

Editor's Page

Beginning with the September, 1954, issue, *Names* will publish a new section under the heading "Your Name." There are several reasons that the Editorial Board decided to add this new department. Several readers wrote to the editor that they are less interested in the identification of contributors to *Names* than in the origin and meaning of such names as Saroyan, or Pugh, or Bonestell, or Georgacas. Another reason was the interesting account of the evolution of the name of a well-known author, published in this issue. Still another reason was the editor's observation that our charter member, Albert Carnoy, in his excellent book on Belgian family names (cf. the review in the March issue, p. 66) connects the name Gudde with the Germanic words for 'good' and 'God.' Authors of future articles are therefore requested to send in a brief account of the meaning and origin of their names. Needless to say we shall gradually also bring brief items of the story behind the names of all other members of the *ANS*. Where information about names is lacking our experts will gladly try to supply it. Such a section will help to knit more closely the large community of onomatologists organized in the *ANS*.

In the near future, George R. Stewart, the well-known author and member of our Editorial Board, plans to revise and somewhat extend his classic *Names on the Land*. Stewart would appreciate corrections and suggestions for the new edition. Please send communications to the address of *ANS* or directly to Professor George R. Stewart, Department of English, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

This issue brings the first instalment of a significant contribution to Germanic philology. The author shows that a generally accepted theory (and its cultural implications), based only on proper names in runic inscriptions, is no longer tenable. Assar Janzén is chairman of the Department of Scandinavian Languages at the University of California and a charter member of *ANS*.

The discussion of the name of God in the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is another interesting contribution by the president of the *ANS*, by profession an attorney-at-law, by avocation an eminent onomatologist.

Frisia is one of the smaller nations of Europe which, divided between Germany and the Netherlands, has for centuries been in danger of losing its identity. At the present time the sturdy sons and daughters of the shores of the North Sea, like other long suppressed people, assert again their cultural independence and with it their language and their nomenclature. Frederick Feikema Manfred, American in the third generation, is among the foremost protagonists of the culture of his ancestors. Like most writers he is deeply interested in the meaning and psychology of names. F. F. M. is chiefly known as a novelist. Among his books are *The Golden Bowl*, *Boy Almighty*, *This is the Year*, *The Chokecherry Tree*, *World's Wanderer*. *Lord Grizzly* will be published this year. Frederick Feikema Manfred VIII, by the way, has made his arrival in the meantime.

The contribution by our vice-president Kemp Malone finishes the first literary controversy carried on in our journal. Such controversies are extremely interesting and fruitful if fought in the spirit of scholarship and chivalry—something we often miss in learned circles of European countries.

Edith Thompson Hall, who contributes the interesting article on the principles of naming our four-footed bovine friends, is one of the regional folk-lorists with whom the State of Nebraska seems to be blessed more than any other state in the Union.

The editor's own contribution to this issue is a summarization of the research done on the etymology, origin, meaning, and application of the name of his home state. It is essentially the same as his address at the second annual *ANS* dinner in Chicago, where it was read by C. Grant Loomis.

Geographer Lewis Heck, who contributed the second item in "Names in Brief" and the first item in "News, Comments, Quer-

ies," is already well known to our readers as a frequent contributor. So are Professor Gutierre Tibón with his brief but significant etymological contributions, and Charles E. Gilliam, folk-lorist of Virginia. Dameron Williams is a well-known free-lance writer on onomatological subjects; R. N. De Armond, a new member, will, we hope, contribute in future issues items on the interesting but little known nomenclature of Alaska; Professor Margaret M. Bryant is a member of our Editorial Board, a sponsor of the *ANS*, but new as a contributor to *Names*.



Tweetsie rides again.—In 1950 Tweetsie was retired after 68 years of faithful service. Tweetsie ran on one of the last narrow-gauge railroad lines, owned by the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina RR Company. Tweetsie had been given her affectionate name by a young girl writer during a trip through North Carolina, and it became one of the most beloved names to the people who lived in the Grandfather Mountain country or visited there. After gathering dust for over three years in Johnson City, Tennessee, Tweetsie was re-employed, to the delight of all lovers of railroad lore, as a week-end excursion train in the Shenandoah Valley.

DAMERON WILLIAMS



Names, and especially long names, must inevitably bring abbreviations. The letters ANS are a logical abbreviation for American Names Society, but I was startled when I first saw it in *Names*. Up here in Alaska, ANS is a commonly used abbreviation for two other organizations. One is the Alaska Native Service, the Alaska division of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. I have no connection with this ANS. The other is the Alaska Native Sisterhood, a social, service and semi-political organization of Alaska Indian women. Although I am a native-born Alaskan, I am neither female nor Indian and hence am doubly ineligible for membership in this ANS. In listing my organization memberships I shall, in Alaska at least, specify that I am a member of the American Name Society, not the *ANS*.

R. N. DE ARMOND