

IN MEMORIAM

Donald M. Lance (1931–2002)

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 at 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 was 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 (co-editor with Stewart Kingsbury of *American Pronunciation*, 12th edition), 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 "Missour-ee." Among the various linguistics topics 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 of which he was a member may have been unaware. 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 out by rewriting 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. He was deeply moved by that visit. 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.

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