

For Onomatologists Only

Members, New and Old. Mr. Winthrop W. Piper is working on an extensive study of Vermont place names. This work is to be submitted to Columbia University as a doctoral dissertation.

Professor Joseph F. S. Smeall, 1116 South 16th St., Grand Forks, North Dakota, a new member, is interested in the semantics of place names.

Mr. Arthur C. Schofield, Peoples Broadcasting Corporation, 246 North High Street, Columbus 16, Ohio, a new member, wrote a syndicated column on names for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and also broadcast a daily program on names over WCAW, the CBS station in Philadelphia, back in the 1930's.

Mr. Donald Jos. Orth, 2000 North Upton St., Arlington, Virginia, another new member, is on the staff of the Domestic Names Committee of the Board on Geographic Names. He is particularly interested in Alaskan names.

Mr. F. G. Ruffner, a new member, 4212 Courville, Detroit 24, Mich., of Gale Research Company, has recently helped compile an *Acronyms Dictionary*, which is reviewed in this issue (p. 58 f).

Professor Stanley L. Robe, also a new member, has been in Guadalajara, Mexico, teaching and working on a research project since mid-June, 1960. His "Caribbean Words in Mexican Toponymy" appeared in the March, 1960, issue of *Names*. He is presently engaged in research on Dialectology of American Spanish and its relationship to place-names in America.

Lac La Ronge Place-Names. In a communication of June 27, 1960, Mr. A. I. Bereskin, our official representative for Region O (Saskatchewan), writes as follows: "I would advise that as Saskatchewan representative to the Canadian Board on Geographical Names of Ottawa that during the past fifteen years we probably have named over 5,000 map features. Most often the features have been named after Saskatchewan servicemen who gave their lives during the Second World War; others have been named after eminent Saskatchewan pioneers; and other features bear native Cree names."

Mr. Bereskin also included a copy of a radio broadcast in which Mr. J. W. Churchman, the Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources [in Canada], was interviewed regarding Lac La Ronge place-names. According to Mr. Churchman, originally the name Lac La Ronge, which means "gnawings" in French, was given in 1779 by Jean Etienn Waden to the settlement which he established on the lake of the same name. "Perhaps Waden applied the name due to the plentiful signs of the trees gnawed by the beaver. Lac La Ronge was at one time a heavy producer of beaver pelts. Another theory is that the rocky, deeply indented shore of the lake suggested some mighty beaver had been busy at work gnawing it out to form the many sheltered quiet bays; and the lake was, therefore, called Lac La Ronge, "the lake of the gnawings." Waden Bay, at the northwest end of the lake, perpetuates the founder of the settlement.

Just outside Lac La Ronge Village is Kitsakie Island, which means "take your coat off" in Cree. The explanation of this name is that it refers to the long hard paddling the many Crees, who came to the settlement at the time of treaty payments, had to make when they returned to their home grounds. "We can well imagine groups saying goodbye to their friends on the shore, and the moment the island blocked the view of friends on the shore the chief would order, 'O. K., boys — "Kitsakie" — take your coats off — it's a long, stiff paddle back home.'"

A lake known as Iskwatikan — Cree for "left over" — is located between Lac La Ronge and a fairly large lake. Formerly the Indians kept a bag, for collecting any food left over from a meal, which they called Iskwatikan. The lake is about eight miles long and appeared left over from the main lake; hence, the name.

Mr. Churchman concluded his remarks by saying he would like to have any information on the origin of Cree names which his listeners could send him.

Steele City. According to Miss Louise M. Ackerman (who cites *The Lincoln Star*, July 29, 1960; p. 1) Steele City, Nebraska was named for D. M. Steele, president of the St. Joe and Western Railway. Founded in the 1870's, and first known as Jenkins Mill and as Freeport, for a time the post office was listed as Steeleburg — which was frequently confused with another town called Stelle City. A nearby highway sign misspells the name as "Steel City." Most mail trouble today comes with letters addressed only to "Steele."

The Horses' Mouths. Miss Ackerman has also sent the following list of source material for the names, and the origin of the names, of breeds, colors and types of horses and ponies: Margaret Cabell Self, *The Horseman's Encyclopedia* (U.S.A.: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1946); Phil Stong, *Horses and Americans* (Garden City, N. Y.: Garden City Publishing Co., 1939); Arthur Vernon, *The History and Romance of the Horse* (Garden City, N. Y.: Halcyon House, 1941); and Brian Vesey-Fitzgerald, *The Book of the Horse* (Los Angeles, Cal.: Borden Publishing Co., 1947).

E. W. M.

Names in Brief

Amozion Again. — Professor Malone wishes to withdraw the explanation of this name which he suggested in *Names* VIII.86. He writes, "My suggestion, based on the name-form alone, was made before I read Mr. Fairclough's paper, which specifies the name as that of a *Baptist* church, earlier called *Amazon*. Clearly Mr. Fairclough is right in explaining the form *Amozion* as an alteration of the earlier *Amazon*, with the Biblical *Zion* in mind (*Names* VIII.83f.)."

Ed.

Pagan Creek. — A tributary from the south into the James River, Isle of Wight Co., Virginia. Most probably this name is not related to English *pagan*, meaning "heathen", but an Anglicized form of Algonquian *pág:āni*, which is the Fox name of the hickory nut. Hence, Pagan Creek is synonymous with Hickory Nut Creek. For an explanation of the Indian term, see William Jones, *Algonquian (Fox), an Illustrative Sketch* (Revised by Truman Michelson), *Extract from North American Indian Languages, Bulletin 40 BAE*, Washington, 1911.

Chas. Edgar Gilliam