KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws editor at drABC26@aol.com. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

A NUMERICAL INCIDENT

Ray Love came up with this number-related sequence that he wrote a number of years ago:

The farmer found himself behind the 8 ball
after drinking a 7 UP
and a 6-pack of beer,
and then cussing out the 5-star general
for milking his 4-udder cow
on a 3-legged stool
more than 2 times
in 1 day.

WHEN WORDS FAIL US

In the following list, Ray places words in contrast to each other. Some pairs of words exist, and others don't.

There's Father Time but no Mother Time.
There's Mother Nature but no Father Nature.
But we have fatherland and motherland.

There's soft-shoe but no hard-shoe.
There's hard-nosed but no soft-nosed.
But there's soft-boiled and hard-boiled.

There's a First Lady but no Second Lady
There's a second fiddle but no first fiddle.
But we have first class and second class.

There's a hatband but no coatband.
There's a coat hanger but no hat hanger.
But there's both a hatrack and a coatrack.

There is a right angle but no left angle.
There are leftovers but no rightovers.
But there are right wingers and left wingers.
There is a bottom-feeder but no top-feeder.
There is a top dog but no bottom dog.
But we have a top dollar and a bottom dollar.

There is saltpeter but no pepperpeter.
There is pepper spray but no salt spray.
But we have a salt shaker and a pepper shaker.

Ray notes that it is “Interesting in that you can sun yourself and moon others, but you can't sun others and moon yourself.”

POLICE COMMENTS

Rich Kohl forwarded the following Police Comments taken off actual police car videos around the country:

16 'You know, stop lights don't come any redder than the one you just went through.'
15 'Relax, the handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch after you wear them a while'
14 'If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document.'
13 'If you run, you'll only go to jail tired.'
12 'Can you run faster than 1200 feet per second? Because that's the speed of the bullet that'll be chasing you.'
11 'You don't know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket, huh?'
10 'Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I'm the shift supervisor?'
9 'Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket.'
8 'The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or a dog?'
7 'Fair? You want me to be fair? Listen, fair is a place where you go to ride on rides, eat cotton candy and corn dogs and step in monkey poop.'
6 'Yeah, we have a quota. Two more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven.'
5 'In God we trust, all others we run through NCIC.'
4 'How big were those 'two beers' you say you had?'
3 'No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we can.'
2 'I'm glad to hear that the Chief (of Police) is a personal friend of yours. So you know someone who can post your bail.'

AND THE WINNER IS....

1 'You didn't think we give pretty women tickets? You're right, we don't. Sign here

A UNI-VERSE OF LANGUAGE

“The most universally confused pair of verbs in English are lay and lie,” Rich Lederer tells us. “When the Enron Corporation scandal broke in early 2002 and I noted the last name of
the disgraced CEO (Ken Lay), a little quatrain immediately knocked on the door of my imagination and said, ‘Write me!’

**Take the Money Enron**

The difference between lie and lay  
Has fallen into deep decay.  
But now we know from Enron’s shame  
That Lay and lie are just the same.

“Have you heard the woman who asked a Boston cab driver where she could get scrod? ‘I didn’t know that the verb had that past tense,’ muttered the cabbie. Because the past tenses of verbs in our language cause so many of us to become tense, I’ve written a poem about the insanity:

**A Tense Time with Verbs**

The verbs in English are a fright.  
How can we learn to read and write?  
Today we speak, but first we spoke;  
Some faucets leak, but never loke.  
Today we write, but first we wrote;  
We bite our tongues, but never bote.

Each day I teach, for years I taught,  
And preachers preach, but never praught.  
This tale I tell; this tale I told;  
I smell the flowers, but never smold.

If knights still slay, as once they slew,  
Then do we play, as once we plew?  
If I still do as once I did,  
Then do cows moo, as they once mid?

I love to win, and games I’ve won;  
I seldom sin, and never son.  
I hate to lose, and games I lost;  
I didn't choose, and never chost.

I love to sing, and songs I sang;  
I fling a ball, but never flang.  
I strike that ball, that ball I struck;  
This poem I like, but never luck.

I take a break, a break I took;  
I bake a cake, but never book.
I eat that cake, that cake I ate;
I beat an egg, but never bate.

I often swim, as I once swam;
I skim some milk, but never skim.
I fly a kite that I once flew;
I tie a knot, but never tew.

I see the truth, the truth I saw;
I flee from falsehood, never flaw.
I stand for truth, as I once stood;
I land a fish, but never lood.

About these verbs I sit and think.
These verbs don't fit. They seem to wink
At me, who sat for years and thought
Of verbs that never fat or wought.

**CHURCH BULLETINS**

The next collection of sentences, including bloopers, appear in church bulletins or were announced in church services. God laughed at them. Now you can. They were collected by Helmut Bracke.

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on the Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to
our choir practise.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

 Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

 Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

 The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

 Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

 The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

 This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

 Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

 The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

 Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

 The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

 Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

 The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours."

 **HUMBUG, LIAR**

 This is a correction from the previous Kickshaws. Ross Eckler pointed out that “Ten of the twelve letters in the name of Rush Limbaugh, well-known conservative talk-show host, can be rearranged to form the words HUMBUG and LIAR, leaving only SH. There can't be many US citizens with letters in their names forming these two words, and likely none that have two or fewer extraneous letters. Any candidates? (I doubt that Rush would be willing to explore the subject in his radio broadcast, asking his listeners to discover a more parsimonious one.)"
KAY JEWELERS ALPHABET

Ray noticed that Kay Jewelers airs a commercial on radio and TV with the slogan: "Every Kiss Begins with Kay." He came up with a few using other letters, starting off one about a late-night comic: "Every Joke begins with Jay."

   Every Buzz begins with Bee.
   Every Golly begins with Gee.
   Every Pod begins with Pea.
   Every Truffle begins with Tea.

Can readers find examples for the rest of the alphabet. My contribution is "Every Piss begins with Pee."

VIAGRA POEM

Ray sends a poem in celebration of that medical discovery of the age, Viagra.

   I've never been one to boast
   Or raise my glass in a toast.
   I stay on the side and coast.

   But my love life has changed direction.
   No more is there female rejection:
   I'm sporting a 4-hour erection!

INVESTMENT TIPS FOR 2008

Ray offers some financial wisdom below. As he writes: "I'm sure you have seen these before and have probably used them in a previous Kickshaws so I am just sending them as your day brightener. I have seen most of them before." [I haven't seen any of them before, which may be why I'm not a millionaire, or even a thousandaire. I can't wait to put this valuable information into action on my portfolio. Take it away, Ray!—DM].

"For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks. Watch for these consolidations in 2008.


3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: MMM Good.

4. Zippo Manufacturing, AudiMotors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become:
   ZipAudiDoDa.

5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become:
   FedUP.
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.

7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: PouponPants.

8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: Knott NOW!

“And finally....”


TOURIST MOTTOS AND SLOGANS FROM A WASHINGTON POST CONTEST

Ray Love suggests that readers take up another Washington Post word challenge. The object is to create mottos or slogans for countries. In the list below, the last 20 are by Ray.

The winner. England: Lie back and think of us.

Runners-up:
USA: We make the world a warmer place.
France: Visit, if you must. (Sigh.)

Others:
Austria: No kangaroos.
Bermuda: Come lose yourself.
Burkina Faso: Not your father's Upper Volta.

We need no signs
Nor shaving cream
Nor your dissent
For our regime
Burma.

China: Come visit your money.
Germany: It is not necessary to have a humorous slogan.
Germany: Genocide-free since 1945.
Greenland: Site of the 2060 Summer Olympics.
India: For more information press 1.
Iran: We're gonna party like it's 999.
Iran: World's largest non-American theocracy.
Come visit Liechtenstein, just don't all come at once.
Mexico: A little less crowded every day.
Monaco: Disneyland for adults, and almost twice as large.
Myanmar: We liked "Burma" better too, but these new guys have guns.
Norway: Just a little to the left of Sweden.
Pakistan: Heir today, gone tomorrow.
Qatar: Wish U were here.
Tibet: Doormat to China.
New Examples by Ray:

Chad: Come hang with us.
Venezuela: More than just another barrel of oil.
Venezuela: More fun than a barrel of oil.
Tibet: The closest to Heaven you can get.
Iran: Try us... and you won't go home.
Iran: A crossword puzzle constructor's best friend.
Spain: No Spain, no gain.
Italy: Our geography is our history.
China: Come see where your toys are made.
Japan: Come see where your Toyotas are made.
Togo: The place to go.
Djibouti: We complete the expression, "You bet...".
Czechoslovakia: We're a mouthful and we know it.
Ivory Coast: So clean we're named after two soaps.
Mexico: Last one out close the door.
Poland: The place to visit - no joke.
Hungary, Greece, Turkey, Cook Islands: A meal in itself.
England: We'll show you a BIG TIME.
Liechtenstein: Just another easy name to spell.
Niger: Not quite Nigeria.
Brazil: Come to play, come to stray.

ANOTHER WASHINGTON POST WORD CONTEST, AND MORE

Jeff Grant says: “The February 'Word Ways' arrived shortly after your last email. I've just
finished reading Kickshaws - VERY entertaining! It was nice to see a few of my items there too,
including the belated festschrift stuff. Glad you were able to resurrect most of the stuff lost in
your virus crash. It must have been extremely frustrating. Anyway, to more pleasant things, I
particularly enjoyed the 'Mo' Urban Dictionary' definitions, 'Top Ten Country Songs...' and
'Washington Post Word Contest Results'. This can be addictive! Here are a few of my efforts:

Alesmanship: The art of beer drinking.
Lleyway: A narrow Welsh street.
Oxtrot: A clumsy dance.
Otherfucker: an unfaithful spouse (don't expect you to use this one!)

I told the editor of our Scrabble mag (Jennifer Smith) about the contest and she came up with:

Harmacology: The study of victims.
Himsical: Talking about a boyfriend ad nauseam.
Hiplash: An injury sustained performing hip-hop.
Overcraft: hobby burnout.
Talemate: An accomplice who provides a false alibi.
Wo-piece: A bikini that stops traffic.
BIRDBRAIN

Jeff adds: “I recently read More of the World’s Best E-mails, compiled by Geoff Young (2000). It’s a collection of jokes, stories (some true), anecdotes, etc. that have done the rounds on the Internet. I’d seen most of them before, but not the following news item which really appeals to me."

The inscription on the metal bands used by the US Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated ‘Wash. Biol. Surv.’, until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper.

‘Dear Sirs: While camping last week, I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible.’

The bands are now marked ‘Fish and Wildlife Service.’”

WATTS TWEED

Bill Brandt put together a story using geographical location names to create the dialog. Previously he has used people’s names in the same fashion. He notes that “This turned out to be more difficult than I expected; consequently, the story is not very long. It is a conversation between two people about having something to eat.”

John: Hawaii?
Andy: Siam Ahwaz Hungary. Nome Seine?
John: Tijuana Cayman Arhus Tweed?
   Yukon Havre Sweden Saar Chili.
   Aachen Havre Turkey.
   Denver Troy Samoa Aix.
Andy: Dax Nice.
   Jamaica Pisa? Juneau Howe?
John: Corsican
   Annapolis Gouda Tweed.
Andy: Minneapolis Arno Subic.
   Jaffa Champagne?
John: Eitz Argonne.
Andy: Sarasota?
   Havana Minnesota?
John: Armageddon Samar.
   Kenya Havre Cocoa?
Andy: Venice Sweden Hutt.
John: Wien Verdun
   Danube Moscow Horns.
Andy: Ibadan Eton.
John: Abyssinia.

BEATLERICKS

Ove Michaelson wrote a pair of limericks forming a single work titled “On John Lennon and The Beatles”: 
No one I think's in my tree.
The concepts I owe LSD.
Suppose what I'd do
If I try sniffing glue,
Or perhaps I should just Let It Be.

On the Let It Be alternate takes,
The band seemed like stoners and flakes.
While Ringo played drunk,
Long John was on junk,
Discontented with Paul on the breaks.

SOMEBODY HEARD SOMEBODY’S SONG WRONG

Ove Michaelsen shows us some of the songs that may have sounded funnier when we didn’t quite
know the words: “Many of the most amusing mondegreens are of lyrics in popular songs. From the
mid to late 1990s, Gavin Edwards, London correspondent for Details magazine, had compiled several
books on mishearings of song lyrics, which included a number of the samples here.

“She got the waist movement” or “She got the westward movement” [She got the way to move me].
—“Cherry Cherry”

“You hardly talk to me anymore, when I kung fu the door at the end of the day” [“...when I come
through the door at the end of the day”] —“You Don’t Send Me Flowers” (the version recorded by
Neil Diamond and Barbra Streisand)

“...when I wore a young woman’s clothes [...]a younger man’s clothes]” —Billy Joel’s “Piano Man”

“Who put ham and eggs on you?” [Who could hang a name on you?]
—from “Ruby Tuesday” by the Rolling Stones

“Help me, Rhonda, help me get her out of my car” [...help me get her out of my heart].
—“Help Me, Ronda,” by The Beach Boys

"Went to a dance, looking for my pants” [Went to a dance, looking for romance]
—"Barbara Ann" by The Beach Boys

“Form a line—love isn’t always on time” [Hold the line...]

“I’ve got a backache from loving you” [I’ve got a bad case of loving you].

"You give me clothes for love that I can't hide." [You give me cause for love that I can't hide.]”
—"I Walk the Line" by Johnny Cash

“Far between sundown’s finish and ‘midnight’s broken toe’” [and midnight’s broken toll]
—Bob Dylan’s “Chimes of Freedom”

“She’s a muscular boy” [She’s a must to avoid] —“A Must To Avoid” by Herman’s Hermits

“Take your pants off and make it happen.” [Take your passion and make it happen.] —Irene Cara’s
“Flashdance” (What A Feeling)
“Just brush your teeth before you leave me” (“Just brush my cheek before you leave me”).
—“Angel of the Morning,” written by John Voigt’s brother and Angelina Joley’s uncle, Chip Taylor (Jon Carroll, April 14, 1997)

“I just dropped in to see what condition my physician was in” (“...to see what condition my condition was in”). —Mickey Newbury, recorded by Kenny Rogers and the First Edition —Jon Carroll, April 15, 1997

“Today I passed out on the street, and my head fell at your feet” [Today I passed you on the street, and my heart fell at your feet] —“I Can’t Help It” (If I’m Still in Love with You) by Hank Williams, Senior

An Ohioan sent an angry e-mail message to the country band the Dixie Chicks after mishearing the line “She knows the high stakes” in their song “Wide Open Spaces” as “She knows Ohio stinks.” (A PBS reporter, who might not have had adequate time to research their music, referred to the band as the “Dixie Tricks.”)

An almost commonly misheard word in a song of the 20th century was Irving Berlin’s “God Bless America”:

Stand beside her, and guide her
Through the night with a light from a bulb.

THE MOST MISHEARD LYRIC?

In the 1970s, disc jockeys were flooded by phone calls from listeners requesting the correct lyrics to a line in Manfred Mann’s version of the Bruce Springsteen song “Blinded by the Light”: “...blinded by the light, revved up like a deuce, another runner in the night.” Springsteen’s version was “...cut loose like a deuce...”

MISHEARD SONG TITLES

“The Make Believe Rag” (“The Maple Leaf Rag”)
“Eisenhower’s Face” (“Eyes Without A Face”)
“Medieval Woman” (“Evil Woman”)
“Mary Cries for Mercy” (“Ferry ‘cross the Mersey”)
“That Man” (“Batman”)
“It’s a Hard Egg” (“It’s a Heartache”)
“Burn Her Dead” (“Bernadette”)
“Tie Me Down, Sir” / Tony Danza (“Tiny Dancer”) —Elton John and Bernie Taupin
“Thirty Days to Die” (“Bette David Eyes”) by Kim Carnes —Jon Carroll, April 14, 1997
“Frigid Inside” [Free to Decide] by the Cranberries —Jon Carroll, April 15, 1997
“I Was Barney Rubble” [“I Was Born a Rebel”] —ibid
“Fool for Skin” (“Full-Force Gale”) by Van Morrison —David Cole, ibid
“Soap Gets in Your Eyes” —Marin Fischer (hearing the song while in the shower)
“Hang On, Stupid” (“Hang on, Sloopy”)

“Secret Asian Man” (“Secret Agent Man”) —mentioned by Gavin Edwards. From the same song: “Oddjob, you won’t live to see tomorrow” [Odds are you won’t live to see tomorrow]
STRANGE SONG TITLES AND LYRICS

Ove Michaelson included this list of musical oddities, and he wonders if they are all real. "While we’re on the subject of songs and records," he adds, "I thought I’d toss in the curious coincidence that a person born in ’33 would have been 45 in ’78."

"Please Bypass This Heart"
"She Made Toothpicks of the Timber of My Heart"
"She Would If She Could, (but) She Can’t, So She Won’t"
"I Don’t Want Your Body If Your Heart’s Not in It"
"I Hate to Wake Up Sober in Nebraska"
"You’re the Reason Our Kids Are So Ugly"
"I Saw My Roommate on America’s Most Wanted"
"If She Wasn’t So Good Lookin’, I’d Have Seen the Train"
"Prisoners of Their Hair"
"Their Brains Were Small and They Died"
"If You See Me Gettin’ Smaller, It’s ‘Cause I’m Leavin’ You"
"You Stuck My Heart in an Old Tin Can and Shot It off a Log"
"You’re the Hangnail in My Life (and I Can’t Bite You Off)"
"My Uncle Used to Love Me, but She Died"
"Not Tonight, I’ve Got a Heartache"
"Billy Broke My Heart at Walgreens (and I Cried All the Way to Sears)"
"I’ve Got Four on the Floor and a Fifth Under the Seat"
"You Can’t Get Love from an Artificial Heart"
"Heaven’s Just a Sin Away"
"If You’re Going to Do Me Wrong, Do It Right"
"Where Were You When the Ship Hit the Sand?"
"Thanks to the Cat House, I’m in the Dog House with You"
"I Meant Every Word That He Said"
"If the Jukebox Took Teardrops, I’d Cry All Night Long"
"Been Roped and Thrown by Jesus in the Holy Ghost Corral"
"Thank God and Greyhound (You’re Gone)"
"If I Say I Love You, Consider Me Drunk"
"Velcro Arms, Teflon Heart"
"Is It Peace, or Prozac?"
"I’m In Love with a Girl Named ‘Spike’"

POLITICALIMERICKS

Ove wrote the following two limericks about the Democratic presidential front-runners.

BARACK

You found it was worthy to quote it,
So then credit the person who wrote it.
Remember Joe Biden
Who sank the Poseidon.
He steered it but just couldn't float it.
HILLARY

A slip can sure dunk what you're seeking.
A ship can be sunk just by speaking.
We share the same boat
And for now, we're afloat,
But I think maybe your side is leaking.

ANAGRAMMED COUPLETS

Over harvested several fields of wordplay from the 19th through 20th centuries to come up with an impressive list of word pairs, in which each word is an anagram of its partner.

aced cedar --"Odd Knots," The Independent, New York, April 18, 1895
actors co-star --Viking, E, Fe. 1972
Ah ha! --Pala (Miss L. Booth), Cloverdale, VA, cited in Golden Days, June 4, 1898
astute statute --Swamp Angel, Rock Falls, IL, "Mystery," the National Tribune, Sept. 14, 1893
bedroom boredom --Don Emmerson, Madison, WI, WW, Feb. 1984
best bets
bizarre brazier --Don Emmerson, Madison, WI, WW, Feb. 1984
cheap peach --The Masquerade, Vol. 3, 1799
cited edict --Arcanus (Jacob E. Reisenstein), EE, Dec. 1914
continued unnoticed
coordinate decoration --L.M.N. Terry (Charles Newton Crowder), Baltimore, AP, Dec. 1, 1900
Cremona romance --M.C.S., "Obscurities," late 1893
demoniac comedian --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
Denied, indeed! --Tom A. Hawk, Springfield, OH, AP, May 5, 1900
direct credit --Comrade, Baltimore, MD, "Comp.," Feb. 21, 1897
dishonest hedonists --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
dusty study --"Complications" in The Sunday Inter-Ocean, May 29, 1896
Elvis lives!
enterprises intersperse --John O'London's Weekly, March 25, 1938
esoteric coteries --Nelsonian (James McKinstry), "Enigmatic Oddities," May 18, 1902
float aloft --Dauntless, "NP," Jan. 27, 1906
horse/shoer --Medius, Thomaston, CT, "Enigmatic Oddities," March 16, 1902
introduce reduction --The 20th Century Standard Puzzle Book, Pearson, 1907
insatiable banalities --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
lame male
latent talent --Nyas, "Mystery" in the National Tribune, Nov. 29, 1894
marine airmen (oxymoron)
moved admirer --Moeti, B & O, April 1928

Medusa amused
--Hercules (Howard B. McPherin), "Our Puzzles," the Newark Sunday Standard, June 6, 1894
nameless salesman
noiseless lionesses --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984

ocean canoe --Robert Merry's Second Book of Puzzles (ca. 1860?)
(I have seen an "ocean kayak," but have not seen an "ocean canoe")

outer route --John O'London's Weekly, Oct. 27, 1934
Palestine penalties --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
pleasant seaplant --Aspiro, Centralia, IL, GD, Dec. 10, 1904
praised despair --Pitacus (James H. Green), Danville, VA, GD, March 30, 1889
precise recipes --P&A, 1973 (listed as an anagram: "recipes - precise")
prolific profile
regal lager (palindrome) --"The Mystic World," Saturday Globe, Utica, NY, Nov. 1895
Quite quiet --Balmar, "Puzzle Calls," May 24, 1891
Read, dear. --Dorcas, Whitehouse, NJ, AP, May 5, 1900
Seat, cats! --"R.," St. Nicholas, May 1875
serpent present --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
Silent! - Listen. --Delian, The Study, Nov. 15, 1893
stale tales --John O'London's Weekly, Feb. 10, 1934
stayed steady --Primrose, "Cabala," The Somerset Messenger, Sept. 23, 1896
steamship shipmates --Don Emmerson, WW, Feb. 1984
steno notes
streaming emigrants --Miss H. Selway, Belfast, Ireland, John O'London's Weekly, Nov. 30, 1929
stunted student --Coxy, "NP," June 9, 1906

team mate (also as one word)
--Seer (Mrs. H. P. Leonard), New York, NY, "Perplexing Puzzles to Please Brainy Solvers,"
the Newark Advertiser, June 11, 1904

tearing granite --J.L.P., "Odd Knots," The Independent, Sept. 12, 1895
tramline terminal

versatile relatives
--L'Allegro (Joseph McClintock Garrison), Pittsburgh, PA, "Enigmatic Oddities,"
the Pittsburgh Post, May 5, 1901

veto vote
--Swamp Angel (M. Victor Goodrich), Rock Falls, IL, "Complications," March 17, 1895

Wee ewe --R., St. Nicholas, May 1875
Unite - Untie --R., St. Nicholas, May 1875

Two of the anagrammed couplets are also palindromic couplets
won ton? - Not now (palindromic) --R., St. Nicholas, May 1875
Rail, liar! --R.G., St. Nicholas, Feb. 1875

MAN IN LIGHT SHOOTING HANDS OUT BEARS

This headline appeared in the Knoxville, Iowa newspaper. What does it mean? Make a guess, and then turn to Answers & Solutions. Here are two incorrect interpretations.

Dale Hankins interpreted it in a four-line poem:

A MAN was found hooting
and engaged IN LIGHT SHOOTING
as he fell down some stairs
while chasing OUT BEARS.

I interpreted it to mean that a man was killing deer a few deer with a light-weight gun, maybe a .22, in order to decrease the herd, and to demonstrate his good intentions, he was handing out baby bears to all the kids.

SNEW

Dale wrote a limerick about an early winter form of snow in a poem of mine that appeared in Kickshaw's a few years ago. Snew is like dew.

While walking in the snow,
A man was heard to "Achoo!"
A friend to his right
Offered "Gesundheit!
But all I could say was "Mon Dieux"

QUIBLETS (book review)

Poems by Edmund Conti, drawings by Jim Siergey (Doggerel Daze, a division of Poetic Vision Press, 2007, www.ddaze.com). A quiblet, Ed Conti shows us, is short, clever, and wordplay funny. His charming little book has plenty of these titbits in it. In fact, here's an example that inspired the previous sentence: TOPLESS BAR / repetititititititititition. Each quiblet is accompanied by Mr. Q, a perfect visual foil for the words, who appeared in Limerickshaw's (Kickshaw's, Nov 2007). This book is a delight to light your day. Here are 3 more quiblets:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Embellishment</th>
<th>Serendipity</th>
<th>Your Money</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To be ornate to be.</td>
<td>Getting to the emergency room by accident.</td>
<td>The IRS. Theirs.</td>
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JUST DALE (book review)

Novel by Dale Hankins (Sackter House Books, 2008). Is Dale Hankins an American Buddha or Just Dale? He looks like the Renaissance concept of God with long white hair and strong wise face. Once, at a play in London, an actor stopped the performance and dramatically introduced
the unsuspecting Dale, seated in the third row, as God. His novel, \textit{Just Dale}, could have been titled \textit{American Buddha}, a nickname that Japanese monks had given him, or did they? Cocaine, sex, and wordplay all have a role in conjuring up an ever-shifting reality. The story raises a Borges-like question: Is it fiction disguised as non-fiction, or is it non-fiction disguised as fiction? Not all of the characters are human. The scenes range from tragic to comic, profound to ordinary, or any combination of those elements. In one chapter, Gaia, the Earth Mother, meets with him to discuss the fate of the universe. “You have a choice to save the world or not, either to cooperate with the Stone People or reveal their plot and doom the world.” This is a full-of-wonder hallucinatory novel about one man’s quest for enlightenment.

\textbf{PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR: A TRUE STORY}

Morry weaves a very hairy story: “A company I once worked for was located in an office bldg that had 1 men’s room per floor, and there was only one urinal in it. So, you'd have to wait your turn if it was in use. Well, another fellow from my office was using it when I walked in, so natch I just stood there til he finished his business and then did mine. By coincidence, this happened two more times with the same fellow within the next couple of days, even though it was a fairly large office bldg. On the third occasion, the fellow jokingly asked if I were following him around, and for some reason I decided to respond with an equally absurd story, saying that yes, indeed, I was following him because my status as employee at the firm was actually a disguise -- in reality I was a detective hired by the firm to keep an eye on employees who spent too much time in the rest rooms instead of at their desks. After this explanation, it suddenly occurred to me that I was now in a position to enlighten him with the further tid bit that this was the reason a private investigator such as myself is commonly referred to as a ‘P I.'”

\textbf{HOMOPHONERICKS}

Doug Harris introduces a new limerick form: “I thought you might like to see this genre of limericks I have just been playing with. I call 'em 'tonguetwistericks'.... although others may choose the title 'homophonericks'?”

Just jiggle it little, it will
Maybe wiggle, then skittle it, Jill.
Some spittle's the trick'll
Make this victual wriggle.
Don't giggle, it's ready to grill.

The anglerfish' favourite wish
Is one of his like on a dish.
I suppose you could say
(In a cannibal way)
To nourish, this fish fishes fish.

Poor William, he's lying there, still.
Of life he has quite had his fill.
Those around (so bereft,
Wondering what's been left)
Will be willing Will's will do its will.
Four footballing fowl (and an owl)
In foul moods, were soon on the prowl.
It led to foul play
And the headline next day
Growled that, 'Foul fowl foul foul fowl'. How foul!

Ballerinas wear tutus it's true,
They often have extra ones too.
And sometimes they choose
Tutu 1s and not 2s
For an impromptu Scottish tatoo.

PARADISE LOST THE GAME

The following is a parody of Milton’s Paradise Lost by Jim Lonnoth of Hellingham, WA

The outlook wasn’t brilliant for the Holy Nine that day.  
The score stood four to two with but one inning left to play. 
Before we watch the ending and we see the two teams grapple,  
Let’s go to where it started in the Garden with an apple.

Of Man’s First Disobedience, and of the Tempting Fruit
Of that Forbidden Tree, whose mortal taste let Devils root  
For their own team and brought our woe along for that big loss  
In Eden, till one greater player smacked homers with his cross.

Sing, Muse of Heaven, score upon the billboard late at night  
That Orebe beat the Sinai Sinners, ending in a fight.  
It didst inspire that Shepherd who first caught the chosen Ball.  
In that Big Inning, Heaven and Earth rose up above the wall.

O, somewhere angels laugh aloud, and somewhere cherubs shout,  
But there is no joy in Heaven: Mighty J.C. has struck out.

SALIENCE OF THE LAMBS

Mark Isaak, inspired by Ross Eckler’s “Resilience of the Lambs,” adds his version of Mary’s lamb poem. He uses only words with doubled letters.

Merry possessed little sheep, sheep’s fleece all snowfall sallow.  
Where’er passed Merry, Merry’s sheep assuredly will follow.  
Sheep followed schoolward finally, occasion deemed illegal.  
Kiddies, seeing bookish mutton, drolly rollick, giggle.

And there’s more. According to Mark, “I think the hardest part of making "Mary had a little lamb" variations is thinking of one that hasn’t been done yet, but I think I have a new variant to go with my earlier one (with only words with doubled letters).” This one is a double dactyl lamb:
Bleatally, blattally,
Mary the shepherdess
Had a white lamb which would
Follow her path.

Both went to school, which proved
Sериоcomical --
Kids yelled with laughter, and
Teachers with wrath.

**CHICKEN LOVES ROOSTER CORRECTION**

Susan Thorpe replies to my “Chicken Loves Rooster” poem in then previous Kickshaws: “Thank you for the lovely poem. I have never had a poem dedicated to me before! Correction to an error: On page 39, you quote my original chicken transposal as:

WHY DID CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD? = SHE CHECKS CORN ON OTHER SIDE.
This is wrong. My original transposal (ww94171) was:

THE CHICKEN CROSSES THE ROAD = SHE CHECKS CORN AT OTHER SIDE
Please can you correct this in the May issue, otherwise either Jeff Grant or Anil will doubtless be after my skin.”

**ALPHABETICALLY-UNIVERSAL TRIGRAMS**

Susan has created a new wordplay game “with which to fill those odd moments. Decide on a particular trigram (I chose ROS) and see if you can find words beginning with each of the 26 letters of the alphabet which contain the trigram. If you manage to find 26 words, you chose an alphabetically-universal trigram!”

ACROSTIC, BROS, CORROSIVE, DEXTROSE, EROS, FROST, GROSS, HYDROSTAT, INTROSPECT, JAROSITE, KEROSENE, LEPROSY, MOROSE, NEUROSIS, OLORESE, PROSAIC, QUATROS, ROSETTE, SCLEROSIS, THROSTE, UROSCOPY, VIROSIS, WROS(SE) = ‘worse’, XEROSIS, YCROST (crossed), ZEROS

**FROM CHICKEN TO PIG**

Jeremy Morse says, “Susan’s homovocalic fowl reminded me of

THE LITTLE PIG’S LAMENT

Shy nymphs fly by
My pygmy sty.
Why?

**PUZZLED? TRY THIS ONE**

Jeremy asks, “What is the significance of the following series?”

ARID, BUN, CROW, DO, ELIDE, FIN, HOOD, IRATE, JIG, KILT, LAG, MIRTH, NAP, OUT, PAIN, QUEST, RATE, SIFT, TALL, UNAWED, VALUE, WAY, XENIAL, YET, ZONE
SCRABBLE ALGEBRA ADDENDA

Regarding my article “Scrabble Algebra” (ww07288), Anil “disagrees with your criterion for not counting ONE=1x1x1 and 1/1/1 and 1^1 as a single-operation solutions. You make it impossible a posteriori for any operation other than + to be a single and thus render the whole question vapid. In my view, the first numeral is not being added mathematically (to what? A blank page? 0?), just axiomatically as an initial given with which and upon which to operate. [I agree with Anil. The first numeral should not be considered a + or any operation. This allows allows addition, multiplication, division, and powers to be single-operation solutions.—DM]

As to the missing numbers (5, 9, 10, and 19), I found solutions using only two additional operations (powers and two-digit number formation) before I turned the page and saw that Ross with a head start had already done likewise using three additional operations including my second method. My solutions:

FIVE=4+1^{(4+1)}, or 4+(1)^{(4x1)} (or, cheating and calling “=” an operation, 4+1=(4+1)!
NINE=(1,[1-1])=1,0-1=10-1 (much like Ross’s but less elegant)
TEN,=1,(1-1)=1,0=10 (again “ “ “ “ )
NINETEEN=(1+1+1)^{(1+1)}x(1+1)+1
And upsetting your clever solution for ZERO, here are two ‘others’, using a power or two-digitisation:
10^{(1+1)}-1=0; and 10+1-11=0.

Finally, for good measure, some of the higher numbers:
ONE HUNDRED=1x(1+1+4+1+1+2+1-1)^2
ONE HUNDRED ONE=ditto+1+1-l=101
ONE THOUSAND=(1+1+4+1+2-1)^{(1+2)}
ONE MILLION=(1+1+1x3+1)^{(1+1)x(1+1)}

CRAZY THOUGHT ALERT!

According to Anil, “Traditional mathematics says 1 to any power is still 1, even 1^0. But since the universe is now believed to be finite, multiplying 1 by itself a sufficiently large number of times would fill the entire universe with 1’s to ‘infinite’ density, swamping and squeezing into oblivion all other things, thus conquering and becoming every other number! [Now it’s my turn to disagree with Anil. 1^0 wouldn’t fill the universe unless each 1 was a 3-D physical thing, a toothpick, for instance. If 1 was a 2-D vertical line, then it wouldn’t matter if an infinite number of ones were used: There would still be all the 3-D space left. If 1 is a mental concept, then taking it to infinity wouldn’t affect the physical world.—DM]

DIODE

“Here’s a paradoxical tribute to the late Princess of Wales that arose out of a prefix play,” Anil writes. “You must supply the spaces, punctuation and puns.” [This is similar to a Di poetic tribute that I composed for an earlier Kickshaws, in which DISGRACE was opposite Di’S GRACE, etc. It came out shortly after the Princess’ tragic death.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diode</th>
<th>We’re all in her debt</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismantle</td>
<td>Royal robes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disfrock</td>
<td>her dress</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disfigure her shape underneath
Disgust her air, her breeziness
Disgrace her shy elegance
Displeasure charity work and love of all sorts
Dissect her fanatical following and many Diapers
Distinct the Queen’s opinion
Dispersion No, she’s Englishy.
Displace her role in history
Disregard worldwide respect (except at home)
Disclose: Direct in a Paris tunnel
Disquiet RIP (May she have stirred your conscience.)

SAGA OF THE EMBS

This is a prefix play by Anil:

The EMBS or Embers, mEmbers of the Embrace, an invisible species of BEMs who live in EmbUS, the united states of Embs dating back to their Embolden ancestors, survivors of the great flood in an Embark, the EmbArgo, having been overlooked by Noah. Their past is recorded in the dreaming of the REM-Embers, their holy ones. They are a caring and supportive society with Embalms for all and a fifty-year jubilee when all Embowers are forgiven their debts. The Embrue but tolerate the slackers (Emblazes), truants from EmbEd school, mischiefmakers (Emb’ellish) and smart-ales (Embassy) in their midst, while protecting the Emb’arrassed among them. Once upon a time they Embroiled each other in an assEmb-led schism, with dying Embers everywhere, which nearly led to total Emb’rasure until they Embayed a peace treaty and lived in harmony forever ember.

ERRANT WORDPLAY

Anil sent some anagrams, palindromes, and word ladders which, he notes, are errant.

ERRANT ANAGRAMS:
  Banded about, I end bad
  A mixture is a true mix

ERRANT PALINDROMES: (from The Palindrome as an End in Itself)
  How many palindromists does it take to change a light buib?
Non. (No on “non”—one=eno’!
  Cain? A monomaniac!
  “Abel was I ere I saw Cain.”

ERRANT WORD LADDERS:
  Emus amus, bmus. Emus both amuse and bemuse.
  slut slat slit slot a naughty description of an overactive female part (Slats is slang for buttocks)
HOW THEY USE LADDERS TO MAKE MILK UP ON THE FARM

This is rural wordplay from Anil. Got milk?

COWS do it by ‘mowing’ the lawn, then digesting the grass into moles of molecules, then rebuilding them into many millilitres of milk, as in the minimal word ladder **Cows, mows, mols, mils, milk.** Even more briefly, in a one step “word stool,” they turn **grasses** into **glasses** of milk.

SOWS make milk like cows if you can get them to mow the grass.

GOATS on the other hand make it by a very fishy method using guardfish, shed skin and fish sperm: **Goat, moat + molt + milt = milk.**

SHEEP are the only farm animal that seem unable to make milk with a minimal fuss, requiring awesome but painful pricks: Ewes, awe’s awls’ ails, mils milk.

BITCHES import their milk by air from Russia: **Dogs: digs Migs’ mils milk.**

HORSES have to go thru a mile of mire to make it: **Marc, mire mile, milk.**

HORSES-ASSES hybrids do it faster unmired: **Mule, mile, milk.**

ASSES make it by a biologically unacceptable method using a ballpoint pen and a stupid person in darkness: **Bur’o, biro, birk, mirk → milk,** although all but the initial contraction are in Macquarie.

BULLS, when they try to make milk, can only come up with a lot of fake milk: **Bull, bulk bilk milk.** (“**Bullpiss!**”) 

CHICKENS and other farmyard birds don’t make milk, silly. Actually, I lied earlier: MULES don’t make milk either. (“**What, walk that mile for nothing?**”)

And yet a single SPIder in the grain storage bin can all by itself make a very smooth milk-like product from its spinneret: **Solo silo, silk milk.**

WORD PLAYGROUND

Here are some random wordplay discoveries that Anil made:

Isis? Fifteen repeated letter pairs is what this Isis is: “**Isis is Isis, Isis is Isisism.**”
(Isisism is the philosophy that “Whatever is is.”)

A **roly-polyanagram** is an especially long, fat polyanagram.

**Probly** is a postmodern spelling of probably. Does anyone still pronounce the second b?
(“**Probly.”**)

**Parleys** ≈ player’s replays.
(What a sad day for logology. These two anagrams of parleys provide a perfect definition of parleys.)

**Windless windles** make a neat cyclic permutation (by which one is cheated out of the freedom to fart?).

What do the buttocks and the organs of hearing have in common? They’re anagrams of each other: **arse = ears.** (So what? So this: **ears** is the Old English root of arse.)P
PAIROPHONES

Anil discusses this new form of wordplay: “It is similar to Pairagrams and Pairindromes I’ve just begun looking at. They are couplets of homophones that make sense together as a phrase. Not synonymic or antonymic pairs—I’m collecting those as a separate project. I also exclude multi-word phrases like ‘Alas, a lass!’ or ‘acquire a choir’ which are nice sounding but not pairophones (single-word pairs). They are harder to find (but more numerous) than Pairindromes as there is no cheat sheet like Sunners ‘Reversals’. Tediou scan of a pocket dictionary will be my only systematic avenue. Unless you know of a dictionary word list of Homophones—if so, please tell me! Meanwhile, rather than sit on the idea till I get around to it in the not-too-soon future, I offer what I’ve found so far and invite readers to add more. Some of these are imperfect homophones, or ‘homophonies.’

acre acher
attic addict
...H age
affluence effluents
aging Asian
air heir
ale ail
algae allergy
aloud allowed
aler altar
emulate amulet
apprising uprising
‘arder ardour
ball bawl
ballot ballad
banned band and barred bard
bearing baring
barren baron
bass base
bizarre bazaar
chic sheik
‘liminate lemonade

an overworked gardner
A closet mainliner hides away to shoot up, in this the...
or heroin era.
cause and effect (Synonyms, ascetics would say)
the stereotypic Oriental sage
a jet settler (airhead?), especially a big airline tycoon’s offspring
Alcoholism, or just a hangover?
rash reaction to green scum (quoting an anti-environment
ecologist-basher?)
freedom of speech (in a theatre?)
Renovate the church
pretend to be charming
giving info about (or inciting?) a rebellion
even outdoing Avis
Cinderella chapter 1; or team lost the game; or really bad sex
a sad, lyrical song about a rigged election (2000 and 2004)
a music-and-poetry act that got too lewd, rowdy, or radical
enduring life as an ec dysiast
a sterile nobleman (Most are, some would say.)
the rhythm line in jazz or rock
The Magic Theater in Stepenwolf
ruler of one of the amorous emirates
cut the juice

“Finally, for bonus vlue, here are a quartet of trios and a two-piece quartet.”

ante-anti-aunty
Bear bare bear.
I do adieu ado
I’ll aisle, isle.

before turning against your uncle’s wife
Carry a naked ursine. (a cub obviously, unless you’re
I engage in a prolonged farewell.
I plan to wed and then honeymoon on a tropical island.

Grosser grosser grosser grocerone of the larger unprincipled or tasteless cash cow supermarkets
APPLE-SAUCE, THE LOST YEARS

Let's take a trip through the years that Louis lost while dipping into the apple-sauce. Here are some of the smashed apples of the mystery years:

*  
What did the violin say to one of its stringts?
I like to play you because you're gutsy.

*  
The answer is: JOCKEY
The question is: What do you need to open a JOC?

*  
Where do waiters go for a vacation?
TIPPERARY.

*  
PALINDROMES: No. Is sap mock compassion?
O I loft rope portfolio.
Rod odor.
No, I nip opinion.

*  
DISebedience—following the devil's orders.

*  
Why did the nut tell the bolt it was so unhappy?
It just had a wrenching experience.

*  
Nash, Ogden
Wd. Never got bogg ed down
In a common everyday kind of rhyme.
Indeed, he was more clever than Omar Khayam.

*  
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NUN'S TICKET TO NANTUCKET

Nun's ticket
To Nantucket?
Nan took it.

*  
PALINDROMES: Oil Ed if Fidelio.
    O, hose Soho.
ON THE PERILS OF WRITING LIGHT VERSE

A little nonsense,
Even once,
& critics treat you
Like a dunce.
*
When John Wayne
Jumped up & cried: “Remember the Maine!”
We thought he was out of his mind.
He was making THE ALAMO at the time.
*
B1E3H5A7V91O11R = odd behaviour
*
NEW MOVIE IN TOWN:
THE MEXORCIST (1973)—An entire country south of the border is under demonic possession in this William Friedkin movie.
*
What do employes of the IRS exhibit?
Collective behaviour.
*
SATIS = not completely satisfied.
*
HAMNESIAC—a bad actor who cannot remember his lines.
*
What’s the difference between Al Capone and a lie?
One is a true hood, while the other is a falsehood.
*
THE ANSWER IS: ABSENT-MINDED
THE QUESTION IS: How do you describe a school teacher calling the roll?
*
I find questions about Vietnam very Hanoiing.
*
What did Dr. Watson write to the American Express People when applying for a credit card?
DON’T LEAVE HOLMES WITHOUT IT.
OR OR ORR

Louis sends a very rhyrnistic poem, not found even in the lost years of apple-sauce. It's a good one for closing up the Kickshaw shop.

Either Mary Orr
Or
Bobby Orr
Took my ear
To dig ore
In the state of Or.
Or
Do I err?
Was it him or her?

A CURIOUS CROSSWORD

WEI-HWA HUANG
Mountain View, California

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Across
1 Sticks
6 Farm animals
7 Ogles
8 Leisure
9 Ride

Down
1 Soothe
2 Peaceful
3 Reserved
4 Untroubled
5 Pacify