LEONARD R. N. ASHLEY
Brooklyn, New York

Here are fifty idioms you can work on, easy once you catch onto the fact that each one is on about a phrase in which the word ON is featured. Go on, try it ...

1. honest
2. alternately
3. free
4. improving
5. secretly
6. promptly
7. freely going
8. considering all
9. alone
10. out for fun
11. charged to credit
12. intermittently
13. over ice
14. crawling
15. quietly
16. without hesitation
17. in flight
18. righteously
19. nervous
20. punctually
21. broadcasting
22. available for duty
23. watchful
24. falling
25. just about

26. teetotaling
27. predatory
28. in suspense
29. haughty
30. careful
31. friendly
32. decrepit
33. reprimanded
34. likely
35. patrolling
36. with it
37. expecting
38. busy
39. recovering
40. evading pursuit
41. without a partner
42. decreasing
43. roaming around
44. found something profitable
45. prepared to act
46. exhibited
47. tramping
48. exiting
49. working
50. not working

We offered fifty idioms which featured the word ON -- now we're off on a hunt for idioms featuring OFF. Ready? You're off -- but don't go off the subject ...

1. spoiled
2. casually
3. ready-made
4. impromptu
5. misled
6. unprepared
7. unconsidered
8. irrelevant
9. angry
10. crazy
11. unreasonable
12. started
13. expressed
14. wandering
15. lost
16. rejected
17. delirious 34. curt
18. intermittently 35. remote
19. killed 36. obscure
20. first stroke 37. commenced
21. very wrong 38. abduct
22. cancelled 39. take the loss
23. cured of addiction 40. cease transmitting
24. unusually bad (sports) 41. unfavorable time
25. holiday 42. light shade
26. truncated 43. betting office activity
27. distant 44. behind the scenes
28. very incorrect 45. slight likelihood
29. mentally deranged 46. depart
30. mistaken 47. displeasure
31. vulgar or obscene 48. reward
32. unofficial 49. aloof
33. auspiciously begun 50. improper

EVEN MORE REMARKABLE NAMES

This is the title of John Train's sequel to Remarkable Names of Real People, reviewed in the August 1978 Word Ways. Published by Clarkson N. Potter in 1979 for $4.95, this slender volume contains about 150 additional name oddities culled from newspapers, magazines and similar sources. Many were sent in by readers of the first book.

The names are alliterative (HERMAN SHERMAN BERMAN), suggestive (ROSY YASS, BUSTER HYMEN), grotesque (HOGJAW TWADDLE), occupationally apropos (silent movie organist C. SHARP MINOR, undertaker MR. BONES), or implausible (IMMACULATE CONCEPTION FINKLESTEIN). Perhaps a typology of names could be developed; there must be many more waiting to be found. The interest (and credibility) of the book would have been enhanced, at least for the onomastician, if the author had interviewed these name oddities, finding out how they came into being (whimsical parents? a desire for notoriety?).