

FACING THE END

DMITRI A. BORGMANN
Dayton, Washington

If someone were to ask you to name three American communities beginning with the letter Z, could you? Unless you happen to live in one, you might have difficulties, for there are only two cities in the nation with populations exceeding 10,000 and beginning with the letter Z: ZANESVILLE, Ohio and ZION, Illinois. Yet, there are many hundreds of communities in the United States beginning with the last letter of the alphabet. While some names occur in a good many states - there are numerous Zions, for example - the actual number of different Z names is a figure approaching two hundred. This vast reservoir of Z names surrounding us has led an underground existence until now, from a logological standpoint. The time has come to bring it out into the open.

Listed below are 184 Z names, culled from two editions of the Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide: the 1984 edition, and one of some five or ten years ago (I don't remember the exact edition that I originally used). This composite list therefore represents all Z names in the United States in the last few years. Each name is identified with only one state in which it occurs, even if it is found in quite a few others. Two of the most interesting names on the list, taken from the older edition, are no longer recognized by Rand McNally. One is ZIPPERLENVILLE, the longest single-word name on the list; the other, ZZYZX, the alphabetically last place name in the United States. Let's declare a day of mourning for the departed!

Zabcikville TX	Zambarano Memorial Hospital RI
Zacarter LA	Zamora CA
Zacata VA	Zandale KY
Zacha Junction TX	Zander WI
Zachar Bay AK	Zane OH
Zachariah KY	Zane Addition OH
Zachary LA	Zanesfield OH
Zacharytown TN	Zanesville IL
Zachow WI	Zaneta IA
Zack AR	Zangar Junction WA
Zafra OK	Zann's Corners OH
Zag KY	Zanoni MO
Zahl ND	Zante CA
Zaidee GA	Zap ND
Zaleski OH	Zapata TX
Zalma MO	Zarah KS
Zama MS	Zarephath NJ

Zavalla TX
 Zayante CA
 Zcmi Center UT
 Zeagler FL
 Zeal VA
 Zeandale KS
 Zearing IL
 Zeba MI
 Zebedee LA
 Zebina GA
 Zebleys Corner PA
 Zebulon GA
 Zediker CA
 Zee CA
 Zeeland MI
 Zehners PA
 Zeigler IL
 Zeigler Junction IL
 Zeiglerville MS
 Zela WV
 Zelianople PA
 Zell MO
 Zellobee GA
 Zellwood FL
 Zelma IN
 Zelobee GA
 Zemple MN
 Zemuly MS
 Zena NY
 Zenas IN
 Zenda KS
 Zenia CA
 Zenith GA
 Zenith Heights MI
 Zenith-Saltwater WA
 Zeno OH
 Zenoria LA
 Zent AR
 Zentner CA
 Zenz City OH
 Zeona SD
 Zephyr NC
 Zephyr Cove NV
 Zephyr Cove-Round Hill Village NV
 Zephyrhills FL
 Zephyrhills South FL
 Zephyrhills West FL
 Zepp VA
 Zerbe PA
 Zerkel MN
 Zero MS
 Zerus CA
 Zeta MO
 Zetella GA
 Zetto GA
 Zetus MS
 Zevely WV
 Zia Indian Reservation NM
 Zia Pueblo NM
 Zibilich LA
 Zieglersville PA
 Zieglerville MS
 Zif IL
 Zigler WV
 Zigman WA
 Zigzag OR
 Zihlman MD
 Ziler TX
 Zillah WA
 Zilwaukee MI
 Zim MN
 Zimco AL
 Zimmerdale KS
 Zimmer Estates OH
 Zimmerman MN
 Zinc AR
 Zincville OK
 Zingara GA
 Zinnia WV
 Zinzer CO
 Zion AL
 Zion Acres TN
 Zion City AL
 Zion Crossroads VA
 Zion Grove PA
 Zion Heights AL
 Zionhill PA
 Zion Hill KY
 Zion National Park UT
 Zion Park Lodge UT
 Zion Station KY
 Zions View PA
 Zionsville IN
 Ziontown OH
 Zionville NC
 Zip City AL
 Zipp City TX
 Zipperlerville TX
 Zippville TX
 Zirconia NC
 Zirkle VA
 Zita TX

Zittau WI
 Zittings WA
 Zittlestown MD
 Zoar AL
 Zoarville OH
 Zoe KY
 Zolfo Springs FL
 Zollarsville PA
 Zona LA
 Zone OH
 Zoneton KY
 Zoo PA
 Zook KS
 Zooks Corner PA
 Zooks Dam PA
 Zook Spur IA
 Zora MO
 Zorball MS
 Zorn TX
 Zortman MT
 Zube WY
 Zuber FL
 Zucksville PA
 Zuehl TX

Zula KY
 Zullinger PA
 Zulu IN
 Zuma IL
 Zumbra Heights MN
 Zumbro MS
 Zumbro Falls MN
 Zumbrota MN
 Zummo TX
 Zumwalt WA
 Zuna IL
 Zuni CO
 Zuni Indian Reservation NM
 Zuni Pueblo NM
 Zunkerville TX
 Zurich MT
 Zurich Heights IL
 Zutphen MI
 Zwingle IA
 Zwolle LA
 Zybach TX
 Zylks LA
 Zylonite MA
 Zzyzx CA

Deserving special honors are those names including a second Z somewhere in their spelling: ZENZ CITY, ZIGZAG, ZINZER, and, of course, ZZYZX.

A NONSENSE-PHRASE GENERATOR

Word Ways readers may be interested in a software program called "Off-The-Wall", provided by the Salinon Corporation (7430 Greenville, Box 31047, Dallas TX 75231, 800-722-0054) for \$29 postpaid. Suitable for PCs or compatibles (256K, DOS 2.0+), it creates nonsense sentences using a variety of built-in phrase generators. Some examples:

*Affluence is the root of all amazement
 All is depressing in romance and politics
 Try composure when you have failed at jubilation
 Tautology is to excellence as devotion is to perfection*