HALF-PALINDROMIC WORDS

MARK SALTVEIT
San Francisco, California

I have never understood all of the interest in finding palindromic words. It requires no imagination; they just sit there in front of the reader, like a large gold nugget on the sidewalk. And, like gold nuggets, all but the most hidden and obscure ones have long since been grabbed.

Furthermore, the sentence palindrome is the gold standard of this strange obsession, and palindromic words inevitably fail.

But half-palindromic words (words that contain the other half of a sentence palindrome, in reverse, and nothing more), now there's an interesting topic. They are just as naturally occurring as palindromic words. They form meaningful palindromes. And, best of all, of all have even tried looking for them.

Three half-palindromic words have been seen, unrecognized, in well-known palindromes: honeydew ("we dye no honeydew"), prison ("no, sir: prison") and Maharajah ("Maharajah, a jar! A ham!"). A near-miss: religion ("No, I - Gil - err: religion"), but an R must be added to form the palindrome. We will ignore such near-misses, since so many exist that require nothing to be added or subtracted.

Dentist: "Sit, Ned"
Dermatology? Go lot, am red
Matinees? Seen it (A.M.)
So many dynamos!
Dental liar Ed
Despot tops Ed
Rot a noted detonator

The following half-palindromic words seem to encourage questions, but somehow the answer is always "no".

Tradition? No, I dart
Navigation? No, I tag Ivan
Narration? No, I tar, ran
Denotation? No, it atoned
Detraction? No, it carted
No, I sired derision
No, I tax if fixation
No, I tail if filiation

No, I tan; I cull a hallucination
No, it - a nation
No, it - age negation
No, it - a noted detonation
No, it - legal flagellation!
Substitution? "No," I tut, "its bus!"
Subrogation? No, I tag orb, us
Denomination? No, I tan (I'm on Ed)

Copyright 1994 Mark Saltveit. Permission granted to Word Ways for unlimited use in that magazine.

KICKSHAWS

DAVID MORIOTI
Iowa City, Iowa

Readers are urged to send materials, and solutions to the problems, to appear on The First.

On The First

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" is the most frequently sung Christmas song and they could have been love gaven to everyone in a pear tree and a partridge in a pear tree, three plus the twelve days. 10, 15, 21, etc., etc., is the secret: one for each day of the Christmas season.

Tom Pulliam

I was very busy, but I had passed and valued them. After I begin, one of the first.

Since then, I feel good for the letter got a letter. I received an extension to the challenge and tackled it with anticipation.

"In every challenge that appears, people look for a long while, and one day while he was looking...

His letter explained that Kickshe was, who would inevitably have to reveal his reasons...

"I decided to...

upon you by