

Editor's Page

Charles E. Gilliam's article on the lash-horn tree deals only with an American localism. Yet, it is a very interesting example of the evolution of a folk name. Mr. Gilliam is not a philologist by profession but an attorney at law who is interested in the folklore and onomatology of Virginia and has contributed repeatedly to this field of knowledge.

Hennig Cohen's edition of a colonial topographical poem is a highly significant contribution. It shows again that our forebears were interested in names and realized their importance as well as their poetic value (see *Poets and Place Names* in No. 1); "Their names, enfranchiz'd by the tuneful throng, were never yet immortaliz'd in song." Mr. Cohen, a charter member of the *ANS*, is publicity manager of the University of South Carolina.

The article "The Problem of a National Gazetteer" by our charter member Lewis Heck of the Coast and Geodetic Survey should be of great interest to the *ANS*, although it has little relation directly to onomastics or *Namenforschung* in the European sense. The *ANS* is concerned not only with the philological phase of nomenclature but with "names" as a cultural factor in our lives and in our civilization. Hence, even a "gazetteer" which is devoted primarily to giving information and statistics about certain places is in the realm of the *ANS*. The application, spelling, and pronunciation of names are certainly within our field of interest, and the *ANS* should aim to impress upon editors and publishers of gazetteers the importance of explaining, as much as space permits, the etymology and origin of the names. Such information would serve to vitalize a reference book which might otherwise appear dull and uninteresting.

The following notes may be a welcome supplement to Mr. Heck's article on a national gazetteer. In 1947, Olaf P. Jenkins, chief of the Division of Mines of the State of California, and I worked on a plan of creating a gazetteer of California, based on the topographical atlas sheets of the U. S. Geological Survey and pub-

lished as a supplement to these atlas sheets. A section of the San Diego quadrangle was selected for specimens of entries in the projected gazetteer. These specimens may be helpful to those who will finally create a national gazetteer.

Ballast Point. E. shore of Pt. Loma, San Diego Bay. Lat., $32^{\circ}41.1'$; long., $117^{\circ}13.9'$. So named because the stones at the place were used by ships for ballast. Pantoja's *Plano del Puerto de San Diego*, 1782: Punta Guijarro (Span., cobblestone point). U. S. Coast Survey, 1851: Ballast Point. Probably Cabrillo's first landing place. Historic Landmark No. 56.

Cabrillo National Monument. N. of Pt. Loma. Lat., $32^{\circ}40.2'$; long., $117^{\circ}14.5'$. Created in 1913 by proclamation of President Wilson and named in honor of the discoverer of the coast of California.

Jamul. Mexican land grant of 590.2 varas, 9 m. E. of San Diego, granted to Pio Pico, June 3, 1846. Source of name: Diegueño Indian *ha-mul*, meaning "foam" or "lather."

Lemongrove. Town 8 m. E. of San Diego. Lat., $32^{\circ}44.5'$; long., $117^{\circ}2'$. Established 1893 on Allison Springs Ranch and so named because of the numerous lemon orchards.

Long Canyon. 9 m. S.E. of San Diego. Lat., $32^{\circ}39.5'$; long., approximately between $116^{\circ}59.5'$ and $117^{\circ}1.5'$. Name descriptive.

North Island. Not an island but the northern projection of the Peninsula into San Diego Bay. Lat., $32^{\circ}42.1'$; long., $117^{\circ}12.5'$.

Otay Valley. S.E. of San Diego Bay. Lat., $32^{\circ}32.5'$; long., $117^{\circ}05.5'$. Name originally adopted from the Diegueño Indian word meaning "brushy" about 1830 for a Mexican land grant.

Palm City. Village S.E. of San Diego Bay. Lat., $32^{\circ}35.1'$; long., $117^{\circ}05.1'$. First known as Palm Avenue because old palm trees lined the road. Changed to present name when P. O. was established in 1913.

Rosecrans, Fort. Military Reservation and National Cemetery N. of Pt. Loma. Lat., $32^{\circ}41.1'$; long., $117^{\circ}14.3'$. Named in 1899 by order of War Department in memory of General Wm. S. Rosecrans, 1862-63 Commander of Army of the Cumberland, 1881-85 Congressman from California.

It did not take us long to realize the obstacles to be surmounted in creating such a gazetteer, even for one state. First, the cost of production. The estimate we received was small compared to the sum it would cost today, but even at that time it was too high, especially since we were not certain of the co-operation of all the departments of the state. A gazetteer of such magnitude could not be a commercial undertaking; it would have to be subsidized by the government. Second, the topographical atlas sheets of the U. S. Geological Survey can be neither complete nor entirely reliable in their nomenclature. It seemed to us that the projected gazetteer could not be based on the atlas sheets of the Geological Survey alone; more local information as well as county and other regional

maps would have to be utilized. The situation on the eastern shore of Maryland which Mr. Heck cites, we found also in California; it is probably typical of all, except sparsely settled, areas in the United States.

The *ANS* should stand ready to cooperate with the departments, bureaus, or agencies of our federal government most interested in a national gazetteer, especially if such a gazetteer would include information about the meaning and origin of names which are not purely descriptive. In the meantime, members of the Society interested in this project are invited to express their opinions.

H. F. Raup, who contributes to this issue an article on the spelling of a common generic place name, is a member of our Editorial Board and chairman of the Department of Geography and Geology of Kent Ohio State University.

"Naming the Nags" (I hope my learned colleagues will not object to such a title) is an interesting contribution to Namenskunde if not to Namenforschung. Mrs. Ackerman is not only a breeder of thoroughbreds but a writer of historical and folkloristic subjects, well known in her home state, Nebraska.

The article on Indian place names in Missouri by our departed friend J. A. C. Leland (See *ANS* Notes) was intended as a supplement to Ramsay's standard work on Missouri names. Most of the names treated by Leland are transfer names from other regions and often do not fit at all the place to which the name was attached. Such a state survey of Indian names—native or transferred—may nevertheless act as a stimulant to research in Indian place names. "Americanists," says Harry Hoijer in a review of our journal in the *International Journal of American Linguistics*, "may have much to contribute to research in names, especially in respect to the many place names said to be derived from American Indian languages."