I have what some might call a despicable habit of seeing words within words, like spotting the COP in SCOPE or detecting the ART in GARRETS, but the habit is recreational. Noting in the latter that the inner word was spelled with the letters in the even-numbered positions while the odd letters GRES did not form a common word, I began looking for "woven words" for which both the even and odd groups were interwoven words.

For a weft, there must be at least two in the warp and one in the woof, so the shortest woven word would have three letters. With the shorter words rather trivial and using capitals for the odd letters, here is a sample of such words up to a length of eight letters: ToO, NoOn, PaRtY, SpOuTs, PuIsNeS, and CoUnTeSs.

I subsequently learned that my "discovery" is well-known to members of the National Puzzlers' League as Alternades. In Language on Vacation (Scribner's, 1965), Dmitri Borgmann gives even longer examples but must use interwoven words not in Webster's Collegiate.

Finding the six-letter woven word the most common variety, I selected twenty and have listed below the forty three-letter component warps and woofs, not designated as such but in alphabetical order. The readers have the recreational task of identifying the woofs from the warps and reweaving the twenty words.

ale bra fin hot lid ore rue tra
any can fun ice lie pan set use
ask cut has its lit ray tet vie
ass end his jut odd red tie was
boa far hoe let old res top wit

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.