

## COLLOQUY

*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 at least one month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.*

Eric Albert points out that Darryl Francis found most of his 100 transposals of ten or more letters in Chambers Anagrams and that these, therefore, are hardly "new to the world of published logology". Darryl Francis replies by noting that he meant "new" to refer to the 1986 publication date of this book, not that they had never been published anywhere; he agrees that it would have been less misleading to identify the book in his article. In any event, he notes that a considerable amount of work was needed to tag these words (Chambers gives no sources) and make sure they were not included in earlier transposal collections. The list should be of considerable value to American logologists since Chambers is not readily obtainable in this country. Various additions to his list were suggested by Eric Albert and Murray Geller:

aaceilmnot ACETAMINOL W3	aeilmoprty PREMORALITY W2
aeggiinrttu VERTIGINATE W3	ccehimooprt CETOMORPHIC W3
aegghiiinnt ALIGHTENING W3	cchimoopty CHROMOTYPIC W3
aeiilnottv TONALITIVE W3	ceehiloprst LEPOTRICHES W3

Tim Wheeler comments that jeetjet was a common Army phrase, and Philip Cohen heard it in high school (one of his friends drew a B-52 jeet jet in class). It took Cynthia Knight narr (maybe nar-naff) to think of smare examples: pummy (asked by someone hard of hearing), kew (murmured by a grateful Briton), pew (asked by an over-eager salesman), troocher (drink, soup, salad, etc.) (asked by a solicitous waiter). Jewish any more examples? How about the Scottish query "What's scone on?"

In early printings of Webster's Second, RAFTMAN was actually defined as "a raftman", but this tautology was changed to "a raftsman" in later ones.

Jeff Grant wonders if anyone else noticed that the Charles Stewart 8-square published in 1902 can be modified by changing INTERNEED to INTERRER, and EAST EDEN to EASTERED (the past tense of the verb easter, "to veer to the east"). If this is done, the 8-square consists entirely of words in Webster's Second.

Ben Zimmer notes that the word WALLABY-PROOF was used in 1881 to characterize the quality of fencing used on an Australian station (ranch). To be SHREW-STRUCK, he adds, is to be paralyzed by a shrew-mouse; according to Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and

Fable, the shrew-mouse was reputed to have the power of harming cattle by running over their backs, or of laming the foot which it ran over. Sir Jeremy Morse points out that the name of UCALEGON occurs in Homer, but the definition "a neighbor whose house is on fire" comes from Vergil's account of the burning of Troy, Aeneid 11 311-12, "iam proximus ardet Ucalegon". Darryl Francis notes the curious Chambers Twentieth Century dictionary definition of SOOTERKIN: "a fabulous afterbirth induced by Dutch women sitting huddled over their stoves". And how about the Second Barnhart Dictionary of New English entry for LOVE BUG, "a small black fly of the southeastern United States...appears at springtime in very large numbers, often covering windshields and clogging radiators of automobiles".

Vernon MacLaren let his imagination run riot and came up with many additions to Helen Gunn's pothole names. A sampling: A Heap in the Deep, Austin Lost-in, Auto Grotto, Bashin' Pit, Bitch Ditch, Brake Break, Bumper Thumper, Cab Grab, Camper Hamper, Car Jar, Caster Disaster, Checker Wrecker, Crash Gash, Danger Manger, Din Bin, Dodge Lodge, Duck it Bucket, Flivver Shiver, Ford Fjord, Foul Bowl, Grand Am Canyon, Hassle Castle, Hubcap Trap, Hub Tub, Immense Dents, Junker Bunker, Lincoln Sinkin', Lorry Quarry, Malice Palace, Mayday Bay, Mean Ravine, Mishap Gap, Nash Gash, Pitch Ditch, Rambler Scrambler, Rattle Trap, Rock it Pocket, Rubber Drubber, Scrap Trap, Screech Breach, Slashin' Pit, Stutz Ruts, Trailer Jailor, Tread Dread, Vale of Gears, Van Can, Venice the Menace, Wheeler Stealer, Wreck Room, and Zap Gap.

Errata: in "End Play", the penultimate line of "Why Egypt is a Desert" ends in TEAR, not REAR. "On the Table" is missing the 31 Across clue: People in power can be half insane. The answer to the first Miniquiz in Kickshaws: Albany, Santa Monica, Aliquipa, and Franklin end in the same letters as their statename abbreviations. Cynthia Knight asks "Why wasn't Virgil on the list?"

Sir Jeremy Morse adds to "End Play" by converting a couple of well-known maxims: Many Hands Make Light Work to Zany Bands Take Right Fork (instead of following the rest of the procession to the left), and Waste Not Want Not to Haste Got Kant Hot (philosophers like to work slowly).

Eric Albert generated 17 more Old MacDonald words (ones with the vowels EIEIO in order) from Webster's Second: epileptiform, hyperdistention, lecideiform, pedicelliform, predigestion, predirection, predispersion, preinfection, preinsertion, redigestion, redisseisor, redisseizor, reimmersion, reinfection, reinsertion, semipenniform, and semireniform.

Philip Cohen comments on "Pneumonoultramicrostuff": "I think that with freak words, as in other aspects of language, usage rules; everyone spells it with 45 letters, not 44, so that's now the right way. It was surely intended as a freak word even in its original 'literary' appearance."

Jeff Grant brought to the editor's attention the "Falkland Yellow Pages", part of a book based on the satirical English TV program, "Spitting Images". Kidding the propensity of beauty parlors to go for punning names, the listing includes: A Pun Worse Than The Rest, A Cut Above The Usual Pun, A Snip Above The Pun, A Hair's Breadth Away From Being The Worst Possible Pun, Chez Pretentious Pun, On The Fringe Of Being A Pun, A Pun Ahead, and The Pun's Edge.

Timothy Wheeler contributes a headline blooper: FIRE FATAL TO FAMILY OF FIVE STARTED IN COUCH. Edward Wolpow adds RESTAURANT SCRAPS EXPANSION (the start of a new MacGarbage chain?) and (a book title) FIFTEEN MINUTE MEALS (for dieters?).

Sir Jeremy Morse notes that Summer's Rule of Taboo is violated by FRILLLESS and DUCHESSSHIP in the OED; HAY-YARD is a double Y, and HAJJl a double J.

Philip Cohen: "The Mangarevan words are moderately interesting as palindromes, but some are really lovely as ucalegons. Uhu, erure, ururu, opoopo...just great. We have unus too, but we call them surfboards."

Philip Cohen and Dave Morice note that quintuplication is not "raising to the fifth power". There is no word for it, though the coinages sursolidation and quinting were suggested.