BLUEBEETLES AND BEAN GUNS

LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY
Brooklyn, New York

The criminal classes have their argot, closed groups their cant, every vocation and avocation its own special jargon. Furniture salesman speak of borax (cheap furniture), the jeweller of jagers (cheap watches). The shoe salesman knows that kangaroos are not animals, the circus hand that convicts (zebras) are. It's really amazing how many words of these supposedly private languages the average American manages to pick up. Run down the list. See if you can spot at least one word in each group that you can define. If you can, that's zooly (superb).

ACTORS upstage, blocking, blow up
AIR FORCE mach, whirlybird, write off
ART CRITICS concrete, abstract, op
ASTRONAUTS countdown, blastoff, splashdown
ATOMIC SCIENTISTS scramrod, barn, Waldo
ARMY yardbird, bean gun, shavetail
AUCTIONEERS kitch, rot, knock down
BARBERS ducktail, tone up, PVP
BARTENDERS freebie, bouncer, boilermaker
BEAUTICIANS teasing, frosting, relaxing
BELLHOPS front, Higgins, stiff
BLACKS righteous moss, pinktoes, peck
BROKERS bulls, bears, Big Board
CARNIVAL MEN gandy-dancer, geek, Barker
COWBOYS wrangler, pinto, fill a blanket
CRIMINALS (AMERICAN) fuzz, heist, take for a ride
CRIMINALS (BRITISH) copper's nark, climber, dabs
CRIMINALS (CANADIAN) mousefeet, bluebeetles, soup caper
CRITICS bomb, sleeper, upbeat
DEPARTMENT STORE CLERKS house larries, drek, loss leader
DELICATESSEN OWNERS bialy, novy, hero
DROPOUTS warehouse, plain chump, one of those
DRUG ADDICTS reefer, smack, mainliner
EDUCATIONALISTS slow track, culturally disadvantaged, over-achiever
FACTORY WORKERS graveyard shift, missionary, goon squad
GOLFERS bogie, birdie, duffer
GOVERNMENT WORKERS inadvertency, process, finalize
H.L.I. ADDICTS tweeter, woofers, Quad
HOBOS mulligan, bindle-stiff, nose-dive
HOT RODDERS chopping, dragging, slingshot
HOMOSEXUALS butch, dyke, camp
JAZZ MUSICIANS gog, riff, vibes
JUVENILE DELINQUENTS rumble, chicken, shiv
KOREAN WAR VETERANS no sweat, bug out, ichi-ban
LABORERS scab, fink, wildcat strike
LOGGERS whistle jerk, powder monkey, timber!
MARINES gyrene, leatherneck, boksok
MISSILE EXPERTS beeper, payload, drone
MOVIE CAMERAMEN pan, buzzard, iris
MOVIE STARS billing, cameo, idiot board
NAVY gob, head, scuttlebutt
NEWSPAPER REPORTERS bulldog, screamer, morgue
NUMBERS RACKETEERS butter and eggs, drop, runner
PHOTOGRAPHERS hypo, strobe, contrasty
PICKPOCKETS hole, moll buzzer, sneeze
POLICEMEN 56, mug shot, buzzer
POLITICIANS ward heeler, baby-kisser, lame duck
PRINTERS flush, bleed, widow
PRISONERS screw, the hole, fly a kite
PSYCHOLOGISTS sibling, complex, fixation
RAILROAD M EN gandy-dancer, bloop er, sudser
RODEO RIDERS bulldog, california, grab the apple
SOCIOLOGISTS outer-directed, pecking order, depressed area
SPORTSCAR OWNERS baby, hairpin, Gee Tee
STAGE HANDS wings, files, traveller
STEEL WORKERS blooms, billets, skelps
STUDENTS cram, flunk, snap
STreichers monitor, assembly, floater
TELEGRAPHERS bug, 30, night letter
TELEVISION CREWS womp, bloom, dolly
THEATRE OPERATORS paper the house, twofers, Borscht Circuit
TRUCKERS Iron up, eat gravel, tap dancer
UNDERTAKERS slumber wagon, cremains, loved one
USED-CAR SALESMEN cream puff, lemon, molasses
VAGRANTS toot the ringer, John Hollowlegs, slumgullion
VAUDEVILLIANS hoofers, top banana, in one
WAITERS BLT, 82, burn the British
WEST POINT CADETS brace, plebe, feather duster