

## DO MAMARONECKERS LIKE TO NECK?

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*Mencken writes in The American Language "A rough popular humor often supplies opprobrious forms [of names for inhabitants of cities and towns in the United States]. Thus the people of Chicago (or at least some of them) have been called Chicagorillas, those of Louisville Louisvillains, those of Swampscott, Mass., Swampskeeters, and those of Cedar Rapids, Iowa bunnies (See der rabbits)."*

People with uninhibited imaginations often wonder about things that wouldn't cross saner minds. Do lobsters hurt when you boil them? Why is a lieutenant general higher in rank than a major general when a major outranks a lieutenant? What do you call people who speak Flemish besides Belgians? Until I found out they're plain old Flemings (how mundane!), I had dreamed up names with much more oomph. Why, they could be Flems, Flams, or Flooms!

You get the idea. Anyway, at a late hour recently I began dabbling with names of towns, fancifully attaching suffixes promising to yield the most entertaining or outrageous nomenclatures. Be warned - you're about to enter a nutbrain's world...

How about my old hometown for starters: are folks who live there Colorado Springers?

This silly speculation flipped a crazy switch in my head. Next came the perfect name for the townspeople just south of Denver, the Castle Rockers. And, speaking of Denver, is this the home of the ever-truthful Denveracities, as distinguished from the dissembling Centraliards?

That reminded me of show business for some reason, and the musically-inclined Little Rockettes and the Lansingers, accompanied by the Olympianos. Some other groups that might be worth hearing are the North Platters, the Minotes, the Concordettes, and the Appletoners. Elizabethans are, naturally, made up backstage by the Baton Rougers. Catch them all at the Twin Fallies!

Do you suppose a few bathing Buttees have been attracted to show business? That brings up the notion of stars, which of course reminded me of the time when I looked through a Mt. Palomartian telescope at all the Seattlites and Alamedeorites as they flew by.

Speaking of the heavens - stars need to stay in heavenly shape, so call in the exercising Abileners, Gallupers, and the South Benders to bring up the rear!

From exercising, we go naturally to athletics and teams like

the Springfielders and the Fairfielders, the Tusconics, the Fort Dodgers, the Salt Lakers, and the Baltimorioles.

At sporting events people always get hungry, and the food choices are many. We could pick among Spartanburgers, Pittsburgers, and Lynchburgers, with Munsters and Altoonas on the side. Or make it simple with a snack of Frankforters washed down with Pensacolas or Sarasotas. And for dessert-loving Grand Forkers and Saginawers, there are delicious Chattanoogaogats.

Eating soils dishes, so send in the Clearwaterers and Sweetwaterers, the Roswellers, the Riversiders, and the Waterburiers to do the job right.

Some people don't do dishes, but their fortes lie in other areas. Consider the get-up-and-goers called the Mobilizers. The Romers and Fargoers are, of course, afflicted with wanderlust.

Fortunately, there are plenty of working folks around like the Waterproofers, the Tucumcarriers, the Kokomowers, the Fairbankers and Burbankers, the Kankakeeyers, the Birminghammers, the Ruidosowers, the Pueblowers, the Bismarckers, the Saranackers, the Petalumars, the Davenporters and Bridgeporters, and the Texarkansawyers.

You can't talk about this country without politicians getting into the act, and there are plenty of them, including the Spokandidates and Portsmouthers (pretty far left?), the Council, Pine and Poplar Bluffers, the Pocatellers, the Ann Arborators, the Wichitalkers. In the Congress there are likely to be both laughing Omahalers and pessimistic Phoenixers or Renoers.

This brings up people with interpersonal problems or unpleasant types, though there's no offense meant to the Walla Wallawers, the Syracusers, or the Baltimorons. Do close your curtains at night so as not to attract the Topekera or Chesapeakers. We may need the Annapolise, the Minneapolise, and the Indianapolise, as well as Provosts, to keep all of them in line.

Without their help, we might expect a gang war to break out between the Anchoragers and the Tempers, or the Houstoners and the Slippery Rockers.

The occult conjures up the Norwiches, the Tallahasseers, the Warwickeds, and the Eau Clairvoyants. I wonder if the Eugenics could help here?

Ending on a lighter note, one certainly thinks of the eminent Fort and Leavenworthies, and the amorous Mamaroneckers and Columbussers.

Which leaves me with an awful name for my wonderful little Louisiana hometown - do I sound like a Pinevillain?