

LEE ARNOLD PEDERSON (1930–2015)

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Lee Arnold Pederson passed away peacefully on May 6, 2015. A family service, officiated by Father John Kieran, was held on May 17. Lee was born to Peder and Gertrude Pederson on September 17, 1930, in St. Louis. Lee was raised in Chicago and, after graduating from high school, enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he earned the Korean service medal with two bronze stars. After the army, Lee graduated from Northern Illinois University with a B.A. and an M.A. in English. Lee began his academic career at the University of Chicago, where he studied the English language under the direction of Raven McDavid and finished his Ph.D. dissertation, “The Pronunciation of English in Metropolitan Chicago,” in 1964 (soon after published as an issue of *Publication of the American Dialect Society*). Lee began his teaching career at the University of Minnesota, but moved south to Emory University in 1966, the institution where he spent the rest of his career until he retired as the Charles Howard Candler Professor of English. He remained an Emeritus Professor of English at Emory until his death. Lee began publishing in 1959, soon after he arrived at the University of Chicago; his last publication, coauthored with Philip Baker, was *Talk of St Kitts and Nevis* (Battlebridge, 2013). In between, Lee published well over 100 articles, reviews, and books, including his article “The Language of Uncle Remus” (*Modern Philology*, 1985), which remains one of the best treatments of language in the stories of Joel Chandler Harris, and the “Dialects” chapter for the major handbook on the history of the English language (*The Cambridge History of the English Language*, vol. 6, *English in North America*, ed. John Algeo, Cambridge University Press, 2002). Lee was also an important figure in American lexicography, having written the front essay on “Language, Culture, and the American Heritage” in the *American Heritage Dictionary*. After he moved to Emory, Lee devoted most of his efforts to field research for and publication of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 1986–92). LAGS was an innovative project, with a systematic grid that mapped variations in dialect of men and women, different social situations, and different races from Florida and Georgia to east Texas, and from Tennessee south to the Gulf of Mexico. LAGS is one of the three American Linguistic Atlas projects to have achieved full publication. His *A Manual for Dialect Research in the Southern States* (with Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Charles W. Foster, and Charles E. Billiard, 2nd ed. [Univ. of Alabama Press, 1974]) remains a classic handbook for Linguistic Atlas research. Lee

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was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He continued to learn and to teach until the end of his days. Lee was preceded in death by his beloved wife Judith. He is survived by his daughter Nora and her husband Paul and their sons Thomas and Nicholas and by his son Thomas and his wife Mukang. Donations in his memory may be sent to his favorite charity, St. Rita of Cascia High School in Chicago.

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