Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

Ralph Beaman has extended the research on dictionary words beginning with definite articles, reported in "Definitely!" in the November 1972 Word Ways. He now reports that several additional Web II examples have turned up: THE FOUR HUNDRED, THE SEVEN, THE NINE GODS, and (in boldface italics as run-in entries) THE THIRD, THE SECOND, and THE SIX ACTS. Who knows how many more exist!

R. Robinson Rowe of Sacramento, California points out a typographical error in the ten-word garble group of five-letter words in "Word Networks (Part 2)" -- SHARE-SHORE should be replaced by SNARE-SNORE. The ambiguity of the word BATTER prompted him to remember the following bit of doggerel published in Judge about the time of World War I:

Betty Botter bought some butter,
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.
If I put it in my batter
It will make my batter bitter,
But a bit of better butter
Would but make my batter better."
So 'twas better Betty Botter
Bought a bit of better butter.

Not all of Darryl Francis' "McGovern Words" in the May Word Ways first saw the light of day during the recent presidential campaign. Both Philip Cohen and Ralph Beaman note that MCGOVERNITE (under MAC- in Webster's Third Edition) is a mineral named for J.J. McGovern, an American mine foreman.

Colloquy was over-hasty in implying in August that LLULL (the surname of a Catalan writer) was the only English five-letter word with four identical letters. Philip Cohen of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania noted OOROO, the name of an island in Thurber's book, The Wonderful O.

Darryl Francis and Dmitri Borgmann noted several more words of this
genre: OOLLOO (a domestic Eskimo cutting implement, in the Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged), EELEE (a 300-mile-long river in the Tianshan mountains of Asia, also in Funk & Wagnalls), BRRRR (given in the 1972 Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary), AASAA (the Egyptian name of an unidentified Asiatic country, given in William R. Cooper's An Archaic Dictionary, reprinted in 1969), HMMMM (an interjection of surprise, given in Berrey and Van den Bark's The American Thesaurus of Slang, 1953), SESS'S (the possessive singular form of the noun sess, defined in Webster's Second as any of the bars or plates of a knockdown soap frame), and HOO-OO (an interjection expressing boisterous emotion, given in Chamber's Twentieth Century Dictionary).

Fourteen-letter pair isograms were reported in the August 1971 and February 1973 issues of Word Ways, and later confirmed by the third volume of Levine's monumental list of words arranged according to their patterns. Recently, Ralph Beaman discovered a third fourteen-letter pair isogram overlooked by Levine: UNSUFFICIENCES, the inferred plural of the noun unsufficiency appearing both in Webster's Second and the Oxford English Dictionary.

Four of the town names in "Omak Me Yours Tonight" in the August Word Ways were inadvertently omitted: Toutle (from Hullooetell, the name of a Cowlitz River tribe), Memaloos (named after an island in the Columbia River used by the Indians as a cemetery, this word means "dead"), Wawawai ("council ground"), and Towal (the name of an Indian chief).

The November 1970 Word Ways featured an article by Dmitri Borgmann in which transposals were found for all fifty state names in the United States. Darryl Francis has recently discovered three additional state name transposals: HOOI (Ohio), the sound made by the wind whistling round a corner or through a keyhole, given in The English Dialect Dictionary; ARZONIA (Arizona), a girl's name, given in the second supplement to The American Language by H. L. Mencken; and AHUT (Utah), an obsolete 14th-century spelling of aught in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Both Ralph Beaman and William Sunners point out that Walter Shedlofsky's use of the word MANSURE in "Windmills" in the August Word Ways is legitimate -- it is a well-known surname, and hence just as admissible as the word UTAH in another of the windmills. R. Robinson Rowe constructed windmills of size four and five in which the words on the crossarms also form words in each square: SEALION: SEAL, LION and PERCHERON: PERCH, HERON.

The August Colloquy reported that the Computer Puzzle Library of
Fort Worth, Texas, had announced the availability of a new publication: Unscrambler, an anagram dictionary of words from two to seven letters based on the Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary. This is not an original publication by Computer Puzzle Library, but instead the National Library Publication booklet of this name mentioned in the February 1973 Colloquy.

Do beheadable words ending with the letter Q exist? In "Wordplay or Swordplay?" in the August Word Ways, Ernst Theimer of Rumson, New Jersey reported that he couldn’t find any. Both Ralph Beaman and Dmitri Borgmann have suggested candidates to fill the breach: IQ-Q and CQ-Q, respectively. For those who feel that these are more like abbreviations than words, Dmitri offers a somewhat more interesting solution: the last word of JAL AL TIRAQ (an escarpment in the Saudi Arabian province of Nejd, according to the Times Index-Gazetteer) is beheadable to IRAQ. Ralph contends that it is harder to find a beheadable word ending in J. DJ-J might be allowable, but a better solution to this problem is afforded by Darryl Francis who suggests AJ-J (aj is an adze, according to the Dictionary of Jamaican English, published by the Cambridge University Press in 1967).

Mary Youngquist discovered an error in R. Robinson Rowe’s "More Hidden Opposites" -- WEE TASTE cannot be rearranged to form EAST - WEST. How about EATS STEW instead?

Way back in the August 1970 Colloquy, Ralph Beaman claimed that STRAIGHT-GRAINED was the longest word in the English language with two syllables. Although this record still stands, Darryl Francis has discovered a word of matching length in the Oxford English Dictionary: DRAUGHT-BREADTHS, meaning the traces of a vehicle.

Darryl Francis reported on a considerable number of town names homophonous with two alphabetic letters in the November 1971 Word Ways. Murray Pearce has discovered a town in British Columbia, Canada that is homophonous with three letters: CEEPEECEE.

Jeff Rubens (5A 771 West End Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10025) is willing to pay any price within reason for the second volume of Jack Levine’s pattern word list (10 to 12 letter words), now out of print. Can any Word Ways reader help him out?

The August 1972 Colloquy reported one trio isogram in English: CHA-CHA-CHA. Murray Pearce has now unearthed a second example, MEH-MEH-MEH, from Eric Partridge’s Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English.