

COLLOQUY

JEFF GRANT remarks:

Following Darryl's Hidden States article in the November 2016 issue of Word Ways, Jeff Grant has several comments. He notes that HOODIA (hiding the two state names IDAHO and OHIO) is in *Collins English Dictionary* (12th edition, 2014), so there is no need to reference *A Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Ferns*. HOODIA is also currently an allowable Scrabble word, listed in *Collins Official Scrabble Words*.

Jeff also notes that the three state names IDAHO, IOWA and OHIO can be spelled out from HAIRWOOD, which is in Webster's Second Edition as a variant spelling of 'harewood', a type of wood from a tropical American tree. HAIRWOOD is a one-letter improvement on Darryl's GAWKIHOO. Also, HAIRWOOD and 'harewood' are both in *The Oxford English Dictionary*.

Further, Jeff notes that IDAHO, IOWA and OHIO can be found in the surname of British motorcycling legend Mike HAILWOOD, which exists on numerous websites. Also, there is WAIFHOOD (the state of being a waif), which appears in many written references. Although this word doesn't seem to be listed in any dictionary, it can be found in various books. Here are two examples from Google Books. Elizabeth Dewing Kaup's 1909 book *Other People's Houses* has "Lightheadedness was the disadvantage of complete waifhood, and it occasionally verged on dizziness." WAIFHOOD also appears in the much more recent 1995 book *Look at My Ugly Face*, by Sara Halprin: "Supposedly showcasing 'natural thinness' and a realistic depiction of teenage waifhood, these photographs depict a very, very thin young woman ..."

For a minimum length 7-letter word encompassing these three states (IDAHO, IOWA and OHIO), HAIWOOD is apparently a male given name and a surname, probably a variant of 'Haywood' (again, this spelling can be found on various websites).

And finally, there is a WAIOHO Stream in New Zealand (various websites), which transposes IOWA in the first 4 letters and OHIO in the last 4.

ALAN FRANK notes:

I have been reading the latest issue of WW, which just arrived. The vowelless words article (arriving, apparently, from Neil in Sterile Parthia) is challenging, but enjoyable. Where he states that earlier alphabets got by without [vowels], he should be using the term "abugida" instead of "alphabet." Are you familiar with Robert Bloch's story, *The World-Timer*, which features a society who do not use vowels in writing?

At the end of the Etaoin Shrdlu article is a comment on dense words. There is a place called *Zzyzx*, with weight 25.4, in California. See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zzyzx> for more information, as well as some links to other dense terms of less legitimacy.

The New York Times ran on December 18 a "Super Mega Contest: where readers were asked to start by solving a 50 x 50 crossword by Frank Longo and edited by Will Shortz. The contest was to arrange 8 unclued answers into a particular order and sound them out to form approximately a familiar phrase and submit the phrase to the NYT. 55 winners would randomly be selected. The 8 words were NESS, VENT, HISSED, UDDER, ACITY, DUMB, SHUN and ROUGHEN. The correct answer your editor sent in is found in Answers and Solutions.