NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members and subscribers. Send ADS dues ($20 per year), queries and news to the editor and executive secretary, Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650-2590.
PRIZES? AWARDS? OUR COMMITTEE ASKS YOU
From the Ad Hoc Committee on Awards and Prizes—
Edward Callary, Thomas J. Creswell, Henry J. Warkentyne

President Kinloch has asked us to deliver a final report concerning the desirability of an ADS awards program to the Executive Council at the December meeting. If such a program is found desirable, we are also to recommend specific means for its implementation, specifications of the kinds and numbers of awards, and selection procedures for recipients.

We feel that it is necessary to get a general sense of the ADS membership on these matters. Therefore we ask that you take a few minutes and respond to the questions below. We realize that it is difficult to take time from a busy schedule, especially at this time of year, but we urgently need your replies in order to effectively fulfill our charge. Please let us hear from you at your earliest convenience.

1. Should the ADS concern itself with formal recognition of distinguished work in dialect study? Why or why not?

2. If so, should this recognition be in the form of ADS Fellowships, awards or prizes, scholarships to support specific projects, or some other? Or some combination of these?

3. Do you favor granting a small number of (occasional) “lifetime” or “career” awards for long-term service to the cause of dialect study, or more frequent and regular (perhaps annual) awards for one-time significant contributions? Or some combination?

4. Should ADS awards be primarily substantive or primarily formal? Many professional organizations give certificates of recognition while others opt for monetary awards, trophies, medallions or plaques. Which do you think would be most appropriate for furthering the aims and goals of the Society?

5. Should a special fund be established to finance an ADS awards program, or should costs, insofar as possible, come from the general operating fund?

Your responses to these questions, as well as any other comments you might care to make on the subject, will be carefully considered by the committee. Send your replies by NOVEMBER 21 to:

Edward Callary
English Department
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, Ill. 50115

(You may copy this form, tear it out, or answer the questions in a separate letter.)
ANNUAL MEETING 1984: THE COMPLETE PROGRAM

December 27-30: ADS Annual Meeting in association with the Library of Congress (Washington), LSA (Baltimore) and MLA (Washington).

There is no ADS registration fee for the Dec. 28 session at the Library of Congress. Those who attend the sessions at LSA and MLA must pay the respective registration fees. For MLA registration, housing and membership information, write Modern Language Association, 62 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011. For LSA, write Linguistic Society of America, 3520 Prospect St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. ADS members are eligible for LSA's lower preregistration rates ($25 instead of $30 regular, $15 instead of $20 student—deadline Dec. 1), even if they do not belong to LSA.

Both MLA (Washington) and LSA (Baltimore) have special hotel rates. As of press time, MLA has made no mention of special travel rates; LSA has announced that "World Wide Associates, 1730 N. Lynn St., Arlington, VA 22209 (703-525-6784 or 800-368-3076) will be pleased to assist members with their transportation to Baltimore."

For those staying in Washington who wish to travel to the Baltimore session, ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf will help arrange transportation, possibly on Amtrak. Let him know if you would like to join the group.

Advance reservations are required for the ADS Annual Luncheon. See box on next page.

Friday, Dec. 28—Library of Congress. All meetings (except luncheon) in Madison Building, West Dining Room.
9:00 a.m. Executive Council. Meeting open to all members. (An agenda will be available in December. Write the Executive Secretary for a copy.)
10:30 a.m. Morning session.
This position paper describes the work to be done on a computerized listing of 60,000 sentence-length present-day English discussion group.

PRESENT-DAY ENGLISH
DISCUSSION GROUP
MLA ANNUAL MEETING 1984
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Friday, Dec. 28
"A Case Study in Lexical Shift: Testing a Hypothesis." Thomas L. Clark, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas.
"Seek and Ye Shall Find: Linguistic Variables as a Function of the Fieldworker." Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Univ. of Chicago.
proverbs, selected from the ADS collection of 250,000 proverbs and proverbial sayings gathered by Margaret M. Bryant and her committee over the past 45 years. This statement, reviewed by her and the collaborating editors, describes the proposal to the Oxford University Press to publish a three-volume edition of a dictionary of ADS American sentence-length proverbs and a more recent proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to produce an edited manuscript for the ADS Dictionary of American Proverbs over the period July 1, 1985 through June 30, 1988.


Editorial procedures include the combination, reordering and alphabetizing of previously listed entries under grammatically similar key words; addition of new data from California, Colorado and New Mexico; and final submission of the manuscript to the editors and designated members of the ADS Committee on Proverbs and Proverbial Sayings. Sample entries show input data and final manuscript form, which calls for a 64 percent reduction of the final manuscript page, permitting the publication of a single 1750-page volume from the 3600-page manuscript.

- "The Vocabulary of the Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay." CAROLE P. HINES and DAVID L. SHORES, Old Dominion Univ.

The Chesapeake Bay—"the Great Protein Factory," as Mencken called it—is the continent's largest estuary and has been a thriving fishery for a long time. This study covers the working vocabulary of the watermen from the harvesting of oysters, clams, crabs and fish through the marketing of them, including the words and phrases they use for seafaring and weather conditions. The important questions focus on the character, origins, and geographical and social limits of the vocabulary; the preservation and disappearance of features; variations in pronunciation, and lexical change and dialect diffusion. The investigators use direct questioning of young and old watermen from communities along the James, York, Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers and their tributaries of the Western Shore and the bayside and seaside creeks and villages of the Eastern Shore. The data will complement what has already been gleaned from casual conversations, publications, and the practical knowledge of one of the investigators who from childhood has been familiar with the life and work of watermen.

- "Informant Selection—Again." LAWRENCE M. DAVIS, Univ. of Haifa.

Any student fresh from even an introductory statistics course finds a great deal wanting in the ways dialectologists, regional and social, have chosen informants. Michael Linn (American Speech 58 [1983]; 225-43) warned against choosing informants "simply because of availability" (240). The danger, of course, involves the introduction of bias into the sample.

Recent research in sampling procedures, however, suggests that many dialectologists' sampling techniques might not, in fact, introduce destructive bias. They are similar, in many ways, to the techniques used by medical researchers, who, like dialectologists, are forced to analyze real data from real people.

### ANNUAL LUNCHEON

**AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY**  
Friday, December 28, 1984  
12:00-1:15 p.m.

Dining Room A, Madison Building  
Library of Congress

**FRESH FRUIT CUP**
**BAKED HERB CHICKEN**
**OVEN BROWNED POTATOES**
**WHOLE BABY CARROTS**
**ROLL AND BUTTER**
**COFFEE OR TEA**

**GLASS OF ALMADÉN CHABLIS**
**SHERBET AND COOKIES**

- Remarks by President A. Murray Kinloch
- Recognition of Life Members

Reservations required; December 10 is the deadline. Write ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf (address on cover). Pay at the luncheon: only $8.30, tip included.

12:00 noon Luncheon (see box).  
1:30 p.m. Afternoon session


Mencken once told me that the part of his *American Language* that caused him the most trouble was the parallel listings. I will take up some of the problems involved, e.g. that there are no true equivalences, and those given by Ichiya (1933), Horwill (1939), Carey (1953), De Funiak (1963) and others, are very faulty.

I plan to cite some very rare sources, such as the first printed list, published by an American at Ripon, England in 1908—not even known to Mencken and not in any American library—and also a small book by a Rhodes Scholar in 1918, submitted to Basil Blackwell's and copy-edited by them but never printed.
A new diachronic method for reconstructing Colonial English takes two historical avenues of approach. The first is a close study of the language of American relic areas, as well as the speech of the 19th century as depicted in the works of certain local colorists. The second consists of the analysis of 15th century East Anglian manuscripts, since East Anglia was the place of origin of most of the original Puritan settlers.

I will demonstrate by using two “field workers,” one from 19th century Maine and one from 15th century Norfolk in East Anglia (before Caxton’s press began the process of leveling and standardizing). The Maine writer is George Savary Wasson; the East Anglian is one friar Galfridus, who, as a teacher, compiled a dictionary, the Promptorium Parvulorum, for his young students. Both used the language of the folk, and they appear quite similar in many of their dialect characteristics, particularly on the lexical level. A number of the forms in both writers appear as well in the Linguistic Atlas of New England.

“Northern Dialect Boundaries: The Mississippi Fault-Line.” CRAIG CARVER, DARE.

The Mississippi, the grandaddy of American rivers, had a profound influence on the westward flow of settlement and thus on the regional dialects and their boundaries. It ran virtually at right angles to the westward expansion, briefly damming the flood of pioneers and diverting it usually northward or to the Far West. At the same time, because it was one of the few major natural highways that ran north and south, it conducted settlers primarily from the lower Mississippi Valley northward, disrupting the continuity of the dialect boundaries that eventually crossed the river. Using DARE fieldwork and the Linguistic Atlas materials, I will look at what happens to isogloss bundles as they meet the Mississippi in Illinois and continue on the western bank.

3:15 p.m. Special presentation

In 1933 and 1934 Miles Hanley and his associates made more than a thousand 12-inch 78 RPM aluminum phonograph recordings for the Linguistic Atlas of New England. In due course these and later recordings made by Hanley passed into the custody of the current editor of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States, RAVEN I. McDAVID, JR. of the University of Chicago. This summer, with the blessing of the ADS Executive Council, the recordings were transferred to the Library of Congress for permanent safekeeping. At this special session, McDavidd will discuss and demonstrate the recordings, and officially present them to the Library.

4:00 Annual Business Meeting

Elections; annual reports of committees, editors, regional groups and officers. The special committee on prizes and awards will have a report, and Wayne Glowka will be on hand to discuss a proposed book on teaching about variation in North American English.

LEXICOGRAPHY DISCUSSION GROUP
MLA ANNUAL MEETING 1984
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Saturday, Dec. 29
8:30-9:45 a.m., Grant Room, Washington Hilton. Chair: Raoul N. Smith, Northeastern Univ.


“Dictionnaires Models or Mirrors?” Gladys Saunders, Univ. of Virginia.

“New Forms of Specialized Dictionaries.” William J. Frawley, Univ. of Delaware.

Saturday, Dec. 29—Hyatt Regency Baltimore.
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Session with LSA. Chair: Ronald Butters, Duke Univ.


Studies of the linguistic concepts of non-linguists (“folk linguistics”) are uncommon. However, general sociolinguistic concerns, particularly those of language attitude research and the definition of such concepts as “speech community,” would seem to depend on an understanding of the ordinary speaker’s metatheoretical position. Exploited here is the ordinary speaker’s perception of U.S. dialect boundaries. Surveys from five different regions (Hawaii, New York City, western New York, southern Indiana and southeastern Michigan) are contrasted. The maps drawn by informants are contrasted with one another and with other cultural geographic maps, including maps of the “traditional” dialect areas of the United States.

“The Spread of American English in Multilingual Switzerland.” URS DÜRMRÜLLER, Univ. of Bern.

Switzerland is different from countries like Japan, which is monolingual and where English is a second language; or Nigeria, which is multilingual and anglophone, and where English is a second and
official language. Multilingual Switzerland is not an anglophone country; English is neither a second nor an official language; English is generally learned only if a second one of the Swiss national languages has been studied first. Nevertheless, the spread of English, especially American English, throughout Switzerland is quite formidable.

This paper reports results from a large research project based on data from the media, graffiti, and questionnaires. It investigates whether English in Switzerland is being used not only for international but also for intranational purposes, and why American English, especially American English, throughout Switzerland has been studied first. Nevertheless, the spread of only if a second one of the Swiss national languages has been more written about or remarked on than that second edition because of the appearance of several new types of studies: studies of Southerners, especially blacks, who migrated north and west; studies of schoolchildren in the South; studies of West Indian creole languages, tangentially related to Gullah if not to more general language patterns in the earlier days of the South, and others. In deciding whether to include these studies and to maintain the first edition’s geographical limits (the Mason-Dixon line to the north and East Texas to the southwest), one must decide how to define regional speech in the United States. The second edition includes the major studies of “transported” Southern speech, studies of the speech of schoolchildren from the fourth grade up (thus attempting to exclude developmental studies), and studies of creoles only if they bear directly or indirectly on Gullah. This paper also discusses the format of the bibliography, especially its cross-referencing, its indexes, and its use of descriptors detailing the locality and informants of each entry.

Sunday, Dec. 30—Sheraton Washington, Roosevelt Room.
10:15-11:30 a.m. MLA Session 643. Chair: A. Murray Kinloch, Univ. of New Brunswick.


The rapid spread of microcomputers and computer fever in Quebec in recent years has led inevitably to numerous borrowings or transfers of English words into French. While this phenomenon is not particularly unusual, I would like to address the questions of why and how certain items are borrowed.

Using extensive first-hand observation and comparable data from other areas, I intend to show that a large proportion of the borrowed terms are more than just technical novelties for which equivalents are hard to come by. The borrowed terms tend to fit into certain pre-established morphological and derivational patterns that include, for example, previous borrowings in other areas. I will look specifically at the role of English in the various modes of interaction with computers.

□ “Updating the Bibliography of Southern American English: An Effort to Isolate a Region’s Speech.” MICHAEL MONTGOMERY, Univ. of South Carolina.

The speech of no region of the United States has been more written about or remarked on than that of the South (including the Southern mountain area), and the speech of no region other than the South has a booklength bibliography. This paper discusses the updating of McMillan’s bibliography of 1971 and the problems of collection, demarcation and presentation involved.

These problems are tackled differently in the second edition because of the appearance of several new types of studies: studies of Southerners, especially blacks, who migrated north and west;
This hypothesis predicts not only the occurrence of forms such as ice tea: iced tea, mix drinks: mixed drinks, and grill cheese: grilled cheese, but also the non-occurrence of forms such as fry steak: fried steak. The last form is not a candidate for reanalysis since fry is not normally used as a noun, except in such stock phrases as fish fry. This paper provides additional evidence for the psychological reality of phonological processes and offers suggestions for using such data in teaching introductory linguistics and phonology.

□ “Metaphor in Current American Political Discourse.” Nicholas Howe, Rutgers Univ.

In the male-dominated world of American politics, it is not surprising that the most common sources of metaphor have been sports and military terminology. Such terms as team player, running room, point man and damage control have become common currency, if not clichés. Nor is it surprising that football, the most violent of the major sports, has proved to be an especially fruitful source for these metaphors.

In general terms, such metaphors are used to establish: 1) that politics is an adversarial exercise in power played out by rival factions; 2) that these factions are to be distinguished absolutely as friend or foe; and 3) that politics should be conducted only by those conversant with this type of language (i.e. by men). These points form a subtext for the view of American politics as the art of consensus or as the exercise of the democratic process. A metaphor such as team player or damage control signals the speaker’s belief that sycophancy is preferable to the exercise of the democratic process. A metaphor such as adversarial exercise of power has proved to be an especially fruitful source for the use of metaphor has proved to be an especially fruitful source for the exercise of the democratic process.

Metaphors of confrontation or of irreconcilable conflict indicate, on the part of their user, an inability to compromise or to recognize that elsewhere politics may be played according to a different set of rules. In this respect, the range of available metaphors determines the range of available nonlinguistic responses.

12:00-1:15 p.m. MLA Session 670. Chair: Marvin Carmony, Indiana State Univ.

□ “Toward a Definition of Usage.” Thomas J. Creswell and Virginia McDavid, Chicago State Univ.

We present and discuss the implications of a number of current and recent definitions of usage and related expressions such as good usage, good (bad, poor) grammar, correct (good) English and others, as used by linguists, lexicographers and lay logophiles. We then propose a set of criteria and options to be used in developing a functional definition of usage.

□ “African-American Children’s Stories.” Patricia C. Nichols, San José State Univ.

Both the language and the rhetorical devices employed in narratives told by African-American children of coastal South Carolina reflect African roots. Stories told spontaneously in a school setting have the potential of transmitting cultural traditions which have counterparts in other areas of the United States, in the Caribbean, and in Africa itself. Creole features are retained even where children from European and African backgrounds have had extensive contact in school and other social situations.

The preservation of theme and language in widely separated areas is evidence that the oral narrative is a significant means of transmitting cultural traditions. So important is this medium that children as young as 10 years old are given opportunities to learn and perform the narratives.


In the early thirties, Guy S. Lowman, Jr. interviewed a former slave who had lived her entire life on the lower James River near Hampton, Va. The descriptive and partially comparative analysis of the consonant system in this paper takes a tentative first step toward a more comprehensive study of the idiom.

The consonant system differs from known creoles and from other idiolects in the Upper South. Compared with Gullah, for example, this system does not make consistent substitutions resulting in consonant loss. Striking phonic realizations, such as decisively fortis and aspirated initial plosives, further distinguish this idiom. The incidence of such substitutions, for example /b~v/ and /r~l/, differs from Upper Southern patterns. And this accidental variation produces distinctive phonotactic patterning like initial /dl-/i, a sequence unknown in literary English.

Unless this idiom is unique, which seems unlikely, its consonant system may imply features of a lost, geographically distinct creole differing from both Gullah and Geechee, the only two mainland types otherwise attested in 20th century records.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1985

The Nominating Committee, composed of past president Marvin Carmony, elected member Mary Ritchie Key, and past president Virginia McDavid, chair, proposes the following slate:

— For vice president 1985-86, succeeding to the presidency 1987-88: Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan.


— For Nominating Committee 1985-86: Patricia Nichols, San José State Univ.

Additional nominations require the signatures of at least ten members on a petition to be put in the hands of the Executive Secretary by December 13.
Voice synthesizers that simulate human speech have been developed for mass markets by researchers now turning their attention to creating machines that respond to voice command. In both modes, language variation becomes a factor. The speech synthesizers produced by Odyssey and Texas Instruments for home computers were recorded and analyzed for American dialect bias. While some of the sounds have marked artificial features, others reflect their human dialect models. One implication of the use of uniform speech is the possible imposition of a "received pronunciation" for Americans, especially if the synthesizer is extended to become the model for dialects required in communicating with programmed machines.

October 19: Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting in association with RMMLA, El Paso Marriott Hotel.

Chair: Gary Underwood, Univ. of Texas, Austin. Regional secretary: Grant W. Smith, Eastern Washington Univ.

d 10:45-11:45 a.m. Program:

- "The Present Tense of be in Black English: 100 Years of Syntax." GUY BAILEY, Texas A & M Univ., and NATALIE MAYNOR, Mississippi State Univ.

Our study attempts to provide the diachronic empirical data needed for an accurate reconstruction of the history of Black English by comparing the present tense of be in the speech of black fifth and sixth graders in the Brazos Valley region of Texas to that paradigm in black folk speech. The evidence for both groups comes from tape-recorded sociolinguistic interviews done in the last two years. A comparison with the WPA slave narratives done in the Brazos Valley provides a 130-year perspective on the development of black speech.

This data differs significantly from most contemporary reconstructions. In the slave narratives, the most important feature of the present tense of be is subject-verb disagreement, with am and is both frequently used for the first and third singular and the plural. Copula deletion is fairly common with invariant be relatively uncommon.

In the speech of the children, however, subject-verb disagreement is uncommon; copula deletion is far more frequent than in the slave narratives, as is invariant be. The folk speakers provide a clear transition between the two groups: subject-verb disagreement is limited to the use of is in the plural and second singular, where it accounts for about a fifth of the data, while copula deletion and invariant be are less common than in the speech of children but more common than in the slave narratives.

- "A Preliminary Look at Texas LAGS." SCOTT BAIRD, Trinity Univ.

This paper consists of two parts: an evaluation of the extent of Texas dialect data available on the LAGS microfiche publication and a comparison of the LAGS East Texas data with Arthur Norman's Southeast Texas study of 1956. LAGS is comparable to the other Atlas projects: given the limitations of the data gathering procedure, the data are adequate for established comparative purposes. The urban supplement data appear to be valuable for research in vocabulary, pronunciation, and sociolinguistic variation. The East Texas vocabulary contains numerous responses that Norman was not able to elicit in 1956.

- "The Dialects of Speech Synthesizers." FRED TARPLEY, East Texas State Univ.
Graw, Mt. St. Mary's Academy, and Diane Binz, Univ. of Arkansas, Little Rock.

The features of Arkansas speech are understudied and popularly assumed to be those of Ozark speech. This paper looks at particular features of Ozark speech, in particular the study of count/non-count nouns by Dumas (1961) and the existence of archaisms noted in Randolph and Wilson (1953), and attempts to get an initial approximation of the degree to which such features are or are not found among speakers outside (south) of the Ozark region. This work addresses a part of the general problem of discovering significant features which differentiate speech varieties in Arkansas.

Box: "Language and Self-Perception in the Big Easy." Mackie Joseph-Vincent Blanton, Univ. of New Orleans at Lake Front.

In the fall of 1983, the Louisiana Language Research Association began investigating the pragmatic use of language in the seven-parish area of greater New Orleans, known locally as the Big Easy. The primary focus of LLRA's study has been the sociorhetorical competence of language users; i.e., how residents of the Greater New Orleans area use language to be understood. Analysis includes data involving self-identity, self-perception, perception of insiders by outsiders, at almost all levels of society: ethnic (white, black, other); religious (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish); and economic (working class, middle class, upper class, etc.).

Box: "The Amerindian Languages of South Alabama." Robert J. Bush, Univ. of South Alabama.

The Amerindian languages of South Alabama have a diverse heritage. In 1981, W.J. Powell did the most comprehensive generic translation of North American Indian languages from lists limited to 100 items. What resulted is nine general classes or phyla, 42 families, 31 isolated languages and 190 languages within families of two or more members. The five civilized tribes, except the Cherokees, spoke Muskogean, and the five extinct tribes, including Alabama, spoke Muskogean. University of South Alabama researchers have implemented plans to revive and restore the Muskogean language to children of Indian and English heritage.

November 1: Midwest Regional Meeting in association with MMLA, Bloomington, Ind.

Chair: William A. Kretzschmar, Jr., Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater. Regional secretary: Donald W. Larmouth, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

2:30-4:15 p.m. Program:

Box: "Analyzing Computerized Corpora of English." Charles F. Meyer, Western Kentucky Univ.

My presentation will discuss the procedures one follows when doing research on computerized corpora of English. I will first briefly describe the corpora available, the manner in which they have been set up, and the types of research that have been done on them. I will then discuss the differences between analyzing computerized and non-computerized corpora. To illustrate, I will discuss two of my projects: a study of American punctuation based on a computerized version of the Brown Corpus and a study of apposition based on the London Corpus files at University College London.


Although handbooks and grammars have persistently predicted the death of the subjunctive, a recent sample of student writing taken in southeastern Minnesota indicates that the subjunctive that clause is alive and well. This paper describes a cloze test given at Winona State University to 132 remedial writing students (verbal PSAT scores below 30). The test elicited the subjunctive in two that clauses and in two uncued positions.

Fifty-nine percent of the students used a subjunctive that clause after essential, 40 percent after asked that, and 92 percent after suggested that. The students favored non-subjunctive completions only after ordered (9 percent subjunctives).

These forms are compared with the non-subjunctive alternatives used by the writers Fries studied (American English Grammar, 1940). Whether there is a revival of the subjunctive (as suggested by a few British linguists), or whether its use is merely regional, it is clearly not determined by literacy, as Fries suggested.

Box: "Phonological Conditioning of Vowels Before /s/: A Sociolinguistic Approach." Timothy Frazer, Western Illinois Univ.

In some dialects of American English, /s/ has a powerful conditioning influence on preceding vowels. In some upland Southern varieties, /æ/ and /ɛ/ and /t/ are frequently tensed and diphthongized, while a common Midland occurrence is the intrusion of /r/ in washing, Washington, etc.

All of these occur in central Illinois, a region of complex settlement history, but their appearance is variable, not only between speakers but sometimes in the speech of individuals. Hablick's study of Farmer City, Ill., reports vowel tensing to be common only to the older generation, while earlier informal observations in McDonough County suggested that intrusive /r/ had become stigmatized. Yet Murray's recent paper indicates an increase in intrusive /r/ in nearby St. Louis. This paper will report the results of an ongoing study of
these features. Data will be drawn from LANCS and DARE field records as well as from a collection of 50 McDonough County speakers in which both age and urban/rural orientation are salient variables.

□ "The Hoosier Apex: A Dialect Contour." Craig Carver, DARE.

In an area dominated primarily by immigrants from New England and Pennsylvania, the Indiana territory received a large influx of settlers from the South, notably Kentucky and Virginia, giving the Hoosier culture and language a mild Southern flavor. This paper will attempt to clarify the major Southern and South Midland dialect boundaries that form what has come to be known as the "Hoosier apex." It will do this by presenting two sets of isogloss bundles based on data collected for the Dictionary of American Regional English. One set derives from 54 Midland Isoglosses and the other from 79 South and Midland isoglosses.

□ "Getting Down on Down." Al Futrell, Bowling Green State Univ.

ANNUAL DINNER
ADS Midwest Region
Thursday, November 1, 1984
7:00 p.m.
PORTICOS RESTAURANT
520 North Walnut St.
Bloomington, Indiana

By tradition, the dinner has no formal program and no speeches. Friends and colleagues are welcome.

Advance reservations requested. Write Donald W. Larmouth, Communication Processes, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wis. 54302 by OCTOBER 26. He reports:

"Porticos offers a diverse menu, featuring veal oscar, chicken calvados, steak neptune, paté a choux, chateaubriand and scampi—nothing frozen, nothing out of a can, says the manager, Jess Castanias. The entrees run from $7.95 for chicken sesame to $14.95 for beef wellington; most are $9.50 to $13.95. There is an adequate wine list—quite a few French, mostly overpriced—and the house wines are quite good.

"The dinner will be served in the 'Cherry Room,' a graceful Queen Anne room (it's not really cherry—it's cherry-stained pine, but it looks very nice anyway) which will seat up to 34 people easily. It would help a lot to get reservations to me in advance.

"Porticos is 8.5 blocks from the Union. That might be a bit far for some members, but I will be driving to Bloomington, so I will be able to ferry people who can't walk that far."

A great deal can be learned about prisoner worldview by systematically analyzing language usage. The meaning of down varies widely—so widely, in fact, that 22 senses of it have been collected so far in research at the Kentucky State Reformatory. A prisoner will say he is "down for going up," "down after going up," "down about getting down," "down with the get down" and so on.

Linguistically, the term is fascinating since it illustrates many lexicographical principles such as meaning transfer, synesthesia, clipping and concatenation. Sociologically, the term indicates the important role institutional setting and interpersonal relationships play in establishing linguistic context and meaning. Psychologically, the term illustrates how prisoners metaphorically apply a spacial concept to sex, emotional states, gambling and drugs.


□ 5:20-5:30 p.m. Business meeting.

November 10: South Atlantic Regional Meeting in association with SMLA, Atlanta.

Chair: Mary R. Miller, Univ. of Maryland, College Park. Regional secretary: Jeutonne P. Brewer, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro.

□ 9:00-10:45 a.m., Confederate Room, 7 East. Theme: Place-Names of the Southeast. Program (all papers 15 minutes):

□ "The Place-Names of Alabama." Virginia Foscue, Univ. of Alabama.

For more than 26 years, with the help of my students, I have been collecting information about the place-names of Alabama. At present I am preparing a dictionary of some of these names as an introduction to the Alabama portion of the Place-Name Survey of the United States.

The state itself and many of the streams and settlements have Indian names. People from surrounding or nearby states have also left traces of their influence. Not only did they give some settlements the names of older towns in the states from which they came, but they also named a large number of other settlements and several counties for renowned soldiers and statesmen from their home states.

Some other characteristics revealed by the place-names are the humor of the people and their love for their churches. The places named for local
persons tell us much about the outstanding people in these areas. Also, the many descriptive names inform us about the nature of the land.

□ “The Outermost Atlantic Communities: Dialectal Relationships.” CAROLE P. HINES and DAVID L. SHORES, Old Dominion Univ.

The communities on the islands and outer banks, sounds, and bays of the Atlantic seaboard are populated by people who are intimate with the sea and make their living on the water by fishing, crabbing, clamming, oysterling and piloting, and who have stayed where they settled. They speak varieties of English that differ rather sharply from those of the communities contiguous to them.

Not many thorough studies have been made of these communities, but some of those that have tend to speak of them as preserving older forms of speech and of seeming somewhat related to each other, though they are scattered miles apart in different states along the Atlantic seaboard. By using selected phonological and lexical features, this paper will try to determine the dialectal positions of these communities and their dialectal relationships.

□ “Middle Georgia Place-Names of the Early 19th Century.” MARY B. ZEIGLER, Morris Brown Coll.

Founded in 1733, the colony of Georgia, by the time it became a state in 1776, had not developed much beyond Augusta, a frontier fort 70 miles inland along the Savannah River. Sixty years later, with three land acquisitions from the Creeks, Georgia settlements had extended across the Ocmulgee and the Ogeechee rivers to the lands just west of the Oconee River. This triangle-shaped region, marked by Augusta, Athens and Macon, became known as Middle Georgia.

This study examines the place-names of Middle Georgia in the local color stories of Richard Malcolm Johnston (1822-1898), a native and 45-year resident of the region. Johnston was a literary humanist whose historical bent compelled him to describe, accurately and in detail, the places and natural elements as well as the inhabitants. His fictional works record the rural life before the coming of the railroads in 1842.

The names of major rivers, such as Ocmulgee and Oconee, recall the native Creek Indians, while those of small creeks and branches celebrate the prosperity of the new settlers. Villages, towns and counties reflect personal and dedicatory nomenclature, such as Milledgeville, Augusta and Hancock. Johnston’s inclusion of particular names reveals their importance.

□ “Watercourse Names in West Alabama.” STANLEY RICH, Univ. of South Carolina, Aiken.

Watercourses are a prominent natural feature in West Alabama, and they were among the earliest features named. In this study watercourse names include the following generics: river, creek, branch, spring, fork, chut, canal, fall, shoal, reach, head, mouth.

Of the 2,489 documented place-names in these two counties, 461 are given to watercourses, 18 percent of the total number. Eighteen of these names are given to rivers. Two of these, Black Warrior and Tombigbee, major waterways in the region, have long, illustrious naming histories.

The 230 creek names comprise the largest generic grouping, or 50 percent of the total number. Following settlement and church names, the creek name is third in the two counties in frequency of spreading to another feature. Yellow Creek Church is one of 62 such spreading patterns. The 136 names of branches make up 29 percent of the total number.

Local settlers and property owners gave their own names to 44 percent of the names: Allen Branch, Brown’s Spring, Campbell Creek. Descriptive and locational names comprise 30 percent of the total: North River, Dry Creek, Wildcat Branch. Fifty-four names (12 percent) are given for a nearby place: Meetinghouse Branch, Black Creek Branch, Crabb’s Mill Creek. Forty names (9 percent) are probably of Indian origin: Squaw Shoals, Big Indian Creek. The 18 anecdotic and humorous names constitute a mere 4 percent of the total: Hurricane Creek, Deerlick Branch, Pole and Be Damned Reach. The patterns of watercourse names reveal much about the name-givers: they were linguistically adept, serious, religious, practical-minded.

□ “Place-Names in the Dark Corner.” ANN W. SHARP, Furman Univ.

In the northeast corner of Greenville County, S.C., lies an area known to residents in the upstate as the “Dark Corner.” The exact boundaries of this region, according to tales both verifiable and mythic, are debated. In fairly recent history, the “dark corner” always began across the road or creek or mountain from wherever the informant lived.

In an oral history-folklore study of the area, Bernard Zaldman has defined the boundaries of the Dark Corner as the Glassy Mountain Township. The section is particularly beautiful, with a predominant mountain ridge, several smaller peaks and hills, and small rivers and many streams.

The name “Dark Corner” may be as old as the Cherokee natives, but the favorite story of its origin is a political one, given by a political speaker who had been badly treated by the strong Union supporters in the area. The name perhaps persisted as the area became known for moonshining and the geography postponed the development of public schools; outsiders began to look down on the residents.

From 39 taped interviews, from maps and family histories, and from reports in Names in South Carolina, the names of 8 communities, 3 cemeteries, 27 roads, 18 mountains or peaks, 17 bodies of water and 8 landmarks have been identified. These names carry some of the history of this region: the names of settlers there, their reaction to...
the geography, the names of places they left, the names of animals.


The presence or absence of a [y] glide after the alveolar stops in Tuesday, duty, new and other such words has long been a classic feature distinguishing Northern and Southern dialects of American English. Prestige, however, is causing this pattern to change. Pilot surveys of young urban and college-educated Southerners show that the glides are being lost. In the South, the innovative glideless variants are perceived as being more prestigious.

The change is particularly apparent in the broadcasting register. This study is a comparison of the behavior of the [y] variable in the speech of national and local newscasters, and a further comparison of local newscasters in the North (Detroit) with those in the South (Birmingham and Montgomery, Ala.; Columbus, Ga.).

Innovative Southern newscasters, especially young females, favor the glideless variants. A surprising finding, however, is that Northern broadcasting speech is showing a strong move back to the [y] glide.

This study also identifies certain linguistic constraints on the loss or preservation of the [y] glide. Number of syllables and the distinctive features of the alveolar stops are influential, but the most intriguing constraints are lexical. One word in particular—news—is extremely resistant to the loss of the glide.

(The originally scheduled paper by John Idol and Joseph McAbee has been withdrawn.)

November 17: NCTE Session B.24 at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Detroit, Cobo Hall Convention Center.

For information on NCTE registration, housing and membership, write NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, Ill. 61801.


□ 2:00-3:15 p.m. Topic: Nonstandard Dialects and the Teaching of Writing.

□ “The Speech of the Minnesota Iron Range and Educational Achievement.” MICHAEL D. LINN, Univ. of Minnesota, Duluth.

□ “Urban Black Speech and Writing: What Happens in the Classroom.” GENEVA SMITHERMAN, Wayne State Univ.

TEACHING ESSAYS SOUGHT

Wayne Glowka of the ADS Committee on Teaching has been discussing with MLA the possibility of a volume (perhaps co-sponsored or endorsed by ADS) on teaching about English language variation in North America. He invites abstracts or proposals for essays to go in the volume. Each essay would treat an aspect of the general subject such as dialect maps, the use of questionnaires, specific dialects, dialect contrasts, usage debates, or the relationships of sex, power, society and language.

Inquiries and abstracts should be sent to Wayne Glowka, ADS Committee on Teaching, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College, Milledgeville, Ga. 31061. The exact content of the volume is not yet fixed (nor has it been accepted for publication), so he will also welcome suggestions for the overall outline and direction.

Glowka also plans to attend the ADS business meeting Friday, Dec. 28, to discuss plans for the volume and opportunities for potential contributors.

NEW BOOKS BY ADS MEMBERS

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

CLAUDE HENRY NEUFFER, ed. Names in South Carolina: Volumes 25-30. The Reprint Co. (P.O. Box 5401, Spartanburg, S.C. 29304), November 1984. Softbound ca. $25 (limited ed.). With index. Contains over 25,000 legends and origins of place names. The entire 30 years of this first state place-name journal are in print. Vols. 1-12 are $20, Vols. 13-18 are $25, Vols. 19-24 are $20 from the same publisher. A few separate back issues are available from Names in South Carolina, English Dept., Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. 29208.


DIRECTORY OF MEMBERS, SEPTEMBER 1984

In addition to the 450 individuals listed here, about 300 institutions currently belong to the ADS. Updated mailing labels and lists are available from the Executive Secretary, free for ADS mailings and at a reasonable fee for other purposes of benefit to members.

Special categories include *LIFE MEMBERSHIP, available for $400 (minus the current year's dues, if paid); *EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP, free to retired members, but including only the Newsletter; **PRESIDENTIAL HONORARY MEMBERSHIP, awarded to three students annually by the ADS President, and *STUDENT MEMBERSHIP, including all publications, at $10 per year for as many as three years. A student's application should be accompanied by a confirming note from an ADS member.

*ADAMS, Carol M., 1880 Ridgewood Dr. N.E., Atlanta GA 30322 (Indiana State Univ.)
AGEE, W. Hugh, 125 Aderhold Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602
AKERS, W. Gerald, 1317 Sussex Place, Norfolk VA 23508
AL-AZZAWI, Mary Lee, 2611 North Sayre, Chicago IL 60635
ALÉONG, Stanley, 374 Fairmont St. West No. 1, Montréal, Québec H2V 2G4, Canada (Inst. Int. de la Communication)
ALEXANDER, James D., PO Box 150, Marshfield WI 54449
ALGEO, John, Dept. of English, Park Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602
ALLEE, John G., English Dept., George Washington Univ., Washington DC 20052
ALLEN, Harold B., 8100 Highwood Dr. Apt. B342, Bloomington MN 55438 (Univ. of Minnesota, emeritus)
ALLEN, Irving Lewis, Dept. of Sociology, U-68, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs CT 06268
ALLSOPP, Richard, Univ. of the West Indies at Cave Hill, PO Box 64, Bridgetown, Barbados
ALVA, Charles, 412 Walnut Drive S., Monmouth OR 97361
AMEMIYA, Tsuyoshi, 1455-4 Aihara, Machida, Tokyo, Japan
AMES, Jay, PO Box 5, Station G, Toronto, Ontario M4M 3E8, Canada
ANSHEN, Frank, Prog. in Linguistics, SUNY, Stony Brook NY 11794
ARAKELIAN, Paul G., Dept. of English, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston RI 02881
ARMBRUSTER, Tom, 148 Lemon Grove, Irvine CA 92714
ARONOFF, Mark, 420 Moriches Road, St. James NY 11780 (SUNY Stony Brook)
ASHMEAD, John, Dept. of English, Haverford Coll., Haverford Pa 19041
AULETTA, Richard P., 154 Stratford Road, New Hyde Park NY 11040 (Long Island Univ., C.W. Post Center)
BABITCH, Rose Mary, Prof. of English, Centre Universitaire de Shippagan, Shippagan N.B. E0B 2P0, Canada
BAILEY, Charles-James N., Technische Univ. Berlin, Ernst-Reuter-Platz 7 (Zi. 815), D-1000 Berlin 10, West Germany
BAILEY, Guy, Dept. of English, Texas A & M Univ., College Station TX 77843
BAILEY, Richard W., Dept. of English Language and Literature, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48104
BAIRD, Scott, Dept. of English, Trinity Univ., Box 105, 715 Stadium Dr., San Antonio TX 78284
BAND, Benjamin, 208 Deering Ave., Portland ME 04102
BARNHART, Clarence L., Box 250, Bronxville NY 10708
BARNHART, David K., Lexik House, 75 Main St., PO Box 247, Cold Spring NY 10516
BARON, Dennis E., English Dept., Univ. of Illinois, 208 English Bldg., 608 S. Wright St., Urbana IL 61801
BASSETT, Marvin W., 211 Woodland Cir., Troy AL 36081
BAUGH, John, Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Texas, Austin TX 78712
BAUGHMAN, Lisa W., The Cottage, Three Rivers Farm Road, Dover NH 03820
BEAM, C. Richard, Editor, Pennsylvania German Dictionary, 406 Spring Drive, Millersville PA 17551
BEENE, Lynn, Humanities Bldg. 217, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131
BENABDI, Linda C., 1413 N. Jefferson St., Arlington VA 22205
BENNERT, Jacob, English Dept., Univ. of Maine, Orono ME 04469
BENSON, Morton, 219 Myrtle Ave., Havertown Pa 19083 (Univ. of Pennsylvania)
BERGAN, Robert, School of Education, California State Univ., Long Beach CA 90840
BERGDAHL, David L., English Dept., Ohio Univ., Athens OH 45701
BERGER, Marshall D., 5 Greywood Drive, Orangeburg NY 10962 (City Coll. of New York, CUNY)
BILLS, Garland D., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131
*BINDER, Poldi, 64 Wyckoff St., New Brunswick NJ 08901 (Rutgers Univ.)
BIRD, Donald A., 1637 North Dillon St., Los Angeles CA 90026 (California State Univ., Los Angeles)
BIRNS, H. William, Box 151, New Kingston NY 12459
BLACKMAN, Sylvia B., 2056 - 81st St., Brooklyn NY 11214
BOLINGER, Dwight, 2718 Ramona St., Palo Alto CA 94306 (Harvard Univ., emeritus)
BOLLARD, John K., Merriam-Webster Inc., 47 Federal St., PO Box 281, Springfield MA 01102
BOONE, Lalia, 519 N. Grant, Moscow ID 83843 (Univ. of Idaho, emeritus)
BORDIE, John G., 11454 Merriltown Road, Austin TX 78728
BRENGELMAN, Fred H., Linguistics Dept., California State Univ., Fresno CA 93740
BREWER, Jeutonne, Coll. of Arts and Sciences, 105 Foust Bldg., Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro NC 27412
BRINKMAN, Elizabeth, Dept. of English, Wittenberg Univ., Springfield OH 45501
BRONSTEIN, Arthur J., 36 Brokaw Lane, Great Neck NY 11023 (Graduate School CUNY, emeritus)
BROSKI, Victor C., 332 Riems Ln., Costa Mesa CA 92627
BRYANT, Margaret M., D205 Clemson Downs, Clemson SC 29631 (Brooklyn Coll. CUNY, emeritus)
BUCHHEIT, Robert H. Dept. of Foreign Languages, Morningside Coll., Sioux City IA 51106
BURKETT, Eva, Parkview Apt. B-7, 1922 Bruce St., Conway AR 72032
BURRESS, Lee A., Jr., 2008 Main St., Stevens Point WI 54481
BUTCHER, Clifton H., Steward Towers 705, 200 Fort Meade Road, Laurel MD 20707
BUTTERS, Ronald R., 322 Allen Building, Duke Univ., Durham NC 27706
BUDDY, Patricia, 3835 N.W. 17th St., Gainesville FL 32605
CABLE, Thomas, Dept. of English, Univ. of Texas, Austin TX 78712
CALLARY, Edward, English Dept., Northern Illinois Univ., De Kalb IL 60115
CANNON, Garland, Dept. of English, Texas A & M Univ., College Station TX 77843
CANNON, Pamela, 309 Foust Bldg., Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro NC 27412
CARD, William, 225 N. 56th St., Lincoln NE 68504
CARDENAS, Daniel N., California State Univ., Spanish/Portuguese Dept., 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach CA 90840
CARMONY, Marvin, Coll. of Arts and Sciences, Indiana State Univ., Terre Haute IN 47809
CARPENTER, C. Leslie, The Ohio State Univ. at Marion, 1465 Mt. Vernon Ave., Marion OH 43302
CARROLL, Linda L., c/o Prof. Mary Muir, 2499 East 13th South, Salt Lake City UT 84108
CARVER, Craig, 4602 Stonewood Dr., Middleton WI 53562 (DARE)
CASSIDY, Fred G., DARE, 6125 Helen White Hall, Univ. of Wisconsin, 600 N. Park St., Madison WI 53706
CHAMBERS, John K., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1, Canada
CHING, Marvin K.L., Dept. of English, Memphis State Univ., Memphis TN 38152
CHRISTIAN, Donna, Center for Applied Linguistics, 3520 Prospect St. N.W., Washington DC 20007
CLARK, Thomas L., English Dept., Univ. of Nevada, 4505 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas NV 89154
CLARK, Virginia P., Dept. of English, 315 Old Mill, Univ. of Vermont, Burlington VT 05405
CLARKE, Sandra, Linguistics Dept., Memorial Univ., St. John's, Nfld. A1B 3X9, Canada
COLE, George S., 1416 Bradley Ave., Hummelstown PA 17036 (Pennsylvania State Univ., Capitol Campus)
COLEMAN, William L., Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro NC 27412
*COLTHARP, Lurline H., 4263 Ridgecrest, El Paso TX 79902 (Univ. of Texas, El Paso)
COOK, Daniel, Dept. of English (Emeritus), American Univ. of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon
COOLEY, Marianne, English Dept., Univ. of Houston, University Park, Houston TX 77004
COOPER, David, 150 West End Ave., New York NY 10023 (Hunter Coll. CUNY)
COUCHMAN, Gordon W., 311 Berteau Ave., Elmhurst IL 60126 (Elmhurst Coll., emeritus)
CREAMER, Thomas, 6619 Westmoreland Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912
CRESWELL, Thomas J., R.R. 2 Box 184, Michigan City IN 46360 (Chicago State Univ., emeritus)
*CRONIN, Michael T., 1736 W. 102nd St., Chicago IL 60643 (Chicago State Univ.)
CRONQUIST, Stanley, 723 Acorn Drive, Bartlesville OK 74003
CROSBY, David, Box 89, Alcorn State Univ., Lorman MS 38643
CROWELL, Michael G., English Dept., Knox Coll., Galesburg IL 61401
CUMMINGS, G. Clark, 350 East 57th St., New York NY 10022
CUNNINGHAM, Irma, c/o Dr. James Kuist, English Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee WI 53201
CURRIE, Eva G., Regional-Research Associates, 1811 Alameda Drive, Austin TX 78704
DAVIS, Alva L., 65 South 21st St., Terre Haute IN 47803
DAVIS, Boyd H., 1115 Cedarwood Lane, Charlotte NC 28212 (Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte)
DAVIS, Lawrence, Faculty of Humanities, Univ. of Haifa, Mount Carmel, Haifa 31 999, Israel
*deWOLF, Gaelan T., 4574 W. 14th Ave., Vancouver B.C. V6R 2Y4, Canada (Univ. of British Columbia)
DI PAOLO, Mariani, Linguistics Program, Stewart Bldg, Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City UT 84012
DORSEY, David, Jr., Box 263, Atlanta Univ., Atlanta GA 30314
DOWNNEY, Andrew F., Jr., 1551 Knob Hill Dr. NE, Atlanta GA 30329
DOYLE, Charles Clay, English Dept., Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602
**DRAY, Nancy L., 5473 S. Ridgewood Ct. No. 3, Chicago IL 60615 (Univ. of Chicago)
DRESSMAN, Michael R., Humanities, Univ. of Houston-Downtown, 1 Main St., Houston TX 77002
DRIEDA, Patrick D., Wick Hall, Radley, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 3NF, England
HERBERT, Robert K., Fulbright Lecturer, Dept. of State-Warsaw, Washington DC 20520

HETHERINGTON, Mary S., English Dept., The Coll. of Charleston, Charleston SC 29424

HILL, Archibald A., Box 8120 University, Austin TX 78712 (Univ. of Texas)

HINES, Carole Phillips, Dept. of English, Old Dominion Univ., Norfolk VA 23508

HINKLE, Douglas P., 60 Morris Ave., Athens OH 45701

HINKLE, James, English Dept., San Diego State Univ., San Diego CA 92182

HIRSHBERG, Jeffrey, 390 Brantwood, Snyder NY 14226

HOAD, T.F., St. Peter's Coll., Oxford OX1 2DL, England

HOCKETT, Charles F., 145 North Sunset Drive, Ithaca NY 14850 (Cornell Univ., emeritus)

HOFFER, Bates L., Dept. of English, Box 165, Trinity Univ., San Antonio TX 78284

HOFFMAN, Melvin J., Dept. of English, State Univ. Coll., 1300 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo NY 14222

HOLLETT, Robert, English Dept., Memorial Univ., St. Johns, Nfld. A1B 3X9, Canada

HOMA, Harold, 280 Riverside Dr. Apt. 6H, New York NY 10025

HUFFINES, Marion Lois, Dept. of Modern Languages, Bucknell Univ., Lewisburg PA 17837

HURST, Catherine D., English Dept., Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208

IKEMIYA, Tsuneko, 1-11-21, Shijō Ooji, Nara City 630 Japan (Tezukayama Univ.)

IRWIN, Betty J., English Dept., Park Hall, Univ. of Georgia, Athens GA 30602

IVERSON, Gregory K., Dept. of Linguistics, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242

JAVOR, George, Dept. of Foreign Languages, Northern Michigan Univ., Marquette MI 49855

JEUDA, David M., Dept. of Modern Languages, Florida International Univ., Tamiami Campus, Miami FL 33199

JOCHNOWITZ, George, 54 East 8th St., New York NY 10003 (Coll. of Staten Island, Sunnyside Campus)

JOHNSON, Edith Trager, 951 Cocopah Drive, Santa Barbara CA 93105

JOHNSON, Quentin G., English Dept., Ross Hall, Iowa State Univ., Ames IA 50011

JONES, Morgan E., 6 Lincoln Place, New Paltz NY 12561

KATO, Kazuo, Iwate Medical Univ., 16-1 Honcho-dori 3-chome, Morioka-shi 020 Japan

KAYE, Alan S., Dept. of Linguistics, California State Univ., Fullerton CA 92634

KING, Ruth, Dept. of Langs., Literatures and Linguistics, York Univ., 4700 Keele St., Downsview, Ont. M3J 1P3, Canada

KINGSBURY, Stewart A., Dept. of English, Northern Michigan Univ., Marquette MI 49855

KINLOCH, A. Murray, Dept. of English, Univ. of New Brunswick, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3, Canada

KIPFER, Barbara Ann, 60 Cornfield Road, Milford CT 06460

KIRK, John M., Dept. of English, Queen's Univ. of Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland

KIRWIN, William J., Dept. of English, Memorial Univ. of Newfoundland, St. John's N.F. A1C 5S7, Canada

KLAMMER, Enno, Eastern Oregon State Coll., La Grande OR 97850

KOLIN, Philip C., English Dept., Univ. of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station Box 8395, Hattiesburg MS 39406

KOYKKA, Thomas V., 1155 Oakridge Drive, Cleveland Heights OH 44121

KRETZSCHMAR, William A., Jr., English Dept., Univ. of Wisconsin, Whitewater WI 53190

KRIPKE, Madeline, 317 West 11th St., New York NY 10014

KRUCK, William E., Dept. of Linguistics, Dey Hall 014-A, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC 27514

KUHN, Sherman M., 225 Buena Vista, Ann Arbor MI 48103 (Univ. of Michigan, emeritus)

KULLMAN, Colby H., 604-10 Tyler Place, Oxford MS 38655 (Univ. of Mississippi)

KURNAT, Hans, 1125 Spring St., Ann Arbor MI 48103 (Univ. of Michigan, emeritus)

LABOV, William, 204 N. 35th St., Philadelphia PA 19104 (Univ. of Pennsylvania)

LAMB, Anthony, Foreign Languages Dept., Purdue Univ., Calumet Campus, Hammond IN 46323

LANCE, Donald M., Dept. of English, 231 Arts & Sciences Bldg., Univ. of Missouri, Columbia MO 65211


LARSEN, Eric V., 400 W. 119th St. No. 5F, New York NY 10027 (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater)

LARSEN, Eric V., 400 W. 119th St. No. 5F, New York NY 10027 (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater)

LAWRENCE, Teleté Z., 3860 South Hills Circle, Fort Worth TX 76109 (Texas Christian Univ. emeritus)
DARE (VOL. 1) GOES TO PRESS!

You won't find the familiar Queries from our once-in-a-century *Dictionary of American Regional English* in this *Newsletter*—the staff was too busy getting Vol. 1 ready for the printer. It was shipped on time at the end of August to Progressive Typographers in York, Pa., who are doing the printing for Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. And they have promised to have bound volumes ready for the spring, reports Editor Frederic Cassidy. Readers of the *Newsletter* will get specific publication and ordering information as soon as possible after the Press makes its decisions.

Vol. 1, the first of five, will have not only the fat letters A-C but also extensive introductory matter, including James Hartman's essay on American pronunciation, Cassidy's essay on the features that distinguish folk speech, facts about the communities chosen and the people interviewed, and an introduction explaining how *DARE* was made, what the editors intended, and how to read it.

The other volumes remain to be completed, and Cassidy promises a list of queries (from the letters D-Z) for our January issue.

**Editor-elect Dennis Baron** (address in Directory) invites inquiries and manuscripts for future issues of *PADS*. Issues Nos. 71 and 72, edited by James Hartman, are now in press, and Baron reports he is close to a decision on *PADS* 73, so it may be possible to get our monograph series back on its promised schedule by the end of 1985.

For the *Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of the Middle and South Atlantic States*, Raven McDavid seeks our help. He asks readers to review the bibliography of linguistic geography in the *Handbook of the Linguistic Geography of New England*, Chapter 2, and indicate 1) which entries they consider indispensable, and 2) what works published since that 1939 edition ought to be included. The resulting new bibliography should not exceed the dimensions of the old. His address appears in the directory, and he will properly appreciate any assistance.

**ADS member John R. Rickford** of Stanford was recently awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowship of $23,925 for a study of "The Adequacy of Pidgins and Creoles," January-June 1985.
A DIALECTOLOGIST'S GUIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Walt Wolfram

University of the District of Columbia and Center for Applied Linguistics

When Allan Metcalf asked me to write a brief, informal guide to the dialect situation in Washington, D.C., I was immediately reminded of a recent conversation I had with a reporter for the Washington Post. The reporter was in search of a story on language in Washington, and had been referred to me as a person who could describe the dialect characteristics that set apart native Washingtonians (in his mind, white Type III informants) from other folks.

I must confess I felt caught in a dilemma. One instinct made me reach for some of the Linguistic Atlas materials on my shelves and start reciting from Page 72 in Kurath and McDavid’s The Pronunciation of English in the Atlantic States or Pages 38ff. from Kurath’s A Word Geography of the Eastern United States (1949). However, I managed to squelch this impulse with my all-too-characteristic snide response as I remarked, “If you can find that person, I’ll be happy to describe their speech.”

As expected, I was summarily dismissed from my responsibilities as an authority, and fortunately missed another opportunity to marvel at the media’s representation of dialect difference. (It is probably significant that the article ended up focusing on the lexicon of bureaucracy and initiation of conversation in a “singles bar,” two dominant preoccupations in some Washington circles.)

The point of this exaggerated introduction is that trying to find the classic Linguistic Atlas informant in Washington is akin to searching for the proverbial needle in the haystack. Notwithstanding the fact that treasures have been uncovered rather easily through the use of sonic metal detectors, I shall choose to focus here upon the configuration of the overall haystack.

My basic thesis is that Washington, D.C. presents a career opportunity for an aspiring social dialectologist. Virtually no comprehensive studies of the overall community exist, despite the fact that the metropolitan area contains everything anyone would want for a career investigation.

Consider the possibilities, starting from where visitors to the City typically stay in the middle of town. You can get glimpses of virtually every imaginable linguistic scene in the United States. If you wander out onto Embassy Row on Massachusetts Avenue or “lower” (i.e. more towards center city) 16th Street, you can find a representation of languages equal to that of the United Nations, and a microcosm of English world-wide as well. And, if you choose to ride one of our “tourmobiles” (special buses with lots of “open” windows for sightseeing), you can collect data for DARE if you are willing to listen to your instant friends while absorbing the sights of one of the nation’s most attractive cities.

If you happen to launch out just a few blocks off the main tourist roadmap, you can encounter some significant language communities. You can take the City’s elegant subway system, the Metro (How many other subway systems in the United States are called Metro?) to Metro Center and you’ll be right by D.C.’s new Convention Center at 11th and H Streets, Northwest. (The geographical quadrants are critical to directions in the City, so they must always be included in getting directions.) If you manage to escape Metro’s computerized “farecard” system (not to be attempted without superior elicitation skills or an experienced accomplice) you will find D.C.’s version of Chinatown, a small but significant community of mostly Mandarin speakers. You’ll know you’re there by the bilingual street signs.

Should you wander a few blocks east of Connecticut Avenue in the direction of Columbia Road, you will find a surprisingly large Hispanic community (over 20,000), mostly representing the Central American countries. And if you get lost about a mile north of the Hill (the area surrounding, and including, the Capitol), you will encounter the most significant American Sign Language community in the United States at Gallaudet College—which also houses the area’s newest graduate linguistics program, with an emphasis on linguistics and sign language.

Should you elect to end your day (and your money) in Georgetown with its restaurants full of VIPs, and then take a short trek over the Key Bridge onto Wilson Boulevard in Arlington, Va., you will find over 15,000 speakers of Vietnamese in the oldest and most stable Vietnamese community in the United States. Washington’s polyglot status doesn’t get as much recognition as some of its more bolsterous competitors, but it legitimately can go head to head against any metropolitan area in the United States for multilingual representation.

When it comes to sociolinguistic situations, the intrigue of the multilingual situation is matched only by the consideration of the local varieties of English. Social dialectologists may not think there is anything particularly unique about the D.C. metropolitan area, and yawn at a
scattering of Tidewater vowels and the merger of *merry, Mary* and *marry*—only an unrepentant Yankee would try to put the popular Murray's Steaks in that group, to the amusement of the homegrowns—but don't be deceived. There is much more to this situation than meets the eye or ear initially.

Consider the kind of in-migration that typifies those making up the present generation of "permanent residents" (defined as those who come to the area and raise first-generation residents who don't plan to move with the change of administration or a transfer from national headquarters). On the one hand, there is the northern flow of folks from North Carolina and southern Virginia, with well-developed Southern dialect features. The Black population tends to have its roots in coastal Southern speech patterns, particularly North and South Carolina, and many of these residents still have vivid recollections of people who spoke Gullah. (Please refer to it as Geechee if you want people to know what you're talking about.)

For closer historical connection to a creole, however, you simply need to know where to go in neighboring Brandywine, Md., about 20 miles from downtown D.C., to hear the vestiges of an American Indian-Black-White creole used by some of the older "Wesorts." (Is obvious etymologizing from "we sorts . . ." permitted in this case?) A fascinating social contact situation, but snooping linguists unaccompanied by one of the members in good standing of the community should not bother to inquire.

In some surrounding communities, there are pockets of folks from West Virginia as well, with ample vestiges of Southern Highland speech. (Some of us presumptuous types still insist on calling this Appalachian English.) And, in some neighboring communities in the northwest suburbs, the settling generation of permanent folks has its roots in central and western Pennsylvania. (Look for the Pittsburgh Pirate caps.)

Given the strains of in-migration which constitute the growing population of "permanent residents," we can see how the linguistic picture gets fairly elusive. What does it all mean? The emerging profile seems to keynote several different themes.

First of all, there is the obvious diversity. Outsiders may have a tendency to attribute the diversity simply to the various strains of in-migration, but it is much more than that. Fellow observer Ralph Fasold reports a classic ease of two white neighbors in the "close in" suburb of Alexandria, Va., who are the same age, were educated in the same school system, and lived their entire lives within blocks of each other. One is a white collar worker and the other a blue collar worker, and one has as fine a southern phonology as you will hear in rural southern Virginia, while the other is Yankee all the way. (Guess which one.) Since I have a son by the name of Tyler Wolfram, the diagnostic glide, postvocalic *r*, and *l* preceding a labial always served well in alerting me to where his current athletic coach was coming from, if not where he was from.

Similar cases could be found within the Black community, where a substantive middle class population in the Gold Coast (upper Northwest D.C. area) is more Northern than Southern in its standard English, and working-class Blacks in the Southeast and Northeast quadrants of the City are more coastal Southern. The point is that this diversity is often excused as simply regional on the basis of in-migration, when in fact it should not be. It has become interwoven into the social fabric of the linguistic community.

A second characteristic of the area is its transitional status. As a borderline Mason-Dixon territory, the D.C. area is apparently in a position to allow the Midland-Southern transition to take on inflated (and perhaps compensatory) social significance vis-a-vis its traditional geographical role. The D.C. area sometimes has trouble figuring out which side it's on. Inner-city Black residents feel like they're in the South, and suburban residents often feel like they're living in the North—until they travel five miles beyond the Beltway (Interstate 495, which encircles the City) to a farm for some homegrown produce. Dialect geographers will then be assured that their records were in fact correct in their representations of the many Southern structures.

Finally, we may note that the area is relatively accommodating linguistically. As mentioned above, the subtleties of the linguistic differences may be lost, even on some of the "quasi-permanent" residents. Given the fact that so many have come from so many places, people are often willing to overlook, if not forgive. The motto seems to be: when in doubt, assume that people brought their dialect features from some peculiar place when they came to the area. This area has even been known to accept New York speech with only mild amusement.

However, quasi-permanents usually will make some tokenistic adaptations. Northern immigrants need not pick up plural *y'all*, although many do, but they are expected to avoid stereotypical Northern forms such as *youse* and even *you guys*. And Southerners should beware
of syntactic and morphological markers such as double modals. The creed here seems to be give a little, take a little.

At any rate, this informal reflection has at least convinced me that it is a situation in desperate need of extensive sociolinguistic study. It is to our shame that the quasi-permanent social dialectologists in the area have been so myopic. The above rationale should serve as a warning to those few funding agencies that remain sympathetic to sociolinguistic pleas.

At the same time, dialectologists should be aware that this is the town from which William Proxmire derides the shameful waste of public funds for trivia such as the study of language. He covers lots of territory on his daily runs from Georgetown to the Capitol, and more than once I have crossed his path. So far I'm able to outrun him, and I hope you are too when you bring your dialect studies to the nation's capital.

**MEMORIAL NOTICES**

**Jess Stein**, editor in chief emeritus of the Random House Dictionaries, died suddenly and peacefully at home June 23. It was his 70th birthday.

He was born in New York City and grew up in Detroit, where he graduated from Wayne State University. Jess did his graduate work at the University of Chicago, where he began his dictionary work under Sir William Craigie and contributed to the *Dictionary of American English*.

In the late 1930s he worked with E.L. Thorndike and Clarence L. Barnhart on the Scott Foresman series of school dictionaries. After serving with the Office of Censorship in World War II, Jess came to New York and worked with Barnhart at Random House on the *American College Dictionary*, which was first published in 1947. He later became a vice president at Random House and editor in chief of its Reference Department, where he was responsible for *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language—The Unabridged Edition, The Random House College Dictionary*, and a series of popular vest-pocket dictionaries and reference books, including five bilingual dictionaries and a rhyming dictionary.

In addition to his dictionary and reference-book work, as a major executive of Random House Jess had been instrumental in forming the company's College Textbook Department, and had contributed to many other of its publishing divisions. He signed up and was first editor of Daniel Boorstin's *The Americans*. Other authors with whom he worked and whose books he published included Bergen Evans (Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage), Thomas Pyles (Words and Ways of American English), and Dr. Franz Alexander (The Western Mind in Transition).

Jess had been a member of the board of directors of the Association of American Publishers as well as its treasurer. He also held advisory roles with the Department of State, the International Reading Association, and the University of Massachusetts Press, among others.

Although he retired in 1980, he remained active as a writer and editor of reference books and as a consultant to the publishing house he had served for almost 40 years.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; a son, Eric, of San Francisco; a daughter, Regina Wilson; and a granddaughter, Laurel Wilson. The funeral services held in White Plains, N.Y. on June 26 were attended by over two hundred people, including many publishing colleagues, lexicographers and linguists.

During his long and successful career, Jess shared his knowledge, experience, humor, and friendship with many. He will be sadly missed.

—*Stuart Flexner*

**Donald Belshaw Sands**, professor of English language and literature at the University of Michigan, died July 1 at the age of 63. Professor Sands was well-known as a lexicographer and editor specializing in medieval English language and literature, the history of the Germanic languages, and American place names. In April 1984 he was awarded a grant from the university to prepare a book on the history of American English, and he had made initial plans to work with the DARE files in Madison to assist him in that task.

Born August 12, 1920 in Waterbury, Connecticut, Sands was graduated from Lehigh University in 1942. From 1942 to 1945 he served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, and after the war he taught at the universities of Arkansas and Maine before entering Harvard for his M.A. (1947) and Ph.D. (1953) degrees.

He taught two years at Bowdoin College before joining the G. & C. Merriam Company, where he worked as a definer and etymologist in the preparation of *Webster's Third New International Dictionary*. From that position, he moved to Boston College, where he held the rank of associate professor from 1957 to 1963.

Following two summer appointments at Michigan (in 1962 and 1963), Sands was appointed an associate professor of English language and literature in 1964, and in 1967 was promoted to professor. In addition to his teaching in the department, he also worked as an editor for the *Middle English Dictionary*. 
Professor Sands was a devoted and meticulous scholar. His Concise Bibliography for Students of English (Stanford Univ. Press, 1960 and 1963) was a standard work for a generation of graduate students, and his edition of William Caxton's History of Reynard the Fox (Harvard Univ. Press, 1960) remains the definitive text of this literary work of 1481.

Until he moved to Michigan in 1964, Professor Sands served the ADS as annual bibliographer for the New England area. He let his membership lapse, but in March this year he rejoined, writing in a note with his check, "I feel as though I were coming back into the fold." He also belonged to the Modern Language Association, the American Name Society, and the Dictionary Society of North America.

In recent years, he published articles and reviews on Chaucer, on place names in Maine and New Brunswick, and on dictionaries of German and of English. In the early 1970s, he founded and did the basic work for a study of the place names of the lower peninsula of Michigan, a project that failed to attract sufficient external funding but that continued to occupy his interests and leisure time.

As a teacher, Professor Sands was at home in courses in American English, medieval literature, the history of the English language, American literature, and composition. He also advised undergraduates as a counselor. His twenty years' service to the University of Michigan was unflaggingly devoted. The Dialect Society will also be the poorer, since his careful scholarship would have resulted in an account of American English that would have marshaled new evidence and presented new views of our language.

— Richard W. Bailey

Larry, as CHARLTON LAIRD was known to friends and colleagues, was born in Nashua, Iowa; educated at Columbia and Stanford Universities, and taught at Purdue and Idaho State Universities before settling at the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1943. Outside of a one-year fellowship at Yale, and sporadic research terms in Europe, Laird taught, wrote, researched, and administered at UNR until his retirement in 1968. Even in his emeritus years, until just days before his death, he would be found on campus almost daily, in the library, in the department, continuing his research, writing, and advising.

Nearly everyone in the profession is familiar with the Modern English Handbook he produced with Robert Gorrell. And nearly everyone in the Society is familiar with some of his books on language—Language in America. The Miracle of Language, and others. Only those with a better acquaintance of Larry know he also published two novels in the early 1950s, Thunder on the River and West of the River.

The man was obviously devoted to teaching and scholarship. He maintained a nice balance of both. The handbook produced by him and Bob Gorrell has stood the test of time in the classroom. As an emeritus professor, Laird published a number of his lectures on the art of teaching in And Gladly Teche: Notes on Instructing the Natives in the Native Tongue.

But his main commitment was to honor, justice, and the profession. One incident illustrates: In 1952 a new president, Minard Stout, was hired by the Board of Regents at UNR. Young and middle-aged Turks who were trying to elevate the scholarly reputation of the university were told to sit quietly and keep the boat steady. To ensure compliance with the new orders, five faculty leaders were targeted for dismissal, three from English and two from biology.

Both Laird and Gorrell were among those destined for dismissal. They published so much that they were becoming "too widely noticed" as faculty members. It was no accident that the president and vice president (Gorrell) of the local AAUP chapter were among those involved. The AAUP naturally became involved, and the issue eventually wound up in the Nevada Supreme Court.

But through all the pressures, all the last-minute attempts to compromise with the five faculty members, Laird remained steadfast and rallied his colleagues not to give up their academic rights and freedoms.

The state supreme court finally upheld the rights of the professors, but only after great courage was demonstrated by the solidarity of the five faculty members. Throughout the ordeal, according to Bob Gorrell, Laird refused to consider any compromise, to utter any statement that would justify the administration's actions. The president was offered a chance to resign shortly thereafter in yet one more example of the endurance of the academic class.

Just before Laird's death last May, a group of colleagues and former students approached the Nevada Humanities Committee with a proposal to honor Laird for everything he has meant to the profession, to scholarship, and to the state of Nevada. Laird knew about the "Lairdfest" to be held this November. The plans have not been changed because of his death, but now we will be able to sing his praises more loudly and often without fear of embarrassing a man who was truly humble, truly dedicated.

—Thomas L. Clark