

A NEAR-MISS 10-BY-10 WORD SQUARE

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Recent articles by Doug McIlroy in *Word Ways* have demonstrated the value of the computer in discovering previously-unknown 6-by-6 double word squares and 7-by-7 word squares composed of relatively common words. Can the power of the computer be directed to the considerably more difficult task of finding an English-language 10-by-10 word square?

For the past several years, Frank Rubin of Wappingers Falls, New York has tried to find such a square with the aid of a computer, using as input the 35,000 ten-letter words on the Air Force tape of Webster's Second Unabridged, plus a number of multi-word terms such as fly-by-night, Lake Louise and Robert E. Lee. The nearest approach to a 10-by-10 square that he has found thus far is given below. As it seems quite unlikely that this can be improved upon, it is being presented in *Word Ways* at this time.

A	C	C	O	M	P	L	I	S	H
C	O	O	P	E	R	A	N	C	Y
C	O	P	A	T	E	N	T	E	E
O	P	A	L	E	S	C	E	N	T
M	E	T	E	N	T	E	R	O	N
P	R	E	S	T	A	T	I	O	N
L	A	N	C	E	T	O	O	T	H
I	N	T	E	R	I	O	R	L	Y
S	C	E	N	O	O	T	L		
H	Y	E	T	N	N	H	Y		

Seven of the eight words are of unimpeachable quality; the eighth, lance tooth, is given as a two-word phrase in Webster's Second, but can be found in hyphenated form in the Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged.