Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

The February 1977 Word Ways led off with an article on appropriate anagrams of the names of US presidents. GERALD RUDOLPH FORD was particularly hard to work with; recently, Richard Lederer's daughter Anne came up with RUDER LORD A GOLF PH.D. Is Ford rude?

Tavern names are not as clever as beauty parlor names, at least in Milwaukee. Reinhold Aman, editor of Maledicta, recently sent me an article from the Milwaukee Journal of March 19, 1982, describing that city's tavern names: dull, dull, dull. The only one worth repeating is Art's Performing Center, a go-go bar owned by a guy named Art down the street from the Performing Arts Center.

Leroy Meyers of Columbus, Ohio and Harry Partridge of Manhattan Beach, California both wrote in to correct the translation of Jack Grieshaber's Czech palindrome; it's not the mayor but the mare that has the narrow (not wide) hips. And STRC PRST SKRZ KRK is "stick your finger through (your) neck" which can perhaps be freely translated as "down your throat". Meyers notes that R and L can act as vowels in Czech, Slovak and Serbo-Croatian.

And speaking of vowels, both Philip Cohen and Harry Partridge chide Maxey Brooke for calling CRWTH a vowelless word -- W is, after all, a vowel in Welsh. Partridge points out that W, like R, can even be a vowel in English, as in 'few'. Granted we don't call it a vowel, saying that ew is a diphthong, but then we inconsistently call the u in 'fume' a vowel. Why not spell it CROOTH, just as CWM is often found as COOMB, COMBE, etc.? Frank Rubin writes:

As you undoubtedly know, crwth strings are numbered from one (nearest the body) to N (farthest from the player). The nth crwth string has the highest pitch, hence the fastest vibrations. Although it is the thinnest one on the crwth, it is subject to the greatest physical stress, and thus must be made of the strongest materials. Nowadays that is steel, but in olden times all of the strings were of gut, so it was extremely important to choose the strongest possible piece for this critical string.
From that need there grew a significant body of technology among the makers of these instruments for measuring the strengths of rings exhibited...

Way back in August 1972, Word Ways published a list of words having three rare letters; only twenty combinations remained unfilled, using Webster's Second and Third as references. The gap KXZ was almost immediately filled by SKEEZIX, and recently Philip Cohen found two more FITZ-JAMES (for FJZ) below the line in Webster's Second, and ZU'L HIJJAH (for JJZ) in both dictionaries. It has long been apparent that one must go outside Webster to fill most of the other 17 gaps, so here are the best known examples, supplied by Darryl Francis and Philip Cohen:

FJQ Ziq-Xhafaj, Feqjakuje (Off St Names Gaz, Albania)
FXZ Ziq-Xhafaj, Xhafzotaj (Off St Names Gaz, Albania)
JQJ Obajjar (Off St Names Gaz, Malta)
JXX Jujurieux, France (Times Index-Gazetteer)
JOV Valjunquera, Spain (Times Index-Gazetteer)
JOX Exaludqduaq, Excanjaje (Hodge's Handbook of North Amer Ind)
JQZ Qezeljeh, Iran (Times Index-Gazetteer)
JXX Xemxija (Off St Names Gaz, Malta); Xhaxhaj (Off St Names Gaz, Albania)
JXZ Arjuzanx, France (Times Index-Gazetteer)
KQX Xiaqikou (Times Atlas of China, 1974)
XXX Ix-Xwieki (Off St Names Gaz, Malta); Xaaxkax (Off St Names Gaz, Mexico)
QOW Quweiq river, Syria (Times Index-Gazetteer)
QOX Oxquoraiiras (Hodge's Handbook of North Amer Ind)
QWX Quixwood, Berwick Scotland (Times Index-Gazetteer)
QXX Quixaxe, Mozambique (Times Index-Gazetteer)
XXX hexahydroxycyclohexane (Random House Unabridged Dictionary)
XXZ Xaxazana hill, South Africa (Times Index-Gazetteer)

It's time for further upgrading, particularly of the Hodge and OSNG entries. Even in the TIG, one feels more comfortable citing placenames in English-language countries, such as Quixwood. Can some of these combinations be found in spellings of obsolete words in the Oxford English Dictionary?

More improvements on "The Multiple-Letter Word Hunt" of February 1969: polYsYndaetYlY for YYY Y, found in Dorland's Medical Dictionary 25th edition; dacrYocYstosYringotomY for YYYY, found in Webster's Second; opHtHalrnopHtHisis for HHHH, found in Webster's Second, all thanks to Alan Frank.

Philip Cohen and Harry Partidge both point out that BIOGEOECOENOLOGY has only eight syllables, not nine — for example, 6000 Words gives bi/o/geo/coe/no/sis, with the /coe/ pronounced 'see'.

Some new words whose spellings are based on homonyms or homophones: Veuve, mother of the widow as well as Veuve, a name in the wine trade; and Grünherz, royal in German, and Grünherz, a mongrel horse in the Black Forest.

Oops! Jerome is a French second name for a new horse; Monnaie de l'Etat was a contemporary coin issued by the government of Togo in 1865; and Mr Or Akuta is a man who taught education in Togo.

Harry Partidge has pointed out that the surname of Maria de la tadillo) is also a contemporary name found in a public directory of the Duchy of Brittany, Monnaie de l'Etat.

Two more improvements on the article: atlas to the Americas and an anandromic name, OUIRES in the Gazetteer.
Some new Widow Words: David Fellman notes the Football Widow, whose spouse during the football season is glued to the TV set, and the Computer Widow, whose spouse spends all his free time in front of his home computer. Harry Partridge dips into other languages with La Veuve, meaning the guillotine ('Épouser la Veuve' is to be guillotined) and Grüne Witwe, a suburban housewife in Germany whose husband is away and who consequently has time for hanky-panky. With tongue in cheek, the proposes Widow's Cruise (cruise taken by a widow looking for a new husband), Widow's Might (power given to a widow by the money she has inherited) and Widow's Pique (the high dudgeon into which a widow falls if her cruise and might prove unsuccessful).

More self-contradictory terms: Sam Edelston encloses a page from an unidentified trade paper talking of a SUPERMINI -- a larger version of a minicomputer, with a CPU ranging from 50 to 200 thousand dollars and a total system cost between 100 and 500 thousand dollars.


Oops! Jeremy Morse notes that the second Dictionary Rally problem by Charles Bosticljc in the February Kickshaws has the solutions SQUIRE or QUIRES in addition to BORSCH.

Following up on the palindromic names in the May 1981 Kickshaws, Jeff Grant wonders if anyone can confirm the accuracy of the following palindromic name (from a New Zealand paper on the subject of that country's entry into the World Cup soccer competition):

Harry Partridge notes that the letter O occurs in certain French and Spanish surnames in a combined form. He has come across the Spanish name Maria de la O (on p. 67 of Rodriguez Marin's edition of Rinconete y Cortadillo); also, there is a French Chateau d'O and the Sieur d'O, who was a contemporary of Henri IV. There was an interesting article about M. d'O in a publication of Le Club Francais de la Medaille, issued by La Monnaie de Paris.

Two more internal plurals to add to Ralph Beaman's November 1970 article: atlas to atlaNTEs, eye to eyNe', both found by Alan Frank. From the American Heritage Dictionary, he adds pirog to pirogHI and LIkuta to MAkuta.