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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, he 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 BA and an MA 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 PhD, "The Pronunciation of English in Metropolitan Chicago," in 1964 (soon published as an issue of *Publications of the American Dialect Society*). Lee and Roger Shuy were McDavid's top students at the time, and both had a major impact on English language studies in America. Lee began his teaching career at the University of Minnesota, but then 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 was an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia in 2002, and served on the doctoral committees of several students he met there. His doctoral students at Emory included Joan Hall, who later became editor of the *Dictionary of American Regional English*. He remained an Emeritus Professor at Emory until his death.

Lee began publishing in 1959 soon after he arrived at the University of Chicago, two short notes in *American Speech* and *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. His last publication was a book co-authored with Philip Baker on the language of St. Kitts and Nevis in 2013. In between, Lee published well over one hundred articles, reviews, and books. Many early articles concerned language and literature in Thoreau and Mark Twain. His article on "The Language of Uncle Remus" (*Modern Philology*, 1985) remains one of the best treatments of language in the stories of Joel Chandler Harris. His early field work in Chicago led to a number of essays on African-American speech beginning in 1962 (before the more famous New York studies by William Labov), an interest which he carried to Minneapolis when he taught at Minnesota and later brought south. After he moved to Emory, his major interest was field research for and publication of the *Linguistic Atlas of the Gulf States* (LAGS: seven volumes, 1986-1992, University of Georgia Press; Basic Materials and Concordance, University Microfilms, 1981, 1986). Thereafter, Lee began work on the *Linguistic Atlas of the Western States* (LAWS, materials available at www.lap.uga.edu) in 1988, and he conducted interviews on the creole dialects of St. Kitts and Nevis after he became Candler chair in 1998. As the top figure in American dialectology, Lee wrote the "Dialects" chapter for the major handbook on history of the English language (*The Cambridge History of the English Language, Volume VI, 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* (1982, 1992, a highly prestigious publication) and later coauthored with Christian Kay the essay on history of the English language in the *Encarta World English Dictionary* (Bloomsbury, 2000).

Work on LAGS began with the Dialect Survey of Rural Georgia and interviews in Tennessee beginning in 1968. LAGS remains one of the three American Linguistic Atlas project to have achieved full publication. The work was supported by one grant from the National Council of Teachers of English for the survey in Tennessee (1968-1969), and continuous funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities from 1973 to 1991. LAGS was an innovative project, with a systematic grid to include fair representation 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. His *Manual for Dialect Research in the Southern States* (with Billiard, Leas, and Bassett, second edition, 1974, University of Alabama Press) remains a classic

handbook for Linguistic Atlas research. In one innovation, all LAGS and LAWS interviews were tape-recorded (Lee had been a pioneer in using portable tape recorders for interviews in Chicago), and in another innovation LAGS responses were later keyed into digital format for the first-ever computerized Linguistic Atlas (first described in several essays in 1986, but begun earlier in the 1980s). Lee's analysis of the data was also highly innovative (for an overview, see his "Elements of Word Geography," 1995, *Journal of English Linguistics*). He resisted descriptions of Southern speech as a "dialect," and instead preferred to plot "who said what where" in areas defined by topography and measured different percentages for the use of different variants between social divisions in the population. Some have thought that it is difficult to use LAGS because it does not tell them what they want to hear, but LAGS remains the most comprehensive published report of a Linguistic Atlas project. All LAGS audio interviews and digitized data is now available online at www.lap.uga.edu. In the LAWS project, Lee devised a grid structure for the entire region and continued to innovate with a new, much shorter questionnaire (see articles in *Journal of English Linguistics*, 1996). While interviews for the entire region remain unfinished, large parts of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming have been surveyed.

Lee began his career with great engagement in the controversies of the field. His critical review of Shuy's Urban Language Series (in *American Speech*, 1975), for example, marked the distinction between continuing Linguistic Atlas survey research and new sociolinguistic methods, this from someone who had begun his own career in urban dialectology. While the tide of research shifted to sociolinguistics, Lee maintained the value of broader Linguistic Atlas survey research and improved its methods in line with the times. His career was marked by consistent invention and achievement. In a gesture of respect for his accomplishments, many of his colleagues participated in a festschrift for him (*From the Gulf States and Beyond: The Legacy of Lee Pederson and LAGS*, Michael Montgomery and Thomas Nunnally, eds., Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1998). In his last years at Emory he wrote less and taught more, teaching literature to undergraduates, a return to the love of literature and teaching he had preserved since his earliest days as a high-school English teacher in Chicago. His influence will long outlive him, as linguistics and dialectology continue to develop along the pathways he developed and practiced in LAGS and LAWS.

Lee was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. 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.