A NEAR-MISS 10-BY-10 WORD SQUARE

A. ROSS ECKLER
Morristown, New Jersey

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.