STRIKE-OUTS: EVEN-LETTER DELETIONS

STANLEY L. PAYNE
Breckenridge, Colorado

Various kinds of wordplay can be devised using deletions: the APRICOT contains a PIT, household GARBAGE yields GARAGE sales. The May 1976 Word Ways featured Tom Pulliam's synonymic deletions: INDOLENT contains IDLE, to DECLINE is to DIE. This article features a special class of deletions -- those in which the even letters of a word are struck out, leaving another word:

FEAST and grow FAT
Pharaoh's daughter found the BABE hidden in the BRAMBLES
She may no longer wear a BRA, but it's still in her BUREAU
Unlike onion and leek, the SMALLLOT contains its own SALT
If you DARE to drink polluted water, you may get DIARRHEAE
The shocked father of TRIPLETS cries "TILT!"
A barking dog seldom will BITE, but avoid one that BUSTLES
If you inflate a rubber BOAT, it will become BUOYANT
If I were more FLOUENT, this would be more FUN
Although I strike out my ERROR'S, I still ERR
PRESTO! The magician pulls a PET from his hat
Few people find BEAUTY in a BAT

Girls I've Struck Out With
SALLY I find much too SLY
ANNETTE just raised the ANTE
CLAIRE is wary in my CAR
DIANNE must serve her DAN tea
YVETTE? I hope to win her YET
ALYCE won't say AYE
ARELEN gets ill on beer or ALE
TERRY scorns my TRY
PEARL just wants to "be a PAL"
MAE no longer sees ME
BRENDA doesn't share my BED
GLADYS? GAY, deceives me
SWISS miss treats me like a SIS
FLO likes another FELLOW
When I'm here, YVONNE is YON
... You wonder why I bellow?