

## american studies column

**ARTS ON THE PLAINS:** A session on the role of institutions in the arts of the Great Plains area comes far enough in the future that for once we can be reasonably sure of getting the announcement out in time: it's March 16th through 18th, 1988. Norman Geske at the Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (the zip is 68588) is running the show and will answer questions. He's trying to scrape up some loot to help with expenses for participants. Your Faithful Editor feels that every American Studies scholar sometime in his/her career should go to a session on the Great Plains; there are things to be learned there about environment and culture which are not a standard part of our graduate educations.

If you write Susan Rosowski, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (zip 68588-0333, phone (402) 472-6645), she will tell you what the WESTERN LITERATURE Association had scheduled for October 15-17, 1987 in Lincoln: gender studies, Canadian plains literature, Chicano and Native American Indian lit, plus the famous field trip to Red Cloud, Nebraska, Willa Cather's home.

RED CLOUD and Willa Cather are also involved in a June 14-20th seminar called "The World and the Parish" in Red Cloud and Hastings. Viola Borton at the Cather Pioneer Memorial, 326 North Webster in Red Cloud, zip 68970, phone (402) 746-2653 will tell you what's doing.

**LABOR HISTORY:** A rally which will deal with some foreign as well as American labor history happens at Wayne State University in Detroit, October 22-24, 1987, at the Reuther Library. Philip P. Mason in History at WSU is the shop steward; you can call him at (313) 577-4024, or write; he's in History and the zip in Detroit is 48202.

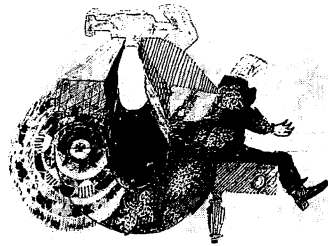
An Institute on the Study of Local History meets August 3-5, 1987 at Salem State College, in Massachusetts to work on MATERIAL CULTURE. You get information from John J.

Fox in History; the zip at Salem, Massachusetts is 01970, or you can phone (617) 745-0556.

Michael Tate, History, University of Nebraska at Omaha, zip 68182, knows all about the Missouri Valley HISTORY CONFERENCE, March 10-12, 1988.

Baylor University has a PROGRAM FOR REGIONAL STUDIES; it is sponsoring a symposium October 1-3 '87 on "Concepts and Applications" of the term "regionalism." You get information from Thomas Charlton, whose phone is (817) 755-2190, or you write him at the program in Waco, Texas, 76798.

**NIXON:** A Retrospective on His Presidency—such the subject of a conference at Hofstra



University, November 19th through 21st, 1987. If you work on any aspect of the Nixon presidency, Natalie Datlof and Alexej Ugrinsky will send you information: phone (516) 560-5669, or write them at Hofstra Cultural Center, Hempstead, New York 11550.

**POWER AND RESPONSES TO POWER** will be the subject of two years of study at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University. Grants of various lengths for fellows of various ranks will be available. The subject matter is rich and complex, and Lawrence Stone will send you information; he's in

(continued on page 121)



The "Photographs" section briefly outlines the history of photographic processes and includes information on preserving old and new photos. Photo courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society. All cuts in this column are from *What Time Is This Place?*, used by permission of the Trustees of the Grace Dangberg Foundation, Inc.

photographs, old newspapers, public records and personal papers, material culture, architecture, museums and cemeteries in a way which would serve as a model for students more sophisticated than those for whom this little workbook-format volume was intended. The examples of pages from old newspapers, old photographs, letters and so on have been chosen with great

skill, so the book is inviting to look at and fun. It is, indeed, a model of its kind, an encouraging sign that all of our work in American Studies for years to get people to pay attention to connections between material objects, printed documents, local history and world-shaking movements has had some impact.

## american studies column

(continued from p. 4)

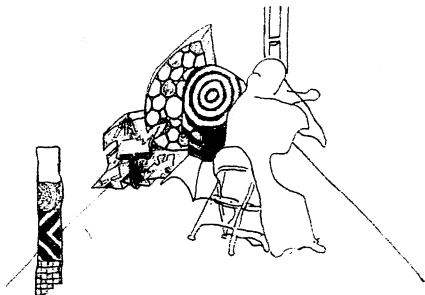
History at Princeton, where the zip is 08544 and the telephone (609) 452-4997.

The POPULAR CULTURE Association in the South announces that its next do runs October

1-2, 1987. Robert E. Tournier, Sociology, College of Charleston, South Carolina, 29424 will inform you.

500 BUCKS looks pretty good, usually, to a new Ph.D., and the American Studies Association has that much to give away for what its judges think is the best dissertation in the field; the award will be called the Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize. You want the rules? Contact the ASA at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. The zip is 19104. The phone is (215) 898-5408.

A grad student at U.C.L.A. wants help gathering material on landmarks of women's history. Readers who have written guides or developed walking tours to WOMEN'S LANDMARKS, especially places in Los Angeles, Chicago or Boston, will make Gail Dubrow grateful if they contact her at the Graduate School of Architect-



ture and Urban Planning, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90024. Her phone is (213) 837-3063.

There is an African Association for the Study of the Americas, and we get its *Newsletter*. The last issue—Volume 3, Number 1 (January 1987) informs us of a collection of material for teaching Afro-American history, located at the University of Botswana. For those contemplating Fulbrights in Africa or related activities, the address of the AASA is P/Bag 0022, Gaborone, Botswana.

Here is what the program for Suderman's mighty MAASA St. Paul rally, sponsored by Bertha's Kitty Boutique and the Side-Track Tap, looked like:

#### MAIN STREET, LAKE WOBEGON AND OTHER SMALL TOWNS

Friday, May 1  
1:15 to 3:00 p.m.

TOPIC A: WOMEN IN THE AMERICAN NOVEL: ZONA GALE, CHARLOTTE PERKINS GILMAN, NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE AND MARGARET ATWOOD, Elizabeth Kolmer, Saint Louis University, Chair.

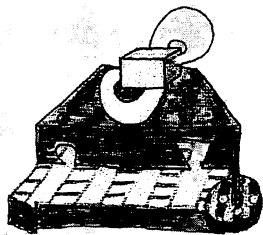
"From Village Square to Main Street: Zona Gale's Miss Lulu Bett," Kathy White, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"Charlotte Perkins Gilman's *Herland*: How Much Lady is There in The New Woman?" Kathleen Wells-Morgan, Stephens College.

"Hester Prynne and Offred: Communities and Women in *The Scarlet Letter* and *The Handmaid's Tale*," Nancy Walker, Stephens College.

TOPIC B: THE DARK SIDE OF THE SMALL TOWN, Roland Delattre, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"John O'Hara's Gibbstville, Pennsylvania: The Bleak Side of the Small Town," Charles Basset, Colby College.



"The Dark Side of the Small Town: Mark Twain, Stephen King and Harper Lee," Susan Musgrove, Olivet College.

3:30 to 5:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: FICTION AND SOCIAL CLASS, Jules Zanger, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Chair.

"Women and the Novel of Settlement in the Work of Frances Gage," Mary Loeffelholz, University of Illinois—Urbana-Champaign.

"Fiction and Fragmentation: The Liberal Ego in Early American Literature," Steven Watts, University of Missouri.

TOPIC B: ALMOST FORGOTTEN SOCIAL CUSTOMS, Gregory Sojka, Wichita State University, Chair.

"Forget Me Not: The Autograph Album of a Norwegian-American Homesteading Couple," Michael L. Olsen, New Mexico Highlands University.

"The Electric Interurban Railroad: A Paradigm of American Culture in the Midwest," Thomas A. Kuhlman, Creighton University.

"Daughter and Egg Night: The Rise and Demise of the Small Town Tradition," Ronald L. Robinson, Augustana College, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

MAASA DINNER AND BUSINESS MEETING AND PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS: American Studies and Sports, Gregory Sojka, Wichita State University.

Saturday, May 2

8:30 to 10:15 a.m.

TOPIC A: MAIN STREET, WAR AND THE POPULAR PRESS, Richard Dillman, St. Cloud State University, Chair.

"Making Nuclear War Digestible: The *Reader's Digest* Brings the Bomb to Main Street," James J. Farrell, St. Olaf College.

"Nathaniel Hawthorne and the Folk on Main Street," Frances Murphy Zauhar, Gustavus Adolphus College.

"Death in American Popular Fiction, 1870-1900," Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College.

TOPIC B: THE SMALL TOWN AS MYTHICAL PLACE, Ed Griffin, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"Rolvaag and Keillor: The Small Town and the Art of Telling the Truth," Bruce Michelson, University of Illinois.

"Lake Wobegon: Mythical Place and the American Imagination," Stephen Wilbers, University of Minnesota.

"The Midwest Village, 1986: A Progress Report from Alliance, Illinois (and Madison, Minnesota and Springfield, Illinois and the Platte River Valley)," David R. Pichaske, Southwest State University.

10:30 to 12:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: REGIONAL ART IN THE SMALL TOWN, Stephen Adams, University of Minnesota-Duluth, Chair.

"*Spring in Town*: Grant Wood and an American Democratic Identity," April Rose Schultz, University of Minnesota.

"Three Local Artists in Three Michigan Towns," Sadayoshi Omoto, Michigan State University.

"Roger Brown's Disaster of Plains: Erosion of Utopia," Timothy J. Garvey, Illinois Wesleyan University.

TOPIC B: SENSE OF PLACE IN MIDWEST

WRITERS, Garvin Davenport, Hamline University, Chair.

"A Sense of Place in the Literature of Central Illinois," Daniel L. Guillory, Millikin University.

"Learning the Land: The Development of Sense of Place in the Prairie Midwest," C. Elizabeth Raymond, University of Nevada-Reno.

"In Search of Community in Small Town American Literature," George Savage, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

TOPIC C: MINORITIES ON MAIN STREET, Richard Horwitz, University of Iowa, Chair.

"Black Views in Boom Towns: The Other Voice on Main Street," Gayle K. Berardi, University of Denver.

"The Native American and Main Street: Paula Gunn Allen as Poet, Critic, and Mediator Between Those Worlds," Elizabeth I. Hanson, Temple University.

Sunday, May 3

8:30 to 10:15 a.m.

TOPIC A: THE SMALL TOWN IN FILM AND THEATRE, Park Dixon Goist, Case Western Reserve University, Chair.

"Popular Images of Small Town Life in American Cinema: Billy Jack, Andy Hardy and Norman Bates," Carrol D. Peterson, Doane College.

"The Small Town on the Big Stage: Finding a Place for Regional Drama," Nancy Lee N. Jonza, College of St. Catherine.

TOPIC B: THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERICAN LANGUAGE STUDIES FOR AMERICAN STUDIES, Harold Allen, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics, University of Minnesota.

10:30 to 12:15 p.m.

TOPIC A: THE SELLING OF MAIN STREET, John Prehn, Gustavus Adolphus College, Chair.

"The Revival of Main Street," Judith A. Martin, University of Minnesota.

"The Malling of Main Street: The Ghermazian Brothers and the 'Humonga Mall,'" Kathy Evertz, University of Minnesota.

"America's Small Town of the Mind: *Yankee Magazine*," Charles B. Leach, New Hampshire College.

TOPIC B: MIDWESTERN ARCHITECTURE, Tom Scanlan, University of Minnesota, Chair.

"Louis Sullivan's Midwestern Banks: Democracy Expressed in Small Town Architecture," Ann Balakier, University of South Dakota.

"Heaven Knows What All: The Houses of Gopher Prairie," Kate Roberts, University of Minnesota.

"It's Not Wright: Popular Taste, Domestic Architecture, and Minneapolis' Entry in the *Life*

MAASA

Friday - May 1, 1987

-Van runs to Hamline  
Leaving @ 6:30p.m.

-Van Pick-up from  
Hamline @ 9:15pm.

Saturday - May 2, 1987

-Van runs to Prairie Home  
Leaving @ 3:30p.m.

-Van Pick-up from Prairie Home  
@ 7:15p.m.

Sign up →

Magazine Model Home Contest of 1938," Faith Jaycox, University of Minnesota.

Two readers noticed a TYPO on p. 92 of the last issue. Ham Cravens put it, "Where you thank people, you say Jim Gilbert teaches at Fredonia. Wrong. Bill Graebner does." Gilbert teaches at the University of Maryland—College Park.

This is that item we run in this space each issue to acknowledge help given to us by scholars not on our staff; it is known around the office as the THANKS LIST. It would be nice, if, instead of merely running their names in print, we gave each a consultant's fee or an all-expenses paid vacation to East Egg, Cucamonga, or Osawatomic, but our gratitude is genuine: Richard Anderson, Kansas City Art Institute; Robert Berkhofer, University of Michigan; Marilyn Brady, University of Kansas; James Carothers, University of Kansas; Philip Dare, Lexington Theological Seminary; Jane DeHart-Mathews, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; George Ehrlich, University of Missouri—Kansas City; Mitchell Hall, University of Kentucky; Janet Hamburg, University of Kansas; Ray Hiner, University of Kansas; William Jordy, Brown University; Charles Kahn, University of Kansas; William Howland Kenney, III, Kent State University; Kenneth Lynn, Johns Hopkins University; Michael Maher, University of Kansas; Jerre Mangione, University of Pennsylvania; Richard McKinzie, University of Missouri—Kansas City; Tim Mitchell, University of Kansas; Donald Pitzer, University of South Indiana; Linna Funk Place, University of Missouri—Kansas City; Joan Stone, University of Kansas; Harry Stout, University of Connecticut; Elmer Suderman, Gustavus Adolphus College; Arthur Townsend, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum; Allan M. Winkler, Miami University.