NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS

Vol. 29, No. 3 September 1997

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send ADS dues ($35 per year), queries and news to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7115 or (217) 243-3403, e-mail AAllan@aol.com.

ADS Web site: http://www.et.byu.edu/~lilliek/ads/index.htm

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to Listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu the message:
Sub ADS-L Your Name
CALLS FOR PAPERS

Jan. 20 Deadline for ILA at NYU

ADS will sponsor its annual northeast regional meeting with the International Linguistic Association at New York University April 17–19. The general topic for ILA will be bilingualism. Presenters who want to participate in the ADS-sponsored session should send three copies of their abstract by Jan. 20, 1998 to Silke Van Ness, Germanic & Slavic Languages and Literatures, HU 248, SUNY, Albany NY 12222; phone (518)442-5191; e-mail sv478@cnsvax.albany.edu.

Abstracts for other ILA sessions should go to John Costello, Linguistics, New York Univ., 719 Broadway, Room 504, New York NY 10003, e-mail costellj@is2.nyu.edu.

Dec. 1 deadline for SECOL

The Southeastern Conference on Linguistics will be held March 26–28 at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in the heart of Cajun country. December 1 is the deadline for abstracts to Joan Weatherly, English Dept., Univ. of Memphis, Memphis, TN 38152. For the abstract proposal form, fax (901) 678-2226 or e-mail mwetherly@cc.memphis.edu.

For local arrangements, contact Sherri L. Condon, English Dept., Southwestern Louisiana Univ., Lafayette LA 70504; e-mail slc6859@usl.edu.

Talking the Digital Talk

ADS-sponsored session at the annual convention of the Modern Language Association of America, Toronto, Dec. 27–30.

Chair: Dennis Baron, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

"Visualizing Discourse on the World Wide Web." Gail Hawisher, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

"Language and the New Technologies of Literacy." Dennis Baron.

Those who attend must register for the MLA convention. Write MLA Convention Office, 10 Astor Place, New York NY 10003-6981; phone (212) 614-6372; e-mail convention@mla.org; www.mla.org.

Ebonics at NCTE, November

Sunday, Nov. 23, 1:15–2:30 p.m.: “Ebonics and Education: Reconsidering the Issues.”

ADS-sponsored session J.27 at the 1997 convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, Detroit, Nov. 21–23. Chair: ADS President Walt Wolfram, North Carolina State Univ. Presentations:


Membership and convention information are available from NCTE, 1111 Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096; phone (217) 328-3870, fax (217) 328-0977.


Marshall Berger’s Books


His daughter is making some of her father’s books available to scholars. “If you happen to get any inquiries,” she writes, “you might suggest that they e-mail me of their interests. I will be reviewing his collection and boxing it by broad topics. . . . I would be willing to send boxes by topic only.” Topics include foreign languages (Greek, Russian, Lithuanian, Hebrew, to name a few), language, and etymology. Write Karen A. Berger at berger@pace.edu or kabpace@aol.com.

WHAT’S THE WORD OF THE YEAR 1997?

Send your nomination! See next page.
Annual Meeting 1998 • New York City, Jan. 8 – 10

ADS will meet with the Linguistic Society of America in New York City, Thursday through Saturday, January 8 – 10. We'll be housed in the completely remodeled Grand Hyatt Hotel, Park Avenue at Grand Central, New York NY 10017. Rooms are $89 single, $10 for each extra person. You might consider the "Business Plan" for $15 extra per night; it houses you on a concierge floor with free continental breakfast and other amenities. Call (800) 233-1234 or (212) 883-1234 for reservations—and mention LSA. Call soon; after Dec. 23, reservations may not be available.

**LSA registration:** As guests of LSA, we are expected to register with them, at their members' rate. In return, we get the Meeting Handbook and admission to all LSA meetings. Until Dec. 8, preregistration is available at $50, students $20. On-site registration is $60, students $25. Send check to LSA Secretariat—Annual Meeting, 1325 18th St. NW Suite 211, Washington DC 20036-6501, phone (202) 835-1714, fax (202) 835-1717, e-mail lsa@lsadc.org.

**ADS registration:** Additional and entirely optional, but those who attend ADS sessions are encouraged to register with ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf for $20, students $10. (Make check payable directly to ADS.) This enrolls you among the ADS Immortals, helps defray the cost of the refreshments for which our meetings are noted, and earns you a distinctive decoration for your LSA badge.

**Airfare bargains to New York:** Refer to LSA Bulletin No. 156, June 1997, or ask LSA.

**Annual luncheon:** 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4. **William Labov,** Univ. of Pennsylvania, will speak on the relationship between dialect geography and sociolinguistics. At press time the location, menu and price were still being determined, but if you pay in advance the guaranteed cost is $25 inclusive. LSA friends are welcome. Make reservations with ADS Executive Secretary Allan Metcalf.

**Words of the Year 1997:** Send your nominations to New Words Committee Chair **Wayne Glowka,** Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gac.peachnet.edu.; or to **David Barnhart,** PO Box 247, Cold Spring NY 10516, e-mail Barnhart@highlands.com. Then come to the nominating session and the final vote Jan. 9.

**Bring your latest book** to the B.Y.O.B. exhibit and reception after the New Words vote.

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Thursday Afternoon, January 8: First General Session
Edison/Winter Garden/Brooks Atkinson Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt
3:00–5:30 p.m. Chair: Betty S. Phillips, Indiana State Univ.

1 • 3:00-3:30: “Idiom’s Delight.” Christine Ammer, Lexington, Mass.
As the idiosyncrasies of a language, peculiar to it and, usually, to it alone, idioms are both intriguing and frustrating. This paper will concentrate on some of the oddities of idioms: their arbitrary use of prepositions (we talk at length but will go to any length); their preservation of otherwise obsolete words (hue and cry, beck and call); their multiple meanings (16 for the phrasal verb pick up, 10 for put down); their lost origins and the theories they provoke (get down to brass tacks; the whole nine yards); and idioms whose meaning changes completely (a close shave, birthday suit, think tank, thumbs up).

2 • 3:30-4:00: “Er hat uns gesaved vun unser sins”: Past Participial Marking in Pennsylvania German.” Janet M. Fuller, Southern Illinois Univ.
Data from Pennsylvania German speakers from the Midwest show variation in past participial marking which indicates that English verbal morphology is appearing in PG, a sign of structural convergence toward English. There are two types of past participles formed with English-origin verbs in PG: full English participles (e.g., “mir warre delivered” ‘we were delivered’) and English stems with German participial morphology (e.g., “Ich war gebaptized dat” ‘I was baptized there’). Sixty percent of the full English participles fit the requirements for reanalysis as German non-separable prefix verbs, having a first syllable which could be interpreted as a prefix and a final alveolar stop (e.g., re-model-ed, en-joy-ed). However, forty percent of the full English participles in this corpus do not allow this analysis. In German/English codeswitching data, which represent an earlier phase of German/English language contact, the only verbs which occur as full English participles have phonological forms which allow them to be interpreted as German non-separable prefix verbs. Thus the variation in the PG data is posited to be a sign of the dialect’s convergence to English.

3 • 4:00-4:30: “Searching for Standard American English.” Judith W. Fuller, Gustavus Adolphus Coll.
According to standard grammar, lie is an intransitive verb, as in “I’m going to lie down,” while lay is a transitive verb, as in “I’m going to lay the baby in her crib.” Twentieth-century dictionaries of American English reflect these distinctions, citing intransitive lay as “illiterate,” “nonstandard,” and “incorrect”. Careful listening to American speakers, however, shows that the situation has gone rather beyond this assessment: college professors, even in English Departments, say “I’m going to lay down,” and whole classes of students in college composition courses have never heard of the distinction. These discrepancies indicate a gap in our knowledge and assessment of the actual usage of educated native speakers, the population that is the foundation of the designation “standard English.” This study addresses this gap with data from both natural conversations and elicited judgments of Minnesota speakers. Preliminary data suggest that for Minnesota undergraduates the two verbs are not distinct in some constructions, that some constructions are obsolete, and that the corrections made in sentences the respondents indicated they would never say suggest ways in which the two verbs have partially fallen together. Possible reasons for these findings are historical, structural, and semantic.

4 • 4:30-5:00: “Facilitating Self-Regulated Learning in English Language Studies Classrooms.” Sonja L. Lanhart and Paul A. Schutz, Univ. of Georgia.
This paper uses current theory and research in educational psychology to show how instructors in English language studies can create activities that facilitate the development of students’ self-regulated learning skills. The focus of the discussion is on the importance of goals and integrating goal-setting into classroom activities. Classroom management also will be discussed. By combining research in educational psychology with what we do in English language studies classrooms we hope to foster a mutually beneficial interdisciplinary relationship.

5 • 5:00-5:30: “Teaching American Dialects to German Students: Problems and Issues.”
Bernhard Diensberg, Univ. of Bayreuth (Germany).
In German-speaking countries (in particular Austria, Switzerland and Germany itself) dialect (as distinguished from the standard language) refers to rather small areas. As is the case in my native region (Westerwald/Rhineland), two neighboring villages may differ in their respective dialects, especially if
they belonged to different principalities (of different religious adherence) before the advent of Napoleon and the unification of Germany. The academic teacher then has to make his students familiar with an altogether different dialect situation in North America (USA and Canada). Undoubtedly, this has consequences for the methodology (selection of informants/communities, data gathering, etc.).

The fact that only few students are familiar with American English may constitute another obstacle. At high school level British English is still taught as a rule, although at university level both American and British English enjoy equal status. Moreover, even recently published manuals and handbooks dealing with American English and American dialects seem to be rather old-fashioned. The word-lists which misleadingly suggest clear-cut lexical differences between British and American English are still to be found in most handbooks.

Friday, January 9

ADS Executive Council

Palace Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt

• 8:00 a.m.: Open meeting; all members welcome. Coffee will be served. Presiding: ADS President Walt Wolfram.

The Executive Council discusses and sets policy for the Society and hears reports from officers, editors, committee chairs, and regional secretaries. To get an advance copy of the agenda in early December, write or e-mail the Executive Secretary.

New Words of 1997

Palace Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt

• 10:30–11:30 a.m.: New Words Committee. Chair: Wayne Glowka, Georgia Coll. and State Univ. Review of new words of 1997; nominations for Word of the Year. (Voting at 4:45 p.m.; see Page 7.) Leading candidates in particular categories will be identified. All members are welcome.

Reconfiguring Regional Dialects: Special Session I

Edison/Winter Garden/Brooks Atkinson Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt

1:00–3:00 p.m. Chair: Ellen Johnson, Western Kentucky Univ.

6 • 1:00–1:30: “Dynamic Boundaries in African American Vernacular English: The Role of Local Dialect in the History of AAVE.” Walt Wolfram, Erik Thomas and Elaine Green, North Carolina State Univ.

This paper will present data currently being collected in interviews with African Americans on the coast of Hyde County across from Ocracoke—where the slaves went when they left the Outer Banks. They had a brogue mixed with some core AAVE. At the same time, interviews with different generations (four different generations from the same family lived in the same house) show the leveling of brogue features and broadening of AAVE core grammar.

7 • 1:30–2:00: “Redrawing Ethnic Dialect Lines: A Synchronic and Diachronic Analysis of /ay/ in Lumbee Native American Vernacular English.” Natalie Schilling-Estes, Stanford Univ.

In investigating language and ethnicity, it is often assumed that ethnic groups are relatively linguistically homogeneous, particularly when they have existed in historical isolation from other ethnic groups. In addition, it is frequently assumed that there are straightforward linguistic correlates of ethnic boundaries and that these correlates—or “ethnic” language features—serve as ready measures of the degree to which ethnic groups accommodate to outside varieties as they emerge from historic insularity.

The present study challenges these assumptions. Synchronic and diachronic analysis of the variable patterning of /ay/ in a relatively isolated rural Native American (Lumbee) variety in Robeson County, N.C. reveals surprising heterogeneity within the Lumbee community.
8 • 2:00-2:30: “Takin' Bauman to the 'Burbs: Verbal Art in the Discourse of Suburban Teens.” Lisa Ann Lane, Univ. of Michigan.

I attempt to support Bauman's claim that “it should be self-evident that performance genres, acts, events, and roles cannot occur in isolation, but are mutually interactive and interdependent” (1975: 300) by exploring the use of storytelling, quotation, imitation, and joking in a group of teens' discourse. These teenagers are members of a highly “local linguistic community” (Silverstein 1996) who are identifiable from emic and etic perspectives as separate from the other local linguistic communities as delimited by their linguistic norms, the geographic area in which they live and socialize, the closed social network ties they maintain, and the expressed ideologies they share. The focus of this aspect of the investigation is how performance frames are keyed and understood within their culturally specific conventions, and who is eligible to perform which genres of verbal art. There are numerous examples of metalinguistic discourse surrounding the fluctuating social and linguistic roles of the group members. These social and linguistic fluctuations index the changing social organization and structure of the group. In this way we understand this Chicago sociolect as not only a geo-linguistic variety, but also as a variety in which interesting linguistic dexterity is displayed through numerous types of verbal art and performance by different members of the group under different conditions.

9 • 2:30-3:00: “Standard English Hardball: The Pressure of Transplant Dialects on Young Atlantan Professionals.” Anne Marie Hamilton and Frank Bramlett, Univ. of Georgia.

Atlanta is a Southern metropolis receiving a large infusion of middle-class newcomers from the North and West who may view Southern speech as non-standard. One socioeconomic group in direct competition with the newcomers is college graduates in the professional client-based job market. Their potential employers consider professionalism and intelligence to be job qualifications. The interviewer might take speech features into consideration when making hiring decisions. Our survey of 90 college seniors native to Atlanta and 9 personnel managers in engineering, computer science, and accounting measures attitudes toward language use and the pressure on young native Atlantan professionals to modify speech toward a perceived standard.

Reconfiguring Regional Dialects: Special Session II

3:15-4:45 p.m. Chair: David Barnhart, Lexik House.


This paper will focus on data from African American and White signers from Boston, New Orleans, and Fremont, Calif. The handshape of the numeral 1 (index finger extended, all other fingers and thumb closed) occurs in lexical signs, pronouns, and classifier signs. Variation may include an extended pinky, and relaxation of the middle, ring, and pinky fingers, in addition to phonologically dissimilar handshapes which seem to occur as a result of assimilation to the handshape of the preceding or following sign. A Varbrul analysis will show assimilation at work, more with pronouns than with lexical signs. Correlation of 1-handshape variation with social factors will also be discussed.

11 • 3:45-4:15: “Rising Glides in Mexican American English.” Amanda Doran, Univ. of Texas, Austin.

Mexican American English is an ethnic variety of English spoken in many parts of the United States, particularly in the Southwest. Prosody is the aspect of MAE that most noticeably distinguishes it from other varieties of English. Based on data from a talk show, two films, and a documentary, supplemented by participant observation, I examine the overall phonetic characteristics and the use and function of rising glides, the most salient intonation pattern in MAE. Rising glides are used by speakers to emphasize or highlight specific words and, by extension, specific aspects of a discourse. In highlighting the need for further research on rising glides and other features of MAE prosody, this study reaffirms the importance of continuing to study more firmly established ethnic dialects even as we undertake the investigation of newly emerging ones.

12 • 4:15-4:45: “Linguistic Behavior of Three South Texas Border Communities: Same or Different?” Kati Pletsch de Garcia, Texas A&M International Univ.
The border communities of Laredo, McAllen and Brownsville, Texas are noted for their conservative nature, and for guarding and maintaining their Hispanic customs and Spanish language in spite of their location within the United States, and their increased contact with the Anglo-American population. In this paper, I present data encapsulating actual language use patterns and subjects' self-reported language use patterns along with their attitudes toward language mixing, Spanish proficiency, societal identity, bilingualism and viability of Spanish in their community. Observations and conclusions concerning the role of Spanish, English or TexMex usage and the non-linguistic factors affecting language choice will be offered. Also, similarities and differences observed in the data provided by the university community and the community at-large will be discussed.

The data in this study come from (1) personal interviews conducted with 150 adult students at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, University of Texas-Pan American in McAllen, and University of Texas at Brownsville; (2) questionnaires administered to 450 adult subjects randomly chosen from the three communities at-large; and (3) transcriptions of audiotapes of 30 of the subjects.

New Words of 1997

4:45–5:45 p.m., Regency Room: Discussion and voting on nominations made in the morning (see above, Page 5). All present are invited to vote.

Bring-Your-Own-Book Exhibit

5:45–6:45 p.m., Regency Room: Tables will be available to display your books and order forms. Refreshments will be served.

Saturday, January 10

Edison/Winter Garden/Brooks Atkinson Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt

Annual Business Meeting

8:00–8:30 a.m.: Election (see below); report of yesterday's Executive Council meeting; as time permits, reports of officers, editors, committee chairs, regional secretaries. Most of the business of the Society is conducted at the Executive Council meeting (8 a.m. Friday, open to all members).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The committee (John Baugh, chair; Lawrence Davis, William Kretzschmar) proposes for Executive Council member 1998 through 2001: Lisa Ann Lane, Univ. of Michigan. Additional nominations may be made by a petition with the signature of at least ten members, which must reach the Executive Secretary by Dec. 23.

General Session II

8:30–10:30 a.m. Chair: Luanne von Schneidemesser, DARE.

13 • 8:30-9:00: “Negation, Nasalization, and Regularization: Creating Similar Diachronic Paths.” Kirk Hazen, North Carolina State Univ.

This paper presents acoustic, phonological, and morphological evidence for an innovative variant in the past be paradigm, wont, as collected from interviews with 72 speakers over four years in the tri-ethnic, rural community of Warren County, North Carolina. In Warren County, African Americans, European Americans, and Native Americans have was regularization as is expected for vernacular speakers; however, no ethnic group has extensive wasn't regularization. All three ethnic communities have wont regularization which dominates the negative paradigm to the exclusion of other forms.

This paper argues that wont developed along similar paths as ain't in the present paradigm. Both wont and ain't have the minimal, yet necessary, phonological and morphological structure to convey their
meaning. This simplest structure provides an advantage in terms of markedness to the other variants in 
the present and past paradigms: isn’t/aren’t and wasn’t/weren’t are all more complex and contain 
unnecessary phonological and morphological structure for semantic transfer. The similarities between 
went and ain’t indicate that the steps involved in their diachronic development are natural and produc­
tive steps in language change.

14 • 9:00-9:30: “Was/were Variation in English: Primitive, Remnant, Syntactic Restructur­
ing or Act of Identity? Evidence from Inter-variety Comparison.” Sali Tagliamonte and 
Jennifer Smith, Univ. of York, England.

We present a cross-linguistic analysis of was/were variation as in: There WAS puckle houses . . . there 
WERE a puckle thatched houses like that. Preliminary analyses of nearly 6000 instances in six different 
varieties of English reveal that in every community, the rate of standard was realized by were amounts to 
between 1 and 3 percent, while the rate of standard were realized by was ranges from 42 to 89 percent.

What explains the broad range of frequencies? Existential NPs highly favor non-standard was, regardless 
of community. But in non-existential constructions, the patterning of non-standard was appears in 
most cases to result from longitudinal, though differential, continuity of diachronic patterns of be.

15 • 9:30-10:00: “The Morphology of Past Tense in AAVE.” Patricia Cukor-Avila, Univ. of 
North Texas, and Guy Bailey, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio.

This paper looks at the historical evolution of AAVE past suffix deletion, irregular past tense forms, 
and had + past as a simple past tense form. The data come from an ethnolinguistic study of four 
generations of African Americans in the rural east-central Texas community of Springville, and from 
interviews with former slaves that were mechanically recorded in the 1930s and 1940s. Since several of 
the slaves were from near Springville, these give us almost a century and a half of real and apparent time 
data. Preliminary analysis suggests that 1) there was more variation in past tense marking in earlier 
AAVE, in particular with irregular verbs; 2) when coupled with high rates of will/would deletion and 
zero third person singular, this variation led to a great deal of grammatical ambiguity; 3) the emergence 
of had + past as a past tense marker after World War II reflects an attempt to resolve some of this 
ambiguity.

16 • 10:00-10:30: “African-American Stereotypes in Early Twentieth-Century English.” 
Richard W. Bailey, Univ. of Michigan.

Among the earliest recordings made by Edison Studios were brief extracts from minstrel shows and 
vaudeville involving African Americans. Though usually performed by “black-face” Caucasian comed­
ians, these records give us a glimpse of the image of AAVE a century ago.

General Session III

10:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Chair: Margaret G. Lee, Hampton Univ.

17 • 10:45-11:15: “Mock Ebonics: Linguistic Racism in Parodies of Ebonics on the Internet.” 
Maggie Ronkin and Helen Karn, Georgetown Univ.

This study presents evidence of linguistic racism in parodies of Ebonics (“Mock Ebonics”) which 
appeared on the Internet in the wake of the 1996 Oakland School Board Resolution. Drawing on J. Hill’s 
characterization of Mock Spanish (“Mock Spanish: A Site for the Indexical Reproduction of Racism in 
American English,” Language and Culture Symposium 2, Univ. of Chicago, 1995), we show that Mock 
Ebonics is a system of semantic, phonological, grammatical, and orthographic strategies for representing 
the imperfections of an outgroup, namely, users of Ebonics. Moreover, we show how producers of Mock 
Ebonics employ these strategies, which are common in speech stereotypes, to justify attributing the 
blame for poor academic performance to learners and the community from which they come.

18 • 11:15-11:45: “The Language of the Free People of Color in 19th Century New Orleans: 
Evidence from the Journal of Sister Mary Bernard Diggs.” Georgette Ioup, Univ. of New 
Orleans.

The archives of the Roman Catholic archdiocese of New Orleans contain a 370-page manuscript 
written over a period of two years (1894–96) by a semiliterate nun born a free woman of color in 1846.
This paper analyzes her language, which in some ways is similar to the African-American Vernacular English Civil War letters analyzed by Montgomery et al., but in many ways is divergent in that it appears to be closer in verb structure to a standard white dialect. The focus of analysis will be the verb forms (especially the copula and the auxiliaries have and be), tense consistencies, and subject-verb concord. It will examine whether concord is systematic, in what ways it deviates from standard English, and whether a subject-type constraint or a proximity-to-subject constraint characterizes deviations.


In the first two volumes of DARE, 365 entries are listed in the DARE Index as Scots, making DARE the best resource for assessing the survival of Scottish vocabulary in the United States. For a portion of these entries, DARE provides social labels and statistics. Where individual informants are identified, it is possible to obtain even more demographic information from the list of informants in the first volume of DARE. By matching social characteristics with regions of occurrence, we can begin to understand the differential impact of the Scots linguistic minority on the language varieties of regions and socioeconomic classes of the United States. The findings are compared with settlement history.

20 • 12:15-12:45: “Complementizer Variation in American English: Overt, Covert, and Pleonastic.” Beverly Olson Flanigan, Ohio Univ.

In an earlier survey of dialect awareness I discovered a frequent use of all’s (<all as=all that), for example, as well as of zero COMP (as in He knows to do it and The dog wants out) and pleonastic (or doubled) COMP (as in I felt like that I should go). Some COMP forms resemble prepositions, locatives, and even to be verbs; thus “It seems as if/as/like/that/like that/to be the case that/is/where/zero + complement” are all possible. With infinitive clauses, however, generalized ellipsis sometimes occurs: He wants to do it generalizes to He knows (that he ought) to do it and The dog wants (to go) out. The question of acceptability, as well as understanding, of such structures is the focus of this paper. A grammatical judgment task containing examples of different complementizer types was given to college students representing all regions of the United States; respondents were asked to indicate personal use, acceptance of grammaticality, or rejection of each form and then to paraphrase each sentence.

Annual Luncheon

Location to be determined. Write the Executive Secretary for information on place and menu.

1:00–2:15 p.m. Speaker: William Labov, Univ. of Pennsylvania. Advance price $25 inclusive; all are welcome. Make advance reservations with the ADS Executive Secretary.

2:00–3:30 p.m., LSA Presidential Address

General Session IV

Edison/Winter Garden/Brooks Atkinson Room, Conference Level, Grand Hyatt

3:45–6:15 p.m. Chair: Bethany K. Dumas, Univ. of Tennessee.


In coming to terms with the real-life powers of words, dictionary definitions are helpful, but even unabridged dictionaries are more concerned with denotations than connotations. Moreover, English dictionary makers generally construct their definitions inductively, relying less on primary data obtained from native speakers. Important evidence for American English is contained in nearly 100 interviews carried out in 1995 for the President’s Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments. Persons interviewed had all at some time in their lives taken part in medical research as human subjects. They were asked for definitions of the terms medical research, medical experiment, clinical trial, clinical investigation, and study. The connotations of each of these terms could significantly influence a potential subject to accept or reject participation as a human subject. Our paper will evaluate the responses of
these interviewees and compare their responses to the usual dictionary definitions, suggesting also implications for obtaining meaningful informed consent.

22 • 4:15-4:45: “It’ ll Kill Ye or Cure Ye, One: The History and Function of Alternative one.”

Michael Montgomery, Univ. of South Carolina.

Among the most interesting grammatical features whose occurrence is regional are those that are “camouflaged” or “disguised,” involving forms identical to the language as generally used but differing often in subtle ways. An example is what may be termed “alternative one,” the post-posing of the indefinite pronoun one (meaning “one or the other”) after two conjoined alternatives, as in:

1) He was in Tennessee or Kentucky, one.
2) I’ ll bring back the doctor or his instruments, one.
3) I will see you or send word, one.
4) Boneset is bitterer than quinine and hit’ ll kill ye or cure ye, one.

This paper analyzes the detailed patterning of alternative one using citations both from DARE and from observed and recorded conversations in South Carolina and Tennessee, and the results of a series of elicitations examining the acceptability of alternative one in a range of syntactic environments. From this analysis, three distinct hypotheses for the development of this construction will be identified and explored.

23 • 4:45-5:15: “So I says, says I: Quotatives in Southern White Discourse.” Margaret Mishoe and Boyd Davis, Univ. of North Carolina, Charlotte.

“Tellin’ on” is a special case of quotatives, the performance of which produces a continuum of intimacy keyed to cultural norms for class and gender, and specified situational roles. The speaker often includes self-deprecation, may present self as comic, and suggests an intent to reveal self by “tellin’ on” another. The performance, usually a code-switch, presents different overtones of sincerity, politeness, and quantity depending on the situation and the degree of intimacy owned, obtained or conferred on the auditors, and the auditors infer their status and the intentions of the speaker by whether quotatives are employed. In this study we examine quotatives from interviews and conversations by white speakers from Charlotte and Cedar Falls.


Many authorities believe that leave ‘let’ (as in Leave it be, Leave go of me, or Leave me carry the milk pail) is an Americanism. According to the standard account leave ‘let’ derives from German lassen, which translates in either direction. Yet it also occurs in Scots from the 14th century and in other, widely distributed, English dialects throughout the 19th century; it appears in popular fiction at the turn of the century. Leave ‘let’ from German lassen is an Americanism created in bilingual confusion; leave ‘let’ from English is not an Americanism, or is only recently an “Americanism by survival.” American leave ‘let’, then, is a curious case, both an Americanism and not, with two parallel but distinct etymologies.


The corpus is made up of the new words created in the 1980s entered in the Third Barnhart Dictionary of New English (1990). Each word is associated with word variables and occurrences in 16 magazines, grouped according to the education, sex, and age of the readers, one year before the date of creation, on the year of creation, and one, two, five, and when applicable ten years after creation. An additional corpus of new words created in 1993 recorded in the Barnhart Dictionary Companion, Volume 8 (1993) was gathered to verify the results.

It was found that the factors influencing inclusion in general use dictionaries were related to the referent (e.g., notional field, taboo association, popularity of the referent, register) rather than to the linguistic form (e.g., polysemy and word-formation process used), as well as to use in common magazines with a mixed, middle-aged readership. The relationship between the adoption of new words and the users of the new words thus places the lexicon at the center of sociolinguistic research.
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Interesting Web Sites—DARE:
www.polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dare/dare.html
Interactive Linguistic Atlas, U of Georgia:
www.hyde.park.uga.edu
Labov, Dialect Diversity in N. America:
www.ling.upenn.edu/phony_atlas/ICSLP4.html

FUTURE ADS ANNUAL MEETINGS
with the Linguistic Society of America
• 1999, Jan. 7–10: Los Angeles, Bonaventure.
• 2000, Jan. 6–9: Chicago, Palmer House.
So Many Words, Honoring Labov, Dictionaries: Our New Books

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

David K. Barnhart and Allan A. Metcalf. America in So Many Words. Houghton Mifflin, November 1997. xii + 330 pages, hardcover $18. ISBN 0-395-86020-2. ADS started choosing a Word (or phrase) of the year in 1990; these ADS members decided to go back and choose a word for just about every year in American history, starting in the 1600s, and for every year without exception, starting in 1750. Each year's choice is fully explained; some are illustrated. Your perfect holiday gift!


Hugh Rawson. Unwritten Laws: The Unofficial Rules of Life as Handed Down by

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BOOKS / MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

New Books by Us (Cont.)

*Murphy and Other Sages.* New York: Crown, 1997. xiii + 290 pages, hardcover $22. ISBN 0-517-59279-7. More than 500 “laws” explained and attributed, including three of Rawson’s own, e.g.: “As soon as you dispose of a book, even one that has gathered dust for years, a pressing need to refer to it will arise.”


Volume 2 presents studies of so-called “New Englishes,” post-colonial varieties spoken predominantly in countries of the former British Empire. The articles are written by D.R. Craig; L.M. Haynes; P.L. Patrick; K. Shields-Brodber and L. Winer; A Banjo; V. de Klerk; R. Meshtrie; J. Schmied and P. Silva; R.W. Bailey; A. Gonzales; R. Begum and T. Kandiah; R.R. Mehrrota; P. Muehlhausler and M. Newbrook; L. Bauer; S. Butler; M. Clyne; P. Peters and A. Delbridge; G. Tulloch and G.W. Turner.

**Bob Howren in Memoriam**

*By Ronald R. Butters*

I am sorry to report that Bob Howren (former chair of linguistics at Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) died suddenly of a heart attack Friday afternoon, Sept. 5, 1997. He had been gliding in western North Carolina; apparently landed the glider fine, stepped out, collapsed and could not be revived.

Those who have studied Ocracoke dialect will remember that Bob wrote a landmark early study on Outer Banks pronunciation: “The Speech of Ocracoke, N.C.,” *American Speech* 37 (1962): 161-75. Bob was one of my major professors at Iowa; I had my first course in dialectology from him. I owe him a lot professionally. It has been wonderful having him close by for the past many years. His wife’s (Phyllis) address is 402 Ransom St., Chapel Hill NC 27516.

*By Robert S. Wachal*

Bob Howren took a few of us linguists out of the English Department here at the University of Iowa, and he single-handedly formed us into a free-standing department, which has grown considerably from those early days, thanks to the foundation he laid. All of us here are enormously in his debt, and I, his closest friend here, am devastated at this loss.

*By Bill Davies*

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Iowa would like to note with sadness the death of Bob Howren this past Friday (Sept. 5).

Known for his work on Outer Banks (North Carolina) pronunciation and Athabaskan, and his more recent interest in Yucatec Maya, Bob was the moving force behind the creation of the free-standing Department here at Iowa and its first chair. Those who have followed here owe him a debt of gratitude, and the Department mourns his loss.
REGIONAL MEETINGS

Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 16–18; Denver, Executive Towers.
4:00–5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, Adams Room.


The San Luis Valley in south central Colorado is geographically isolated by the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan mountain ranges. The Spanish of the SLV is said to have retained some of the grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation of 16th-century Spain. Both this dialect and more recent imports from Mexico and other places have had a clear influence on the English of the valley.

We are studying children between 2 1/2 and 5 years as they learn to speak the SLV dialect of English. We are focusing on syntactic features, including negation, embedded questions, and pronoun use. We are also examining code-switching by both the children and their caretakers.


Although the home of the American Company of Comedians was Jamaica, it was the first touring company to present plays in the American colonies beginning in 1752, and it remained the premier theatrical troupe into the early 19th century. Three of the plays connected with the company—The Padlock (1768), The Disappointment (1767), and The Yorker's Stratagem (1792)—contain some of the largest quantity of literary African-American English in 18th-century dialogue. Since some of the dialect-speaking characters and the actors who portrayed them had connections with Jamaica, the plays may have helped disseminate pidgin and creole characteristics based on Jamaican rather than mainland African-American sources. Internal linguistic evidence and literary-cultural evidence suggest a similar conclusion.


This paper analyzes Spanish forms of address (tú, usted, and vos where used) in commercial settings. Several methods of data collection are combined: participant observation, overheard speech, recordings of spontaneous speech, discussions with consultants, and questionnaires. The research is carried out in Santiago, Chile; Santafé de Bogotá, Colombia; Caracas, Venezuela; San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Mexico City, Mexico. Analysis of 34.5 hours of recordings of interactions between employees and with clients in the workplace shows a preference for tú in most situations, with the exception of some businesses in Bogotá, where a preference for usted is found. These results indicate that the form of address depends to a great deal on the degree of solidarity between addressees, thus supporting the notion that solidarity is becoming more important than power. However, there are uses of usted to one’s boss or boss’ boss, indicating that the power semantic has not disappeared.


A variety of common words (soda, pop, coke) as well as less familiar terms (tonic, dope) are used to describe a ‘sweet carbonated beverage’. This study investigates several methods of finding the occurrence of these differing lexical items, including e-mail survey, collection of naturally-occurring data on the Internet, and examination of telephone listings for business names that contain one of the terms. An attempt to correlate the results of this study with the results of Labov’s (1988) submarine sandwich study is also made. The results support previous research but also bring to light lexical items and considerations not previously documented. Internet-based research complicates the already difficult issues of name-brand recognition and trademark wars (Coke), political correctness (dope) and survey analysis.

Chair: Mary E. Morzinski, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

ADS Regional Secretary 1997–98: Grant W. Smith, English Dept., Eastern Washington Univ., Cheney WA 99004; e-mail gsmith@ewu.edu.

Registration is $55 by Oct. 7, $70 thereafter. Membership in RMMLA is $25 regular, $15 student. Write RMMLA Executive Director Charles G. Davis, C-203, Boise State Univ., 1910 University Dr., Boise ID 83725; phone (208) 385-1199 or (800) 824-7017, ext. 1199; e-mail CDavis@quartz.idbsu.edu.
South Central Regional Meeting

In association with SCMLA, Oct. 30–Nov. 1; Dallas, Adam’s Mark Hotel.
5:45–7:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30.
2. “Hairdos and Medical Advice: An Analysis of Discourse Events at Dolly’s Beauty Shop.” Patricia Cukor-Avila, Univ. of North Texas.
3. “The Nationalization of a Southerner (Y’all).” Guy Bailey, Univ. of Texas, San Antonio; Jan Tillery, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas; Tom Wikle, Oklahoma State Univ.

Midwest Regional Meeting

In association with MMLA, Nov. 6–8; Chicago, Ramada Congress Hotel.
12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7, Washington Room (Session 89).
This paper will report on the analysis of data from a classroom exercise on perceptual dialectology by students from nine states: MA, NY, PA, GA, AL, OH, MO, SD, WA. They were asked to draw lines showing “the locations of dialect regions in the United States.” They were also asked to “indicate the names that are commonly used for these areas, or names that you would use.” This project is similar to research conducted by Dennis Preston in the United States and by other scholars in Europe and Japan.

Four major perceptions emerged regarding where the students consider the Midwestern dialect area to be located. The location of “Midwestern” was affected by where the students perceived “Northern” and “Western” dialects to be spoken.

2. “Factors Influencing the Adoption of Language Change.” Matthew Gordon, Purdue Univ. Calumet.
The change examined is the Northern Cities Shift, a complex vowel rotation that is currently active across the northern United States. The sociolinguistic status of this shift was investigated in two small towns in Michigan. The data were collected from 16 speakers in each town with equal numbers of men and women from each of two age groups (adolescents and middle-aged adults). The results show significant differences between the sexes as well as between the two towns. Somewhat surprisingly, no consistent difference was found between the adults and the adolescents. In fact, despite claims that the shift is a change in progress, in some cases it is the older speakers who display greater usage of the innovative forms. The quantitative evidence is supplemented by a discussion of individual speakers. I will consider aspects of these speakers’ personalities and their social behavior that may provide hints to explain their linguistic usage.

3. “Linguistic Individuation and Conformity among Suburban Chicago Adolescents.” Lisa Ann Lane, Univ. of Michigan, and David Durian, Northern Illinois Univ.
Chambers (1995:169) labels adolescence as “the transition to individuation.” This paper offers data that highlight the complexity of the (co-) construction and maintenance of individual and group identity among a densely knit group of suburban Chicago young adults.
Midwest Regional Meeting (Cont.)

Naturally occurring conversations and interviews were collected by one of the group members. As they index the construction of linguistic and cultural differences between themselves and their parents, they also utilize their linguistic code as a second order indexical in the constant re-negotiation of power and solidarity. The use of innovative forms and performance voices are means by which both social and linguistic behavior of individual members are regulated by the group. Questions of conformity become interesting as these young adults adamantly strive for individuation while they simultaneously participate in the co-construction of identity.

Chair: W. Thomas Beckner, English Dept., Taylor Univ., 1025 W. Rudisill Blvd., Fort Wayne IN 46807; e-mail tmbeckner@tayloru.edu.

Registration by Oct. 30 is $30 (includes 18 papers), students $15 (no papers); on-site $5 additional. Membership in MMLA is $25 full and associate professors, $20 other faculty, $15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English/Philosophy Bldg., Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331; e-mail mmla@uiowa.edu.

Future meetings: 1998 Nov. 5-7 St. Louis, Regal Riverfront Hotel; 1999 Nov. 4-6 Minneapolis, Marriott City Center.

South Atlantic Regional Meeting

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 13-15; Atlanta, Westin Peachtree Plaza.

9:45-11:15 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 15.


Geoffrey Orth, Dept. of English, Philosophy, and Modern Languages, Longwood Coll.

Charles Follen Adams, a native New Engander and descendant of Samuel Adams, was a most unlikely candidate to become the leading American German dialect poet at the turn of the century, but drawing on his Civil War contact with German-American soldiers, mostly Pennsylvania Dutch, he became a skilled and broadly popular practitioner of German dialect poetry. His poetry was published widely in major newspapers and such leading journals as Harper’s and Scribner’s Monthly. After the turn of the century, however, with the dawn of modernism, an increasing sophistication among American critics set a standard which Adams’ homespun verse failed to attain. But an even stronger reason for his loss of popularity (attested by sales records of Houghton Mifflin, his publisher) was the fallout from America’s ever more adversarial relationship with the German Empire. Commentaries on Adams’ death help confirm his status as an early victim of political correctness: he had lost favor because the nature and medium of his humorous dialect pieces produced painful associations with fields of poison gas and torpedoed ships.


This analysis will examine the extent to which the ethnic boundaries between populations of African Americans, Anglo Americans, and Lumbee Indians in Robeson County, North Carolina are reflected in the distribution of null copula (e.g. She ugly; you ugly). Other studies of this longstanding tri-ethnic community indicate that the Native-American group does not demonstrate an isomorphic correlation with either African or Anglo Americans. I will show, however, that for null copula there is an alignment between the Anglo American community and this Native-American variety.

Aside from the greater overall frequency of null copula for African American speakers, the three groups differ little with respect to its grammatical distribution. On the other hand, the phonological environment of following consonant favors null copula for Anglo American and Lumbee vernacular speakers but not for AAVE speakers; preceding vowel proves to be insignificant for the occurrence of this feature in this community, unlike other studies which show the preceding canonical shape to be highly influential.

This study takes a comparative look at copula variability in Gullah and AAVE, with the goal of determining what implications such a comparison might offer in regard to the history of AAVE. The data consist of 20 hours of Gullah and 14 hours of AAVE from speakers over the age of 60. The focus of this study was variability among full, contracted, and zero copula forms in present affirmative contexts. Unlike many studies of the AAVE copula, first person singular and it/that/what subjects were included in this analysis because they exhibited variability in both varieties. The findings reveal a number of striking parallels between the two copula systems in their hierarchies of copula absence. The mesolectal Gullah system examined here exhibits variation in _NP environments which is quantitatively and qualitatively comparable to that found in AAVE. The findings thus offer new support for the Creolist Hypothesis.


Along the dialect boundaries that run through central Illinois, the Upland Southern (classically, "South Midland") dialect has existed for more than a century alongside competing "North Midland" (better called "West Midland") and Inland Northern dialects, the latter a de facto standard due to social history. With increasing urbanization, mobility, and media exposure, it might be assumed that the Upland Southern dialect in Illinois, always a rural phenomenon, was endangered. But new phonological evidence points to the persistence of a set of Upland Southern phonological features with less evidence of change than I reported in 1995. However, the presence of this dialect very much depends on the rural identification of the speaker in both types of community and such variables as participation in the agricultural economy. It is also a reasonable conclusion that changes in lexicon, syntax/morphology, and phonology may well operate independently of one another.

Meeting chair: Connie Eble, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Session arranged by Natalie Schilling-Estes, Dept. of Linguistics, Stanford Univ.

ADS Regional Secretary 1997-98: Michael Picone, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; e-mail mpicone@uvm.ua.edu.

Nominating Committee: Crawford Feagin, Chair; Connie Eble, Peter Patrick.

Preregistration is $35, students $30. Membership in SAMLA is $20 for individuals, $10 for students until the convention; after that all dues increase by $5. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; e-mail engdjr@panther.gsu.edu (Deirdre Jorgensen Ralston).


Nov. 15 Deadline for UNM

The seventh University of New Mexico Conference on Ibero-American Culture & Society, "Spanish and Portuguese in Contact with Other Languages," will be held jointly with the 16th Conference on Spanish in the United States Feb. 12, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of the founding of the first Spanish settlement in New Mexico in 1598.

Papers dealing with any aspect of Spanish in the U.S. or of Spanish or Portuguese in contact with other languages are welcome. Nov. 15 is the deadline for receipt of abstracts (maximum 500 words). E-mail: place identifying information (name, address, phone) along with title of paper at the beginning of the message, followed by three blank lines, the title repeated, and the abstract. Regular mail: three copies of abstract with title and no identifying information, with accompanying 3x5 card with title and author's name, address, and telephone number or email address.

Send to 1998 Conference, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131; e-mail spanish@unm.edu; telephone: (505) 277-5907, fax (505) 277-3885, www.unm.edu/~spanish.
Catching Up on Our Inaugurations: Delegates Report

Ellen Johnson represented ADS at the April 10 inauguration of Dale F. Nitzschke as 16th president of Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau.

Maggie Ronkin represented ADS at the April 4 inauguration of Alan G. Merten as 5th president of George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. She reports:

The ceremony took place at George Mason's Patriot Center. It opened with a procession led by a score of international student flag bearers; included greetings from Governor George Allen, Senator Charles S. Robb, and alumni, student, faculty, and staff representatives of George Mason, and was capped by Dr. Merten's forward-looking inaugural address.

In his address, Dr. Merton, a computer scientist and former Dean of the S.C. Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell, captured the spirit of the day by evoking George Mason's sterling start and promising future as a highly innovative institution in the information age. Dr. Merton also drew on his memories of McCarthyism and student protests of the 1960s to stress his steadfast commitment to academic freedom.

It was a special pleasure to meet former and current George Mason faculty members who represented the American Historical Society, the Linguistic Society of America, Phi Beta Kappa, and other professional and learned societies. Thank you for the chance to represent the American Dialect Society at an event which clearly celebrated George Mason’s growing reputation and dedication to increasing opportunities for residents of the Washington metropolitan area in the 21st century.

David K. Barnhart represented ADS at a Sept. 30, 1996 inauguration in New York City. His report:

Dr. Augusta Souza Kappner was installed as sixth president of Bank Street College of Education amid the usual pomp and circumstance associated with the advent of a new president. Perhaps the bagpipers who led us down 112th Street would have been unusual elsewhere; in New York they are a signal of the city's finest on parade. The day was beautiful, nearly flawless. A long procession reaching nearly the length of a crosstown block stretched out along 112th Street from the Bank Street College of Education building to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The street is bordered by brownstones with stoops (for playing stoopball). Small shade trees mark the tree lawn (most of which has been paved over, alas).

I don't remember having seen more variety of color in robing in a long time. One fellow had four different colors on his sleeves. Later I learned that it was not the result of prodigious academic application resulting in multiple degrees, but, rather, that his institution has four campuses each of which wants its own color. There was even some fur. One fellow, a medievalist I believe, had some mink on a strap over his shoulder... .

The keynote speaker was Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, who strongly prodded us to remember that children are our future and that every child, regardless of his or her station or circumstance in life, deserves to be nurtured. This theme resounded in Dr. Kappner's remarks when she reminded us that it is the children that have brought us together and it is the children that will rule when we are gone from this earth and that we must through our teaching of them try to leave this place better than we found it.

HELP WANTED: Chief of Protocol

About a dozen invitations to inaugurations come to ADS each year, but we don't always find a volunteer to attend. Would any ADS member volunteer to be our Chief of Protocol, to help make sure we don't miss these opportunities? Get in touch with the Executive Secretary if you're interested.
**DARE QUERIES**

**DARE Is Peach-Orchard Crazy for Your Help**

With *DARE* Volume III (I-O) on bookstore shelves (and, we hope, on yours!), we are well into Volume IV, which will cover P through the middle of S. Members and friends are encouraged to send in examples of regional usages. Since we hope there will be an eventual Supplement, you need not limit yourselves to these letters. Our motto: "On to Z!"

Send letters to Frederic Cassidy, 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706, or e-mail messages to Joan Hall at jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.

**parky**—A playground attendant. Is this still current in New York City? Is it known elsewhere?

**peach-orchard beau, peach-orchard crazy**—The first is 'a clandestine sweetheart,' and the second is said to mean 'passionate; lascivious.' Why? Does anyone else know these phrases?

**peadoodles**—1992 Houston Chronicle, a woman writer mentions "A bad case of the peadoodles," meaning nervousness. Please explain fully if you know this.

**peal/peel**—The field worker in PA spelled this *peal* but it could just as well have been *peel*: It means 'to throw,' as in this sentence: "The dog came at him, so he picked up a stone and ______ it at him." Do you know this verb? How would you spell it?

**pick-handle**—Said to be a name for homemade whiskey. Does anyone know it? Associations with mining or road-building? Where used? When?

**pimping**—In the sense “puny, sickly.” Common in 19th-century New England and found occasionally by both LANE and DARE fieldworkers. Do people still use it?

**pine hams**—Pine needles. One example from a 1976 book about Richmond County, Virginia. Is this some kind of error? *Ham* makes no ordinary sense.

**pin sled**—An all-purpose farm vehicle, once common, to haul logs, etc. We need more attestations and an explanation of *pin*.

**pitch-hole/pitching hole**—A hay chute, or opening to throw hay down from the hayloft. Where used?

**pitzel**—"A waffle-cone type of thing made from runny, sweet batter." Said to be Italian-American. Where is it known? Any information will be welcome.

**pixie moss**—We have one example, from the 1916 novel *The Harvester*: "Beds of yellow violets, pixie moss, and every tiny gold flower of the woods." Can you identify this? Where else known?

**poison nettle**—1867 *Biglow Papers*: "My other leg hed lamed wut pizon-nettle meant." Doubtless some kind of *Urtica*, but which? Is this still current?

**pop one's fingers**—We didn't ask for this in the *DARE* questionnaire, but anecdotal evidence suggests that to *pop one's fingers*, meaning 'to snap one's fingers' (i.e., sliding the middle finger quickly off the thumb onto the palm, making a snapping sound) is found chiefly in the South. Are some of you familiar with the term? When? Where?

**possum pie**—A "play party game" common in the Ozarks in the early part of this century. Does anyone still know it? Can you describe it?

**rabbit moth**—Our sole example is from the Century Dictionary, 1890. Is it known—at all? From the past or present? Where?

**race bird**—The crested flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*. We have a sole quotation: 1910 SC. Is this only a book word? If the name is known, what does *race* mean?

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**90 BALLOONS FOR HIS NONAGE**

"Yes Folks, It's True: Frederic G. Cassidy, also known as Professor, Daddo, Wren-Fuffer, Grandpa *DARE*, and 'That Devilishly Handsome Fellow,' is about to have his 90th Birthday," proclaimed the announcement. He celebrated his nonagenarianity in Madison Oct. 11, a day after the actual natal anniversary, at a 90-balloon party arranged by his family and *DARE* associate editor Joan Hall.