

NEWSLETTER OF THE
AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

NADS 33.1

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January 2001

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NADS is sent in January, May and September to all ADS members. Send news and queries to editor and executive secretary Allan Metcalf, English Department, MacMurray College, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650, phone (217) 479-7117 or (217) 243-3403, AAllan@aol.com. Erin Klee, administrative assistant.

ADS Annual membership is \$35, students \$20; plus \$10 outside the United States. Write Cindy Foltz, Journals Fulfillment, Duke University Press, Box 90660, Durham, NC 27708-0660; phone 1-888-387-5765 or 919-687-3613; fax 1-919-688-2615; cinfoltz@duke.edu.

ADS Web site (Grant Barrett, webmaster):
<http://www.americandialect.org/>

ADS-L discussion list: To join, send to
listserv@listserv.uga.edu the message:
Sub ADS-L Your Name

From: AMERICAN DIALECT SOCIETY

Allan Metcalf, Executive Secretary

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Address Service Requested

FIRST CLASS

Calls for Papers: Fall 2001 Regional Meetings Rocky Mountain

In association with RMMLA, Oct. 11-13; Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Sheraton Wall Centre.

March 15 is the deadline for the 150-word abstracts. Please send one copy if submitting through e-mail, or send two abstracts by regular mail (one with the author's name, one anonymous). Send to the session chair, **Glenn A. Martinez**, Dept. of Modern Languages, Univ. of Texas-Brownsville, 80 Fort Brown, Brownsville TX 78520; gamartinez1@utb1.utb.edu.

Papers dealing with any aspect of the dialects of English or other languages spoken in the U.S. will be considered. Those dealing with Canadian dialects, language contact in Canada, and dialect contact in Canada or along the U.S./Canada border are especially welcome.

ADS Regional Secretary 2000-2001: **Mary E. Morzinski**, Dept. of English, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse WI 54601; phone (609) 785-8300; fax (608) 785-8301; morzinsk@mail.uwlax.edu.

Membership in RMMLA is \$30 individual, \$20 student. Write RMMLA, Washington State Univ., P.O. Box 642610, Pullman WA 99164-2610; rmmla@rmmla.wsu.edu; <http://rmmla.wsu.edu/rmmla/>; phone (509) 335-4198; fax (509) 335-6635 ext. 54198.

Future meeting: 2002 Oct. 10-12 Scottsdale, AZ, Holiday Inn Old Towne Scottsdale.

Midwest

In association with MMLA, Nov. 1-3; Cleveland, Sheraton City Centre Hotel.

March 5 is the deadline for submitting 250-word abstracts on the topic of "Current Research" to the meeting chair, **Beth Lee Simon**, Dept. of English and Linguistics, IPFW, Fort Wayne IN 46805-1499; fax (219) 481-6985; simon@ipfw.edu. E-mail submissions are preferred.

ADS Regional Secretary 2001-2002: **Beth Lee Simon**.

Membership in MMLA is \$25 full and associate professors, \$20 other faculty, \$15 students. Write MMLA, 302 English-Philosophy Bldg., U. of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242-1408; phone (319) 335-0331;

mmla@uiowa.edu; www.uiowa.edu/~mmla/.

Future meeting: 2002 Nov. 8-10 Minneapolis, MN, Marriott City Center.

South Central

In association with SCMLA, Nov. 1-3; Tulsa, Downtown Doubletree Hotel.

Chair: **David J. Caudle**, Northwestern State Univ., Natchitoches LA 71497; david_caudle@hotmail.com.

ADS Regional Secretary 2001-2002: **Michael R. Dressman**, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Houston-Downtown, One Main Street, Houston TX 77002; phone (713) 221-8009.

Membership in SCMLA is \$30 full professors, \$25 associate and assistant professors, \$20 instructors and students. Write SCMLA Membership Secretary, Texas A&M Univ., Dept. of English, College Station TX 77843-4227; phone (979) 845-7041; fax (979) 862-2292; www-english.tamu.edu/scmla/; scmla@tamu.edu.

Future Meeting: 2002 Oct. 31-Nov. 2 Austin, TX, Omni Austin Downtown Hotel.

South Atlantic

In association with SAMLA, Nov. 8-10; Atlanta, Peachtree Plaza.

March 31 is the deadline for submitting 500-word abstracts on the topic of "Dialectology in the 21st Century" to the meeting chair, **Catherine Evans Davies**, Dept. of English, Box 870244, Univ. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa AL 35487-0244; cdavies@bama.ua.edu.

ADS Regional Secretary 2001-2002: **Michael Picone**, Dept. of Romance Languages and Classics, Univ. of Alabama, Box 870246, Tuscaloosa AL 35406-0246; mpicone@bama.ua.edu.

Membership in SAMLA is \$40 individual (\$30 first year), \$25 student. Write SAMLA, Georgia State Univ., University Plaza, Atlanta GA 30303-3083; phone (404) 651-2693; www.samla.org; samla@samla.org.

Future meetings: 2002 Nov. 15-17 Baltimore, Omni Inner Harbor; 2003 Nov. 6-8 Atlanta, Marriott Marquis; 2004 Nov. 12-14 Roanoke, VA, Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center.

First Call for Papers: San Francisco, Jan. 2002

For next year's annual meeting, ADS follows the Linguistic Society to the left coast and Tamony territory. We will meet alongside LSA at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in San Francisco, January 3–6, 2002.

August 13 is our deadline for proposals, though you don't have to wait till then. Send them to Executive Secretary **Allan Metcalf**, preferably by e-mail: AAllan@aol.com. We're flexible about length and format. If your proposal is accepted, you'll be asked for an abstract of no more than 200 words for the LSA program.

Those who present papers are expected to be members of ADS (see next page, item 4). For information on membership, see the front cover.

All proposals will be reviewed by **Michael Montgomery**, our Vice President and program chair. If you have an idea for a special session or something out of the ordinary, don't wait till the deadline to get in touch with him at N270053@VM.SC.EDU. (In computerese, that's the University of South Carolina.)

We'll provide an overhead projector for all speakers, and an audiotape player for anyone who specifically requests it. Other AV equipment is very costly; please arrange to do without it. If you absolutely need something else, you can appeal to the ADS president, **Dennis Preston**, but he's a bear.

Hotel: The Hyatt Regency Embarcadero in downtown San Francisco: 5 Embarcadero Center, San Francisco CA 94111. As guests of the Linguistic Society, we're expected to pay their registration fee, but we're also entitled to their nicely reduced rate: \$109 single or double. (The regular rate is \$375). Call 415-788-1234 and ask for the Linguistic Society of America rate for the dates of the meeting.

As usual, we'll have a luncheon, a Bring Your Own Book exhibit and reception, and a vote on Words of the Year. You can send WOTY nominations any time to New Words Committee Chair **Wayne Glowka**, Dept. of English and Speech, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville GA 31061, wglowka@mail.gcsu.edu; or to **David Barnhart**, PO Box 2018, Hyde Park NY 12538, Barnhart@highlands.com. Turn the page for a report on our recent vote for words of 2000.

Future LSA-ADS meetings: 2003 Jan. 2–5 Atlanta, Hilton; 2004 Jan. 8–11 Boston, Sheraton; 2005 West Coast; 2006 Midwest.

Three Students Honored

At the annual meeting, outgoing ADS President **Ronald Butters** announced his award of Presidential Honorary Memberships 2001–2004 to **Jamilla Jones**, Michigan State Univ, nominated by Dennis Preston; **Colette Moore**, Univ. of Michigan, nominated by Richard Bailey; and **Eric Rochester**, Univ. of Georgia, nominated by William Kretzchmar.

The four-year complimentary memberships are intended to encourage interest and participation in our field by outstanding students.

Any member may nominate a graduate or undergraduate student for next year's Presidential Honorary Memberships. All that is needed is a letter of recommendation, although supporting material is also welcome.

Send nominations to our new president, **Dennis Preston**, Dept. of Linguistics and Languages, Michigan State Univ., East Lansing MI 48824, preston@pilot.msu.edu.

Committee Invites Nominations

For a four-year term on the ADS Executive Council starting in 2002, the Nominating Committee this fall will be proposing a candidate. The Council is the governing body of the Society, meeting annually at the time of the ADS Annual Meeting (see next page). The candidate should be a dedicated and effective member of the Society, of course, but also needs to be willing and able to attend the annual meeting without subvention from ADS.

The Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions of possible candidates. Send them to the committee chair, past ADS president **Walt Wolfram**, English Department, North Carolina State University, Box 8105, Raleigh NC 27695-8105, wolfram@social.chass.ncsu.edu. Or communicate with the other members of the committee: immediate past president **Ronald Butters**, Duke Univ., RonButters@aol.com, or elected member **Joan Houston Hall**, **DARE**, jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Council Dedicates, Allocates, Appoints, Stipulates

Under the benign governance of outgoing President **Ron Butters**, the ADS Executive Council met on Friday, January 5, 2001, in the Latrobe Room of the Grand Hyatt Washington to conduct the Society's business for another year. As usual, the meeting was open to all ADS members. Seventeen were present, including seven of the nine Executive Council members.

These were their acts:

1. Dedicated the fourth issue of *American Speech* in 2002 to the memory of **Fred Cassidy**. That will coincide with the publication of Volume 4 of *DARE*.

2. Entrusted incoming President **Dennis Preston** with responsibility for the 2003 version of *Needed Research in American English*, a project undertaken every 20 years since its inception in 1943. He will determine areas to be covered, assign reports, and edit them for publication, as well as arranging for possible preliminary discussion at the 2002 annual meeting. The reports for 1943 and 1963 were published in *PADS* 41 (1964), and for 1983 in *PADS* 71 (1984). In 1983 the reports covered linguistic geography (by Raven I. McDavid, Jr.), regional speech and localisms (by Frederic G. Cassidy), Usage (by John Algeo), new words (by I. Willis Russell), proverbs and proverbial sayings (by Kelsie B. Harder), non-English American languages (by Juergen Eichhoff), and computer needs (by William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.).

3. Authorized additional issues of *PADS* beyond the official one per year, as requested by Editor Ron Butters.

4. Stipulated that those presenting papers at the Annual Meeting must be members of the Society, with exceptions possible in cases of financial hardship.

5. Continued the practice of donating \$300 for the NWAV meeting, this year under **Walt Wolfram's** leadership at the University of North Carolina Oct. 11–14.

6. Appointed regional secretaries for two-year terms 2001–2002: Midwest, **Beth Lee Simon** (IPFW, Fort Wayne), reappointment; South Central, **Michael Dressman** (U. of Houston, Downtown), new appointment on recommendation of retiring sec-

retary Charles Martin; South Atlantic, **Michael Picone** (U. of Alabama), reappointment.

7. Reappointed **Lee Pederson** (Emory U.) for three-year term 2001–04 as trustee of the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, as recommended by Editor William A. Kretzschmar, Jr.

8. Appointed to the *American Speech* advisory board for three-year terms, as recommended by Editor Connie Eble: **David Barnhart, Natalie Schilling-Estes, Robert Ness, and Beth Simon**.

9. Noted that **Michael Adams** will organize our sessions at the Modern Language Association meeting in New Orleans Dec. 27–30, 2001. Invited other interested persons to notify incoming President Dennis Preston if they are interested in organizing sessions at MLA for 2002, in a location still undisclosed.

10. Accepted with pleasure and gratitude **William Kretzschmar's** report on expenditures 1999–2000 from the Hans Kurath Fund for the Linguistic Atlas, and the audited ADS financial report for 1999. (Copies of both are available from the secretary.)

11. Received with pleasure Dennis Preston's announcement that the T shirt at the next annual meeting will portray **Lorenzo Dow Turner**.

12. At editor Connie Eble's recommendation, expressed thanks to **Sue Hall** at Duke University Press for her redesign of *American Speech* in collaboration with Charles Carson and Ron Butters. Expressed thanks also to **Michael Montgomery** for his thorough and helpful work as associate editor.

13. Expressed thanks to **Ron Butters** for his labors as president during the past two years.

Dictionary Society May 6–9

The Dictionary Society of North America will celebrate completion of the Middle English Dictionary and electronic publication of the Middle English Compendium at its biennial meeting in Ann Arbor May 6–9. Nearly 50 speakers include many ADS members. For information see <http://www.hti.umich.edu/d/dsna/> or write the conference organizer, **Richard W. Bailey**, at Dept. of English, 3187 Angell Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI 48109-1003.

Chad Hangs Over Election of ADS Top Words

"Chad" perfused the voting for overall Word of the Year 2000 at the American Dialect Society's meeting in Washington, D.C. January 5. In the annual choice of the word or phrase that was most notable or prominent in the year gone by, "chad" earned 43 votes, compared to just 6 for "muggle," not only the Harry Potter term for a non-wizard but more broadly a mundane, unimaginative person, and just 3 for "dot bomb," defined as "a failed dot-com."

Before that final vote, Words of the Year were chosen in these eight categories, with approximate votes for each:

Most Outrageous: "wall humping" (30), rubbing a thigh against a security card scanner to allow access without the inconvenience of removing the card from one's pocket. Other candidates: "starter castle" (10), a dot-commer's first house, and "McMansion" (6), a big new home in incredibly bad taste.

Most Euphemistic: "courtesy call" (37), an uninvited call from a telemarketer. Other candidates: "Supreme Court justice" (14), reflecting a disenchanting view of the presidential election, and "klabokeys" (2; see below).

Most Likely to Succeed: "muggle" (27). Other candidates: "m-commerce" (14), buying and selling over a cell phone, and "WAP" (3), Wireless Application Protocol, a specification that enables wireless devices to connect with one another.

Most Useful: "civil union" (40), legal same-sex marriage. Other candidates: "bricks-and-clicks" (10), a traditional business with a website, and "c.u." (5), to join a couple in civil union.

Most Creative: "dot bomb" (31). Other candidates: "blobject" (19), a product like the iMac with curvilinear design; "dot snot" (12), a young dot-com millionaire; "megawatt laundering" (5), interstate buying and selling of electricity to avoid state price controls; "Sore Loserman" (5), respelling of Gore-Lieberman campaign poster, and "Nader trader" or "Nader traitor" (5), a supporter of Ralph Nader in a state with a close race between Gore and Bush who would vote for Gore in return for a Gore supporter in another state voting for Nader.

Most Unnecessary: "sudden loss of wealth syndrome" (31) which pretty well defines itself. Other

candidates: "scootermania" (10), obsession with foot-powered scooters, and "Floridate" (0), spoil the orderliness of an election.

Least Likely to Succeed: "kablokeys" (26), a hard-to-pronounce and obscure word used in phrases like "It scared the kablokeys out of me." Other candidates: "subliminable" (10), Saturday Night Live spoof of G.W. Bush pronunciation, and "malaphrophesizing" (10), predictions phrased in malapropisms.

Most of the candidates for Word of the Year have been around for some time but not particularly well known. "Chad" is a good example: Teletype operators used the term more than 50 years ago, but only with the Florida recount did the word become generally recognized. There are, however, some brand new words every year. The winner in the *Brand-Spanking New* category was "unconcede" (38), to rescind a concession, as Gore did on election night. Another candidate was "cell yell" (16), loud talking on a cell phone. Subsequent sleuthing by ADS etymologists determined that these words were in fact not brand new either.

ADS has chosen Words of the Year since 1990. Stories and a complete list are on the Society's website, www.americandialect.org.

Words of the Year 2001 will be chosen in San Francisco on January 4, 2002.

NWAV Deadline June 1

None other than our own past president **Walt Wolfram** (and current president of the Linguistic Society) is organizer of this year's conference on New Ways of Analyzing Variation, the 30th annual. It will be held at the University of North Carolina Thursday through Sunday, Oct. 11-14.

June 1 is the deadline for abstracts of no more than 400 words, including bibliography, on any topic in variation studies and sociolinguistics, for double-blind review. They may be sent on the Web, by e-mail, by fax, or by old-fashioned postal service.

For specifications see <http://www.ncsu.edu/linguistics/nwav/abstracts.html> or write NWAV 30, c/o Becky Childs, North Carolina State Univ., Box 8105, Raleigh, NC 27695-8105.

Branwyn's 'Jargon Watch' Candidates for WOTY 2000

For several years, the editor of the "Jargon Watch" column in Wired magazine (an ADS member) has accepted our invitation to propose candidates for Word of the Year. They have often been influential in the voting at the annual meeting, as evidenced by "muggle" and "wall humping" this year (see Page 5). His explanations are so illuminating that we reprint his entire list here.

By Gareth Branwyn

As always, I've chosen words from my "beat," the online/computer realm. For the most part, I've selected words "especially characteristic of the year." Several semantic fields were present relating to the marked increase in mobile computing (e.g. WAPath, m-commerce, 3G), the Napster/MP3 controversies (e.g. Napsterization, peer-to-peer networking, dis songs) and serious troubles in the dot-com marketplace (e.g. MOP, new new economy, U-turn effect, flush rate, tech wreck).

3G: (Acronym for "third generation wireless") High-speed packet-switched wireless technology that will start being licensed next year ('01) in the US. If all goes well (a big "if"), 3G will take wireless data delivery from "a soda straw to a fire hose" (Industry Standard).

beaming: Sending a virtual business card from one Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) to another using the devices' infrared ports.

blobject: A consumer product with a curvilinear, flowing design, such as the Apple iMac and the Volkswagen Beetle. [via Paul McFedries' WordSpy]

dis songs: Songs traded over peer-to-peer networks (e.g. Napster) where one artist is "dissed" by another (e.g. Insane Clown Posse disses Eminem who in turn disses Insane Clown Posse). Some of these dis songs are by the actual artists, others are done by people aping the artist's style. There is a whole Napster subculture of teens trading such songs.

dot-communist: This term proved a popular coinage in search of appropriate usage. It was applied to everything from dot-com employees armed with stock options and corporate culture manifestos to China's Internet push (behind what was dubbed

"The Great Firewall of China") to online lefty activists.

dot snot: A young dot-com millionaire filled with arrogance and self-importance because of the ease with which he has become wealthy. [via Paul McFedries' WordSpy]

flush rate: Extreme level of "burn rate" in which a dot-com goes down the drain within months of startup. [Coined by Susan Kuchinskis, West Coast correspondent for Ad Week.]

guilt-free vacationing: Corporate policy where employees are asked expressly not to bring work on vacation with them (and not to use laptops, pagers, cell phones to obsessively check in with the office).

hactivism: A term that's been around for a few years that seemed to enjoy a lot more circulation in 2000. Like "dot-communist," the term has several meanings, from connoting simple online activism (emailing campaigns, petition circulation) to the actual malicious hacking of Web sites (replacing the site's content), "denial of service" attacks on Web servers, "mail bombs," and other acts of online sabotage.

juice jacking: The act of stealing electrical power from another individual's house or a business. Juice jacking became a real problem in California due to the energy shortages there.

mass customization: Tailoring a product or service to suit each individual customer. The opposite of mass production. [via Paul McFedries' WordSpy]

m-commerce: One of the many "-commerce" coinages of the year - this one for the revolution du jour in "mobile commerce," the goods, services and infrastructure related to the handheld wireless market.

MOPs: "Millionaires on Paper." Dot-com employees (and others riding the boom economy) whose securities total over a million dollars, but whose liquid assets restrict them to more of a thousandaire lifestyle. See "ticker shock."

muggle: A word from the insanely popular Harry Potter books that migrated into business and hacker slang in 2000. In Rowling's fantasy series, muggles are the "straights," the non-wizards. In its real-world usage, a muggle is a mundane, unimaginative per-

Branwyn's Jargon (Cont.): P2P, Ticker Shock, Wall Humping

son, a "suit," etc. In the hacker world, it connotes anyone who's a non-hacker.

Napsterization: The feared loss of control over "intellectual property" through "peer-to-peer networking" of media content over the Internet a la Napster.

new new economy: Term that pundits are now using to refer to the emerging post-shakeout dot-com world where "path-to-profitability" (the *other* P2P) is suddenly on everyone's lips.

peer-to-peer networking (P2P): Internet file exchange technology that allows individuals to share media files from their desktops with those using the same software. So far, music (on networks such as Napster) has been the main content traded via P2P, but developers and users see all sorts of applications (such as trading videos and ebooks). The copyright infringement abuses enabled by this technology have media companies and many artists terrified.

tech wreck: Name given to the precipitous fall of tech stocks and dot-coms by the end of 2000.

ticker shock: The psychological malaise that befalls MOPS (millionaires on paper) as they watch the value of their company stocks head for the drain.

U-turn effect: What you get when employees leave bricks and mortar companies for dot-coms or their own start-ups and then trying to get back into their old job market when the ups and down of the

new economy prove too much their them to feel secure. [Note: This term was seen in the Wall Street Journal and not found anywhere else. Because of its import re: dot-com trends of '00, I decided to include it anyway.]

vote swapping: The process of exchanging vote commitments between voters in different states via the Internet. Vote swapping enjoyed its 15 minutes towards the end of the '00 presidential campaign as Nader voters tried to address the growing fear among Dems that Nader votes would throw the election to Bush. Nader voters in swing states used vote swapping sites to "exchange" their votes with Gore voters in Bush blow out states.

wall humping: The act of rubbing ones thigh against a security card scanner so that entry can be had without having to remove the card from ones wallet. [Note: A term that I heard from an employee at a government office. He claimed others in gov buildings used the term, but I found no other cites. I asked several employees at the Smithsonian if they'd ever heard it. They said they hadn't, but were all too familiar with the practice and were tickled to know that it had a name. Included here for comic relief.]

WAPathy: The general lack of interest in the much-hyped WAP (Wireless Application Protocol), designed for delivering limited Web content over cellular phone networks.

Our New Books: Esperanto, Newfoundland

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

Frank Nuessel. *The Esperanto Language.* Legas, 2000. 153 pages. ISBN 0-921252-95-1. \$20 U.S. postpaid to anywhere in the world from Legas, 68 Kamloops Ave., Ottawa ON K1V 7C9 Canada. A thorough overview of the linguistic features of Esperanto, pedagogy and linguistic scholarship, Esperanto history and literature, and the Esperanto movement, culture, and artifacts. Appendixes include the 16 rules of Esperanto and bibliographies.

E.R. Seary. *Place Names of the Northern Penin-*

sula ed. Robert Hollett and **William J. Kirwin.** St. John's: ISER Books, 2000. 252 pp. Canadian \$24.95, plus 7% tax. ISBN 0-919666-74-4. The work lists the names, many of them French, of the long finger of the island of Newfoundland pointing toward Labrador. Each entry supplies the location as well as the historical record of the names found in maps and charts beginning in the 15th century, and attempts to supply the meaning. Black Joke Cove, for example, is possibly drawn from a popular song in London between 1730 and 1760. Capt. Cook's surveys furnished many names in this region, including one which apparently defied description, Nameless Cove.

Don't be a Sannup—Share Your Say-so with *DARE*

If you are familiar with any of the following words or expressions, please let us know. It is most helpful if you can give an example or examples of how it is (or was) used, and as much detail as possible about when, where, and by whom. Address *DARE* Editor Joan Hall at 6125 Helen White Hall, 600 N. Park St., Madison WI 53706, or by e-mail at jdhall@facstaff.wisc.edu.

pastoral Sunday, pastoral day—Apparently a special Sunday in each month in Southern Black churches, but our sources are rather vague about what makes it different from other Sundays.

pig—“A (ceramic) hot water bottle, hot brick, or similar device for warming a bed.” This is good Scots and northern English dialect, but we have a couple of U.S. examples.

sammy bar—“Ice-cream bar.” Apparently from *Sammy*, WWI slang for an American soldier, because they were sold by veterans. Our only evidence is from Wisconsin.

sandstoodle—“Caddisfly larva.” (These are the worm-like aquatic creatures that build themselves strange shells out of miscellaneous fragments of shell, stone, and wood.) This name came from a single Georgia Informant.

sannup—“scamp, mischievous boy.” This term (originally the Algonquian word for a young married man) is attested a few times from northern New England, but it is not clear how current it is.

say-so—“Ice-cream cone.” This is reported from Louisiana and eastern Texas. Does anyone know where this comes from?

scatter-barrel—“Shotgun.” The apparently synonymous *scatter-gun* is fairly common and widespread, but our evidence for *scatter-barrel* is concentrated in Texas.

scavenger (man)—“Privy cleaner”; hence scavenger wagon. Attested from Arkansas; we'd like to know if it is still known there or elsewhere.

schlacht—“Wild party.” (From German *Schlacht* battle.) Our evidence is fairly old, and mostly from Wisconsin.

sewage inspector—“Carp.” Our examples of this jocular term are both from Wisconsin, but perhaps this is more widespread.

sheep rain, snowball rain—“Period of rainy weather in the spring.” Our only attestation is from a 1955 Baltimore *Sun* article, and it's not clear whether this represents contemporary local usage or not.

Shoetop cotton—“Short scrubby cotton plants.” Our only examples are from Arkansas.

Hall to Talk Tamony March 9

Joan Houston Hall, new chief editor of *DARE*, will speak on “The ‘So What?’ Factor, or, What are Dictionaries Good For, Anyway?” Friday, March 9 at the University of Missouri, Columbia. The occasion is the 16th annual Peter Tamony Memorial Lecture on American Language, commemorating the gift of the San Franciscan's etymological collection to the university.

Her talk will be at 3:45 p.m. in Allen Auditorium, Arts & Science Building. The traditional reception will follow in the Western Historical Manuscript Collection, 23 Ellis Library, where Tamony's files are housed.

“For word lovers,” Hall explains, “there is never a question about the value of dictionary-making. But for those who have never stopped to think that reference tools are made by human beings, legitimate questions on meeting the maker of a nonstandard dictionary are, Who uses something like that? And what's it good for?”

She will “explain some of the tangible uses to which this dictionary has been put and point out some of the features that have made *DARE* one of the most popular reference books in recent history.”

New Benefit for Members: American Speech On Line

Duke University Press, in conjunction with ADS, is pleased to announce that starting March 1, 2001, ADS members will have direct access to issues of *American Speech* on the World Wide Web through Project MUSE.

Look for a letter from Duke containing password and login information scheduled to mail in February.