Allen Walker Read died October 16, 2002, at his home. He was 96. His wife, Charlotte Schuchart Read, had died three months earlier, on July 25th. Following is an appreciation of Allen and Charlotte by John Algeo, who has known them both for many years.

Allen and Charlotte Read were a couple who embodied devotion — to each other, to scholarship, and to society. Anyone who ever visited them in their Columbia University apartment at 39 Claremont Avenue will remember their home and their hospitality. The rooms of the apartment, one after another in a row, were connected by a long hallway running alongside. The hallway was lined with neat stacks of books and periodicals, leaving just enough room to negotiate a passage from the apartment’s entrance, at its back, to its living room, which overlooked Claremont Avenue on the front. Although the stacks of publications rose perilously high, they seemed as solid as Allen’s scholarship, and he seemed to know what was in each of them.

Allen Walker Read was an academic whose type is now rare. Indeed, Allen was, in one sense, the last of his tribe. And a distinguished tribe it was, numbering among its members such other exemplars of the type and friends of Allen’s as Fred Cassidy, Albert Markwardt, Raven McDavid, Jim McMillan, and Tom Pyles. That tribe had in common a number of characteristics. They were all learned scholars, deeply versed in their own special fields. They were none of them, however, pedants who had “been at a great feast of languages, and stolen the scraps.” They were all genuine polymaths with a curiosity that embraced the universe. They all had a sense of the responsibility of scholarship to society as a whole and were consequently active in applying their fields to the benefit of the wider community. They were all gentlepeople — civilized in their discourse, tolerant of differences, gemütlich in their dealings with others, and generous in the care they bestowed on their juniors. They were mentors of the next generation before the term became fashionable.

Allen’s passion was for discovering offbeat but important facts about language and language use. Like Robert Browning’s Grammarian, he settled OK’s business, establishing the etymology of that term beyond any reasonable dispute (pending, as Allen always recognized, the discovery of new information). He corrected the neglect of vulgarisms by the lexicographical establishment in his classic study “An Obscenity Symbol” in American Speech (in which, however, he never used the symbol in question) and in his necessarily privately printed monograph on Lexical Evidence from Folk Epigraphy in Western North America: A Glossarial Study of the Low Element in the English Vocabulary — although I doubt that he ever used a low element himself. In addition to etymology and graffiti, Allen was fascinated by the early history of English in America, British-Ameri-
Donald M. Lance
1931 — 2002

Donald Lance, an active member of DSNA for many years, died suddenly on October 23, 2002, at his home in Columbia, MO, at the age of 71. Tributes by two old friends of his, Ed Lawson and Gerald Cohen, appear below. Ed Lawson says he first got to know Don at an annual meeting of the American Name Society in 1983. Both were very active in the ANS, and Ed is a past president of the organization. He remembers, "One night we went to a Greek restaurant and had a wonderful meal. We've been friends ever since." Ed's tribute follows:

Donald Lance was born in Gainesville, Texas and grew up on a farm in Mission, Texas along the Mexican border. After high school he went on to Texas A&M where he received his B.A. (1952) in English Education. Then he took time off to serve in the Army for two years before teaching several years in high schools. In 1962, he received his M.A. in English and Spanish. After the M.A., he went on to the University of Texas-Austin for his Ph.D. in English language and linguistics, which he received in 1968. After a two-year teaching stint at Texas A&M, he joined the English Department at the University of Missouri in 1969, where he remained until his retirement in 1994.

Growing up in Mission had stimulated his interest in Spanish. As a youngster he became friendly with the Mexican workers on the family farm. He became sympathetic to those learning English as a second language from other language backgrounds. Among his major interests were pronunciation (he was co-editor with Stewart Kingsbury of the 12th edition of American Pronunciation), local dialects (especially the pronunciation of 'Missouri'), and geographic names. He became such an expert on dialect that he could quickly identify a speaker's geographic origin. The work on the pronunciation of Missouri led him to identify the geographic areas, in and outside the state, where it was pronounced "Missour-uh" and "Missouree." Among the various linguistics topics he studied were: Ozark English, Texas Spanish, the speech of Missouri Germans, bilingualism, and Black English.

Interest in the pronunciation of 'Missouri' took Lance to the study of the original French maps of the early explorers, Indian languages, and pronunciation patterns of different American regions. He also had an interest in other topics. In 2001, he collaborated with a former student, Isam M. Kayed, then at Um-al-Qura University in Saudi Arabia, to publish "Personal names in Palestine and Jordan, 1850-1996." A somewhat unique investigation is "Biblical Names in the Toponymy of Missouri." It is to appear in the 2003 volume of These are the Names, to be published by the Bar-Ilan Press in Israel.

Donald Lance was a rather quiet individual who did a great deal of work that members of the different societies to which he belonged may have been unaware of. He held offices at various times in the Missouri Folklore Society, the American Dialect Society, and the American Name Society. In 2000, he made the local arrangements for the Council of Geographic Names Authorities. Behind the scenes, often anonymously, he helped others to rewrite bylaws and doing other, often thankless, tasks.

Many will remember him as a modest man with a sense of humor who was helpful not only to organizations but also to individuals. He encouraged others to do research. When a manuscript was being prepared, he was always willing to read, comment on, and help to improve it.

Another aspect was Don's sensitivity to people, especially to those who were from ethnic or cultural groups that did not enjoy high status. I remember the time we went to visit Wounded Knee, went through the site, read the markers, and then met a young Indian boy who was selling dream catchers. Later, we discussed the misfortunes that had plagued American Indians. He was active in the Trail of Tears Association and described the terrible things that had happened to the Indians on their travels from Florida to Oklahoma. Lance was a deeply caring person. We are the richer for having known him.

--Edwin D. Lawson

Gerald Cohen has also known Don for a good number of years. He tells a memorable story that illustrates not only Don's professional expertise but also his characteristic compassion. Gerald posted the story to the American Dialect Society e-mail discussion list as part of his tribute to Don shortly after Don's death. He graciously permitted it to be repeated here.

About twenty years ago a woman turned up in Columbia, Missouri with amnesia. She had no idea who she was or where she came from and assumed the name

Continued on page 5
The DSNA Fellows
Profile Number Two: Virginia G. McDavid

This is the second in a series of profiles of Fellows of the DSNA. Provision for the category of Fellow, to recognize notable contributors to the field of lexicography, had been established in the Society's constitution of 1979, and the first Fellows were named in 1983. Virginia McDavid joined the ranks in 1985, along with the late Frederic Cassidy. The following account includes quotations from the address Virginia gave to the annual luncheon of the American Dialect Society some years ago in Chicago.

Virginia was born and raised in Minneapolis and lived there till she married Raven I. McDavid in 1950. In 1943, she entered the University of Minnesota as a freshman, with a view to becoming a high-school teacher of English ("in 1943 teaching was a welcoming profession for a woman, and I had never considered anything else than teaching high-school English").

"So I started college, about as worldly as a minnow." It was a "lively time" at the university, she said, even in the middle of the war. In her first year, she enrolled in a course in modern literature taught by Robert Penn Warren, which, together with a couple of history courses she took, proved to be "pretty high-octane fare for me."

A scant two years later, her professional and personal future was suddenly set (although she didn’t know that immediately) when, having a vacant spot in her class schedule, she enrolled in a class titled "American English." It was taught by Harold Allen, who had a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, where he had written his dissertation with C.C. Fries; who had worked on the Early Modern English Dictionary project; who knew Hans Kurath and A.H. Markwardt; and who had done Linguistic Atlas fieldwork in Ohio and Illinois. "So there, in that course so innocently named 'American English,' I found the two major interests of my professional life: dialects and dictionaries."

The post-war years were exciting and happy ones, as Virginia entered graduate studies. Through Harold Allen, she had learned about the Oxford English Dictionary and other dictionaries, and also about the American Dialect Society, the Linguistic Society, and the Modern Language Association. Then in 1947, she attended her first Summer Linguistic Institute at the University of Michigan. This period, she says, was "the heyday of structuralism, of Smith and Trager, and of Twaddell defining the phoneme," and at that Summer Institute, she had phonetics from Martin Joos, phonemics from Bernard Bloch, a grammar course from C.C. Fries, and a course in linguistic geography from Hans Kurath. It was also that summer, in connection with her work for Kurath, that she met Raven McDavid, who was then a field worker on the Atlas project. She and Raven were married in 1950.

By the late 1940s, she had settled on her dissertation topic (verb forms in the north-central states and the Upper Midwest), and in 1956, she got her degree.

Raven was teaching at the University of Chicago, and in 1957, she took a position at Chicago Teachers College. This institution later became Chicago State University, but even as a teachers college, it was "far from a backwater in language studies." Virginia remained on the faculty at Chicago State University until she retired in 1985.

Through the years, Virginia's interest in linguistic geography and lexicography ("dialects and dictionaries") has remained constant. This included field work for Allen's Linguistic Atlas of the Upper Midwest. She served as a consultant on usage for The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, second edition (1987), and she remains associate editor of the Linguistic Atlas of the Middle and South Atlantic States. She has published a number of articles in journals and co-edited a book, 99 Exercises in College Composition (Scott Foresman, 1962), with a longtime colleague and friend, William Card.

She has been a staunch and active member of the American Dialect Society and the DSNA for many years, with stints on their executive boards, including president of DSNA, 1991-1993, and of ADS, 1980.

Recently, she decided to pull up stakes in Indiana, where she had lived for many years, and move to Colorado, where she could be near her children (Raven dies in 1984). In anticipation of her move, in the summer of 2001, she donated her copy of the handwritten field records of the Linguistic Atlas of the North Central States (14 boxes worth) to Ohio University. In January, 2002, she moved to Colorado Springs, where she is now happily ensconced in her house with a view of Pike's Peak.
The Cordell Corner

By David Vancil

Victoria Neufeldt has informed me that she has the unpleasant responsibility of reporting the passing of Donald Lance and Allen Walker Read in this Newsletter. Having met both these visitors to the Cordell Collection during my tenure as its curator, I have to say that I feel a sense of personal loss. Both men were friendly and encouraging. I have a letter from Donald dated June 26 in which he writes about his "fond memories" of conducting research in the collection on August 20 through 22, 1995. He was doing research on pronunciation and needed to pore over the front matter of innumerable editions of The Century Dictionary and the Imperial Dictionary. Dr. Lance was thrilled with the information he found, and an article based on his research appeared subsequently in Dictionaries.

Allen Walker Read came to the collection as a result of an invitation to speak in the Schick Lecture series hosted by the Indiana State University Department of English. Allen wanted to see the collection again (he had visited it before my arrival), so, after concluding his lecture, he showed up to walk among our thousands of volumes. He liked what he saw, and on different occasions after this visit, he favored the collection with monetary contributions. I remember reading the profile on AWR in The New Yorker and being stunned by the description of his vast library of research materials. While I imagine this material is headed for Columbia University, where he taught for his entire career, I did ask that it come here.

Both men were examples to me of how to maintain a vital interest in life from beginning to end. Like most members of the DSNA who knew them, I'll miss these true gentlemen.

Access to the Collection

I believe I have reported in more than one column about efforts to provide better bibliographical access to the holdings of the Cordell Collection. Unless you own the green catalog as opposed to the red catalog (Vancil, not O'Neill), you will not have a listing of all the items in the collection, as of 1993, that is. But O'Neill describes materials in greater detail for English-only titles, so both books have something to recommend them. But both of them are woefully out of date. I have provided a supplemental catalog in the form of an Acrobat PDF file on my web site, but this file lacks subject or date access. And even this PDF file is out of date. I must update it with annual listings provided in HTML format.

There are some other catalogs on our web site, but in anticipation of providing a searchable database ("one-stop" browsing!), I chose not to continue to update these catalogs. The supplement took more than a week to edit because of the mistakes I encountered in entries found in our database. Besides being laborious to produce all these finding tools, it requires a high level of sophistication on the part of the user to make sense of them. Until recently, every effort to develop a searchable database has been frustrated. But I can safely say that, with the assistance of a very capable programmer on the library staff, Paul Asay, I have mounted a prototype of the Cordell Collection database. This web-based database, which contains all the uncataloged books in the Rare Books Collection, is searchable by author, title, or subject. You can print off one record at a time by doing a screen print in your browser. If you want to try it out in anticipation of the Cordell Catalog, please visit the following URL: HTTP://panther.indstate.edu/rbsc/uncat. And, of course, your comments are welcome. We will endeavor to incorporate improvements in the database design, which I predict will be online by the next biennial meeting of the DSNA.

Cordell Fellows

We had our final two Cordell Fellows working here after Linda Mitchell's visit in early summer. In late summer on a one-week fellowship, David McCarter, an adjunct instructor in the ISU Department of History, continued his research on eighteenth-century medical terminology and Joseph Nicol Scott's contributions to the dictionary first compiled by Nathan Bailey. While a Cordell Fellow for only one week this summer, he continues to diligently plow his way through Scott's 1755 folio edition of the Bailey A New Universal Etymological Dictionary. Dr. McCarter has discovered some interesting treatments of religious and similar terminology by the scientifically trained Nicol, a physician. We anxiously await the publication of his findings.

In late September and early October, John Taylor, who teaches lexicography and other linguistics courses at South Dakota State University, spent several weeks examining prefatory and other material in dictionaries he had only read about or seen previously in facsimile. Our policy of allowing several dictionaries to be used at once allowed Dr. Taylor to compare treatments of similar words or notions without losing his train of thought. He is excited about the new knowledge he will be able to share with his students as well as advances in his own research into propriety as evidenced in the prefatory material found in reference works such as dictionaries.

Remember, a new funding year for the Cordell Fellowship begins after February 15, so we welcome any requests now for the next year. As always, our deadline is actually a guideline. I've received some very interesting proposals after the February date and found a way to provide at least some support.

Online Bibliography

On a personal note, I am happy to announce that I have finished the initial listing of compiler name forms used for assembling records from various bibliographical sources, which resulted in my 1994 Incunable Dictionaries: A Checklist and Publishing History. This document is available at HTTP://library.indstate.edu/level1/dir/cml/rbsc/research/compiler.html. In January 2003, I will probably begin compiling a table of contents of this bibliography.

can differences, place names, terms for people who live in a place, language attitudes, semantics, Korzybski's General Semantics, and of course lexicography.

Allen’s passion for the off-beat resulted in more than three hundred papers and publications between 1926 and 1994, about a third of them during the last ten years of his productive lifetime. A bibliography of his writings has been compiled by Richard W. Bailey in his splendid collection *Milestones in the History of English in America* (PADS 86, 2002, pp. 329-49), which also has a biographical introduction. That collection gathers together some of Allen's best work on early American English, the etymology of 'OK,' the "F-word," and two insightful, engaging, and touching autobiographical accounts. Leonard R. N. Ashley has performed another service, especially for the onomastic world, by compiling a collection of Allen’s unpublished papers on place names, *America: Naming the Country and Its People* (Mellen, 2001).

Allen’s interest in General Semantics came to him through Charlotte. Charlotte Schuchardt had studied biology at the University of Wisconsin and modern dance for her Master’s degree at the University of Illinois. She joined the Institute of General Semantics in 1939 as editorial secretary to Alfred Korzybski in Chicago, after having studied with him from 1936. When the Institute moved east to Connecticut in 1946, Charlotte came with it, eventually to serve as its director. Her marriage to Allen in 1953 involved a sharing and blending of their interests: his in a wide variety of facts about language and hers in the personal and social effects of language use.

Charlotte's involvement with and contributions to General Semantics are still apparent on the Institute's website [www.general-semantics.org/Institute/index.shtml], which includes talks by her on a "Historical Survey of the Institute" and "A Brief History of General Semantics (1950-2000)." General Semantics, which came to general notice in the late 1930s and early 1940s with popular books by Stuart Chase, S. I. Hayakawa, and Wendell Johnson, has continued to engage the attention of many thoughtful persons like the Reads. A number of Allen's papers are explicitly or implicitly based on the concepts of General Semantics.

Both Allen and Charlotte were inspired by a curiosity about how things really are in the world and by a need to share what they saw with others. In doing so, they were never intrusive, but always gentle and considerate. The world is poorer without them. We are the richer for their having been among us.

— John Algeo

Sarah Gray, with "Gray" supposed to designate what she thought of her drab life. She was brought to the attention of the police, who wanted to locate her family, but without putting out a national call for help; the call should be local.

The police were in a quandary about how to locate Ms. Gray’s family, when someone drew Don Lance to their attention. Even a person with amnesia doesn’t change their speech patterns, and Don was called in to speak with Ms. Gray to determine where she was from. He spoke with her a while and asked her a series of questions (e.g., "greasy" vs. "greasy") and afterwards pretty much zeroed in on where she came from; I think it was a section of the Pittsburgh or Philadelphia area; I just don’t remember.

Don made a recording of Ms. Gray’s speech and sent it to a dialectician in whatever city he suspected she came from, and he soon received a confirming second opinion. Don gave the information to the police, who put out an announcement to the public in Ms. Gray’s home base, and sure enough, at least one or two members of her family turned up.

The story was remarkable enough to make one of the tabloids; I believe it was the *Star*. The story, sad to say, didn’t have a happy ending; Ms. Gray was a deeply troubled woman and soon afterwards left Columbia. I don’t think Don ever received word about her afterwards.

I later asked Don to write an article explaining just how he figured out where Sarah Gray came from; what linguistic clues revealed her origin? The *Star* article hadn’t gone into these details, and I offered to publish Don’s account in my *Comments on Etymology*.

He politely declined, however, explaining that Sarah Gray had had great hardship in her life, and he didn’t want to benefit from that hardship in any way.

It was a profoundly ethical decision on Don’s part and emblematic of his gentle and kindly nature. I of course accepted the decision, although deep down I really would have liked to have Don’s account of how he did it.

— Gerald Cohen
Publications of Lexicographical Interest
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**Books Received by DSNA July - Dec. 2002**


**Houghton Mifflin**

The American Heritage Stedman’s Medical Dictionary.
The American Heritage Thesaurus for Learners of English.


**Larousse (distributed in U.S. by Houghton Mifflin)**

Alboukrek, Aarón & Gloria Fuentes S. *Diccionario de Sinónimos, Antónimos e Ideas Afines*. (pb)


Larousse Concise Dictionary: Spanish-English, Inglés-Español. (pb)

Larousse Picture Dictionary: English-French, français-anglais (includes audio CD).


*Le Petit Larousse 2003*.

**Oxford**


Mugglestone, Lynda, ed. *Lexicography and the OED: Pioneers in the Untrodden Forest*. (pb)


**Other Recent Publications**


DK Dictionnary, 2nd ed. Dorling Kindersley.


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**McArthur, Tom. The Oxford Guide to World English**, OUP.


**Webster’s New World Compact Desk Dictionary and Style Guide**, Wiley.

**Webster’s New World Dictionary and Thesaurus**, 2nd ed. Hungry Minds, Inc.

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**DSNA 2003 at Duke**

Remember the 14th biennial meeting of DSNA to be held May 29-31 (Thurs. - Sat.), sponsored by Duke University in Durham, NC. The meeting will be held on the Durham—Civic Center Marriott. A block of 125 rooms has been reserved at the hotel. The hotel’s conference rate is US$92 per night (single or double) plus 11% tax. To make your room reservation, call the hotel at 1-800-228-9290 and mention the DSNA meeting. Cut-off date for the special rate is April 28, 2003. After that, you take your chances.

Registration fees are US$75 (regular) and US$50 (student). Deadline for advance registration is April 11, 2003. On-site registration fees are $100 and $75, respectively. Overseas members who have sent in their registration form may pay in cash on site at the advance rate.

Conference e-mail address: linguistics@duke.edu. Regular mailing address: Marge Wolfram, Linguistics Coordinator, DSNA XIV, Duke Linguistics Program, Box 90015, 304 Allen Building, Durham, NC 27708.

Additional information may be found at the conference web site: www.duke.edu/~web/linguistics/dsna.htm

A registration form is included with this Newsletter. You may also download a registration form from the web site.
New Masters Degree in Lexical Computing and Lexicography

A groundbreaking one-year MSc program started in October 2002 at the Information Technology Research Institute in the University of Brighton, England.

This degree program was designed to give people who are working or want to work on dictionary projects in publishing houses or research institutions the skills to carry out their own work (whether as lexicographer or computer scientist) and to understand in depth the work being done by their colleagues. Combining theory and practical training, with a significant hands-on computer component of practical work, the course teaches students to analyze language data, write entries for dictionaries and computer lexicons, plan lexical resource projects and process language corpora by automatically extracting salient information. It presents an ideal opportunity for recent graduates in languages, linguistics or computer science to acquire specialized skills and for experienced professionals to consolidate their expertise. This degree is designed for both full and part-time study, while individual modules may be taken as one-week intensive courses.

The lexicography modules are taught by Sue Atkins and Michael Rundell; the lexical computing modules by Adam Kilgarriff and David Tugwell; and Raf Salkie and Lynne Cahill teach the linguistics component. Details from: http://www.itri.brighton.ac.uk/courses/MScLex

— Sue Atkins

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Check out www.paikeday.net for interesting articles on lexicography.

DARE's Volume IV is Here!

Although the official publication date for Volume IV of the Dictionary of American Regional English wasn’t until December 15, copies were in bookstores around the country by Thanksgiving, well in time for the holiday season. What a gift for the word lovers of the world! This volume goes from pa to sky writer, with entries for polynose, quill pig, redd up, scribbet, and scrimp along the way. With 1,014 pages and 606 maps, it’s great both for browsing and for serious research. Chief Editor Joan Houston Hall and the staff in Madison, Wisconsin have dedicated this volume to the founder of the project and longtime Chief Editor, Frederic G. Cassidy.

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DSNA Web Site
http://polyglot.lss.wisc.edu/dsna/

Webmaster Luanne von Schneidemesser invites members to send news of their new publications, meetings of lexicographical interest, etc., for publication on the site. She will also be happy to add a link to a member’s web site that is of lexicographical interest.

Publishing Information
The DSNA Newsletter is published two or three times a year: Spring and/or Summer, and Fall. The editor is Victoria Neufeldt. News of members and other items of interest to our readers are welcome. Please send all Newsletter correspondence, including copy for ads, items for publication, etc. to the editor.

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Send correspondence re membership, etc. to Luanne von Schneidemesser, Executive Secretary, DSNA, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 6129 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park St., Madison, WI 53706.

[Note new room number in H.C. White Hall.]

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