LOGOLOGICAL GEOGRAPHY

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The local newspaper has just featured the 39,417,268th crossword puzzle to be published in the United States since the beginning of that pastime shortly before the start of World War I. If you are as tired of crossword puzzles as we are, then you are ready to move on to more refined puzzles of the genuine, logological variety. We commend the one that follows to your attention.

Listed below are the names of 81 cities, towns and villages (communities indicated by means of some kind of circle, with or without a yellow area around it) taken from the 1972 Edition (the 48th Edition) of the Rand McNally Road Atlas (United States, Canada, Mexico). Each name has been used EXACTLY as it is shown in that atlas, but has been transposed or scrambled; the letters have been rearranged to spell some other word, name, phrase, or sentence. For instance, if we had taken the name LIGONIER from the atlas, we might have scrambled it to spell the word RELIGION; or, if we had used the name GREENWICH, we would have transposed it into the word RECHEWING.

Here is our list of name scrambles:

1. A GROAN (NE) 24. EMENDATOR (NB)
2. ALCHEMIST (NE) 25. ENDV ALE (NY)
3. A LEMON (KY) 26. FAKERSPORT (GA)
4. A-LUMBERING (CA) 27. FORT LEAKES (IL)
5. ANCESTRAL (IL) 28. FT. ROSE (LA)
6. ANOMIC (GA) 29. GAlNER (NM)
7. A SLUT (OK) 30. GEHEIMRAT (TN)
8. BIDESMAN (ND) 31. GRANULITE (TX)
9. BUTCHERS (PA) 32. I AGREE! (WV)
10. CANTATIONS (NY) 33. INDALE (IN)
11. CELTORB (WA) 34. ISLE L (NE)
12. CESSATIONS (MA) 35. KANAI (AK)
13. CHALKSTONE (SASK) 36. LADDERING (WI)
14. COREMAN (NY) 37. LAHEY Y (ND)
15. COTERMINAL (TX) 38. LARDON (KS)
16. CREAM (AR) 39. LEATHER (NC)
17. DACRON (PA) 40. LENORICA (WI)
18. DANGER (NEWF) 41. LORENE (MAN)
19. DINKER (LA) 42. MARCEL (NY)
20. DRAGLINES (VT) 43. MEDIAN (NC)
21. EL ARNO (NY) 44. MERCANTILE (WI)
22. ELDA (SD) 45. MESA L (MD)
23. ELON (NS) 46. MORE (IA)

47. MT. 48. NAR
49. NAT 50. NON
51. NOR 52. OLM
53. O'M 54. ORL
55. OVE 56. OVE
57. OVE 58. OYS
59. PEN 60. RAM
61. RAT 62. RAV
63. RED 64. REG

Your problem has been turned into their or score yourself between 118 to 127 of the name as shown on the abbreviated in all names are misspelled so on). Always that such space.

All names members, and to be used more sequentially, if different page information (as in a count as an unimportant).

All 81 name easy one. Community in the is used by the by some map of and the variations that do Brunswick being NE).

If -- but option or again, to spell means of circle that this is possible it may be possible...
Your problem is to unscramble the names, transposing them back into their original form. For each name you succeed in unscrambling, score yourself as follows: 1 point if the name is indexed within Pages 118 to 127 of the atlas; 2 points if the name is not indexed there. Count the name as indexed even if there is a difference between the way it is shown on the map and in the index (for example, some names are abbreviated in one place but spelled out fully in the other; some names are misspelled in one place, correctly spelled in the other place; and so on). Always use the spelling shown on the map, even if you believe that such spelling is incorrect.

All names in the index are referred to maps on specific page numbers, and to specific locations on those pages (B-2, G-7, etc.). Consequently, if you find the same name, in the same state, but on a different page number, or even on the same page but at a different location (as in an inset map), this second appearance of the name will count as an unindexed one, earning you 2 points instead of 1 point.

All 81 names have been located for you, to make the puzzle a fairly easy one. Given in parentheses after each scrambled name of a community in the United States is the official 2-letter abbreviation currently used by the United States Postal Service for the name of the state on some map of which the original name appears in the atlas. For Mexico and the various Canadian provinces, we have used standard abbreviations that do not duplicate any of the state abbreviations (thus, New Brunswick has been abbreviated as NB, the abbreviation for Nebraska being NE).

If -- but only if -- you have unscrambled a name correctly, you have the option or privilege of trying to rearrange the letters of the name again, to spell the names of one or more other communities shown by means of circles on maps in the specified atlas. We know for a fact that this is possible in the case of at least 50 of the 81 problems, and it may be possible with some of the remaining 31 problems. There
are at least some letter groups that can successively be arranged to spell a total of six, or seven, or perhaps even more, different names of communities. However, you may use any particular name once only, no matter in how many different states, provinces, and countries you may find that name in the atlas. For instance, there are towns named GREENWICH in Connecticut, New York, Ohio, and perhaps elsewhere, but you could list GREENWICH only once as an answer to the hypothetical RECHEWING problem mentioned earlier. Included among the names you may use or list are our name scrambles (ENDVALE, MT. HALE, ROSEHAM, etc.) -- if you happen to find them on maps in the atlas. A diligent search on your part will locate some of them in the atlas: it's just that the ones you find will not be the ones you expected to find, because a great deal of psychology has gone into the construction of this puzzle.

Each additional name you find is scored the same way as was the name answering our original problem (either 1 or 2 points, depending on whether or not the name is indexed in the back of the atlas).

If the answer to our original problem is a 1-point name, and you can find the same name elsewhere in the atlas with a value of 2 points, you may "replace" our 1-point name with your 2-point name. Since you have already recorded the solution to our problem on your list of answers, assign a value of zero to that answer, and show your 2-point version of the same name on the next line.

If a town named SUNDANCE were a solution to one of our problems, and you subsequently ran across another town named SUN DANCE, this would count as an additional solution to the problem, because the space between the third and fourth letters makes the second letter arrangement different from the first letter arrangement.

So as to know exactly where you stand at any given time during your work on this puzzle, we strongly recommend that you keep a systematic, orderly record of the solutions you have found. Handprint or type the solutions neatly. Use a format for recording solutions similar to the one we have used in the sample problem solved for you later in this article. It is essential that you record the page number on which you have found each solution, and the exact location on the page. You would be astonished to learn how difficult it can be to refer to a name again, unless you have recorded its precise location.

To measure the degree of your success in solving this puzzle, total the individual point values to arrive at your total score. Also total your page numbers to determine the overall page number count. You want both numbers to be as large as possible. We have spent a little time on this puzzle, and have produced a solution with a primary score over 300, and a page total over 13,300. See by how big a margin you can beat us! Our solution, incidentally, will be published in Answers and Solutions in the next issue of Word Ways, not in this issue, to give you ample time in which to overwhelm our modest effort.

Your primary goal is to reach the highest total point score you can.
Reaching a high page total is a secondary goal. Consequently, if you find a particular name on two different pages of the atlas and they have the same point value, use the name appearing on the page furthest along in the atlas (the page with the highest number).

If, in some particular case, you cannot increase the point score of one of the original problem solutions, but are able to increase the page number by selecting the same name from another map, you have the same "replacement" privilege already described in relation to increasing a point score from 1 to 2.

The point score of any replaced name is zero. Its page number must remain for identification purposes. Since the page number of a replaced name cannot be counted in your page number total (surely, you don't expect to eat your cake and have it, too), place the page numbers of all replaced names in parentheses, making it easy for you to exclude them when totalling your page numbers. No errors in totalling will be countenanced: absolute mathematical accuracy is a sine qua non.

There follows a sample 82nd problem (which you may not include with your solutions to the first 81 problems, for additional credit). We have solved this sample problem for you, explaining carefully our solution. This should answer any questions you may have left.

Sample Problem: Solution to Sample Problem:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Page Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>NEOLA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>B-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>NEOLA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>E-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>OLEAN</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>E-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>LEONA</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>G-11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Observe, in this sample problem, that we started by identifying the town in Utah as NEOLA. However, that town is listed in the atlas index, giving it a value of only 1 point. Consequently, we assigned it a value of zero, replacing it with NEOLA, West Virginia, which is not indexed and earns 2 points. We could have chosen NEOLA, Kansas (page 40, D-6) which is not indexed, either, but picked NEOLA, West Virginia because it is shown on a later page of the atlas. Similarly, we selected LEONA, Texas in preference to LEONA, Kansas (page 41, A-10). Both towns score two points, but the one in Texas is on a later page of the atlas.

While working on this problem, it occurred to us to wonder whether O'NEAL -- our name scramble -- might not itself be a town name. We did find towns named O'NEAL, in Limestone County, Alabama and in Independence County, Arkansas, but neither one is shown in the current Rand McNally Road Atlas. What we did find in that atlas was O'NEALS, California (page 18, H-6); close, but not close enough. How frustrating!
A final word of caution. There are many towns in the atlas being used for this puzzle that are not marked with a circle. You may NOT use such town names.

Good luck!

QUERY

The following assignment of 24 letters to eight digits is made on the telephone dial:

2 ABC 4 GHI 6 MNO 8 TUV
3 DEF 5 JKL 7 PRS 9 WXY

Suppose that one wishes to communicate English-language text using a telephone dial having the ten digits 0, 1, ..., 9 on it; how should one assign the 26 letters of the alphabet and the space (27 characters in all) to these ten digits in order to make it as easy as possible for a person at the other end of the line to decode a message? (Since more than one letter must be assigned to at least some of the digits, a certain amount of ambiguity is inevitable, but context should help the message recipient a great deal.) Surely, one can do better than the assignment presently used by the Bell System -- but how much better?