years have elapsed since Kurath published his classic *Word Geography* and established the existence of a "Midland speech area." Since then dozens of articles have appeared corroborating, extending and clarifying the boundaries (primarily the northern boundary) of the Midland dialect. But there is no overall view. Using DARE maps, I want to attempt a definition of the region as a whole. This would necessarily be a very general definition, one based on a very wide-meshed data sample. Nevertheless, by conflating many of DARE’s maps of this region, major and minor isogloss bundles begin to emerge. Several of these have never been explicitly observed or described, since data for the whole country has not been available prior to DARE’s fieldwork.

"The Vowel System of an Eskimo-English Dialect." **Jim Vandergriff**, Central Missouri State University. — In the Kotzebue Sound region of Alaska, a creole English based on an Inupiat substrate is the primary language. This paper is an effort to tentatively define the vocalic system of that dialect. After a brief history of English in the area, the paper discusses each dialect vowel separately and attempts to show its origin in the parent languages.
“Stylistic Factors in the Choice of Coordination Constructions in English.” **Sidney Greenbaum,** University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. — When identical elements are present in coordination constructions, English permits certain choices between full coordination and varying degrees of reduced coordination. We can determine which forms are more acceptable and more frequently used than others. A study of written texts can show the stylistic factors that motivate the use of the less frequent constructions.

“Phonological Change in an Ozark Family: Results of a Four-Generation Study.” **Carol C. Mock,** Marshfield, Mo. — Many different factors can influence phonological variation, and usually the relationship among them has been investigated via ranking: some constraints are stronger than others. In the present study of /t/ deletion, shifts in the /ay/ and /ey/ diphthongs, and the merger of /ɔ/ with /a/, statistically significant constraints on variation always included the preceding or following phoneme and the speaker's age-group, but the factors of style, morphological structure, intonational context, sex and position within the family were significant for only some of the phonological variables or for certain speakers alone, suggesting the need for a more adequate explanation of how constraints interact among themselves.

“Changes in English Spoken by Three Generations of a Finnish Family.” **Maarit-Hannele Tomainen,** University of Minnesota, Duluth. — This paper examines the English spoken by three generations of a Finnish family in northern Minnesota. The first generation consists of immigrants who are native speakers of Finnish. The second generation has both English-dominant and Finnish-dominant bilingual speakers, the third monolingual English speakers. In examining four speakers, it is noted that the influence on English by Finnish phonological rules and grammatical structure determining word addition and formation, and change of lexical items by inflection and declension, decreases from the first to the third generation. Of primary importance are the unmarked features of (1) pronunciation, including devoicing, interdental fricatives becoming stops, and consonant cluster reduction, and (2) morphological change in English vocabulary items.

*Annual Dinner: Broadmoor A*

- 6:00 p.m.: Cash Bar
- 7:00 p.m.: Dinner (Advance reservations necessary)

*Menu: choice of appetizer (salad, juice or soup), Swiss steak, buttered noodles, mixed vegetables, dessert, wine (burgundy or rose). Price of $14.50 includes pre-dinner munchies, dinner, wine, gratuity and tax. Everyone is welcome to visit the cash bar, but reservations are necessary for dinner. Make checks payable to Timothy C. Frazer and send by October 1 to him at: English Department, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Ill. 61455.*

**November 7: SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING**

In association with the South Atlantic Modern Language Association

Louisville, Ky., Galt House

9:00 a.m.

*Chair: Michael Montgomery, University of South Carolina*

*Regional secretary: Jeutonne Brewer, University of North Carolina, Greensboro*

*Nominating committee: Carole P. Hines, Old Dominion University; Ronald R. Butters, Duke University; Connie Eble, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill*

*Program:*

“Getting into Training: The Language of Amtrak.” **Henry R. Stern** and **Robert Klapouchy**, University of North Carolina, Asheville. — In May, Amtrak celebrated its tenth anniversary. The language of rail travel has changed markedly since the advent of
Amtrak. Numerous innovations in the language of train travel are, it is true, the result of technological advances and would have come about with or without Amtrak. Other changes, however, follow in the wake of new systems and procedures (e.g. reservations) introduced by Amtrak. In some instances terms have been changed or train names altered for legal reasons; in other cases public relations and advertising were determining factors. The language of Amtrak is distinctly that of a "National Railroad Passenger Corporation." Ironically, the terms rail and railroad occur rarely in the Amtrak vocabulary, having been replaced by train and track and numerous variations thereof. Today trainmen speak of Amcas, Am-dinettes and Amfleet Service, while their predecessors talked of Pullman cars, drawing rooms and parlor cars; the Southwest Limited now traverses the route of the Chief and Superchief.

"College Slang and Conversation." Connie Eble, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. — Part of an ongoing study of the slang of undergraduates at UNC-CH, this paper looks at how slang functions in conversational 1) openings and closings and 2) stock responses. Studies of conversation have shown that beginnings and ends are highly ritualistic and predictable. This generalization can be applied to the corpus under examination, which includes the following examples:

Openings: What's jumping? What it is?

Closings: Check you later. Later, tater. Catch you on the flip side.

Stock responses loom large in the corpus. They often signal empathy or agreement, which is not surprising since group solidarity is the main impetus for the creation of slang. For example, two stock responses that mean 'that's a shame' are that bites and that's the pits. Both can be used as a response to an utterance like "My folks won't let me have a car next weekend." Responses that signal agreement are shown in the following exchanges:

A. "Isn't that girl pretty." B. "Finest kind."

A. "That's a nice car." B. "I'm serious."

These and other stock responses equivalent to yes, no, anger, disbelief and opposition are examined.

"From Pinch-Em Tight to the Calaboose: Place Names of the Red River Gorge." Ellesa Clay High, Ohio University. — The Daniel Boone National Forest sprawls over half a million acres of eastern Kentucky. Almost a tenth of it lies in the Red River Gorge, a serpentine puzzle of ridges, cliffs, white water and a hundred or more stone arches. From the last half of the 19th century through the 1920s, this area attracted loggers and rivermen, hunters, fishers and trappers, boatmakers, railroaders and blasters, farmers and sharecroppers, many of whom survived by their wits and by herculean labor as the great forest of the Gorge was cut by industry. When the logging companies finished and the railroads closed down, however, many people had no choice but to leave. Today, little remains of that mountain culture except for the colorful place names it left behind. The place names fall into two general categories: those given by natives who lived in the area, and those later supplied by the Federal government when it began buying land for the national forest in the 1930s. Based mostly on field work conducted over several years with informants ranging in age from 60 to 100 who still live close by the Gorge, this paper deals with the first category. These place names will be discussed in four groups: 1) places named after persons living in the area (Martins Fork, Grays Arch, Amburgy Holler); 2) places named after natural phenomena (Chimney Top, Ravens Rock, Star Gap); 3) place names which reflect the logging, mining and other activities of people in the Gorge (Powder Mill Branch, Boardtree Holler, Fishtrap); 4) place names originating from folklore and superstition (Pinch-Em Tight, Swift Creek, the Dark Holler). Many place names well known to natives (Titanic, Fox Scales, Rocky Jane Holler)
do not appear on official maps, while others appear but have been misrepresented (Spaas Creek—Spaws Creek, Bell Branch—Belves Branch, Parched Com—Parch Corn).

Business meeting.

"Fifty Years Later and Less: Dialect Loss in West Virginia." Martha C. Howard, West Virginia University. — Based on a survey made by Carey Wootfer in 1927 (American Speech, May 1927), a follow-up study was made in 1977-79 to determine the extent of lexical dialect loss in central West Virginia. Informants of types I, II and III as well as A and B were used. Definite loss was demonstrated and a close correlation shown between loss of dialect and number of years of education informants finished and the level of education and degrees achieved by public school teachers in the period and area.

"Southern Speech: Accomplishments and Needs." Raven I. McDavid, Jr., University of Chicago. — A decade and a half ago, a prospective on Southern speech indicated some specific areas of accomplishment and equally specific lines in which future research might be conducted. Since that time some remarkable developments have taken place. Most obvious is the completion of the field work for the Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States, under the direction of Lee Pederson. Two other regional surveys lag. The atlas of Oklahoma has a magnificent collection of taped interviews (as with LAGS, all interviews have been taped, with transcription to follow), but there was never the support to provide scribes and other assistance, so that on Van Riper’s death in 1977 only the taped records were done. However, arrangements have been made for transcription and for disseminating the transcripts by microfilm, while an energetic young scholar, Bruce Southard, is exploring ways of speeding up the editing. The Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States, the senior project in the region, has been plagued with administrative problems, and its immediate future is uncertain though its long-term prospects are good. By the end of the current academic year there will be two volumes available. Interim ways of disseminating the data are being explored, while the editors face the problem of continuing operations till there is a full publication. A number of field studies of individual communities have been conducted, in such communities as Charleston, Savannah and Augusta. A second-generation study of Richmond and other parts of Virginia has been launched. Green’s Virginia Word Book, one of the classical studies, is being reedited. Several successful studies of literary dialect have been made, and a forthcoming anthology of dialect humor, drawing on the knowledge provided by the regional atlases, should provide more understanding of the speech of the region and make the writings more accessible. Demands of the schools have led to a number of studies of nonstandard speech, particularly in the uplands and among the blacks. Unfortunately, there has been too little cooperation between the traditional scholars and the more affluent new investigators. It is hoped that the next generation will bring these groups together.

November 22: NCTE CONCURRENT SESSION

At the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English
Boston, Sheraton-Boston Hotel
4:15-5:30 p.m. (Concurrent Session F-15)

Chair: A. Murray Kinloch, University of New Brunswick
Associate Chair: Virginia McDavid, Chicago State University

Program: "Linguistic Conservatism in Professional School Admission Tests."
Marianne Cooley, Texas Tech University. — The English language sections of LSAT, GMAT, DAT, MCAT reflect current conservative and popular views of usage and grammar. This appears especially evident when one compares test versions within the past two years with the earlier versions. I have analyzed the tests'
explanatory matter for their premises about "standard written English" and verbal aptitude, and I have classified the test questions according to the type of information tested: disputed usage, major or minor English grammatical constituent, or rhetorical principle of composition. My results suggest that professional entrance tests are responding to the current concern for maintaining traditional standards of English usage with a traditional conception of what constitutes these standards. The tests' language sections reflect the public's renewed interest in culture-specific standard English usage, items of disputed usage and grammar, at the expense of less culture-specific verbal analogies and vocabulary relationships tested in recent times.


"An Understudied Area of Bilingualism: The Franco of Maine." Jacob Bennett, University of Maine, Orono. — French is a pervasive linguistic force in Maine, a striking situation as that language works against the conservative Yankee speech of the "Anglos." This paper will report on field work in the state.

December 30: ANNUAL MEETING
In association with the Modern Language Association of America New York City, New York Hilton
(Executive Council meeting, Dec. 29, 5:15-6:30 p.m., Hilton 543. Joint informal meeting with executive council of American Name Society, Dec. 28, 7:00-8:15 p.m., Hilton 543.)

Presiding: Marvin Carmony, ADS President
Program chair: A. Murray Kinloch, ADS Vice President
All three sessions in New York Hilton, Beekman Room
FIRST SESSION: 8:30-9:45 am. (MLA Session 620)

"Linguistic Atlases as Evidence." John M. Kirk, University of Sheffield, England. — As joint editor of a new volume of collected secondary investigation into the linguistic geography of the dialects of English in the British Isles, I wish to report on some of the claims that the book sets out to establish. The volume draws together for the first time the accumulated resources of the national dialect surveys in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and proceeds to demonstrate how undeniably usable this often neglected material can be. Such British atlases form a well-timed bridge between the older and the newer surveys, both in terms of the distributional data they provide and in terms of the data's implications for linguistic variation and language change, in particular as between the past and the present, one generation and another, and rural and urban areas. The material is not merely regional, however, but is characterized for age, sex, class, occupation and chronology. Such atlases also offer opportunities for analyses of a uniquely systematic and quantifiable kind. The paper will concentrate upon several arguments in some detail: lexical erosion with material from Scotland, England and Ireland; dialectometry or the quantitative study of lexical and morphological variation in England, with new insights into the concept of "mutual intelligibility"; and the stylistic status of responses.

"English in Francophone New Brunswick." Anthony B. House, University of New Brunswick. — In New Brunswick, the counties of Gloucester, Kent, Madawaska and Restigouche show a preponderance of francophone inhabitants. Additionally,
Northumberland and Westmorland have a high proportion though not a preponderance of francophones. But all of these counties have a greater or smaller number of anglophone residents. The goal of this paper is to present highlights of the phonology, morphology, syntax and lexicon of the English spoken in bilingual counties of New Brunswick and to compare them with comparable data about English in the anglophone areas. A short but representative corpus of tape-recorded examples will be presented and examined from two points of view: 1) A systematic comparison with identical studies done in anglophone counties; 2) A systematic check made at the four levels of analysis of "Languages in Contact" phenomena. The second point of view should be revealed wherever there is a significant difference in the items compared in the first. This method will show how far, if at all, close contact with French has influenced the English of bilingual areas in New Brunswick, and which features of French are most readily absorbed by anglophones.

"The Role of American English in Quebec French Slang." Stanley Aléong, Université de Montreal. — Like nearly all languages of socially stratified societies, Canadian or Quebec French has its own disapproved and stigmatized vocabulary that could be called slang. While the bulk of these lexical items have developed indigenously, there is some influence from contemporary European French slang and, more importantly, a very noticeable presence of American English words. This paper attempts an explanation of this particular presence and its persistence. There seem to be two major factors at work in the lexical borrowing of slang forms. First, the diffusion of popular American culture has led to the concomitant diffusion of associated lexical forms, as in sports, illegal activities, automobile culture, pop music and CB radio. A second factor, admittedly vague, is the particular status of English within French Canadian society. On the one hand English is associated with power and prestige, and on the other it has been traditionally viewed as the arch-enemy of the French language in Quebec. It is suggested that this is conducive to certain kinds of borrowing. Tape-recorded examples of the speech of Quebec's No. 1 disc jockey will illustrate the presentation.

SECOND SESSION: 10:15-11:30 a.m. (MLA Session 652)

"Some Trends in the Pronunciation of Young Americans (Maybe)." James Hartman, University of Kansas. — In addition to the now-famous merger of a/o sweeping its way through young (and not so young) speakers in a large geographical area, it is possible that several less noticeable changes may be taking place as well. These changes are less noticeable, I believe, for several reasons: 1) They are and have been part of local and regional pronunciations; that is, they are not new (but I think they are being improved); 2) They are conditioned phonetic changes, sometimes leading to phonemic merger, sometimes not; 3) The phonetic change types have strong analogues elsewhere in the phonological system; 4) The diffusion among speakers is probably socially conditioned, thus uneven in any locality; 5) Good systematic data on speakers under 25 across the country is not available (and I do not promise it here). In this context, drawing on a variety of studies, leaning heavily on inference, approximately six features of pronunciation will be discussed. The theme of the urbanization of American English, a process which converts selected local and regional characteristics into larger regional, potentially national ones, will be proffered as one explanation for the change. Why these particular features have been selected will be tentatively explained as depending in part on the foregoing process and in part on their reflection of long-term drifts in American English pronunciation.

"Vocabulary Change in Alabama." Virginia O. Foscue, University of Alabama. — In 1976, ten years after the completion of my first study of Alabama vocabulary (PADS 56), I
began a second one to determine whether the often-expressed idea that the "Southern dialect," that is, the Southern and South Midland dialect, is dying out is accurate. For the last five years students in my course in dialectology have been using the questionnaire of the Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States to interview life-long residents of Alabama. At the present time I have close to 70 completed questionnaires and shall have more by the end of the fall semester. More than half of the interviews included the urban supplement to the LAGS questionnaire. More than half of the persons interviewed were in their 20s, and the others were older than 50. My examination of the data has revealed that a number of vocabulary items with a regional distribution (play pretty, Christmas Gift!, lightwood, plum peach) are now used almost exclusively by the older informants and that some terms, particularly some of the ones associated with drugs, are used only by the younger informants. While there is nothing surprising about these differences, I have been amazed to discover that the differences occur in a very large number of items; at least 80 on the regular questionnaire. My conclusion is that, although the younger informants now use few of the older regional expressions, they do use most of the newer expressions that Lee Pederson has found to be of most frequent occurrence throughout the Gulf States.

"A Semantic Analysis of Terms for New Orleans Housetypes." George Oliver and Frank Parker, Louisiana State University. — In order to gather detailed information on the lexical structure of terms for housetypes, a photo-questionnaire was devised, consisting of 60 photographs of houses found around New Orleans. The photos represented 14 different 'lexemes' (i.e. housetypes). Twenty native informants, ranging in age from 18 to 81, were asked to provide a form (i.e. a word) for each photograph, with these results: 1) Numerous forms not recorded in the one previous study were elicited (e.g. shotgun, camelback, slave quarters, two-story double, L-shaped cottage). 2) There was considerable inter-speaker variation; not only did some informants respond differently to particular stimuli, but the total number of lexemes for any given speaker ranged from 6 to 14. 3) The forms within each informant's vocabulary fell into an implicational hierarchy. That is, if an informant used the form duplex, he also used double; if he used double, he also used shotgun, and so on. 4) The 14 lexemes identified in this study can be characterized using seven binary semantic features defined in terms of three-dimensional space:

[±UNIDIRECTIONAL]: ⇒← deeper than wide
[±RE Duplication]: ⇒← main area duplicated
[±Horizontal]: ⇒← duplication on horizontal axis
[±Secondary]: ⇒← presence of secondary living area
[±Vertical]: ⇒← secondary area on vertical axis
[±Equal]: ⇒← secondary area equal in dimensions to main area
[±Parallel]: ⇒← structure parallel to street

These features yield a unique characterization for each lexeme. For example, a 'hi-lo' differs from a 'camelback' only in that the former is parallel to the street. A 'camelback' differs from a 'shotgun' only in that the first is as wide as it is deep. A 'duplex' differs from a 'cottage' only in that the former has a main area that is not reduplicated. A 'camelback' differs from an 'L' only in that the secondary area in the first is vertical to the main area. 5) The characterization of lexemes in terms of features accounts for the occurrence of semantically well-formed utterances as well as the non-occurrence of anomalous utterances. For example, *I live in the left half of that duplex (duplex is [-HORIZ]); *We're redecorating the second story of our L (L is [-VERT]). Moreover, feature
analysis helps account for interspeaker variation. For example, one informant used *double* to indicate the three lexemes 'double shotgun', 'duplex' and 'double camelback'. This may reflect the fact that these lexemes intersect in the feature specification [+REDUP]. On the other hand, none of the informants used the same form to indicate the lexemes 'duplex' and 'L'. This may be explained by the fact that these lexemes have no features in common. In sum, house type forms (analogous to phones) can be differentiated from 'lexemes' (analogous to phonemes), which in turn can be characterized in terms of spatially defined semantic features.

THIRD SESSION: 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m. (MLA Session 675)

"Explaining Computers in Non-Computer Terms." **Diana Mae Sims,** Texas Instruments Inc. — This paper extends an earlier report (LSA meeting, Dec. 1980) on explaining computer technology to non-computer specialists. To date, industrial user documentation has been based upon the empirically-derived premise that once the terms are explained, the discursive text is relatively easy to develop. At TI, current efforts in this area include: 1) Developing a sense of the user's language; 2) Deciding which essential terms to introduce and which to substitute with familiar words; 3) Reducing the time required to produce user documentation by automating the edit process. The second of these directions is the focus of the paper.

"Language Analysis and Lexicography by Microcomputer." **Thomas M. Palkeday,** The New York Times Everyday Dictionary. — Most of the work traditionally carried out as "harmless drudgery" by hand in compiling dictionaries can now be handled faster, more efficiently and more systematically using a microcomputer system costing under $10,000. Citations can now be extracted in a matter of seconds from data bases containing billions of words of text similar to the Brown University Corpus of one million words containing 500 samples belonging to 15 genres of American English published in 1961. Citations can be displayed on an ordinary VDT screen with the keyword in the middle and hard copies printed out for closer or more leisurely study. State-of-the-art technology allows one to have a file of up to 40 megabytes (6.25 million words) on line for global searches; alphabetization by types and frequency counts of tokens; cross-checking of new texts with the on-line file of current English or with an indefinitely expandable backup file of the language of previous years to check on new words entering the vocabulary; concordancing for collocational studies; reverse alphabetization for study of suffixation patterns, and other routines traditionally carried out by manual labor. References will be made to work being done at the Universities of Lancaster and Birmingham in England and the International Computer Archive of Modern English at the University of Bergen, Norway.

"Types of American Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings and Their Frequency of Occurrence in the ADS Computer Research Project." **Stewart A. Kingsbury,** Northern Michigan University. — Since before 1945 the ADS has been sponsoring the collection and research of American proverbs and proverbial sayings under the direction of Margaret M. Bryant, chair of the Committee on Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings. At present a computerized study is being made of the citation slips gathered by the committee. Over 181,000 citation slips have been stored on magnetic tape at Northern Michigan University. This paper will deal with the eight types of proverbs defined by Bryant in *Proverbs and How to Collect Them* (PADS 4, 1945) and will answer these questions based on a unique proverbs-proverbial sayings list compiled from a sampling of 60,980 proverbs: 1) What is the frequency of occurrence of each proverb type? 2) What is the differentiation between regional English and proverbial sayings (Bryant's
proverb types 4, 5, 6: sayings with a verb (not a complete sentence), sayings not involving a verb, and proverbial comparisons and similes)? 3) What types of proverbs yield a high frequency count? What is the area distribution of the two most frequently cited proverbs? 5) What types of proverbs yield a low frequency count?

Annual Business Meeting.

NEH ENDOWS CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE IN THE SOUTH

On October 1, 2 and 3, the University of South Carolina will host an NEH-sponsored research conference on "Language Variety in the South: Perspectives in Black and White." Two dozen invited speakers and panelists, most of them well known to ADS members, will appear in these sessions:

- The Historical Perspective, 2 p.m. Oct. 1.
- The Sounds of Southern English, 9 a.m. Oct. 2.
- The Grammar of Southern English, 1:30 p.m. Oct. 2.
- The Speech Act in the South, 8 p.m. Oct. 2.
- Related Perspectives, 9 a.m. Oct. 3.
- Panel discussion, 11 a.m. Oct. 3.
- Symposium on Educational Implications of Language Differences in the South, 1:30 p.m. Oct. 3.
- Roundtable discussion of needed future research, 4 p.m. Oct. 3.

For further information write the conference director, Michael Montgomery, Department of English, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.

NEH ALSO ENDOWS FIRST CONFERENCE ON MEXICAN-AMERICAN ENGLISH

Eighteen speakers and panelists have been scheduled to participate in an NEH-funded research conference on "The Investigation of Form and Function in Mexican-American (Chicano) English: New Insights" at the University of Texas, El Paso this month. The conference is co-sponsored by UTEP and El Paso Community College, and is organized by J.L. Ornstein-Galicia of UTEP.

The tentative program focused on the linguistic dimension Sept. 10, socio-cultural dimensions Sept. 11, and arriving at syntheses and conclusions Sept. 12. The schedule was designed with opportunities for informal as well as formal exchange of ideas and insights.

Though the conference will be over by the time members receive this notice, publication of at least some of the proceedings is a distinct possibility. For further information write J.L. Ornstein-Galicia, Dept. of Linguistics, University of Texas, El Paso, Tex. 79968.

CALL FOR PAPERS: LANGUAGE AND POPULAR CULTURE

For the first time, the Popular Culture Association is scheduling sessions dealing specifically with language for its annual meeting, to be held in 1982 in Louisville, Ky., at the Galt House Hotel. Sessions will deal with Language and Popular Culture, Language and Advertising, Regional English, and Social Variations of English. November 1 is the deadline to send abstracts of papers 15-20 minutes in length to: Bruce Southard, English Department, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla. 74078.

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL DICTIONARY ASSOCIATION has issued an appeal for funds to help complete the Concise Scots Dictionary by the scheduled date of 1984. Interest-free loans of £25 or more will be happily accepted, to be applied towards purchase of the 700-page dictionary when it is published. Write The Secretary, Scottish National Dictionary Association Ltd., 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD.
NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

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


MARY RITCHIE KEY. Catherinethe Great's Linguistic Contribution. Current Inquiry into Language and Linguistics, 36. Linguistic Research, Inc. (P.O. Box 5677, Station L, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6C 4G1), 1980. — Although her work remains almost unknown in linguistic circles today, Catherine the Great compiled the first comparative listing of related vocabulary of languages of the world. Humboldt used her collection in developing his ideas on linguistic universals.


PUBLICATIONS: ALMOST ON SCHEDULE

*American Speech* 56.1 (Spring 1981) was sent to ADS members in May by the University of Alabama Press; 56.2 (Summer) was sent in June; 56.3 is scheduled to go out this month.

*Publication of the American Dialect Society* 66, Wm. E. Kruck's remarkably engrossing account of his search for the Inventive Dr. Condom, was sent to 1981 ADS members in August.

Only *American Speech* 52.3-4 (Fall-Winter 1977) remains yet to be sent out by Columbia University Press. We have hopes that this will be accomplished soon, to bring our journals fully up to date.
AN INVITATION TO WORD WATCHERS

Suggestions on Collecting the New Vocabulary from the ADS Research Committee on New Words: I. Willis Russell, Chairman; Mary Gray Porter, Co-Chairman

In this report we would like to supplement what we wrote in the May 1981 NADS. We would like, first of all, to make clear that though we were seeming to address possible volunteers who would work with the Committee on New Words, what we said applies to anyone who wishes to send in citations, whether on the Committee or not. The more citations we receive, the richer the file and the sounder the work based on it.

We have decided that Webster's Third can be omitted from the preliminary checking; it can be checked when the preliminary draft of "Among the New Words" is ready for review. If a copy of Webster's New Collegiate 1980 and the World Book Dictionary 1981 are not at hand, we can easily check them.

Nothing was said in our NADS piece about what to collect. In brief, collect anything that the preliminary checking indicates may be new, that is, unrecorded. If you have doubts about the worth of an item, crush them. Only time and further citations can determine this; we never try to label in "Among the New Words."

Citations of the new vocabulary can be found in many other places than in edited writing. They may come from advertisements, comic strips, cartoons, circular letters, display signs in stores, conversation (include date and, if possible, something about the speaker, such as college graduate, lawyer), radio and television.

For example, during television listening one day recently the chairman noted five terms that seemed worth recording. Emotional blackmail from a soap opera interested him because of its analogy with nuclear blackmail (World Book Dictionary 1981 has "blackmail" by the Nuclear Powers" in one of its illustrations under blackmail). Aerial in the collocation aerial walkway (also called a skybridge, skyway) does not seem to be precisely covered by the definition "lofty," so on his citation slip where the checking is recorded he will note "W3 cf sense 1f" and "WBD cf sense 4." These notes indicate uncertainty at the time of recording. A window of vulnerability which can be closed as a country builds up its military defense may turn out to be only a striking metaphor. So was iron curtain, which occurred a number of times before Sir Winston Churchill's use of it made it a lexical item. Better to record it, then, and see what happens; rather record too much than too little. The fifth term was waterize, heard on "Nova."

Though no mention was made of new derivatives in the paragraph on what to collect, we would like to observe that derivatives make up around 20 percent of the new vocabulary. Hence new derivatives are quite definitely grist for our mill.

It goes without saying that all contributions used in "Among the New Words" will be acknowledged.

THE GIFT OF SPEECH (CONT.)

As mentioned in the May Newsletter, if you should be disburdening your bookshelves, the Executive Secretary would be happy to recycle your back issues of American Speech— or PADS. (Thanks very much to those who responded to the initial request.) Last year's first two issues of American Speech (if you're really sure you don't need them) would make an especially welcome gift, because those issues are now out of print, yet legitimate claims for them are still coming in. The Secretary will happily reimburse your postage, if you wish, and thank you for your tax-deductible contribution.

ACLS, WASHINGTON, APRIL: MONEY TALKS

After the creme brulee was cleared from the tables in the ornate upstairs hall at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., the Hon. Sidney Yates (D.-III.) was introduced as "all of your best friend" to speak to the Annual Dinner of the American Council of Learned Societies April 6. "The arts and the humanities programs are among this administration's lowest priorities," Yates said. "I suspect the reductions this year, if accepted, will lead to complete elimination in future years."

Budget was his theme, as it was of so many speakers at the 64th annual meeting of the consortium of learned societies to which the ADS belongs. ("The crisis is bringing humanists out of their ivory closets at last," said one.) Drinking in Yates' words as well as the Tori Karolo 1976 were Allan Metcalf, representing ADS on the Council of Secretaries, and Fred Cassidy, official delegate. They needed no instruction in the significance of the cut in funds for the National Endowment for the Humanities under the new dispensation; for the past decade NEH has been the chief support of Cassidy's and the ADS' Dictionary of American Regional English. (NEH funds also made possible two research conferences announced elsewhere in this Newsletter.)

As the year goes on, so does the insistence on cuts throughout the federal government; even the military budget is now under attack. To guard against NEH receiving the unkindest cuts of all, an alliance for the specific purpose of encouraging Congressional support for NEH and testifying on its behalf was formed in March: the National Humanities Alliance. The ADS, by vote of the Executive Council, has accepted an invitation to join NHA. They now send us, every few weeks, a report on the status of NEH's budgets and advice on appropriate Representatives and Senators to write. If you have the time and interest to write legislators in support of NEH, we can put you on the mailing list for these NHA reports; write ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf for information.

The creme brulee is long gone, but if you would like to savor Yates' speech, as well as remarks by NEH Chairman Joseph Duffey, their complete texts are in the Winter-Spring 1981 ACLS Newsletter. A subscription to this quarterly is free to any ADS member who requests it. Just write: Editor, ACLS Newsletter, 800 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

MLA CIFTS AMERICAN SPEECH FOR HARD CORE

By Bruce Southard, Oklahoma State University

The Modern Language Association plans to implement CIFT (Contextual Indexing and Faceted Taxonomic Access System) for its 1981 Bibliography. Previous bibliographies have indexed each article most often in only one location, sometimes in two locations (with a number appearing for the second entry), rarely in three. CIFT will involve categorizing each work in as many as 15 separate classifications. While the printed bibliography will continue to have each entry appearing only once, the additional categories will be available via computer access. This means that a computer search would turn up "A Comparative Study of the Grammar of Acadian and Cajun Narratives" should the researcher ask for any of the following categories:

French Language; French Language—Acadian dialect; French Language—Cajun dialect; Canada—Nova Scotia; United States—Louisiana; Modern French; Dialectology; Grammar; Tagmemics; Folk narratives; Dissertation.

Because of the increased work required by CIFT's implementation, the MLA staff decided for the present not to "cift" all journals surveyed by the bibliography staff. Instead, they consulted "interested specialists" who defined a list of "core journals." This "core" consists of approximately 10 percent of the journals covered by the Bibliography. American Speech has been designated as one of the "core" journals for the linguistics volume of the Bibliography.
DARE QUERIES — TWELFTH SERIES

THESE QUERIES are by way of becoming an established feature of NADS. We have plenty of questions at DARE and your replies are often helpful. So we’ll keep offering them as long as readers keep answering them. As usual, we want to know when, where, why and by whom these words or phrases are used. Write to Prof. F.G. Cassidy, Dictionary of American Regional English, 6125 Helen White Hall, Madison, Wis. 53706.

chon-chon - Two reports from Louisiana: 1) a country hick; 2) a miserly person. Some overlapping there? Any other examples? Other meanings?

chicken nest — A pothole or chuckhole in a rough unpaved road; one report from Pennsylvania. Does anyone else know this? Other senses of this word?

chongo — Two senses, both from Texas: 1) a “droop-horn” bull; 2) a woman’s top-knot. We need more evidence. And are there any other senses?

chizzly — adj., used about the weather. What, precisely, does it mean? Our examples are from Washington, Kansas and Rhode Island. Anywhere else? Is it used of other things besides weather?

chalk — We have three mid-19th century quots (New York, New England, Virginia) in which the meaning is “something outstanding, fashionable, of good quality.” DA and DAE define as “the real or proper thing.” Has there been any later use? Or is it obsolete? (It’s not the same as “by a long chalk.”)

chinker — A rough, wild or dangerous horse; one report from Connecticut. Is this a “oncer” or is it used elsewhere? And what’s the sense of the word in relation to chinks?

Chinese eyes — Very round eyes (Florida, Louisiana) and Chink eyes — eyes that stick out (New York). Presumably these are the same, but the description is in some doubt. We also have Chinky-tin eyes (Texas) and Chinquapin eyes (Louisiana, North Carolina) for very round eyes. Further evidence would help us sort this out.

chuck wagon — A type of sandwich. How long has this been in existence? What are the ingredients? Where is it well established?

chicken trouble — The hiccups; one report from Massachusetts. Is this phrase known elsewhere? It could be an individualism...

blow-gun — A braggart. One report from Pennsylvania. Is it used elsewhere?

duck butter — The stuff that gathers in the inner corners of the eyes during sleep. We’d like further evidence on this sense of the word, and also other terms for the same stuff in the eyes.

come-all-you — A fist fight with several people participating; a free-for-all. Reported once from northeastern New York. This looks like something that should be more widely used.

bloom-winter — A sudden cold spell in late spring. (Perhaps like blackberry winter?) We have one report from Kentucky, 1941, a printed source. Is this a genuine folk usage or a literary coinage?

cap barn — 1770 diary from Massachusetts. “I worked on my Cap Barn . . . Great Part ye Day. I moved the Posts and raised ye next Day.” Is it a barn or a hay barrack?

captain major — Mississippi, 1966: “A favorite card game.” How is it played? By whom?

ADS OFFICERS NEXT YEAR — For 1982 Marvin Carmony will continue as president; A. Murray Kinloch as vice president; Juanita Williamson, Richard W. Bailey, and Bethany K. Dumas as members at large of the Council; and Thomas L. Clark as elected member of the Nominating Committee. (See Page 2 for the one 1982 nomination.)