

masa bulletin

NANCY WALKER resigns soon as Executive Secretary of MASA. She's been good at it, and will be missed.

THE HOKEY NAME notwithstanding, Living History Farms is a splendid institution, run by sophisticated people who know their material culture, agricultural history and other germane disciplines. Hokey or no, the name is accurate: the facility consists of a series of operating farms of different periods, each run by residents who dress appropriately, use appropriate technology, raise historically typical crops and livestock, and live off what they grow. Except that they are happy to interrupt their chores to explain, they really are working, not "demonstrating." And that makes a difference. Our guide was Jay Anderson who, as you might suspect, has an American Studies Ph.D., and is simply splendid at his job. The farms were the site for the 1980 MASA spring meeting. Ted Hovet and Dick Herrnsstadt had it all magnificently organized, and even a consummately loathsome banquet dinner catered by the Sheraton did not slow things down much—indeed, it may have helped maintain the high spirits. Everything except the service (the usual pleasant, direct, smart and funny Iowans) was so terrible that it was funny.

More important, there were meetings of minds and bumpings of ideas. Some of these encounters will be evident in future issues of this journal.

Here, at any rate, is the program:

THURSDAY, April 17

VIEWS FROM ANOTHER SIDE OF AMERICAN LIFE, Jeanne Simpson, Eastern Illinois University, Chair.

"'A Picture From Life's Other Side': Hank Williams and Popular Culture in America," Kent Blaser, Wayne State College.

"Men and Masculinity in Larry McMurtry's *Leaving Cheyenne*," Jeanne Simpson, Eastern Illinois University.

"Hard Travellin': Definitions of Self in Early Twentieth-Century American Hobo Autobiography," Lynne M. Adrian, University of Iowa.

SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN THE STUDY OF AMERICAN CULTURE, Thomas G. Ryan, University of Northern Iowa, Chair.

"In Pursuit of Promise: The Economic Mobility of the Dutch Immigrants of Pella, Iowa, 1847-1880," Richard Doyle, Mt. Union College.

"Protester Desocialization of the Fragility of American Political Institutions," David Kowalewski, Benedictine College.

"Pioneer Women: A Pedagogical Approach," Judy Nolte Lensink, University of Iowa.

THE WRITER AS SOCIAL PROPHET, Robert J. Ward, University of Northern Iowa, Chair.

"The Skyscraper and the Ivory Tower: James' View of the American Scene," Dianna Vitanza, Eastern Illinois University.

"Communication as Communion: *James Agee's Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*," Gerald R. Lareau, Iowa State University.

"Hamlin Garland and the Single Tax Issue," Frances W. Kaye, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

ALTERNATIVE VISIONS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM, Theodore Agnew, Oklahoma State University, Chair.

"The Dream of a Welsh State: Michael D. Jones, Robert D. Thomas, and the Welsh Settlement at Arvonja, Kansas," Phillips G. Davies, Iowa State University.

"The Wizard of Oz as a Popularization of Transcendentalism," James M. Youngdale, St. Thomas College and Concordia College.

"Alienation and Humanitarianism: A View of Quakerism in the Albermarle, 1848-1874," C. Clarkson White, Armstrong State College.

VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN HEARTLAND, Richard Lowitt, Iowa State University, Chair.

"Lorena Hickok Reports on Agriculture During the Great Depression," Maurine Beasley, University of Maryland.

"America's Seventy Year Mistake: Environmental and Human Factors in Farming the Arid Great Plains, 1870-1940," John Opie, Duquesne University.

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"Iowa Challenge," Don Muhm, Farm Editor, Des Moines *Register and Tribune*.
IMAGES FROM THE HEARTLAND, Suzanne Bunker, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chair.

"Creating Midwestern Women's Imagery: A Case Study of *My People Are My Home*," Neala J. Schleuning, Mankato State University.

"Images of Rural Life: A Photographic Essay," Dennis Church, Millerton, New York.

FRIDAY, April 18

HISTORY AS PROBLEM SOLVING, SESSION I: INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATION AND AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, 1820-1920, Zane L. Miller, University of Cincinnati, Chair.

"The Problem of Incivility and the Creation of the Ohio Mechanics Institute, 1820-1845," Judith Spraul-Schmidt, University of Cincinnati.

"The Problem of the Social Evils and the Origin of Municipal Services, 1840-1870," Alan I. Marcus, University of Cincinnati.

"The Problem of the New Sciences and the Reformation of the Medical College of Ohio, 1870-1895," Ellen C. Cangi, University of Cincinnati.

"The Problem of Tenements and the Formation of the Better Housing League of Cincinnati, 1895-1920," Robert B. Fairbanks, University of Cincinnati.

THE WRITER AND THE FARM, George F. Day, University of Northern Iowa, Chair.

"The Plow as Metaphysical Tool: The Poetry of James Hearst," Robert Ward, University of Northern Iowa.

"Josephine Donovan's *Black Soil*: Rediscovering the Work of an Iowa Writer," Suzanne Bunkers, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"Two Views of the Middle Western Farm: A Contrasting Study of Herbert Quick's *Vandemark's Folly* and Hervert Krause's *Wind Without Rain*," Craig Watson, Ripon College.

IMAGES FROM THE PAST, Norman Hostetler, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Chair.

"Destroying the Inventing the Past: Early Travellers in the Midwest," Mary Helen Dunlop, Iowa State University.

"Mid-Nineteenth Century Touring Artists of the Upper Mississippi," Rena N. Coen, St. Cloud State University.

"Images of Rural Life in Nineteenth-Century American Folk Painting," Robert C. Ferguson, Ferris State College.

HISTORY AS PROBLEM SOLVING: SESSION II: SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN HISTORICAL ANALYSIS, Zane L. Miller, University of Cincinnati, Chair.

"Sheep in a Living History Museum in Illinois: A Research Model for Applied History," Edward L. Hawes, Sangamon State University.

"Immigrant Homeownership and the Urban Environment," Gordon W. Kirk, Jr., Western Illinois University and Carolyn Tyirin Kirk, Monmouth College.

"Farm Size Differences Among Rural Ethnic Groups in Kansas Since 1885," Russell G. Swenson, Western Illinois University.

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON AMERICAN CULTURE, Richard Herrnstadt, Iowa State University, Chair.

"American Culture and Women's Humor," Nancy Walker, Stephens College.

"The Mythical Constructs of Theodore Roosevelt's African Safari," Thomas R. Knipp, St. Louis University.

"Flying Symbol and Legen in Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Song of Solomon*," Grace Ann Hovet and Barbara Lounsberry, University of Northern Iowa.

THE AESTHETICS OF THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE, Stuart Levine, University of Kansas, Chair.

"Fair Fields and Blasted Rock: The Emergence of Two Landscape Aesthetics in America, 1600-1860," John R. Stilgoe, Harvard University.

"The Nineteenth-Century Kentucky Landscape," Carolyn Torma, Kentucky Heritage Commission.

"The Pastoral Solution to the Romantic Dilemma," Robert Bray, Illinois Wesleyan University.

"Iowa Prairie Cemeteries: Momentoes of a Vanishing Heritage," Daryl Smith, University of Northern Iowa.

LITERATURE AND THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE, Jules Zanger, University of Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, Chair.

"Vachel Lindsay and the Town of American Visions," Balz Engler, University of Michigan.

"James Fenimore Cooper's *The Prairie*: The Interminable Landscape and the Island Community," Elmer F. Suderman.

"Land and Sea: American Views of Americans," Haskell Springer, University of Kansas.

"North American Pastoral: Contrasting Images of the Garden in Canadian and American Literature," Patricia Hunt, University of Waterloo.

TRANSCENDING REGIONAL AND ETHNIC BOUNDARIES, George A. Levesque, Indiana State University, Chair.

"The Americanization of Edna: A Study of Miss Ferber's American Jewish Identity," Steven P. Horowitz, University of Iowa and Miriam J. Landsman, Iowa City, Iowa.

"The New Criticism and Afro-American Literature," Ira Tolbert, University of Northern Iowa.

"From the Golden Illusion to the Bitterness of Loss: A Study of Faulkner's Sutpen and Fitzgerald's *Gatsby*," Sr. Madeleine Kisner, Kansas Newman College.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIVING HISTORY FARMS by Jay Anderson, Chief, Research and Interpretation, Living History Farms.

SATURDAY, April 19

WILLA CATHER: VISIONS FROM THE HEARTLAND, Elizabeth Kolmer, St. Louis University, Chair.

"Willa Cather: Historian of the Land and Its People," Otis Rhea Schmidt and Marvin Jensen, University of Northern Iowa.

"Magnolias in Nebraska? Willa Cather as a Southern Writer," Patrick D. Hundley, University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

"The Death of Dreams: *A Lost Lady* and *My Mortal Enemy*," Sandra Bennett, Winona State University.

"Willa Cather's Novel of War," John Scheckter, University of Iowa.

"Counterpoint in Cather's *One of Ours*," Raymond J. Wilson III, Bellevue College.

ART AND THE AMERICAN DREAM, George Ehrlich, University of Missouri at Kansas City, Chair.

"Images of Rural Life and Agriculture in Post Office Murals in the 1930s and 1940s," John C. Carlisle, Purdue University-Calumet.

"Minnesota's Walker Art Center Project: A WPA Milestone," John Franklin White, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park.

"The Urbanization of an Architect: Louis Sullivan and the City," Robert A. Jones, Bradley University.

AMERICAN STUDIES WORKSHOP: THE SMALL GALLERY AND THE SMALL PRESS: THEIR ROLE IN AMERICAN

SOCIETY AND HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK, Robley Wilson, Jr., Editor, *North American Review*, Chair.

"Public History at the Grass Roots: The Opportunity for American Studies," Patrick Norris, Director, Chippewa Valley Museum, Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

"The Small Presses and Their Role in Contemporary Literature," Joe Richardson, Director, The Palins Distribution Service.

"Our Culture Obligation: The Gallery and the Uses of the Children's Art Exhibition," Sanford Sivitz Shaman, Director, University of Northern Iowa Gallery of Art.

PROBLEMS IN AMERICAN REFORM, Harold B. Wohl, University of Northern Iowa, Chair.

"Bedroom Politics: The Anti-Miscegenation Crusade and the Massachusetts Legislature," George A. Levesque, Indiana State University.

"Two Views of American Abundance: Charles A. Beard and David M. Potter," Ellen Nore, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

"Alexis de Tocqueville's Theory of Political Parties," Gerald M. Bonetto, Creighton University.

ASPECTS OF THE RURAL SCENE, Ted Nostwich, Iowa State University, Chair.

"Space and the American Landscape in Wright Morris," Dian Gottlob, University of Iowa.

"The Right to Privacy and the Rural Scene: Wright Morris and James Agee," Joseph J. Wydeven, Bellevue College.

"Machines Come to Mainstreet: The Impact of Technology on a Small Town, 1900-1940," Tom Morain, Iowa State University.

STUDIES IN NEW ENGLAND LITERATURE, Sandra Bennett, Winona State University, Chair.

"Duty's Faithful Child: Louisa May Alcott's *Work*," K. Ann Dempsey, St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley.

"E. A. Robinson's 'New England,'" Leon Satterfield, Nebraska Wesleyan University.

"Emily Dickinson and the Robin," George H. Soule, Jr., Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

"Master Edward Higgins, Mister Clifford Pyncheon, and Their Toys: A New Approach to the Artist-Figure in *The House of the Seven Gables*," Joseph J. Feeney, S. J., St. Joseph's University.

JOINT MEETING is in the works for the spring of 1982. The University of Kansas is the joint where we will be meeting, in conjunction with the Sonneck Society and the Midwest Chapter of the American Musicological Society. Bunker Clark of the Department of Music History at the University of Kansas and Your Faithful Editor (mainly the former) have been instigators, and will see to it that there are

some joint sessions; that, moreover, there will be some appropriate music performed. The program chairman for MASA will be Haskell Springer, English, KU, Lawrence, Kansas, 66045; he may be contacted by folks interested in participating. The MASA portions of the program will not, of course, be limited to musical topics.

STONEWALLING. The author of a forthcoming article writes to us about his experience trying to get permission to reprint some lines from a popular song. We quote:

In these post-Watergate days, California has become the nation's stonewalling headquarters. Here's a partial transcript from our last phone conversation:

(5 rings. Phone on other end clatters on desk or floor.)

— *Warner Brothers Music.* (Giggles in background.)

— May I speak with Al Kohn please.

— *No. . . . uh . . . He's at a meeting; may I help you.*

— Yes. This is Bob Gremore; I'm calling about . . .

— *Oh yes. I remember talking with you before.*

— Yes. I still haven't heard from you. I'm afraid my request has been lost.

— *No, I looked up the record last time. It just had to go to the Dylan office. They get a lot of requests, so it takes a long time. I'll send it as soon as it's ready.*

— But it's been over two months. How much longer do you think it will take?

— *Well, it takes a long time. We get so many requests that it takes a long time.*

— It's already taken so long that I'm afraid this is their way of turning down the request.

— *Oh no. You'll get it; it just takes a long time.*

— Well, could I speak with someone in the Dylan office?

— *No, you can't call the Dylan office. They don't take calls.*

— Could you give me their address?

— *This is their address. Their mail comes here. They have your request.*

— Is there anything I could do to speed this up?

— *No, they get a lot of requests and it just takes a long time. You'll get it as soon as we hear from the Dylan office.*

And so it goes. You see, they get a lot of requests and it takes a long time. . . .

OUR INDEX has been duly reviewed in *Serials Review*, which makes some useful suggestions; the reviewer also says some nice things about the magazine, e.g., "What would this reviewer have not given as an undergraduate for such interesting lectures in a college composed of the writers for the parent title?"

COMPARATIVE CIVILIZATIONS. We receive an interesting little journal, *Comparative Civilizations Bulletin*, from the International

Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. It held its ninth annual meeting May 22-25 at Syracuse. People with appropriate interests might enjoy keeping in touch with this outfit.

CALIFORNIA ASA tells us of a program coming September 4-7, 1980 at the University of California-Berkeley: "America and the Pacific Community: Studies in Culture and Nationality." Program chairman is Pershing Vartanian, History Department, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA 92182.

"INSIDE THE CIGAR STORE: Images of the American Indian" is the name of an "instructional package" on "contradictory stereotypes of the American Indian . . . perpetuated by mass media and textbooks." Information from Gretchen Bataille, Department of English, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

HUMANITIES AND TECHNOLOGY, in Marietta, Georgia this coming October 23-24 at a conference called Interface '80. Information from Amos St. Germain or Roberta Gates, Department of English and History, Southern Technical Institute, Marietta, Georgia 30060.

PCAS—ACAS The letters stand for Popular Culture Association in the South and American Culture Association in the South, and they're having a joint meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina on the 16 through 18 of October, 1980. It's too late to get on the program, but information is available from John Scott Wilson, History, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208. We know very little of the politics or philosophy involved in the formation of the American Culture Association, and would be interested in hearing about what's going on.

CANADIAN Association for American Studies meets at the University of Guelph, October 23-25, 1980. The chairman is Frederick C. Drake, Department of History, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3A1. The theme is appropriately vague and broad; the topic areas sound very promising.

ART IN COLUMBUS. Those who deal with American art know where the great collections are: the Whitney, the Metropolitan, the BMFA, the Chicago Art Institute and so on, all big-city institutions. A number of middle-sized midwestern towns with art museums have been forced by the nature of the art market to specialize, often in American painting, and especially in American painting since the mid-nineteenth century. Your Faithful Editor has before recommended visits to such "sleeper" institutions as the fine museums in Memphis, Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines, St. Joseph (a small museum in what was once a private home, but first-class for turn-of-the-century American painting) and especially Wichita, which has one of the strongest collections of

American painting extant, broad in range and superb in quality. To that list I would add Columbus, Ohio, where the gallery owns a smattering of first-line European paintings and a powerful, coherent contingent of American works. Among those from the permanent collection on display during a recent visit there were George Luks' very high-keyed winter scene, in pastel and water colors, "The Harlem River" (1915); a swarm of strong Demuths including "Paquebot Paris" (1921-2), "Aucassin and Nicolette" (1921), and an untitled but very lovely still-life; some major Kuniyoshis including "The Swimmer" (ca. 1924) and "Boy Stealing Fruit" (1923); lots of good George Bellows—he lived in the area—including the "Portrait of My Mother" which one would want to compare with a related portrait of an elderly woman in the Des Moines gallery; "Churn and Break" (1913), a marine which connects to the late Winslow Homer oil seascapes, and the romantic, earlier "Riverside Drive" (1909). There too were Hopper's "Morning Sun" (1954) and Edward Middleton Manigault's "Procession" (1911). The pleasant layout of the museum makes it a wonderful place for people-watching; I enjoyed listening to the touring school kids' comments as they stood before Cecilia Beaux' "Mrs. R.L. Devine" (1907), a large glamorous portrait in the manner of Sargent, complete with dog. A nice place, with good sculpture on the grounds, a knowledgeable director and a trim, not-too-costly restaurant. As long as the lack of an adequate public transportation system forces us to drive long distances in our family heaps, we should make the experience pleas-

ant by stopping to enjoy fine but lesser-known art centers such as those I've named; Columbus is a good one to add to the list.

¡MUCHAS GRACIAS! Service to our contributors, contributors whose essays are ultimately rejected as well as those of pieces which appear in *American Studies*, is a major goal of *American Studies*. We want dialogue: suggestions of works which contributors might profit by reading, findings in contiguous fields of use to them in their further work, scholarly tactics and strategies they might pursue. All these flow from members of our editorial board and other consultants to our contributors. Many come from consultants who are not members of our board, but who are invited to serve us because of expertise in some aspect of the contributor's paper. We use this space in each issue to thank such people. In the past six months or so, that would mean the following scholars: Tom Averill, University of Kansas; Michael Butler, University of Kansas; Marvin Eyler, University of Maryland; Steve Fox, Somerville, Massachusetts; Alan Gribben, University of Texas-Austin; Roy Gridley, University of Kansas; Edward Grier, University of Kansas; Al Habegger, University of Kansas; Bernard Hirsch, University of Kansas; John Jakle, University of Illinois; Christine McHugh, University of Nebraska-Omaha; Russell B. Nye, Michigan State University; Alma Payne, Bonita Springs, Florida; John Reilly, State University of New York-Albany; Ann Schofield, University of Kansas; Robert Smith, University of Kansas.