MORE MORSE

SUSAN THORPE
Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, England
  thorpeds@hotmail.com

Note: the spaces normally left between the Morse Code equivalents of each pair of letters (one space) and each pair of words (two spaces) are omitted.

Mention the Morse Code to logologists and they immediately think of the number FIFTEEN, unique in being self explanatory in Morse Code represented, as it is, by 15 dots and dashes ..-./../....-./-/../-. The Morse Code has attracted the attention of a number of Word Ways' contributors over the last 40+ years: WW68207, 70014, 73187, 75171, 75209, 80159, 92180. The most comprehensive of these submissions is *Re: Morse* by Philip Cohen (75209). It explains how the Morse Code can be used in a variety of ways as a tool in recreational linguistics. Cohen refers to the dots and dashes of the Code as 'bits' and, for ease of use, divides the letters of the alphabet into 4 groups according to the number of 'bits' they use:

1 'bit'	3 'bits'		4 'bits'			
. E	... S		.... H		-... B	
- T	..- U		...- V		-..- X	
	.-. R		..-. F		-.-. C	
2 'bits'	.-- W		..--		-.-- Y	
.. I	-.. D		.-.. L		--.. Z	
.- A	-.- K		.-.-		--.- Q	
-. N	--. G		..-. P		---.	
-- M	--- O		.--- J		----	

He lists words for all the sequences of *n* 'bits', where $n = 5$ (32 sequences), $n = 6$ (64 sequences) and $n = 7$ (128 sequences).

Amongst the genres which Cohen considers are:

Morse Inverse Words

These are pairs of words in which one word has a dot where the other has a dash

game --..---.   unit ..--...-

Morse Palindromes

These have palindromic 'bit' sequences.

waiting .--.-...-.--- in which the symmetrically placed letters have reverse 'bit' patterns: W and G, A and N; the symmetrical Is are each represented by .. and the central T by -

wrecking .--.-...-.--..--- in which, with the exception of W and G, the symmetrically placed letters do **not** have reverse 'bit' patterns.

Isomorses

Pairs of words with the same 'bit' pattern. Ideally the words should be related.

leg .-...--.   run .-...--.

earn ..-..-.   urn ...-.-. these two words are homophones.

MORSE TAUTONYMS

One genre which Cohen did not consider is **Morse Tautonyms**. Here I attempt to remedy this omission. The examples below are confined mostly to well-known words.

4 'bit' Tautonyms

- . / -.   ten   .- / .-   eta (the 7th letter of the Greek alphabet)

6 'bit' Tautonyms

-.. / -.. Ned, tine   --. / --. man, Meg   ..- / ..- Rae

Rae is also a Morse Palindrome

8 'bit' Tautonyms

.... / .... he's   ...- / ...- via   .-.. / .-.. ail, Aire (a river in U.K.), led, reed

..-. / ..-. fin   .--- / .--- jam   .--.--- pan, peg, Egan, wean

-... / -... deb, nib, nits -..- / -..- tuna   -..- / -..- tux   ---- / ---- toot

he's, pan, peg, Egan, wean, tuna, tux and *toot* are also Morse Palindromes

10 'bit' Tautonyms

...-. / ...-. Steve   ..-.. / ..-.. feel   .-... / .-... leas, rile

-.... / -.... Bens, Beth, dins   --.-- / --.-- matty

.--.. / .--.. wipe   -..-. / -..-. tinter   -.--. / -.--. yeng (young)

feel and *matty* are also Morse Palindromes

12 'bit' Tautonyms

.-.... / .-....   leers, liebe, liase (= liaise)   ..-.-. / ..-.-. uric

.-...- / .-...- Rula (Lenska)   -..... / -..... bids, bines

-.-.-- / -.-.-- tawny   -.--.. / -.--.. twinge

16 'bit' Tautonym

.--..-.. / .--..-.. planed

MORSE TRIPLE TAUTONYMS

It is necessary to look at less well-known words in order to discover any Morse Triple Tautonyms, especially those which use both dots and dashes.

-.. / -.. / -.. tined, teened   --. / --. / --. mang (Scot: to lead astray)

.-.. / .-.. / .-.. laire (Scot: a plot in a graveyard)

OTHER GENRES

Words made from *n* dots followed by *n* dashes or vv:

...--- so   ....---- hot   .....----- Seato   ......------- shoot

-------.... toes   ---------..... tones

-------...... Tomise (an administrative division in Japan)   ------------...... toosh (Scot: a nightgown)

A word made from 25 dots and no dashes:

.... Shishihei (a populated place in North Korea)

(disseisees, from 21 dots, appeared in WW 80159)

etc. etc. etc.   The reader might like to explore further.

--.---------.. .-.......-.-.-. !