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American Sociological Association COMMUNITY SECTION NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Philip Olson

1980 ASA Meetings

Section Chair-elect, Arthur Vidich, has been appointed by Chair, Sylvia Fava, to organize the 1980 ASA Community Section Day program. Although the exact details of the number of sessions the Section allowed are not yet available from the ASA Executive office, the program is tentatively planned with the following sessions:

1. Round Table Sessions (definite): Co-organizers are:
Professor Arthur Anderson, Department of Sociology, Fairfield University, N. Benson Rd., Fairfield, Connecticut 06430
Professor Ilana Samets, Department of Sociology, Connecticut New London, Connecticut 06320

If you have suggestions for appropriate topics or leaders, or you are interested in presenting a topic, contact either Arthur Anderson or Ilana Samets. The deadline is early January, 1980.

2. "New Paradigms in Urban Community Research," (tentative). Participants to be announced later.
3. "The Future of Communities," (tentative). Participants to be announced later.

In addition to Section Day activities, members also have opportunities to present papers at a number of community and urban sessions. The August, 1979 Footnotes lists the details of the 1980 annual meeting.

Program chair Vidich is also planning to continue the very successful walking tours of urban communities begun this year in Boston by Peter Langer. Professor Vidich has encouraged graduate students to undertake studies of communities in the New York City area and he plans to arrange for several of them to lead groups of interested persons into communities they are most familiar with. At present he plans tours of Chinatown, West Village, SoHo, Southwest Italian Community, Lower Manhattan, Little Italy, Bedford-Styvesant, South Bronx, Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Bronx, Williamsburg, and Times Square. More details will be forthcoming in the Summer newsletter preceding the 1980 ASA meetings in New York City.

1980 Regional Meetings

The following information may be of interest to Section members interested in submitting papers to regional conventions in the coming year:

Eastern Sociological Society

Annual Meeting: April, 1980, Boston, Massachusetts

Send Papers to: David Karp, Dept. of Sociology, Boston College,
Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts 02167

Midwest Sociological Society

Annual Meeting: April 2-5, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sessions of interest:

Community Research, Dorothy Lee, Illinois State University
Normal, Illinois 61761

New Urban Initiatives, Philip Olson, University of Missouri-
Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri 64110

Social Change & Rural Communities, Robert Richards, Iowa State
University, Ames, Iowa 50011

Urban Life, David Street, University of Illinois, Chicago,
Illinois 60680

Southwestern Sociological Association

Annual Meeting: April 2-5, 1980, Houston, Texas

Sessions of interest:

Urban Sociology & Community, Michael Grimes, Louisiana State
University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

Southern Sociology Society

Annual Meeting: March 26-29, 1980, Knoxville, Tennessee

Sessions of interest:

Urban & Ecology, Margaret Young, Guilford College, Greensboro,
North Carolina 27410

North Central Sociological Society

Annual Meeting: May 1-3, 1980, Dayton, Ohio

Sessions of interest:

Subjective Community Indicators, Donald O'Meara, Raymond Walters
College, Cincinnati, Ohio 45236

Pacific Sociological Society

Annual meeting: April 9-12, 1980, San Francisco

Sessions of interest:

Urban Neighborhoods, Donald Warren, Oakland University, Roches-
ter, Michigan, 48063

Call for Nominations

The nominations committee of the Community Section will this winter propose a slate of nominees for a new Chair-Elect and new Council members. Elizabeth Huttman, California State University, Hayward, California 94543 is Chair of the Nomination Committee and is interested in having Section members suggest names to be put in nomination. Send suggestions to her before March 15, 1980, Box 555, Sausalito, Calif. 949

Recognition by Section of Nels Anderson

The membership of the Community Section voted to honor Nels Anderson by naming him to receive the First Annual Community Section Award at the annual business meeting of the Section in Boston, August 29, 1979. The ceremony was conducted by Section Chair-Elect Arthur

Vidich. The audience of approximately 75 people later welcomed Professor Anderson at a reception in his honor held by members of the Section.

By permission of the author, the Newsletter editor has abridged the talk given by Arthur Vidich honoring Nels Anderson:

Nels Anderson

by

Arthur J. Vidich

We know that Nels Anderson's study entitled The Hobo: The Sociology of the Homeless Man, published as Vol. I of the Sociological Series of the University of Chicago in 1923 was based in part on his personal experience of the hobo world.

Nels Anderson's research adviser was Ernest W. Burgess. From Burgess' point of view, the study of the hobo was part of a larger project involving the development of a sociology of the city as exemplified by Chicago in the 1920's and 1930's. The Hobo was not only the first of many University of Chicago special studies but also one of the most enduring, having been republished in a Phoenix edition in 1961.

Nels Anderson knew life in the bummery at first hand. He was a migratory worker in the frontier west for more than ten years, during which he lived in the world of the hobo, tramp, bum, gandy-dancer, skinner, bridge snake, jungle buzzard, panhandler, notch house and shanty queen. It was a world that he has neither idealized nor morally rejected, but reported as an observer who understood that the hobo was an essential part of the frontier labor market; only later and not by Anderson has the frontier been romanticized. The authenticity and durability of his study rests much less on the interviewing he did in the Madison Street area of Chicago than on his earlier experiences in life.

While Nels Anderson rightfully continues to be known for his book The Hobo, it was only the first of dozens of articles, studies, monographs, and books that he continued to write in a career that for the most part was not connected to the university system or to professional sociology in the United States.

His latest book, as far as I know, is his autobiography, The American Hobo published four years ago in 1975 when he was 86 years old. While writing these books, Nels Anderson also:

1. During the 1920's worked in Chicago for the Home for the Incurables and the Juvenile Protective Association, participate in the Hobo College and was associated with the Municipal Lodging House.
2. During the great economic depression of the 1930's he worked in Albany, New York for then Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins.
3. During World War II he worked for the War Shipping Administration in programs related to the training and supervision of Merchant Seamen, and travelled to Iran, India, Egypt, Panama, and Australia.
4. During the early 'fifties he remained in Germany where he reorganized trade unions and conducted and reported research.
5. He retired from Government Service in 1953, twenty-six years ago.
6. After he retired he was appointed Director of Research for

the Social Science Research Institute established by UNESCO in Cologne where he remained for nine more years, showing some signs of age by settling down for almost a decade.

7. But nine years was enough and in 1962 he went on a lecture tour to Sweden, Australia and India, and in 1964 accepted a position as Visiting Professor and Head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at Memorial University in Newfoundland where he remained for two years, leaving in 1966 to accept a position as Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick where he still holds a position as Honorary Research Associate.

He had always wanted to be a teacher but this goal eluded him until the age of 75 when he went to Memorial University and then to the University of New Brunswick. As he puts it, "The goal of my dreams forty years earlier was not reached until ten years after entering active retirement. I cannot recall ever having dull jobs, or ever having a more satisfying one than in the professor's chair, which truly is a little large."

Those of us who have had occasion to reflect on our own intellectual development or who have examined the intellectual careers of others have noted that many of our ideas and our general intellectual outlook on the world were present in incipient form in our earliest work. We have also noted that our first problem and efforts to resolve it resulted in the raising of new problems, so that our initial point of entry into the sociological enterprise has had a determining effect on all our subsequent work.

Now if we apply these observations to the life-work of Nels Anderson, two questions are raised automatically:

1. Of what significance to his work and to his life is the fact that his original sociological curiosity was stimulated by the problem of the hobo?
2. How did the specific problem of the hobo lead him into other problems? What are these problems and what is their significance for the sociology of the community in the modern industrial world?

Nels Anderson has had a parapetetic career. When he arrived at the University of Chicago in 1921 his family had already moved him around the West for ten years. He had been a hobo for another ten years and had participated as a soldier in World War I. While passing through Utah on his way to Panama where he hoped to find work, he found himself in a small, frontier Mormon settlement where he met Lamond Woods, Lamond Woods' family, and Grandfather Woods, who encouraged him to finish high school and college at the Brigham Young Academy and Brigham Young University. But after his experience with the Mormons and after acquiring an education, he abandoned the migratory frontier labor force and became a migratory intellectual worker, an intellectual hobo, who has spent the rest of his life moving from place to place wherever his work has called him. Clearly we cannot understand Nels Anderson's life and work unless we first understand what we mean when we talk about the hobo.

The hobo maintains his sense of personal worth and dignity within the framework of a work ethic which places the highest value on working for one's keep. It does not matter how lowly or how refined

and elevated the work may be. Nor need there be a strict calculation between the amount of work performed and the rewards received for the work: hobos were known to work in excess of the value of a meal that was their pay. But when the hobo works, he is working to get what he wants when he needs it and he is not particularly concerned what benefits others may receive from his labor.

The hobo does not rationally calculate the difference in value between labor expended and market reward. He is essentially working for himself and does not care what anybody else makes off his work so long as he is paid: he separates his ideology of work from an ideology of profits and acquisitiveness. His willingness to work in excess of direct rewards and apart from accumulation, reverses the philanthropic relationship that exists between the bum and society. The hobo can give to society more than he receives and asks for nothing in return, except a means of survival on his own terms, thereby preempting the role of philanthropist. In terms of ethics this is a Protestant work ethic which has separated itself from the spirit of capitalism and Calvinism and now justifies itself in terms of itself. One works in relation to oneself and lives by and off the strength of ones personal character.

Nels Anderson has supplied us in his intellectual work and in his life with an example of the power of the hobo as a social character. The hobo's attributes result in his working for society without regard to either the costs to himself or the relationship of rewards to effort expended; his standard of reward is his own. As Nels Anderson put it, "I cannot ever recall having dull jobs." Under this ideology, since work is its own reward, it does not matter too much what the work is or where it is carried out. Seen in this light the hobo is a heroic figure, a secular missionary of work, making his contribution according to his own conscience in the kingdom of world society.

It is not an accident that Nels Anderson's practical and intellectual endeavors have consistently focused on problems of work, unemployment, leisure, the family, housing and the modern industrial community. In fact the life-long consistency of these practical and intellectual pursuits is matched only by the consistency with which he, like the hobo, has refused to stay put in any place for any length of time. It seems to me, however, that his interests in unemployment, leisure, the family and the industrial community all are derivatives of a focus on work as the organizing principle of his life.

Throughout his life Nels Anderson has concerned himself with the problem of community in urban industrial society. But it is an anomaly of his life that while he was vitally concerned with the associations and communities characteristic of urban life, he himself did not commit himself to a fixed place of residence or a community. He chose instead to be the wanderer and sojourner. Of course, his wanderings are consistent with those of the hobo, but by expanding the scope and geographical terrain over which he moved, he came to embrace the world and make it the stage for his life. Anyone who takes seriously the Christian doctrine of brotherhood could not do otherwise. In Anderson's secularized version, the doctrine would be phrased something like this: 'We do our work and find our community wherever we can find a job, and, no matter how transient this may make us, we do not take advantage of those whom we may know for only a day and never see again because we cannot live with ourselves under an ethic of instrumental rationality.' Under this secularized version of salvation, all of us are but transient sojourners in a world which demands that we supply for ourselves our own

justification according to our own consciences. Such a social and psychological foundation for a world community may be difficult for many to accept because it transcends nationalism, regionalism, local pride, xenophobia, and ethnocentrism of all other varieties. It removes from the members of the local and national community the status props, the sense of superiority and the complacent sense of well being that derives from knowing that we live in the best of all possible worlds. It is therefore a style of life that is not easy to emulate and leaves those who choose to live it with little affirmation, support and recognition from the rest of the world. Such a life would be a lonely one except for the fact that its attitude of self-fulfillment through work is its own source of gratification. The life of Nels Anderson is a tribute to the calling of the hobo in a world which otherwise has forfeited its individualism by too easily submitting to group constraints, codes of self-interested professionalism, and instrumental rationality.

The Community Section of the American Sociological Association is deeply honored, Nels Anderson, to know that you are willing to interrupt your work to be with us today to accept our award. We would have given it to you much sooner, but did not do so because we did not want to interrupt you with ceremonial and honorific proceedings that you might regard as a waste of time. While I am sure you would not reject a monetary award, even though you now have a job, the Community Section lacks funds for such an award. The award we give you is, in the most profound sense, our recognition of your life as an example to which all of us can aspire.

Persons wishing a copy of the entire talk can write to Arthur Vidich, New School for Social Research, New York, New York 10003.

News Notes

Nominations for the second annual Community Award are now being accepted. The Community Award, given to an outstanding scholar who has contributed significantly to our understanding of community, will be made at the 1980 meeting. Please send your nominations to Jacqueline Scherer, Department of Sociology, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan 48063, or to Barry Wellman of the University of Toronto, or to David Popenoe of Rutgers.

Third Annual Conference on the Small City and Regional Community at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, March 27-28, 1980. Purpose is to combine research and practice in dealing with multi-dimensional aspects of life in small cities. Proceedings will be published in Volume III. Contact Robert P. Wolensky or Edward J. Miller, Fourth Floor Collins Building, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, Wisconsin 54481.

Professor Luis Escovar, Florida International University, Miami, Florida, 33199, writes, "The Interamerican Society of Psychology, during its recent Congress in Lima, Peru, created a Task Force on Community Psychology. One of the goals of the Task Force is to increase communication between Community Psychologists and interested professionals in the United States and in Latin America. I would greatly appreciate your

helping us achieve that goal by disseminating news about the creation of the Task Force and its activities."

Professor Joseph Blasi, Center for Jewish Studies, Harvard University, writes, "I would like to inform you of the expansion and changes of our project here at Harvard, The Project for Kibbutz Studies. We have received a new grant and will be able to continue our project for at least another five years." Persons interested in detailed information on the project may write him directly.

New Bibliography and Course Outline Edition

The 1976 edition of Community and Urban Community: A Bibliography and Course Outlines, is currently being revised and will appear in mid-1980. Persons interested in contributing updated reading lists, course outlines for courses in Community Sociology or Urban Sociology (graduate and undergraduate) and course syllabi should send them to Philip Olson, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri 64110. We have been asked recently by ASA Teaching Resource Center director to list this teaching resource with them as a means of expanding its distribution beyond membership of the Community Section.

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Community Section of the ASA

The Council Meeting of the Community Section, American Sociological Association, was called to order at 4:40 p.m., Wednesday, August 29, 1979. Present: Charles Bonjean, George Hillery, Jack Kasarda, David Popenoe, Jaqueline Scherer, Art Vidich, Barry Wellman, Lynne Zucker, and Sylvia Fava, Chair.

The minutes of the 1978 Council meeting were read and approved.

The report was heard from the Election Committee. Those counting the ballots were James Michaels, Larry Mullins, Mark Wardell, and George Hillery, Chair, all of Virginia Tech. The two nominees receiving the most votes for Council members were David Popenoe and Sandra Schoenberg. There were 22 write-in votes, two being cast for the same person. In all, there were 287 ballots cast.

New appointees to the Newsletter committee are Art Anderson, Joe Galaskiewicz, Ed Laumann, Darrell Masters, and Chris Wyatt. Phil Olson said that he needs more input from the Pacific, Northwest, and Southwest Regions, and from Canada.

The Community Section directory was made possible by assistance from Chuck Bonjean and has already proved very useful. Hearty thanks were extended to Professor Bonjean. If a new directory is again published, telephone numbers would be useful.

The tours that were organized of the city of Boston this year attracted many persons. Peter Langer from Boston University was the director. The success of these tours resulted in proposing a similar venture for the New York meetings next year.

The report of the Ad Hoc Awards Committee, chaired by Art Vidich, was presented. Chuck Bonjean moved acceptance, Jaqueline Scherer seconded. The report was accepted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes. It was resolved that Nels Anderson should receive the first Annual Community Section Award. Jack Kasarda moved acceptance of the resolution, Chuck Bonjean seconded. The motion passed. Jaqueline Scherer is to chair the Special Awards Committee next year.

A report was heard from the Committee on Current Research, Michael Grimes, Chair. It was decided that the material that had been collected was too old, and the idea of printing a directory of current research was dropped. Individual current items can be used for the Newsletter.

New Business: The Program Committee Chair for the 1980 meetings in New York City is Arthur Vidich. He mentioned that among the many useful features of this year's program, he wanted especially to keep the Roundtables.

Committee on Nominations: Beth Huttman, Chair. Irwin Sanders is a member ex-officio; other members to be named.

Liaison Committee: Jon Van Til, Chair.

A report was made concerning the meeting of the Board of Sections, which met August 27, 1979. Present at that meeting were Sylvia Fava, Arthur Vidich, and George Hillery. A Chair of Section Chairs was elected as well as a representative to the ASA Council subcommittee on Sections. Sheldon Stryker was elected interim pro tem for both positions. Each section will have one vote on the Board of Sections. ASA subcommittee on Sections will have as one task rewriting the Section Handbook. Various issues were brought up, including control of the number of Program sessions for Sections. For the 1980 meetings the ASA Council has already allocated sessions proportional to the number of members in a Section.

The question was asked, should we have a rule where one has to be a section member to participate in a Section session? No action was taken. The question was brought up, whether we should have a Membership Committee. The consensus was that we should not.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

- Respectfully submitted, George A. Hillery, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer

M E M O R A N D U M

July 16, 1979

To: Sylvia Fava, Chairperson, Community Section, A.S.A.

From: Arthur J. Vidich (Chairperson), Darrel Montero, Charles Simpson (Awards Committee, Community Section).

The Awards Committee proposes that the following resolutions be placed on the agenda of the Business Meeting of the Community Section.

I. Be it resolved:

- 1) That the Community Section Annual Award be presented for distinguished scholarship, service or teaching in the area of sociological studies of communities.
- 2) That the Section chairperson appoint a chairperson and two members of the Awards Committee.
- 3) That any member of the Section may nominate candidates for the Award.
- 4) That nominations will be closed on April 1 of the year in which the award is to be given.
- 5) That the award will be presented at the annual Business Meeting of the Section.

II. Be it resolved that the recommendation of the Awards Committee to present the first Annual Community Section Award to Nels Anderson be accepted.

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Community Section of the ASA

The Business Meeting of the Community Section, American Sociological Association, was called to order at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 29, 1979. Sylvia Fava, Chair, introduced the Officers of the Section, almost all of whom were present: Chair-Elect, Arthur Vidich; Past-Chair, Charles Bonjean; Secretary-Treasurer, George Hillery, Jr.; Council members Richard C. Hill, Barry Wellman, Jacqueline Scherer, Lynne Zucher; Outgoing Council members Albert Hunter and Jack Kasarda; Philip Olson, Newsletter Editor, Ex-Officio Council member. Approval of the minutes of the business meeting of 1978 was moved, seconded, and passed.

Sylvia Fava then thanked the Program Committee, headed by Larry Lyons, and the Nominations Committee, headed by Irwin Sanders, for the excellent work they had done during the year. David Ponenoe and Sandra Schoenberg have been elected as new members of the Council.

It was noted that the Newsletter needs more input from the North, Central, Southwestern, and Pacific Regions and from Canada. It was also noted that the new Section Membership Directory is available.

Peter Langer of Boston University conducted several tours of Boston, which were very favorably received, and he was thanked by the Chair for starting what we hope will become a regular practice of the Section.

The report from the Ad Hoc Special Awards Committee, chaired by Arthur Vidich, was received and approved. Jaqueline Scherer was appointed chair of the Special Awards Committee for next year.

The Research Inventory, Michael Grimes as Chair, was not able to proceed this year because the material was too dated.

Under new business, it was announced that the meetings in 1980 will be in New York City, August 27-31 (Wednesday through Sunday). The meetings of the Community Section will be held on Saturday. Arthur Vidich will Chair the Program Committee; Elizabeth Huttman will Chair the Nominations Committee. The Liaison Committee is to be chaired by Jon Van Til.

The Chair reminded members that Section dues are to be increased from \$3 to \$5 by a decision of the ASA Council. The Chair reported on the August 27 meeting with the ASA standing subcommittee on Sections and the Chairs of all Sections. A Chair of Chairs elected from the sections will be serving on that committee. Sheldon Stryker has been elected chair pro-tem for the coming year. This Subcommittee has been given the task of rewriting the handbook on sections. For 1980, under the ASA formula for allocation by number of members, the Community Section will, by happenstance, keep the same number of program slots as allocated in 1979, namely three. A question was asked from a member about what happens to the money paid for Section dues. The Chair pointed out that the Section received no funds directly from ASA. The Section does receive program meeting rooms at the hotel and the newsletter is printed and mailed to members through the ASA office.

The first Annual Award for the Community Section was presented to Nels Anderson for distinguished scholarship. He was introduced by Arthur Vidich, who presented a sociological analysis of his life and work as it related to his book, The Hobo.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. and was followed by a reception for Professor Anderson.

Respectfully submitted, George A. Hillery, Jr..
Secretary-Treasurer