KICKSHAWS

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Kickshaws is currently being assembled by a series of guest editors. All contributions should be sent to the editor in Morristown, New Jersey. This collection of Kickshaws is largely taken from Apple-Sauce, Son of Apple-Sauce, and The Return of the Son of Apple-Sauce, newsletters circulated by Louis Phillips among a group of friends. The editor has rearranged this material and added brief explanatory notes to relate it to earlier wordplay.

What's The Question?

This game made its debut in Kickshaws in May 1970, but since Dave Silverman ceased to edit Kickshaws it has not appeared. Mary Ann Madden calls this The Answer Game in Son of Giant Sea Tortoise (Viking, 1975) and Maybe He's Dead (Random House, 1981).

FLIP WILSON What did the karate expert do to America’s 28th President?

TRIPTYCH What do you do to make Mr. Tych fall on his face?

BUGS BUNNY What does the expert CIA wire-tapper do to get secret information about Peter Cotton tail?

A SINGLE-HANDED VICTORY What would you call it if Captain Hook had won his duel with Peter Pan?

WILLIE HOPPE What did Mrs. Bugs Bunny ask the doctor when her husband sprained his ankle?

FBI Can you name three letters that can be rearranged to spell the word 'fib'?

STUBBORN What did Herman Melville announce when he thought up a new character for Moby Dick?

HOPKINS What do you do when you play leap-frog with relatives?

HOLYOEK, MASS. What do they call it when the Pope blesses an egg during a church service?

EDWIN DROOD What did Edwin do with his charcoal crayons and a piece of paper?

HOUSE OF CARDS What did Paul and Dizzy Dean's parents have?

SOUND WAVES What do you call healthy women in the Navy?

DROP BACK TO PUNT What instructions did Antony issue to his men during a losing sea battle?

CANDELABRA How would you describe a brassiere for a taper?

WARREN SP...fights its way through its new script.

PREMATUR: actor name?

RADIOACTIVE scripts?

40 WINKS What sort of name does 13 Rue Madeleine have?

VIRGINIA B/A what sort of name does it have?

BARNEY GO where?

CASH REGIS...into a bottle.

THE GOOD, Attila the SUPER DOM.

Now that you have finished the following word games found in Ans' Backet:

1. Light Switch
2. Buzz Off
3. Low-Tar
4. Fingerprint
5. Miles Apart

The Clerihew:

The clerihew is a light quatrain beginning much like A. E. Housman.

Henry James: Did not change his name if he had. How does it rank as a Hero? Zero.

Paul Revere: (You'll be changed) From the book.
WARREN SPAHN What does the salmon named Warren do when it fights its way upstream?
PREMATURE What word best describes the film industry before an actor named Victor arrived on the scene?
RADIACTIVE MATERIAL What is a good description of Fred Allen’s scripts?
40 WINKS What do you need to have a complete set of tiddleys?
13 RUE MADELINE How many men regret ever dating Mademoiselle Madeline?
VIRGINIA BAKED HAM When Virginia turned toward cannibalism as a way of life, what did she do with the old-time actor?
BARNEY GOOGLE What do you call a Barney that has 100 zeroes after it?
CASH REGISTER What does country singer Johnny do when he checks into a hotel?
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY Can you identify Pope John, Attila the Hun, and the Elephant Man?
SUPER DOME Describe the top of Yul Brynner’s head.
FASSBINDER What is the German word for quick-drying glue?

Now that you’ve got the hang of it, try guessing the questions for the following answers. The answers (that is, the questions) can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. Light Switch 6. Spassky
2. Buzz Off 7. Dating Game
3. Low-Tar Kent 8. Phone Booth
4. Fingerprints 9. Mark Spitz
5. Miles Around 10. Uncle Ben’s Converted Rice

The Clerihew

The clerihew, invented by the English journalist Edmund Clerihew Bentley more than seventy years ago, is an irreverent biographical quatrain beginning with the name of the subject. The results sound much like Ogden Nash and, like salted peanuts, are quite addictive.

Henry James
Did not chase dames.
Most readers would be glad
If he had.

When J. Edgar Hoover
Sneezed “Achoo!” ver-
Y powerful galoots
Shook in their boots.

How does President Polk
Rank as folk-
Hero?
Zero.

When Richard M. Nixon
Put the fix on
Watergate, it backfired.
So he retired.

Paul Revere
(You’ll be glad to hear)
Changed History’s course
From the back of a horse.

Since the beginning of dawn, son,
Howard Johnson
Did mankind favors
By inventing new flavors.
Clara Bow
(You may know)
Made a hit
By emphasizing it.
Nebuchadnezzar,
Sadder but wiser,
Built in earnest
His fiery furnace.
Anthony Trollope
Wrote at a gallop.
Scribble, scribble - hey look!
Another book!
Oedipus Rex
Had sex
With his Mum.
Ho hum.

Clara Bow
(You may know)
Made a hit
By emphasizing it.
Nebuchadnezzar,
Sadder but wiser,
Built in earnest
His fiery furnace.
Anthony Trollope
Wrote at a gallop.
Scribble, scribble - hey look!
Another book!
Oedipus Rex
Had sex
With his Mum.
Ho hum.

Colley Cibber
Wrote lots of gibberish and horror, yet
Was named Poet Laureate.
Marcel Proust
Cried "What's the use?"
From January to December
All I do is remember."
Sophocles
Scribble, scribble - hey look!
Audiences who hate
The concept of Fate.
Eva Marie Saint
When people said "Mister"
To Owen Wister,
He replied (quick to rile)
"When you call me that, smile!"

New Definitions

Charadists have long recognized strange subwords in words, as OUTRE-ACHED or CHART-REUSE. Here are a number of definitions based on new looks at common words:

ADRIFT fight over an advertising campaign
PASTRAMI French friend of Pastrami
ABSOLUTE stringed instrument for dogmatic people
TONTINE the 2000-pound adolescent
NABBED whe re the National Association of Broadcasters sleeps
ADMISSION go out and land that client
MEDICINE new health film
SUCCULENT the time of year you go forty days without succumbing
BLOCKBUSTER ice pick
RODIN noisy fish eggs
EXAMINES where the exam is taken from
VIOLENT forty days of violent trade winds
TRADE WINDS hot air used by salespersons to sell goods
VACCINE the medical film center
LEBANON the unknown Leb
SUPERSEDED to be ranked number one at Forest Hills
BUSINESS cousin of the Loch Ness
IMPEL subway to Hell
GRAVEYARD a very serious three feet
REDUCE Mussolini again
CASTRATION food doled out to the members of a play
Loony Logos

In the May 1971 and February 1972 Word Ways, Mary Hazard (then Mary Youngquist) presented quizzes encoding common words or phrases in brief form, such as WORLAMEN = world without end, amen, or IKD = mixed-up kid. This sort of wordplay has been making the rounds for many years, most recently in the columns of Games Magazine. Here are a few more to puzzle you:

1. HOLACEE
2. HCNUH
3. LORIVALSVE
4. CRe
5. FECpoxTION
6. A C
7. TEDEPXAS
8. CITAMARD
9. CREDIBILITY
10. C R A C
11. WEAR
12. SHAVE
13. FUN (18 acres)

Unlikely Liaisons

If Isidora Duncan had married movie star Robert Donat, would you have had a Duncan Donat?
If Ilka Chase had married Daniel Seltzer, would she have been known as Ilka Seltzer?
If skating star Tai Babilonia had married Herb Score, would she be known as Tai Score?
If the daughter of the steamboat inventor married the son of Frankie Frisch, and if that couple had a daughter named Margaret, would you have a Fulton-Frisch Margaret?
If Cornell Wilde’s daughter had married Ralph Bunche, would you have had just another Wilde Bunche?
If John Ringling North had married Mae West, and if they had had a son named after the father, would their offspring be officially known as North-by-North-West?

A Romp Through The Year

JAN Murray  MAE West  Lucius SEPTIMUS Severus
FIBBER McGee  JUNE Allyson  OCTAVIO Paz
Frederic MARCH  JULIE Christie  Ramon NOVARRO
AVERELL Harriman  AUGUST Strindberg  DECIUS
Names in the News

Mary Ann Madden calls this Kitty Foyle in Thank You For The Giant Sea Tortoise (Viking, 1971), Contrived Nomenclature in SOGST, and Fractured Names in MHD; in the strict version of this game, the name must relate to the person's occupation.

IRWIN SHAWLS haberdasher for rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief
KITE CARSON notorious bad check passer
EDITH PILAF a new singing dish
AFGHANISTAN MUSIAL hard-hitting member of the Kabul Nine
INTRO DUCE Mussolini's emcee brother
SIMON FILIGREE slave-owning silver worker
BANDANA ANDREWS star of "Kerchief"
MORRIS KARLOFF the cat that played Frankenstein
JEANS AUTRY the blue denim cowboy
BULLDOG DROMOND noted detective disguised as a sailing ship
INCI DENT Bucky's younger brother
JACK PARLANCE talk-show villain
CELLULOID BRIDGES underwater film star
NORDIC TRACY Oslo's chief of police
MILTON BERLITZ comedian who steals jokes from all languages
MATTE DILLON sheriff who prevents exposure of certain parts of a film frame
LAWRENCE WHELK purveyor of sea-shells which emit champagne music
MARY CASSETTE early American impressionist who specialized in video tapes
DISPENSER TRACY soda jerk
ROYAL ROGER the king of the cowboys

Word Logic

Everyone knows that English is an inconsistent and illogical language. Consider the following little-known examples of this:

Is downholstery the name for upholstery made of down?
Is ornaphysical the opposite of ornamental?
If the re is a Portugal, shouldn't there be a Portuguy?
If a booklet is a little book, and a coverlet a little cover, is a toilet a little toi?
If a booklet is a little book, and a coverlet a little cover, is a toilet a little toi?
If ration means to hold back, why does exploration mean to go forth?
Do 100 adolescents equal one adolesdollar?
If there are falsettos, why aren't there any truesettos?
Is cellulose the opposite of cereal?
If there is a Madrid, is there a Padrid? If there is a Baghdad, is there a Baghmom? If there is a Tucson, is there a Tucdaughter?

Classics Reclassified

Students from the Spence School in New York City passed on the following unfamiliar versions of familiar proverbs:

1. The meaning of ocean.
2. Inordinately.
3. Persons.
4. It is the inferior desert.
5. Unjustifiable necessary do.
6. Many scientifics.
7. Unruffled pendulums.
8. The principal capitulations to perform.
9. The great original.
10. Integrity.
11. Your immoral traverse.
12. The police condition control.
15. A small.
16. The "best" different evacuation.
17. A modesty in the probation.
18. Anticipatory dangerous regard.
19. The intellectual.
20. The immunity that equil.

Brief Encounter

Action taken by the Newson family and Bobo Newson
1. The measurable aspect of duration and the alternate rise and fall of oceanic substance under lunar influence tarry not for homo sapiem.

2. Inordinate self-esteem precedeth a descending movement impelled by the force of gravity.

3. Persons deficient in judgment hasten to undertake that for which winged celestials hesitate to assume responsibility.

4. It is the final bit of grass that, affixed to the burden previously acquired, induces a rupture of the dorsal portion of the ship of the desert.

5. Unjustifiable volitional acceleration invariably terminates in unnecessary dissipation of resources.

6. Many scintillating substances radiate a spurious effulgence.

7. Unruffled bodies of fluid passing oceanwards are those whose perpendicular movements are great.

8. The prince of the powers of sin discovers useless and harmful occupations for the unemployed digital extremities of man's forelimbs to perform.

9. The greatest of need is the grandmother's daughter of the art of original contrivance.

10. Integrity is worldly wisdom of superlative quality.

11. Your immediate environment submit to circumspection, ere you traverse some feet of space by muscular projection.

12. The policy of being sapient is injudicious where the opposite condition confers felicity.

13. Soft Lydian airs possess the power to mitigate the anguish residual in the aboriginal thorax.

14. A spirit of joyous optimistic expectation for futurity ever leaps upward, and promises to so continue eternally within the depths of the anterior portion of the torso of man.

15. A small amount of erudition is likely to jeopardize one's security.

16. The "best loved flower" in the world, if supplied with a cognomen different from that established for it by the Vienna Code, would yet emit by means of its essential oils and esters an aromatic effervescence similar in all respects to that obtaining if the correct terminology were used.

17. A modicum of waggery occurring intermittently receives the warm approval of those whose intelligence quotient is of a superior grade.

18. Anticipatory forestalling bears to therapeutic achievement the ponderous ratio of sixteen to one.

19. The intelligentsia require not effusive verbosity.

20. The immoral and iniquitous find their pedal extremities so placed that equilibrium is difficult.

Brief Encounters of the Poetic Kind

Action taken by Ms. Derek, Mr. Diddy and Bobo the Clown Upon Witnessing an Egregious Error by Pitcher Bobo Newsome (Philadelphia, 1953)

Bo, Bo & Bobo
Boo, boo
Bobo's boo-boo.
A Question Addressed to Female Sheep

Can you, Ewes, Use Yews?

Odin, Auden and Eden

Said Auden Of Odin, His world Is no Eden. Said Odin Of Auden, His poems Are too wooden.

Derek Bok Bought a black book About Bach. Bok’s black book Cost a buck.

Note to the Poet, A. E. Housman

A. E., I. O. U.

Products for a New Age

For some reason, Mary Ann Madden doesn’t seem to have exploited this vein of wordplay. In TYFTGST, she comes close with Kiddy Foil, brand names for drugstore products. Various competitions based on companies with appropriate names are, alas, Clothes But No Cigar (Antismokers Boutique).

CHROME DE MENTHE favorite drink at General Motors
CRUS-ADE the new summer drink which quenches your thirst by faith alone
BRIG-ADE drink served in jail
QUANTUMS stomach relief for physicists
URBAN deodorant for city dwellers
THE BRIG MAC hamburger served in prison
EPISODA a drink featuring ice cream, carbonated water and bits of skin
EMBRYOYO a new toy waiting to be born
FIASCOLA it’s one mess of a soft drink
SOAPORIFIC the cleaner that allows you to wash your hands and go to sleep at the same time
RAMEKINOFF garden tool for musicians
BRAKES SHIELDS for your sixteen-year-old car
FUNICELLO stringed instrument played on a beach blanket
ROCCOCO COLA the old-fashioned but very elaborate soft drink

How Orphan Annie’s Dog Greeted The Composer of Carmina Burana

Orff.
Arf.

What William Said About a Certain Shoemaker to His Friend Mark

Said Willie, "Shoo, Mark. Willie Shoemaker’s Wily shoemaker Made woolly shoe markers For Willie Shoemaker’s Well-marked shoes."

Does Ellen annoy Allen Noyes In Illinois By making noise?

Lines For an Unfair Biology Test

Tho pro tests,
I protest Protists On this test.

Alphabet for A. A.
Bea L.
Ron C.
Sandra e e cu
F. Sc.
Gigi
H. G.
I. F.
Jay C.
Danny El C.
Richard

Palindromes

Short pal explanations

SAD? I’M M A S D. I’M M A S D.
O, I RAT? N O, I RAT.
MEL, A SUB friend, to SAM, UP! I am attacking
SAM, AM I M A S M. I am ROT in OMA it will make me YE WED better
ON RAG, LU TAD AS SAD. I will RED IS NO C TAD AS SAD.
DIE, H. T. ! after he Africa
log Greeted
nina Burana
but a Certain
and Mark
Mark.
markers
er's "
y

Quaker Oaths the new cereal with much promise
Mercedes-Benzedrine the drug with a turbine flow of power
The Big Macbeth Shakespeare's play between two sesame buns, topped with onion and pickles
The Hoot Gibson an owl in a martini
The 007 GLUE the James bond
My*U*S*H new cereal which makes you feel like operating in Korea
Sugar Smack for those who like to get high early in the morning
True Grits two bites and you feel like John Wayne
Drama-Bule the drink that raises the curtain
Boyer Aspirin when you take this, you feel like going to the Casbah
Dyspepsia Cola it hits the spot but the spot hits back
The Abracadabra like magic it adds inches to your bustline
The Tarus Bulba it burns brightly upon the Steppes

Alphabet for a New Year

A. A. Fair
Bea Lillie
Ron Cey
Sandra Dee
ee Cummings
F. Scott Fitzgerald
Gigi
H. G. Wells
I. F. Stone
Jay Catsby
Danny Kaye
El Cordobes
Richard M. Nixon
Del Ennis
O'Henry
Howard Pease
P. D. Q. Bach
Edward R. Murrow
Harry S Truman
T. S. Eliot
U Thant
Viva
W. C. Fields
Francis X. Bushman
Y. A. Tittle
Zay (pitched for the Baltimore A. A. team in 1886)

Palindromes

Short palindromes usually make more sense than long ones -- but explanations are offered just in case the reader still finds them obscure:

Sad? I'm Midas we always knew money couldn't buy happiness
0, I Rat? No! Ontario message from Canada's prime minister
Mel, A Sure Job! B. O. Jerusalem wire sent by an actor to his friend, telling him of an acting job opening in Israel
Sam, Up! Pumas! get out of your sleeping bag, wild animals are attacking
Sir, Am I Maris? New York's ex-slugger has an identity crisis
Rot in Omaha, Monitor if it can be raised from Hampton Roads, it will make a great tourist attraction in Kansas
Ye wed Dewey? some of the bride's relations thought she could do better
On Rag, Luv? Vulgar! No! is it that time of the month, dear?
Tad as Sadat that's how he's going to the costume ball
Red Is No Color, Rojo -- Consider advice to an inept painter
Die, H. T.! Rap Apartheid! note from a terrorist to Harry Truman, after he refused to take a stand against the racist policies of South Africa
ONO SLAP PALS? O, NO  the late John Lennon’s wife would do no such thing
TRU GOY YOGURT  new product on the Israeli market
GAT TAG  price label on a Saturday-night special
POPE DIG GIDE, POP? a young man asks his father about the reading habits of the pontiff
STROH’S SHORTS  wearing apparel manufactured by a noted beer company
DISPUTES SET UP SID  young lawyers thrive on litigation
PEPSI IS PEP!  new soft drink advertising slogan
STEP ON NO PETS  motto of the SPCA
O, CAT TACO  what kind of pet food is available in Tijuana?
NO, SAM, A MASON  was that an Elk I just saw you with?

How Observant Are You?

What is the rule governing the choice of the following sequence of nine words? Can you add a tenth word to the sequence? Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

altered, oboe, laces, reeds, bride, relief, resting, retrench, personality, ......

Puns in Comic Strip Names

The May 1979 Word Ways featured an article on barber shop and beauty parlor names based on wordplay. Here is an analogous list compiled for comic strip names, both past and present:

FLOWER POTTS  comic strip by Tom Gill
BOBBY SOX  comic strip character created by Marty Links
ANDY CAPP  British comic strip character
BROOM HILDA  comic strip by Russ Myers
HI AND LOIS  comic strip by Mort Walker and Dik Browne
BUZ SAWYER  comic strip by Ray Crane
ELLA CINDERS  comic strip by Charlie Plumb and Bill Conselman
MARK TRAIL  comic strip by Ed Dodd
OAKY DOAKS  comic strip by Ralph Briggs Fuller
SMOKEY STOVER  comic strip by Bill Holman
WASH TUBBS  comic strip by Roy Crane
TOOFER A. NICKEL  comic strip character used to advertise Hostess Cup Cakes in the 1940s
RICK O’SHAY  comic strip by Stan Lynde
SHORT RIBS  comic strip by Frank O’Neal
OLIVE OYL  Popeye’s girl-friend

Cliches for a New Age

Did you hear about the time that Alexander the Great’s team of rug-makers was kidnapped? The dispatch sent to headquarters reporting this incident read ALEXANDER’S RAG TEAM BOUND.

For Christopher Columbus was given it possible for COLLIE, BARK.

Andmiral Drake’s ship discovered the conclusion of the TREES.

Trapped on a rock, the nuns climbed over the cliff, NO, NO, NUN.

When Hugo’s experiments took off, they promoted the conclusion of the NEE RIVER.

A ship owner discovered that Watt awoke downstairs WHIRL.

When Ben owned a case of ROBB he knocked them over the cliff.

When authorized to feel such a low value, A SOFT ANSWER.

Query

Can read such as SIRHA or EVANS EVER "All Fall Down"
For Christmas, the noted financier and art collector Andrew Mellon was given a pure-bred collie whom he promptly named Baby, making it possible for people on his estate to cry COME TO ME, MY MELLOM COLLIE, BABY.

Admiral Richard Byrd, sailing a modern-day replica of Sir Francis Drake's ship, The Golden Hind, in Australian waters, was captured by pirates and held hostage. Local authorities were able to secure the Admiral's release by exchanging two native chieftains for him, leading to the conclusion that A BYRD IN THE HIND IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH.

Trapped on the top floor of the convent when it caught fire, one of the nuns climbed through a window and started down the fire escape. However, the firemen, holding a net for people to jump into, called up to her NO, NO, NUN -- NET!

When Hugh Downs was in northern Florida, he decided to do some experiments to see how much he weighed while floating in fresh water, prompting the newspaper headline WEIGH DOWNS UPON THE SUWANEE RIVER.

A ship owner needed new masts for his vessel, but when the workmen arrived they began setting the masts on the wrong ship. When the owner discovered their mistake, he cried out HOLD IT -- YOU GUYS ARE TREEING UP THE WRONG BARQUE!

When Ben Johnson rode away from the dance, one guest turned to the other and asked WHO WAS THAT MASQUE MAN, TONTO?

When the inventor James Watt was sick, the doctor left instructions with one of the inventor's servants that he was to be notified the moment that Watt awoke. Several hours passed, but finally the servant called downstairs WATT'S UP, DOC!

A man was in debt to some prominent citizens of Warsaw, so he broke into Walter Pater's house and made off with some jewelry -- just another case of ROBBING PATER TO PAY POLES.

When author Philip Roth was at a party he asked his hostess how she was feeling. The woman answered that she felt fine, but she spoke in such a low voice that the author sought others to talk with -- obviously, A SOFT ANSWER TURNS AWAY ROTH.

Query

Can readers come up with relatively well-known double names such as SIRHAN SIRHAN (the slayer of Robert Kennedy in June 1968) or EVANS EVANS (actress who appeared in "Bonnie and Clyde" and "All Fall Down")?