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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.
ANNUAL MEETING 1985: CELEBRATION AND REMEMBRANCE

Celebration of DARE, remembrance of Raven I. McDavid, Jr., and examination of the ethics of surreptitious recording will be among the themes of the 1985 ADS Annual Meeting in Chicago—at the Hyatt Regency Chicago with the Modern Language Association on the afternoon of Sunday, Dec. 29, and at the Newberry Library all day Monday, Dec. 30. Don’t miss the party for DARE after the Dec. 29 session, and be sure to make an advance reservation for the luncheon Dec. 30 (see box).

For MLA registration, housing and membership information, write Modern Language Association, 62 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10011.

Housing: For its preregistrants, MLA has rooms at the Hyatt for $50 single, $60 double, and rooms in “overflow” hotels for as little as $35 a night. Those who prefer an independent alternative are invited to take advantage of an offer arranged by the American Name Society: rooms at the Midland Hotel, about ten blocks from the Hyatt Regency—a $2 taxi ride. The Midland is also the site of the Name Society annual dinner Dec. 29. ANS’ special room rate is $45 per night (two double beds, two single beds, or one single bed—all at the same price). To get this rate, write or call Alfunsia Jones or Joann Joyce, Midland Hotel, 172 West Adams at LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60603; phone (312) 332-1200. Be sure to say you are with the American Name Society, and please don’t delay!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Illinois Center, 151 E. Wacker Dr.

MLA Session 474, Columbus G, East Tower
1:45-3:00 p.m.


Presiding: ADS Vice President Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan.

Panelists: DARE Editor Frederic W. Cassidy, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison; John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia; Harold B. Allen, Emeritus, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Allen Walker Read, Emeritus, Columbia Univ. The discussion will be informal: there will be time for questions from the floor.

□ Following the discussion: Reception in honor of the DARE staff, place to be announced. Made possible by a gift from Audrey R. Duckert; co-sponsored by the Harvard University Press.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., Fellows’ Lounge
• 9:30 a.m. Coffee.

• Morning Session, 9:30-11:30 a.m.: Dedicated to the memory of Raven I. McDavid, Jr. Presiding: William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.

□ “McDavid’s Law.” Rudolph C. Troike, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. (Paper to be read by John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia.)

While it is no longer stylish in linguistics to speak of phonetic “laws” in mimicry of the physical sciences, the tradition of naming significant sound-changes after their discoverers, such as Grimm’s Law, Verner’s Law, Grassmann’s Law, etc., is well-established and deserves to be continued, in the style that astronomers still use in naming comets (particularly apt in this year of Halley’s Comet).

Thus it seems appropriate to denominate a sound-change in Southern speech after the man who, among his many other accomplishments, was the first to give a scientific account of it in 1942: Raven I. McDavid, Jr. The change in question is that of [z] to [d] before a nasal, as in isn’t [idn(t)l], wasn’t [wadn(t)], business [bidnis], and the like. The status of McDavid’s Law in Southern speech is assessed, and some additional examples are provided to demonstrate extensions in the scope of its application.

□ “Defending Dialectology: LANCS, DARE, and Other Data.” Timothy C. Frazer, Western Illinois Univ.

It has been almost 30 years since Glenna Pickford published her heated attack on the methods of the Linguistic Atlas of the United States. Raven McDavid, of course, responded articulately in many places and times, as have Harold Allen and others. But criticism continues. In this paper I address three issues raised by three critics: first, that atlas data are not reliable because informants are not randomly sampled; second, that word geographies are of little value to linguistics; and third, that things like isogloss maps have little value because they are static and that, in any case, geography can’t be a very important variable in a mobile society like the United States. I will address the reliability issue by comparing LANCS and DARE distributions of a number of lexical items in Illinois: if the informant sample was inaccurate or unreliable, we should find these surveys to be in conflict. I will address the second issue by comparing some lexical isoglosses in Illinois based on some of the oldest LANCS field records with some more recent linguistic boundaries based upon recent DARE pronunciation data. I address the third issue by demonstrating the resistance of certain dialect boundaries in Illinois to some very vigorous ongoing sound changes.


In his book Variation and Linguistic Theory (1973), Charles-James N. Bailey presented the controversial theory of panlectal grammar as Peter Trudgill puts it, “a panlectal grammar was intended to incorporate not simply a few but all the varieties...
of a particular language; and it was justified, not as a descriptive device, but in terms of the model it was said to provide for the adult native speaker's "competence" (On Dialect: Social and Geographical Perspectives, 1983, p. 8). It soon became apparent that the panlectic model was not a reasonable goal, and the hypothesis was then limited to that of the polylectic grammar, which "seeks to include many, rather than all, of the varieties of a particular language."

Trudgill set out to test this hypothesis empirically, presenting sentences in unfamiliar nonstandard English to speakers of standard British English (e.g., Come here till I punch you on the nose). His subjects in general did not understand the exotic sentences, leading Trudgill to conclude "that the case for handling the polylectic passive competence of a native speaker by means of a grammar is not an especially strong one" (29).

We decided to replicate Trudgill's experiment, using American subjects. To our surprise, our Duke University students scored much better on the whole than did Trudgill's Reading University students and colleagues. Even so, Duke students did not do well enough to challenge Trudgill's doubts about the validity of Bailey's polylectic grammar theory. Indeed, one might argue that, if there is this much variation in results, and if that variation is not based on exposure to other dialects, then what we are testing is mere cleverness—linguistic performance in the classic Chomskian sense—and not knowledge of grammatical rules.

• "American Indian English in Nineteenth Century Fiction: Voices from a Pidgin Past." BEVERLY OLSON FLANIGAN, Ohio Univ.

The popularity of the American Indian as a character in the novels and short stories produced in the 19th century led inevitably to attempts to represent his "broken" English speech. Unlike the earlier traders' accounts and captivity narratives, which contained only occasional reports of native speech, fictional works were obliged to include extended conversations and other samples of the Indians' attempts to use the white man's tongue, since it was well known that few of the new Americans learned the indigenous languages. Although this fictional speech is at times inconsistently rendered, a hodgepodge of elevated rhetorical style, simplified syntax, and stereotyped lexical items, it bears the marks in better writers of a pidginized variety of English which resembles other such pidgins used historically in similarly limited contact situations. Those distinguishing marks include an invariant word order for all sentence types, a radically reduced morphological system, simplified marking of negation and pronominal case, unmarked tense and aspect, absence of copula, and a restricted phonological system. It is reasonable to assume that these writers were recreating an authentic language variety (cf. Silverstein 1973 and Dillard 1975). In this paper samples of Indian English discourse from the writings of Cooper, Simms, Thoreau, and Garland will be examined for their representation of the features noted above as well as for evidence of a "depidginizing" process which became increasingly widespread as the Indian became acculturated, voluntarily or otherwise, to the white man's world.
minimal risk. Then we will consider a series of cases to try to apply these principles in fieldwork—cases like the following:

1) In a private interview, a fieldworker has explained the purpose of the research, secured the informant’s permission, uses a structured questionnaire, and takes visible notes, but doesn’t tell the informant that the interview is being recorded.

2) A fieldworker uses a hidden microphone in a group, where open conversation takes place among the interviewer and the informants, all of whom have been told about the purpose of the research.

3) A fieldworker uses a concealed recorder at a public meeting where formal speeches, questions and answers, and incidental comments are all recorded, but the participants are not informed of the fieldworker’s intentions.

4) A fieldworker uses a hidden microphone in a public place (bar, department store, city park, etc.) to record incidental conversations, not announcing his or her intentions but staying away from clearly private conversations.

- 3:00 p.m. Coffee.
- Annual Business Meeting, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

American Name Society Annual Meeting 1985
Chicago, Friday, Dec. 27
10 a.m.-noon, Newberry Library, Fellows’ Lounge: Illinois Name Society.
1:00-6:00 p.m., Newberry Library, Fellows’ Lounge: Papers by Stewart and Mildred Kingsbury, James K. Skipper, Kelsie Harder, W.F.H. Nicolaisen, Marion Harris, Allen Walker Read, Don Orth, James Karl, Demetrius J. Georgacas, Randall Detro, Eric Hamp.
7:45-9:45 p.m. Special session chaired by Hugh Ingrasci: “Names in Literature: The Authors Speak.” Harry Mark Petrakis, Glenn Meeter, Fred Tarpley. Tentatively followed by a reception for Harry Mark Petrakis.
Saturday, Dec. 28
noon-1:15 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago, Addams, West Tower. MLA session 173.
“Some French Place-Names in Wisconsin,” F.G. Cassidy, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison.
“Company Manners and Brand New Names in the Marketplace,” L.R.N. Ashley, Brooklyn Coll., CUNY.
3:30-4:45 p.m., Hyatt Regency Chicago, Wright, West Tower. MLA session 256.
“The Names of Oz: Onomastics in the Fantasies of L. Frank Baum,” John Algeo, Univ. of Georgia.
“Hlewagastiz: Names and Early Germanic Morphology,” Herbert Penzl, Univ. of California, Berkeley.
7:15-10:00 p.m., Midland Hotel, Daniel Burnham Room. Papers by Patricia Elder Dean and James L. Evans. Discussion of Phase II of the U.S. Geological Survey with Don Orth, Roger Payne, Fred Tarpley, and Randall Detro. Meeting of the Placename Survey of the United States.
Sunday, Dec. 29
Annual Dinner, Midland Hotel, Wright Room. Cash bar 6:30, dinner served 7:30. Presidents Address by Alan Rayburn. Reservations required by Dec. 20: send $20 per person to Larry Selts, 155 Buckthorn Dr., Apt. 201, North Aurora IL 60542-1451.
For further information write ANS executive secretary Wayne H. Finke, 7 E. 14th St. 17U. New York, NY 10003.
ADS ANNUAL MEETING WEST: WITH LSA IN SEATTLE
Seattle Sheraton Hotel, Dec. 27-30
At press time the day and room for the ADS-sponsored session had not been determined.
LSA will offer its members' rates to ADS members for registration and hotel rooms. For information write LSA, Suite 211, 1325 – 18th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036-6501; phone (202) 835-1714.

ADS Session Chair: DENNIS R. PRESTON, Eastern Michigan Univ. Program:
□ “Some Cyclic Rules of Phonology in Portuguese and Their Sociolinguistic Consequences.” BRIAN HEAD, SUNY Albany and Federal University at Campinas (Brazil).

This paper will discuss the choice of lexical item with the requirement of semantic sameness, as it relates to socio-economic status, age and sex and compare the effect of geographic distance relating to this word selection in urban surveys in two Canadian cities several thousand kilometres apart. We hope thereby to illustrate cross-Canadian socio-cultural and sociolinguistic similarities in lexical choice.

□ “Syntactic Variable Choice in Spontaneous Speech.” DEWOLF and HASEBE-LUDT.

This paper is based on research conducted during a major Canadian urban dialect survey. It compares syntactic items of spontaneous speech with the answers to the survey's formal syntactic questioning in respect to age, sex and socio-economic status. The focus of the discussion is the discrepancy between the actual variable of uncontrolled speech and the chosen value of formal prompting based on notions of grammatical correctness.

□ “A New Approach to Variation in the Southern Drawl: A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Alabama Talk.” CRAWFORD FEAGIN, Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church.

Several attempts have been made at defining the Southern drawl, most notably Sledd (1966), who pointed out that it is used mainly by women. His data was based on his native Atlanta intuitions. At about the same time, Bailey (1965/1968), after examining his own urban Kentucky speech, drew some conclusions about the drawl from the acoustics of the speech of an urban South Carolina native. More recently Hablick (1980) carried out a brief acoustic study of the drawl as it occurred among a few rural and small-town informants from Kentucky and Illinois.

Using Hablick's definition of the drawl, a careful examination of tape-recorded informal interviews...
from one Alabama community, observation of native speakers, and examination of native speaker intuitions have shown that the drawl is subject to a number of sociolinguistic constraints: 1) geographical differences—that is, both regional variation and urban/rural differences; 2) differences depending on demography—age, sex, and social class; 3) differences in language use—intimacy and solidarity versus formality and distancing; 4) differences according to topic; and 5) the psycho-social constraint of self-identification.

□ “Vancouver Vowel Systems.” JOHN ESLING, Univ. of Victoria.
□ “Experiments on Perceptual Confusions Across Dialects.” FRANZ SEITZ, Univ. of Pennsylvania.

Phonetically-based misunderstandings are common in everyday life. The present experiments use talkers representing different dialect areas to focus upon the effect of social dialects in contrast with phonetic factors in phoneme recognition. The stimuli are fictitious place and family names, surveyed in advance to control for cognitive effects. The stimuli are presented to listeners in a syntactic frame, e.g. “Edit the Cowansburg file.” While there is a constant, low-level error rate of about 10 percent for error-prone phonological types which are phonetically practically equivalent across dialects (e.g. final weak fricatives), there is significant interaction between talker’s and listener’s dialects in the case of phonetically and/or phonologically different dialects; for example, “Cowansburg” spoken by a Philadelphian as [kæwɔ nzb 9 r gl] is nearly always heard as “Kallensburg” by outsiders.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
This year the Nominating Committee had one assignment: to propose a member of the Executive Council for the term 1986-1989. The committee’s choice is David K. Barnhart of Lexik House.

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 15.

Mary Ritchie Key has been appointed by ADS President Thomas Clark to chair the committee to plan the celebration of our Centennial in 1989. If you would like to serve on the committee, you are cordially invited to volunteer; write her, him, or the Executive Secretary.

More than 10 nominations for the Presidential Honorary Memberships 1986 have been happily received by President Thomas Clark. His appointment of four students to the Honorary Memberships will be announced at the Annual Meeting and in the January Newsletter.

The October issue of the new journal English Today is devoted to British and American English. It contains an article by ADS member Connie C. Eble on “American Speech in American Speech,” which surveys the 60 years of our journal.

English Today, which calls itself “the international review of the English language,” is in magazine format for a general and international readership. Published by Cambridge Univ. Press, it is edited in Cambridge by Tom McArthur. The U.S. and Canadian rate for one year (four issues) is $18.50 to: Journals Subscriptions Dept., Cambridge Univ. Press, The Edinburgh Bldg., Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, England.
CALENDAR OF 1985 REGIONAL MEETINGS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL MEETING in association with RMMLA, Friday, Oct. 18; Provo, Utah, Excelsior Hotel.

BYU will provide transportation from the Salt Lake City airport for only $5. Hotel double rooms are $40.

Chair: Fred Tarpoley, Dept. of Literature and Languages, East Texas State Univ., Commerce, TX 75428. Regional secretary: Grant W. Smith, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney, Wash. 99004.

- 10:15-11:45 a.m. Program:
  □ "Popular Perceptions of Texas English." GARY UNDERWOOD, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
  □ "Thomas Hardy's Wessex Dialect." AVIS KUWAHARA PAYNE, New Mexico State Univ.

A luncheon will follow, arranged by Darwin Hayes of Brigham Young University.

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL MEETING in association with SMLA, Oct. 31-Nov. 2; Atlanta, Hyatt Regency.

Chair: George Dorrill, 73 University Terrace, Columbia, SC 29201. Regional secretary: Jeutonette P. Brewer, Dept. of English, McIver Bldg., Univ. of North Carolina, Greensboro, NC 27412. Nominating Committee: Mary R. Miller, Univ. of Maryland; Karl Nicholas, Western Carolina Univ.; Crawford Feagin, chair, Univ. of Virginia, Falls Church Regional Center.

- Program:
  □ "In which: No Longer the Topic in Which You Keep Quiet About." MICHAEL B. MONTGOMERY, Univ. of South Carolina, and GUY BAILEY, Texas A&M.
  □ "Is the Southern Dialect Disappearing?" ANN H. PITTS, Auburn Univ.
  □ "Evidence for a Virginia Plantation Creole?" MICHAEL I. MILLER, Chicago State Univ.
  □ "Implications of West African Languages in Gullah Poetry." VIRGINIA GERATY, Coll. of Charleston.

MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING in association with MMLA, Thursday, Nov. 7; St. Louis, Marriott's Pavilion Hotel.

Chair: Rachel B. Faries, Alton High School, 2200 College Ave., Alton, IL 62002. Regional secretary: Donald W. Larmouth, Communication Processes, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay, WI 54302.

- 1:30-5:30 p.m. Program:

An extensive study of the phonology, morphology, lexicon, and syntax of St. Louis has revealed that although speakers from that city use linguistic forms typically associated with all four major dialect areas in the United States—Northern, North and South Midland, and Southern—the Northern and North Midland forms are either preferred or perceived as "more correct" by the vast majority of speakers. Traditional dialectology would explain these preferences and perceptions as functions of immigration and settlement patterns, noting that Northern and North Midland states contributed large numbers of residents to the city during the second half of the 19th century, and that sizable ethnic populations of Germans and Irish, both of which exhibit northernisms in their speech, also migrated to the area at that time. Similarly, sociolinguistic theory would explain that St. Louis, being a major metropolitan center, can be expected to have higher standards of correctness than the surrounding non-urban South Midland-speaking area. Neither of these explanations, however, goes far enough: both have serious flaws when examined closely and are insufficient to explain the prevalent language attitudes in St. Louis. The paper then presents data from subjective reaction tests that suggest a psycho-social approach is more appropriate and adequate for understanding the city's usage patterns. It shows conclusively that the linguistic choices of St. Louisans are heavily influenced by their collective perceptions of what it means to be and sound like a "hoosier."
“Regional, Social, and Sexual Distribution of Prepositional Constructions in Linguistic Atlas Records: toward/towards, back of/in back of/behind, off/off of, and (wait) for/on.” VIRGINIA McDAVID, Chicago State Univ.

Among the approximately 800 items investigated in the various regional linguistic atlases are a few prepositional constructions, some of which are also traditional items in usage guides. This paper examines the regional, social and sexual distribution of four of these. It also considers their treatment in current dictionaries and usage guides.

“A Study of Sex-Marked Language.” DONALD LANCE, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.

The instrument used in this study is an adaptation of a questionnaire published as Appendix F in Margaret A. Lourie and Nancy Farles Conklin, eds., A Pluralistic Nation: The Language Issues in the United States (Newbury House, 1978), p. 431. The questionnaire is a list of 21 sentences, 13 of which are hypothesized as being stereotypically female in style, 8 male. Students in one of my classes on American dialects suggested several additional sentences as well as changes in wording. We added 5 sentences, including some we thought would be neutral.

In two successive years, each student in the dialect class asked two males and two females to fill out the questionnaire. In addition, instead of asking simply which sex the sentence would be associated with, we asked the subjects to indicate on a scale of 1 to 7 how “likely” it was that the sentence would be said, respectively, by a female and by a male; then the subject indicated on a scale of 1 to 7 how formal the sentence would be for males and for females.

The findings are interesting in two dimensions. The responses by males and females, predictably, were different, though some of the differences hold some mild surprises. The serendipitous finding is that the sex of the person distributing the questionnaire has a surprisingly strong effect in some cases.

“Kentuck’ English in the Cutover Region of Wisconsin: Further Notes and Relationship to LANCS Records.” DONALD W. LARMOUTH, Univ. of Wisconsin, Green Bay.

Settlement of significant numbers of people from Kentucky in the cutover region of northeastern Wisconsin at the turn of the century created a pocket of South Midland speech patterns, some features of which were reported at the 1981 Midwest Regional ADS meeting by Larmouth and Remslng. Since that presentation, the field data were compared to the field notes in the Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States at the University of Chicago. This comparison was facilitated by the fact that we had good information on the counties of origin for migrants to the cutover region, and the LANCS records largely corroborate the assertion that features still present in that region reflect its migration history. Some features, however, which were initially presumed to be distinctive to the cutover region turned out to be more widely attested in the 1940 Wisconsin field notes gathered by Cassidy, which show significant groupings of ‘Kentuck’ features along the Mississippi River. In addition, examination of the LANCS materials suggested a number of items for follow-up fieldwork, the results of which are also included in this presentation.

“The Iowa Northern-Midland Boundary Revisited: A Computerized and Structural Analysis.” CHARLES HOUCK, Ball State Univ.

In order to demonstrate the need for greater use of more complicated statistical procedures and computing techniques, I used the Checklists from
the Iowa portion of LAUM in my dissertation (Iowa, 1969). This study refuted Allen’s (1952, 1958, 1964) claim that the strong Northern-Midland contrast found east of the Alleghenies is maintained in Iowa, especially if based on the incidence of Northern and Midland lexical terms. My study showed that the incidence of Northern and Midland lexical terms among Iowan Checklist respondents was statistically equal. Allen (1973), however, while recognizing my ‘approach having value for studying a transitional zone,’ rejected my findings and claimed that the so-called traditional school rests its conclusions upon the distribution of language features per se irrespective of their frequency in the speech of a given informant.” He reaffirmed this rejection in his monograph on Regional Dialects, 1945-1974 (1977). Because my dissertation used only the Checklists, I propose in this study to analyze the 53 Field Records in the Iowa portion of LAUM with the latest computer techniques and statistical procedures. I believe the study will definitively establish whether the incidence of Northern and Midland lexical terms can be used to support the claim of a strong Northern-Midland dialect contrast in Iowa.

□ “Dialect Divisions in Missouri.” RACHEL FARIES and DONALD LANCE, Alton High School and Univ. of Missouri, Columbia.

This paper analyzes data from a dissertation by Faries, A Word Geography of Missouri. Because of the complex settlement pattern in Missouri, one finds tendencies toward regionalism rather than clear bundles of isoglosses that set off distinct regions. In order to get a better picture of regional tendencies, the authors devised a formula that can measure the relative strength of terms that have been shown to have Inland North, North Midland, Northern (N+NM), Midland (NM+SM), South Midland, Coastal Southern (S), and Southern (S+SM) distributions in earlier studies, notably Hans Kurath’s Word Geography. When county-by-county analyses of the data are placed on maps, the results show clear regional tendencies, with Coastal Southern strength in the Bootheel, South Midland strength in the Ozarks, Southern strength (S+SM) in the lower half of the state and in “Little Dixie” in central Missouri, and North Midland strength in the northern and western counties and in the German settlement region that extends from St. Louis up the Missouri and down the Mississippi.

□ Business meeting.

• 6:30 p.m. Dinner.

(See details in box. Reservations are required by November 1.)

CORRECTION: Allen Walker Read’s honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in May was awarded by the institution which awarded him the B.A. 60 years ago, the University of Northern Iowa. With two honorary doctorates (Audrey Duckert observes), Read now exemplifies a paradox.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MEETING in association with SCMLA. Friday, Nov. 8: Tulsa, Okla., Westin Hotel.


• 6:00-7:30 p.m. SCMLA Session 44. Studio 304.

□ “Inventiveness in College Slang.” PAUL GILMER, Univ. of Texas, Austin (25 min.).

The study of slang reveals several types of word formation, or inventive processes. These include rhyme formation, analogy, clipping, blending, acronyms and alliteration, as well as semantic shifts. In a college setting, slang arises from the sociolinguistic necessity for new vocabulary. From 1981 to 1985, I investigated slang used by undergraduates at the University of Texas, Austin, and discovered such examples as “quack shack” for “Health Center,” showing rhyme formation, or examples of lexical compounding, such as “commode hugging” for “drunk” or “sausage nigger” for a person of German ancestry.

Respondent to be announced (15 min.).

□ “A Preliminary Sociolinguistic Study of /i/ and /æ/ in Tulsa Speech.” KATE MEYERS, Univ. of Tulsa (25 min.).

Using Labov’s study of social stratification in New York City department stores as a model, I have conducted a preliminary study of Tulsa speech to determine evidence of a sound change in progress. Statistical results for /æ/ in word-final position follow a Labovian curvilinear pattern for sound change. This unusual feature of Tulsa speech makes the area fertile ground for further sociolinguistic study.

Respondent: BRUCE SOUTHWALL, Oklahoma State Univ. (15 min.).

□ Business meeting.

NEWSPAPER COLLECTION

The C.C. Fries collection of clippings from newspapers in all 48 states during December 1927 will be made available to an interested scholar. Fries subscribed to 266 newspapers for a month, clipping and marking articles for pronunciation, usage, grammar, vocabulary and opinions on matters of language. DARE has reviewed the collection for lexical items.

For information, write Nancy Fries, P.O. Box 310, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858.

THOMAS CREAMER was author of the talk on “Shuowen Jiezi: The First Chinese Dictionary” at the DSNA-ADS meeting in Ann Arbor in August. His name was inadvertently omitted from the program in NADS 17.2 (p. 4).
IN MEMORIAM: RAVEN I. McDAVID, JR.

(The morning session of this year's ADS Annual Meeting will be dedicated to the memory of Raven I. McDavid, Jr. It will be held in the Fellows' Lounge of the Newberry Library, where McDavid was for many years a regular at the Wednesday afternoon seminars, and where he led a seminar on language and the law in the week before he died. The following tribute to him is reprinted by permission, with thanks to the author and Manfred Gorlach, editor of the journal in which it appeared: English World-Wide 5.2 [1984] 235-237.)

When the unbelievable news reached me that Raven McDavid had died of a heart attack on the morning of Oct. 21, 1984, I was truly speechless. I knew that Raven had had health problems, but when I last saw him in early 1983 he felt good and he looked good. And he was full of vigor and had many plans in connection with his various Linguistic Atlases, two of which he had inherited from his deceased colleagues Albert H. Marckwardt and William R. Van Riper. A few months before his death, Raven had received another substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities towards the completion of his life's work, The Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States (1980 ff.). The microfilming of the original field records of this Atlas had been completed with the exception of parts of South Carolina and the whole of Georgia; he had received money, material and services from his university for the copying of the 13,000 unphotographable Georgia carbons—the original field records from that area had been lost—and he had several hundred pages of the Handbook to accompany his Atlas ready for submission to the Press. The last word I had from Raven was a postcard in late July.

PETER TAMONY 1902–1985

Members of ADS have been deeply saddened by the death of Peter Tamony on July 24, 1985. For many decades his rich collections on American colloquialisms, particularly in the areas of sports and jazz music, have been legendary, and he was generous (as I can myself attest) in helping other scholars. Good material about him is found in his Festschrift, in Maledicta, No. VII (1983), including a checklist of his articles, assembled by Archie Green. Many of them appeared in his own personally hectographed serial, Americanisms: Content and Continuum, in 34 numbers, a valuable source for those fortunate enough to have copies. His was a life dedicated to the sound study of the American English vocabulary.

—Allen Walker Read
Mencken had the first of a series of strokes in 1948 that terminated his writing career. He entrusted to McDavid the difficult task of producing an abridged and updated edition of his influential work *The American Language* (1919, fourth ed. 1936) plus Supplement One (1945) and Supplement Two (1948). When the new edition came out in 1963, it became clear that McDavid had executed this task admirably. The book has been reprinted five times.

In 1952 McDavid found a regular teaching position at Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and five years later he moved to the University of Chicago, where he was promoted to a full professorship in English and linguistics on account of his 900-page "abridgement" of Mencken's work. McDavid retired from this post in 1978.

In a short obituary it is impossible to do justice to Raven's outstanding achievements. He published on Old English literature, on the Old English language, and on many diachronic aspects of English, especially American English. Among his truly impressive record of about 500 publications I must single out the following books: *The Pronunciation of English in the Atlantic States* (written jointly with Hans Kurath 1961, repr. 1982); *Lexicography in English* (edited with Audrey R. Duckert 1973, now a standard text on dictionary making); two collections of essays entitled *Dialects in Culture* (1979) and *Varieties of American English* (1980); and—with Walter Blair—*The Mirth of a Nation: America's Great Dialect Humor* (1983). Not infrequently, Raven published together with his wife Virginia Glenn McDavid, herself a distinguished dialectologist.

As is only natural for a leading scholar in his field, McDavid met with opposition—mainly from certain sociolinguists and creolists. He was particularly bitter about their sweeping generalizations on American English on the basis of insufficient data. They largely ignore(d) the masses of data collected by the Linguistic Atlases. McDavid saw linguistic fashions come and go. He always stuck to his primary purpose, i.e. the collection and honest evaluation of linguistic data. And it must be said to Raven's credit that he found it only natural to re-examine the data should his conclusions have been incomplete. His main aim was to come nearer to the truth and not to side with those who defend a particular theory or hypothesis in the face of unreliable or even unfitting linguistic evidence.

Despite his many academic and scholarly activities, Raven repeatedly found time to serve as election judge, registrar, and canvasser. His public honors, naturally, were many. He received the David Russell Award for Distinguished Research from the National Council of Teachers of English (1969), honorary degrees of Litt.D. by Furman University (1966) and Duke University (1972), membership in Phi Beta Kappa (Duke, 1975) and was awarded an honorary Ph.D. degree by the Sorbonne in early 1983.

Undoubtedly, Raven McDavid's death means a great loss to the profession and a great personal loss to his many friends world-wide. I mourn over a distinguished scholar and a good friend to whom I owe a great deal.

—Wolfgang Viereck
Bamberg

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DARE ASKS HELP WITH OBSCURE

Though Vol. I of DARE is now out, with ABC words and phrases, we are keeping a file of new data on them. Vol. II (D through J) is now the chief focus, but all possibly usable evidence is welcome. Please communicate with Prof. F.G. Cassidy, Dictionary of American Regional English, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

crazy ace—A dice game played at a bar: the first to throw an ace names a drink, the second pays for it, and the third drinks it. Surprisingly, we have found this only in Wisconsin. Is it played elsewhere?

declare poor law—To declare bankruptcy; reported 1970 from Chatham, Virginia. Is this legal language, perhaps archaic, or strictly folk usage?

deece—To run fast; 1909 in Dialect Notes 3.420 “Used among boys” on Cape Cod. Could it possibly still be in use?

dimi or demi—A stone the size of a man’s head. Reported 1968 from Newburgh, N.Y., by a 56-year-old white policeman. Does anyone else recognize this?

dero—A kind of candy, usually one inch by one and a half inches, filled with peanut butter; said to be old-fashioned. Can anyone explain the word?

did she cackle—A game reported 1905 in Dialect Notes 3.72 from northwest Arkansas and said to be “common” at that time. Does anyone recall the game or how it was played?

face bowl—A washbowl or basin. This was picked up by field workers in Massachusetts and Hawaii. (Perhaps introduced to Hawaii by the New England missionaries?) Is it in use elsewhere?

faint-out—As a noun: a feeling of weakness or faintness. From two informants only: Oklahoma (Watova) and South Carolina (Cheraw), both old. One would expect this to be used more widely—or has fainting-spell superseded it?

fall bird—A cricket, presumably from the sound it makes. Reported once (1967) from Norwalk, Ohio, by an elderly white woman. Is this still known, or in use elsewhere?

fall in hell with the wicked—Verb phrase, apparently somewhat proverbial, meaning to be victimized. From a black farmer in Clinton, Louisiana, 1967.

D-J’S

jack out—Another Black usage: to fight very actively; Memphis, Tennessee, a young woman. Jack has a multitude of senses; this was found only once.

leaning toward Jones’s—Out of plumb, tipping sidewise: used by an auctioneer (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, early 1960s) in referring to a wardrobe lacking a caster. Jones was apparently not a specific or identifiable person. Is this known elsewhere?

PUBLICATION UPDATE

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