ESPYRAMIDS AND DOUBLETS

WILLARD R. ESPY
New York, New York

Editor's Note: The following puzzles are excerpted from a book entitled Word Puzzles to be published by Dembner Enterprises in September 1983. In an "ESPYramid Up" one enlarges a one-letter word letter by letter, each addition making a new word, rearranging the letters as need dictates (a-at-tea-mate-steam-master...). The "ESPYramid Down" reverses this process, subtracting letters one at a time and rearranging the remainder. In "Doublets", inspired by the Lewis Carroll word game, a word is gradually changed into another of opposite meaning by replacing one letter at a time, the rest remaining undisturbed and each move resulting in a new word (suite-spite-spine-swine-swing-swung-stung...).

ESPYramid Up

HE SHOULD HAVE COUNTED TO TEN FIRST
- man named Tim espied an --
That vilified the --.--.
He raged, "How ---- they? It's too bad!
Who ----- such stuff? This goes too far!"
Crowds gathered 'round and ------- at him;
These too he -------, till, annoyed,
They bought a rocket, stuck in Tim,
And sent him to an -------.

FRANKLY, I'D PREFER A ROCKING HORSE
- deem -- useful, if perforce
Some day I have to --- a horse,
To find a ---- on which to fall
For final ------ and burial.
My ------ terror, I confide,
Would be to find myself -------
Some bucking beast, and die unblest:
The soul forewarned is -------.

NOTE FOUND UNDER A PILLAR IN ITALY
Sir: --, black slave, who perished --
A Roman game, amid the ---
Of crowds that when the bell went "----!"
Roared, "Die, ------, die!" (I, vanished thing

ESPYramid Down

SANS PE
A knight
But felt
That lack
"Has even"
I'm ----
Shall be
I tell you
Yet did
His --

I REMEMBER
With me
At ----
She ----
And the
No ----
It's such

I HOPE
When Dr
The dead
By cath.
He much
And swc.
He even
My face
But the
Befell me
I'm ----
My --

Doublet

ENVIIOUS
The car
Beneath
The snow
And est.
Whom none recalls) to you whose ------
Is coming soon enough, am ------
This word: Though you'll see ------ grim,
See ------- of limb from limb,
Pray stay, as I did, -------,
Until you join the -------.

ESPYramid Down

SANS PEUR ET SANS REPROCHE

A knight ------- through a glade,
But felt ------- and much ashamed
That ladies sought him in the shade.
"Has ever knight been so -------?
I'm ------- if I, ----- Galahad,
Shall be ---- coxcomb now," he claimed.
I tell you, Galahad was ---,
Yet did the thing upon that spot
His -- had said - knight must not.

I REMEMBER WHEN YOU DID THE SAME, DEAR

With men our daughter ------- out;
At ------- she meets others.
She ------- of some she's wild about,
And then she ----- their brothers.
No ---- of female --- is guessed;
It's sucked in -- - mother's breast.

I HOPE HE DID NOT GET INTO HEAVEN

When Dr. X -------- with glee
The deadly ailments he'd -------
By cathetering my inside,
He much my wicked id -------,
And swore it soon must finish me.
He even went on to -------
My face as wizened, withered, -----.
But the --- woe he prophesied
Befell not me but him: he died;
I'm --- of him. On his debris
My -- and - dance merrily.

Doublet

ENVIOUS REFLECTIONS PROMPTED BY THE DOG DAYS OF AUGUST

The carp are ----, yet in their ----
Beneath the hissing sun stay ----.
The snakes, though broke, contented ----,
And estivate while humans boil.
--- isn't needed by the sweet
--- ripening its --- in heat,
Or by the rice that, free of --
Sucks up the sun. But O, how ---
For my own --- to take advice
From fish or serpent, corn or ---!
Instead, we swelter. We should switch,
Though they are poor and we are ---.

THERE MAY BE A LITTLE ROTARIAN LOYALTY INVOLVED HERE
In Oysterville, the water's ---;
Of this we villagers are ---.
But I'll acknowledge to you, ---,
That just outside the town is ---;
Depart no farther than a ---,
And you will find the water's ---.

NO MORE DOCH AND DORRIS FOR POOR JOCK
Jock MacIntosh, who from his ---
Did by a ---- reside.
Set ---- one day to prove his worth
And stormed the ---- of Clyde.
A lawyer, who of ---- knew more
Than jock e'en knew of ----,
Declared the act unjustified,
And hanged jock in his ----.
Ah, ---- still brave the ocean's teeth;
The sea still ---- the rock;
The summer sun still ---- the ----,
But ---- has come to jock.

TOO BAD -- VIRTUE SOMETIMES FAILS TO TRIUMPH
"Say why do you ---- so, dear captain, and pause?
Many missions ere this one we've ----,
The Rhine ---- beneath; we'll exploit Jerry's ----
Here as well as we did on the Rhone.
The ----'- a bit heavy, but need not affright;
Not a ---- will come near us, I trust.
Our blood lust we'll ---- upon Jerry tonight;
We'll crush that ---- into the dust."
So ---- the co-pilot, attempting to ----
His captain's forebodings, but O!
In ---- of the comforting, Jerry did ----;
Now the ----'s on the face of the foe.

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.