

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

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

ENVIIOUS 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.