

DARE Newsletter

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Dictionary of American Regional English

Winter 2016

The News from *DARE*

George Goebel
Chief Editor

As always, this “Winter” issue of the *DARE Newsletter* is especially dedicated to thanking our many supporters for their generosity in the past year. The long list on the following pages is heartening evidence that there are many people and organizations that value our continuing work, and we are profoundly grateful to them all. Support from individuals and private foundations has always been important to keeping the *DARE* project alive, but it has never been so critical as it is now, when government funding is increasingly hard to get.

Unfortunately, we recently learned that the request we made to the National Endowment for the Humanities for support for the next two years (mid-2016 to mid-2018) was not funded. Without the prospect of more funds, we will have to re-trench still further by the end of this year, and there is a very real possibility that the project will have to close its doors permanently in the near future.

We are not quitting if we don’t have to, and we continue to search for new sources of funds. Joan Hall, despite her “retirement,” is still hard at work bringing the good word (or rather words!) to more people and organizations. We are also trying something new—a page on the Benefunder website. Benefunder is a nonprofit organization with the purpose of bringing potential donors together with academic research projects in need of support, and this should bring *DARE* to the attention of people who would not otherwise know it existed. We hope that our old friends will continue to contribute as generously as they have in the past—and also that



they will do their part to spread their enthusiasm for the project to others!

Meanwhile, we are continuing our mission to update the *Dictionary* with new and revised entries. The third in our Quarterly Updates series was published on the *DARE* website early in February, and the fourth will probably be posted there by the time you see this (<http://dare.wisc.edu/words/quarterly-updates>). Together, these two Quarterly Updates comprise 107 entries. Twenty-seven are entirely new entries or senses; we suggest checking out the following, as a selection of some of the most intriguing: [beetle organ](#), [before](#) (in the phrase *to be just before [doing something]*), [Belgian pie](#), [belly flower](#), [Biloxi bacon](#), [bilsted](#), and [parking ramp](#). Most of the revised entries have been greatly expanded with new quotations, often leading to major ante- or postdatings, along with other improvements to definitions, etymologies, and regional labels that follow from the im-

Continued on page 3

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The *Dictionary of American Regional English* is profoundly grateful for the generosity of these donors in 2015. Gifts were received by the *Dictionary of American Regional English* Fund and the Frederic G. Cassidy DARE Fund. Because this is a national project, it is particularly meaningful that donations were received from supporters in thirty-four states and the District of Columbia (and friends in Canada, France, and Germany as well). Donors listed without a state or country made contributions through the GoFundMe website, a fundraising platform that brought us to the attention of many people who might not otherwise have been aware of our situation.

Whether you are contemplating joining the ranks of *DARE* benefactors for the first time or renewing your support for our work, there could not be a more crucial time to make a contribution. Please read Chief Editor George Goebel's article on page 1 and consider responding to our need by using the coupon on the back page of this *Newsletter* or visiting <http://dare.wisc.edu/contact/donate>. ♦

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News from DARE

Continued from page 1

proved documentation. Some, like [crotch horn](#) ‘a deer or moose antler with two prongs; a deer or moose with such antlers,’ are virtually new entries. This appeared in Volume I of *DARE* as a single quotation without definition or regional label; it is now a substantial entry with eleven quotations which show the word in use from 1881 to 2012 and provide the evidence for the label “chiefly NEast.”

We also continue to make good progress on the “bleeping project”—deleting personal data from the audio recordings made as part of the original *DARE* fieldwork, so that they can be made publicly accessible. This semester we have four undergraduate interns who are volunteering ten hours a week each to this project, and they have already finished “bleeping” recordings from nine states. Ohio is almost finished, and only Pennsylvania and New York remain after that.

Your support in the past has helped to make these things possible, and we hope you will consider continuing that support by contributing to *DARE*. Please use the coupon on the back page of this *Newsletter* or visit <http://dare.wisc.edu/contact/donate> to make a tax-deductible donation. ♦

DARE Staffer Receives DSNA Award

Congratulations to our Social Media Representative, Erin Leary, who was recently named the Audrey R. Duckert Presidential Honorary Member of the Dictionary Society of North America. When not generating Facebook and Twitter content for *DARE*, Erin is a Teaching Assistant and dissertator in the English Language and Linguistics program at UW–Madison; her primary research area is clausal modification in the noun phrase. ♦

A Note of Thanks

To paraphrase Blanche DuBois, the *Dictionary of American Regional English* has always depended on the kindness (and expertise) of scholars and language enthusiasts across the country and the world. Earlier this year, University of Minnesota reference librarian Malaika Grant went to a great deal of trouble to verify an obscure reference in the *National Grocers Bulletin*—a publication we couldn’t access via the Internet or Interlibrary Loan. Her efforts enabled us to antedate *DARE*’s earliest citation for sense 2 of [parking ramp](#) by sixteen years. We are very grateful to Malaika for helping us “ramp up” our first Quarterly Update of 2016! ♦

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