WIDOW WONDERING

JOHN CAMPBELL
Columbus, Georgia

Poor widows! Three out of four women survive their husbands. In some cultures remarriage is taboo. In other cultures the widow is (was) burned on the funeral pyre of her husband. Yet the word has made a major contribution to the language. The root sense of the word means "divided from." In card playing, a widow is an extra hand. In printing, a widow is a line separated from the rest of the text. The very poisonous black widow spider was so named because the female sometimes eats its mate. See if you can match up the following phrases with their definitions. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.

1. Widow's peak  a. an evergreen shrub
2. Widow's walk  b. an apparently inexhaustible supply
3. Widow-maker  c. a platform built onto the roof of a house
4. Widow's mite  d. a woman separated (permanently or temporarily) or divorced from her husband
5. Grass widow  e. named for the resemblance of its dark plumage to a widow's clothing
6. Widow's cross  f. a small contribution given freely from a person who can scarcely afford it
7. Widow's weeds  g. the sea as a swallower of men, or anything dangerous to a worker's health or life
8. Widow's cruse  h. a tuft of hair growing apart from the rest of the hair on the head
9. Widow finch  i. a V-shaped hairline in the middle of the forehead
10. Widow's lock  j. one widowed before the consummation of marriage
11. Virgin widow  k. a young woman in a college town who dates students of successive classes year after year
12. College widow  l. mourning worn by a widow

WILLIAM SU
Brooklyn, New York

For almost a year, the English Language Bible of 1982 (the house of information History!) is in gradually installing its physical remains of my mind all the time.

Some readers building context out of the words, phrases and their meanings, a 64-page book out of print already.

This Word-Wonderer is perseverant, though similar to Ralph Bear's seven Word-Wonderers, works containing boldface out of appearing in the words in multiple vocabulary etymological Heim. You want variant spellings and frustrate originally containing A Chattanooga

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