THE NAME IS THE GAME

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• Al Gore’s name spoonerized is “galore” which turns out to be a clever Al Gore rhythm. This year Republicans are experiencing Al Gore-aphobia, but are hoping to Bush whack the opposition. George Bush’s name anagrammed becomes “He bugs Gore,” and, adding the W, “He grew bogus” which I realize you may interpret as a Bush League prey on words. Switching first letters of the candidates’ last names, we discover that one will gush and the other will bore. Looks like we’re in for a Gore-Tex campaign— I hope it doesn’t leak. I predict that at the end of the campaign Gore will be bushed and Bush will be gored. Then we’ll either have four Gore years or rule by a son of a Bush.

• Has Elvis Presley achieved immortality because “Elvis lives” is an anagram of itself?
• The first name of the man who tried to put Kuwait between Iraq and a hard place reposes in the following palindromic statement: “Drat Saddam, a mad dastard!”
• If Ella Fitzgerald married Darth Vader, she’d be Ella Vader. If Rosemary De Camp married William Kunsler, she’d be Rosemary De Camp Kunsler.
• H. Rider was Haggard, but Thomas was Hardy. Oscar was Wilde, but Thornton was Wilder. Dame May was Whitty, but John Greenleaf was Whittier.

My name happens to anagram into “Riddler Reacher,” and today I’m asking you to reach for the answers to some riddling puns. The incorrigible punster (please don’t incorrige!) can’t help but notice that some people have first or last names that sound like lower-case words, such as Ulysses Grant, Oliver Sachs, and Iris Murdoch. Special fun lurks in those people who possess both first and last names that sound lie lower-case words. One might call Doug Flutie a “buried flautist,” Johnny Cash “coins collected from a pay toilet”, Norman Mailer a “French postman,” and Lionel Hampton a “train to a fashionable suburb.” The game for today focuses on movie stars whose names are doubly blessed, such as “scarlet clothing fasteners” for Red Buttons. From the punny clues below, give the name of each movie star. (The answers are in alphabetical order by star surname.)

1 Christmas fruit 2 boyfriend spans 3 toilet confection 4 transport the workout space 5 car pursuit 6 valley nearby 7 Christmas scaredy cat 8 steal the blackbird 9 male cat on a ship trip 10 male goat quartz 11 toilet crane 12 tiny car operator 13 Egyptian ruler’s spigot 14 toilet meadows 15 transport the scholarship 16 chromosome slicer 17 talkative fog 18 cabin in the sky 19 what fishermen live on 20 stony automobile 21 pop-top collector 22 jewel bargeman 23 steal from the bottom 24 thoughtful conquerer 25 she wagers modestly 26 unpedigreed male alley cat 27 toilet agony 28 nail fruit 29 stream protectors 30 crimson bones 31 tear ripped 32 solder after Monday 33 crazier chromosome 34 coldest season at beach 35 tastefully attired forest