

## News, Comments, Queries

*Multnomah for Portland?*—A movement is on the way in Portland, Oregon, to change the name of the city to Multnomah, an Indian name first mentioned by Lewis and Clark and still preserved in the name of the county and in other geographical features. The town was laid out in 1845 by F. W. Pettygrove and A. L. Lovejoy at a site which had been settled since 1842. The latter, a native of Massachusetts, should have had the privilege of naming the town, for he had been at the place since November 1843. However, for some unaccountable reason, he permitted his partner to have his say in christening the place. Lovejoy was all for Boston; Pettygrove wanted to name it Portland after the city in his native state Maine. The toss of a copper coin decided for Portland. It was an unhappy choice; even at that time there were several places so called in the United States. Today there are probably three times as many, and it is mainly for this reason that the sponsors of "Multnomah" are working for the change. They will doubtless experience a great disappointment. No matter how sound, convincing and logical their arguments may be they will not be able to convince a majority of a city of almost 400,000 inhabitants to give up a name which has been used for over a century.

*The Names Kharkiv and Lviv* (Lemberg) in Ukraine have been recently discussed in two articles of Prof. J. B. Rudnyckyj, a charter member of ANS and editor of the series "Onomastica UVAN" in Winnipeg, Canada: "Istoriya i pokhodzhennya nazvy mista Kharkova" (History and Origin of the Name of City of Kharkiv), *Symposium in Memory of D. Doroshenko*, Vol. 1, ed. by the Ukrainian Academy of Arts and Sciences in the USA, Inc., New York, 1952, pp. 111-115, and "Nazva Lviv ta yiyi pokhodzhennya" (The Name Lviv and its origin), *Our Lviv, Jubilee Almanac*, New York, 1953, pp. 41-44.

*Slavic Onomastic Bibliography in Canada of 1952* has been included in a recent publication of UVAN in Winnipeg: "Slavica

Canadiana A.D. 1952" by J. B. Rudnycky (Winnipeg, 1953, pp. 16-17, 28-29).

By *Presidential Proclamation* an "s" will, we hope, finally be added to the Devil in Devil Postpile National Monument in Madera County in California. This will end a controversy of long standing between onomatological purists who maintain (rightly) that Devil Postpile is grammatically untenable and the officials of Washington who tenaciously defend the spelling of the once established name. Last summer the Board on Geographic Names approved the change from the nominative to the proper genitive, thus affirming what has always been common usage. No one ever referred to that weird heap of basalt columns as Devil Postpile. The last word in this matter, however, is not yet spoken.

The Board on Geographic Names, in accordance with a long established policy added the genitive "s" to the name without an apostrophe. There are quite a few people interested in United States geographical nomenclature who are strongly opposed to the omission of the apostrophe. An "s" attached directly to the name makes it a plural, and in our case it would give the impression that several devils owned the postpile although it is not a plural possessive but still a nominative.

Another difficulty is the fact that apparently only the President of the United States has the privilege of changing the name of a national domain. The U. S. National Park Service will use the designation Devils Postpile National Monument in all its references. Legal and other documents, however, will still require the use of the present official name. But, we are assured, at an appropriate time President Eisenhower will officially change the name of the national monument by presidential proclamation.