KICKSHAWS

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*Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kick-
shaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers
and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will continue
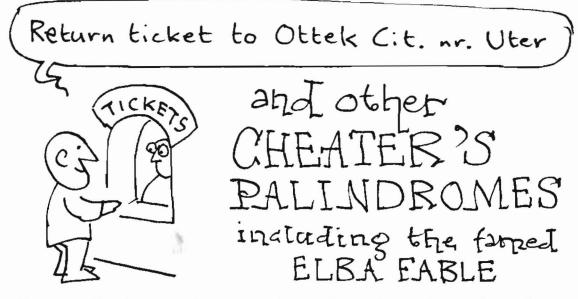to appear occasionally.*

Cheater's Palindromes

"Ukiah's Haiku," which appeared in **Word Ways** last May, cheated
in forming a palindrome. That is, the second half simply reversed
the letters of the words in the first half with little concern for
the dictionary. Jeff Grant commented in the August Colloquy that
there might be many more possibilities in this dada-like wordplay.
I wrote a few people to see what could be done. Here are cheater's
palindromes in three forms: one-liners, a cartoon by Peter Newby,
and a play.

"Emord nil apaflah," sed Ivor P., "provides half a palindrome" *
Niessuh, madd as Saddam Hussein * Results Iraqi embargo grab.
me. I, Qar, ist luser * To oracle, Janus replied "Deil persun a
jel caroot * Purcell, a base note detones a balle crup! * This
is to the point; T'nio Peh tot sisiht * Esne's seka, my lurt, truly
makes sense * Madam, I'm not Onmimadam * "Lac it, ammar gnus"
is ungrammatical * Red nesot, Den Ruter saw, was returned to sen-
der * Either way, this reads: Daers, I h't yaw'reh tie * Elba,
Felix Eni. Did Noe! O'Pan tub on Noit Celferno? On reflection, no.
But, Napoleon did in exile (fable)   --Peter Newby

Oolginani's evil Eskimo, "Nomik Se", lives in an igloo * "Baha?
Deka? Orca-a-a-a!" croaked Ahab * Yllodykes say Rut Parton's
not "raptury" as sexy Dolly * How does one interpret "Nie Nose
Od Woh"? * Samorael bats at times emit tastable aromas * Bubbly
baby Bob babbled "elb bab boby baby I'd bub" * "Srengierofotel-
baecnuonorpnuyllacitcarpsiseirfhcnerfrofdrowutobmlacolehta," the local
Mbotu word for "French fries", is practically unpronounceable to
foreigners * Devill lit Soge-Denoi's sap. Minus an id, Dina's un-
impassioned ego still lived! * "Gniebne! Ilaeht! Demaercsiiiiii!"
screamed the alien being   --Jeff Grant

A phoney: yenohpa! * Capable was I ere I saw Elbapac * Fake
word: rowekaf * "Ffulbas" is a bluff * Garbage - e.g., "a brag" *
I consume musnoci * I made up "puedami" * I want Nawi * Spot
the phoney: yen, oh, peht, tops * Sselgninaemsi's meaningless * We
drink Nir dew * Tommyrot - Tory m-mot! * Yes, Rej, we name Ma
"New Jersey" * "De ret tume," he muttered * "Srettel fon ret tap

mo DNA ratons" is not a random pattern of letters * odd word:
"drowddo"   --Darryl Francis

Return ticket to Ottek Cit. nr. Uter

and other CHEATER'S PALINDROMES including the famed ELBA FABLE

My contribution to the genre is a short-short-short play. In it, two tipsy celebrants meet at a party. Their speech is somewhat slurred, but their meaning is as clear as the night sky.

She: My name's Emanym.
He: How are you? I'm Miuoy E. Rawoh.
She: May I call you Uoy Llaciyam?
He: Uoy Llaciyam? Tahw! What may I call you?
She: Me? Em.
He: It's a nice night in Nithginecinasti.
She: Drink, nird.
He: Mmm, this siht...mmm.
She: Blue rum, Sir, is mureulb.
He: Uh-oh, look! There's Sereht "Kool" Hohu.
She: With his wife, Efi W. Sihhtiw.
He: Em, 'e sucxe! True, Em? Ree-beer me. EURT! Excuse me."
She: Ah-ah, start a belch, cleb at rats--ha! ha!
He: Funny ynnuf.
She: Too funny for now on. Rof ynnuf, 'oot!
He: "Drowatonsi" is not a word!
He: Means "l love you!" Oy! Evol is naem.
She: 'Oot, Uoy! Evol? l love you, too.
He: Me? You lov 'ol Uoy, Em?
She: Yes. Ah, l'm married, deir ramm. l--ha!--sey.
He: Who's your mate? Tam Ruoy Sohw?
She: No, I think someone called Dell Ace. No, Emos K. Nihtion.
He: Kiss me! Oooh! I--hooo!--em ssik.
She: So it is a word, "Drowasitios"?
He: I don't--now, who cares? Er, a cohw won't nod. I--
She. Uoy, let's go home. Mo' hogs tel' you.
He: To my good doog, Ymot!
She: And my tact cat, Ymdna.
He: More rum! Mure rom!

She: It **was** a nice night in Nithginecinasawti.

In the Words of Saddam Hussein

Mike Morton composed seven anagrams out of the thirteen letters in the Iraqi leader's name. Now we know a little more about the man behind the crude.

SMASH SAUDI DEN   MEDIA SHUNS ADS   HUMAN'S SAD SIDE
USA HID MADNESS   A MADNESS HID US   DEAD MAN'S SUSHI
                    USA SADDENS HIM

To these, the dictator could reply with a well-oiled pun: "Sad? Damn! Who's sane?"

Where is Buffalo Bob Now That We Need Him?

On Saturday Night Live, Dennis Miller presents the week's news — comically distorted. During the first broadcast of the 1990 season, he showed a newspaper headline that began. "SAUDI DUTY..." and noted that songs often grow out of military conflicts. And then he burst into song: "It's Saudi Duty time!"

Quantity Equality

Michael Sussna of La Jolla, California has constructed two re-markable sets of word pairs involving number names that produce an equal amount of letters in each pair. In the first example, each pair of number names sums to nine; in the second, the enumer-ation of the months is quite appropriate in the Julian calendar. There must be other quantity-equality sets that work in their own ways. Using number names only, I found the two squares in the right column. The top square has the number names one through nine going down column by column. The bottom square has nine numbers, with NINE repeated. In this square, the word lengths in each column are equal; they increase by one from left to right in each row; the total of the actual numbers in each row and col-umn is 18; and the total of both diagonals is also 18 — almost a mathematical magic square. (Editor's note: Dave's magic square is a first cousin to Sallows' Alphamagic Squares described in the February 1987 **Word Ways**.) Are other structures possible?

ZERO-NINE   ONE-MARCH   ONE-FOUR-SEVEN
ONE-EIGHT   TWO-APRIL   TWO-FIVE-EIGHT
TWO-SEVEN   THREE-MAY   THREE-SIX-NINE
THREE-SIX   FOUR-JUNE
FOUR-FIVE   FIVE-JULY   TWO-NINE-SEVEN
                                       TEN-ZERO-EIGHT
                                       SIX-NINE-THREE

Hermans

Tom Swifties are one-line quotes concluding with a punning ad-verb: "I burnt my finger!" said Tom heatedly. The Herman, named after the lead-off example below, drops the adverb and uses a name only. Hermans could be expanded to include the last names only or both first and last names. This set's on a first-name basis.

"She's my woman," said Herman.
"Can I touch you?" asked Ophelia.
"Hello," said Hy.
"Is that a window?" asked Isadore.
"I'll have a hot dog," said Frank.
"That's quite a storm out there," said Abigail.
"Your cat scratched me!" said Claude.
"We like to go beachcombing," said Shelly and Sandy.
"Who ate all the bacon?" asked Egbert.
"You're my best friend," said Opal.
"There must be a way," said Will.
"Me! Me!" cried Mimi.
"What a sexy nightie!" said Teddy.
"I'm sad," said Merry. "I'm merry," said Sadie.
"I've got to use the loo," said Lulu to Lou.
"I'm a blues person," said Jasper's son.
"Yeah!" said Noah.
"My legs hurt right here," said my niece.
"What comes after H?" asked I, Jay, Kay, Ella and Emma.
"Bottoms up!" said Fanny.
"My cup's empty," said Phil.
"Listen! l hear horses," said Winnie.
"I don't have a dollar to my name," said Buck.
"You certainly may," said April to June.
"Over and out!" said Roger.
"Nobody ever remembers my name," said

Mary Bred a Derby Ram

The above palindrome, written by Peter Newby, parodies the first line of Sarah Josepha Hale's lamb poem. The Derby ram, according to Peter, is a giant mythical beast of British folklore that causes destruction wherever it goes, including flooding a town by pissing on it. The challenge is to make up three more palindromic lines that are as pure and simple as the fleecy piece above. I tried, and my shaggy version appears below. How would you shear the ram?

> Mary bred a Derby ram,
> Won some hem o' snow,
> Went on drawer, reward not new:
> O, gods, Mary, rams do go!

What To Title a Poem

Peter Newby pointed out that the Complete Countdown Companion mentioned that Richard Stilgoe quoted a quatrain that Geoffrey Smith published in the April 24 1988 Sunday Times that originally appeared in a book of puzzles in 1907. (Note: the previous sentence is a sixth-generation source citation, probably a world record!) The poem is supposed to be an anagram of the months of the year, but Richard checked it out and discovered five letters missing. He anagrammed them into a surprisingly appropriate title; can you find the letters and figure out the title?

Just a jury by number,
Each scrap of year--
A number recording
Every jumble, tumble, tear.

Crosspatch

Compass words (**Word Ways**, November 1989) have become the ba-
sis of a game for two or more players. It's called Crosspatch,
and it was developed by Peter Newby and his competitive colleagues.
To play: Players agree upon a central letter. Each player takes
turns suggesting different words with that central letter until (say)
twelve words have been named. As words are stated, each player
writes them either horizontally or vertically to make a total of
six crosses on his or her playing sheet. For example, if I is the
central letter and a player calls TRIBE, then players may cross
this with any subsequent word (see examples below). The player
scoring the most points (one point per word) wins. If a player
attempts to score with a non-dictionary word, the word is disqual-
ified and the player is penalized a point. Optional rule: Points
are not given for duplicate words in the player's crosses. Peter
and his principal opponent, Maggie Warburton, have yet to achieve
a tied result. Sharpen your wits and pencils, and go for it!

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(1)      S           (2)     T          Player (1) scores 5 words:
         P                   R          SPICE-SPIRT-TRIPS-TRICE-TRIBE.
     T R I B E           T R I B E      Player (2) scores 6: TRIPS-
         C                   P          SPIRT-TRIBE, plus the 3 more
         E                   S          for repeating those 3 words.
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The Bear and the Boer

Davy Crockett may have stared down bears, but the Boer hero
of this epic tries a different tactic--and so does the poem. It's
rhyming words are homonym anagrams. The poem uses six sets of
these rare pairs. Can you locate two more sets to put in a final
couplet?

While strolling bare
He saw a bear
That stopped to pare
A ripened pear.

He rushed to tear
Away the tare.
He couldn't wear
The grizzly's ware.

He halted o'er
Some silver ore
And tried to bore
The bear, poor Boer .

An All-Powerful Tongue-Twister

Take the letter values of A, M, N, or Z to any power. Reduce
the answer to a circular alphabet by dividing by 26, taking the
remainder, and converting this to its corresponding letter. For
the four letters above, the remainder will convert to the original
letter. For example, M cubed = 13 cubed = 2197 / 26 = 84, remaind-
er 13 = M. Webster's Seventh Collegiate lists several words spelled
only with A, M and/or N but not Z. The tongue-twister below uses
all but one of these words: which one? A power-shift to any degree
results in the same sentence. It's surprisingly coherent, but try

saying it rapidly five times. Can you translate it?

Mama, ma'am, ma, an mamma man a manna, mana, an ana, an'a, ana

A Reign Of Sun Turns Off Night's Fears

Can you find a pattern in this prose poem? How does the title relate to it? In what way are the two paragraphs equal? Which letter is missing? Why?

All the pilots quaver without large flights; your space in ours tracks their foul games. If hours fade, I go up. Dandelions shun brazen idols but, as we might know, puns alter will or luck. A region quakes, spits out a heinous, fast E minor. Sun-faded in town squares, this song puts a period up at the windows: Sunday veils block us, and we find our fall regions durable in cold murals. We dish out table irons. Sun adds the light clouds made in our pages. It's our grand vein of lust, sane in our past eight thoughts. Anemic old furnaces sit on tuna flesh in chorus. What? The lion turns.

Turmoil eats up coiled asps, quoting mental furor--ice and slush. On piebald cups of wild tea, gulls frown. Ideals undo fine stars, cut, boiled, and drunk, for ideas stun owls, wise as truth, knowing the ambush. So I eat dumb owls. I'm lean, but bovine fat just got its extra lunch. Stories can't pump off ire as much. Now is each rumor in tears? Fun's hot side, pal, unlocks fine cauldron vinegar, Pluto's wine, and Pluto is the man undoing meat. Bulls stop in, set a sun dropping veal upon it. The branch guts torrid lean muttons like dark mulch on shirts. Sea's sun. Voices balk. Slush on ice: Saturn's own still meal.

Typewriter States

Some words are typed in special sequences on the standard QWER-TY keyboard. So it is with the state postal abbreviations. Almost half (24) are typed with both hands, one for each letter: AK, AL, CO, FL, IA, ID, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NV, OR, PA, RI, TN, UT, WI, WY. Of the remaining 26, exactly half are typed with the left hand: AR, AZ, CA, CT, DE, GA, SC, SD, TX, VA, VT, WA, SV. The other half are typed with the right: HI, IL, IN, KY, MI, MN, MO, NJ. NH. NM. NY, OH, OK. Fifteen are typed with letters on the same row: OR, RI, UT, WI, WY top row; AK, AL, SD, LA, KS, GA middle row; MN, NC, NM, NV bottom row. There are five one-finger states: AZ, DE, MN, NM, VT. There are six that alternate between the corresponding fingers on each hand: ID, MT, NV, PA, TN, UT. Can the letters on the keyboard be arranged so that all state abbreviations can be typed with one finger? Or with alternating fingers? Or on the same rows? Or with alternating hands?

How Does a Poem Mean

Dr. Kurt Eisemann, a San Diego State University professor of mathematics, has translated a poem from German that can be read

either column-wise or row-wise. The meaning, however, changes
drastically:

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How delightful, what a pleasure,    Meeting an attractive date
Laboratory tests to measure         Can for later seasons wait.
How exciting, what a thrill,        Kissing, holding hands at night
Beakers and pipettes to fill        Would, by contrast, be so trite!
Day and night I keenly yearn        Just to wine and dine and feast
Math and sciences to learn          Tickles me not in the least!
Ah, it warms you like a fire        From a sweetheart to gain hopes
Knowledge daily to acquire          I would leave to fools and dopes!
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Naming the Letters

In Webster's Seventh Collegiate, the word CEE is the name for
the letter C, but the letter A stands for itself. Such inconsistency!
Suppose we were to name all the letters--and all the bigrams, all
the trigrams, and so on, up to the largest English word. In doing
so, we would have to name each new letter-string that is used
for naming other letters and letter-strings. If QTTP is the word
for the bigram EW, then QTTP requires a name. To make certain
that all dictionary words are included, we can add a further stip-
ulation that, if a word of length n exists, all letter-strings of
length n should be named, too. The names can be dictionary words
or random sets of letters.

Here's how it might work with two simple rules: (1) The name
must differ in length from the letter-string it names; and (2) The
words LETTER, BIGRAM, TRIGRAM, etc. must precede the letter-string.
With this simple method, the metalinguistic name and the alphabetic
object can't be confused. Letter A and Letter BTQP could both re-
fer to A. Likewise, Bigram VBSSQ and Bigram EF both refer to EF.
The first designation is the name of the letter-string, and the sec-
ond is the letter-string itself. Note that any letter-string can be
used to name more than one letter-string of different lengths--Let-
ter ABDL, Bigram ABDL, Trigram ABDL, Pentagram ABDL, but not
Tetragram ABDL, which is ABDL itself. The naming might work that
way, but it doesn't. What is the problem, and how can it be re-
solved?

Headline Poem Found in the Des Moines Register

ELEVENTH-HOUR BUDGET PUSH
FROM HOUSE LEADERS, BUSH

Consonym Pangrams

Consonyms are words that have the same consonants in the same
order, like RaDiaL and oRDeaL. Pangrams are sets of words con-
taining all the letters of the alphabet. Combine the two concepts,
and you have a consonym pangram, which uses each of the 20 con-
sonants only once plus any amount of vowels as "wild cards" to
complete the words. What are the largest and smallest number of
letters that form consonym pangrams with the consonants in alpha-
betical order? Using Webster's Seventh Collegiate, I found the two

below with a difference of 44 letters, but there may be a better pair. If the consonants can appear in any order, which order generates the greatest difference? What feature of this problem as stated reduces it to a simpler problem, what is that problem, and is there only one answer?

By CoD iF GHi JoKe LiMN oP QuiReS To VoW Xi Zoo
Buoy Coo auDio oFay Gaea aHoy Jay oKay oLio Maya aeoN Payee
   Queue eeRie Soya auTo Vie aWay aXe ooZe

Prepositioning the Cat

Can you untangle the following yarn? It uses 26 different prepositions, but they're all out of order. Or is there a hidden order that simplifies the problem?

Ralph climbed between the steps above his room, where his cat, Flikka, was sleeping about the bed. She woke and clawed of the bedpost. Ralph reached across the pillow, grabbed the fur in her ears, and lifted her through the air. Then he set her gently down the chair with the window. She rubbed before his legs, pounced under him, and jumped for her empty food dish.

"So you're glad I'm back without work," Ralph said. "From me, you'd still be looking around scraps after the bridge where I found you against the storm. If I hadn't taken you home near me, you might've been blown by the river."

Ralph searched into the refrigerator behind the kitchen as Flikka walked over the room. She meowed plaintively.

"I appreciate it, Ralph, but I'm tired at hearing on it all the time. I thought you would be to that. Which reminds me, could you scratch me up the ears awhile?"

The Word Adjectival

GALORE was once cited in **Word Ways** as the only adjective that always follows a noun. Later, APLENTY was added to this category. Two more can be put on the list: AWEIGH and AGO. Or can one talk about a 1960s female dancer as an AGO GO-GO GIRL?

Adjectives That Howl at the Moon

Some adjectives are lone wolves. In regular usage, they never appear at either side of the nouns they modify. Most seem to begin with A, such as AFLOAT, AGHAST, AGLOW, AGOG, AJAR, AMISS, ASKEW, ASLEEP, ASLOPE, AWAKE, AWASH, AWRY. They usually function predicatively after some form of the verb BE: "The door was ajar," but not "He stood behind the ajar door." In questions, they can follow a noun: "Is the boy asleep?" And some can precede a noun in adjectival clauses and appear to modify it: "Asleep, people sometime dream," which really means "When people are asleep..." Are there other examples that begin with other letters?

Jack Gets Laid Off

The following story is made of one-word sentences. Most are mental commands given by Jack, the protagonist, to himself. The words in quotes are exceptions. If full sentences were used, the story would be eight to ten times as long. This distillation saves writing and reading time, not to mention the cost of paper. How much sense can a word make? How much of a sentence can it make? Behold:

Wake, Yawn. Stretch. Wash. Dress. Eat. Drink. Leave. Drive. Stop. Go. Stop. Wait. Wait. "Damn!" "HONK!" Accelerate. Pass. "Idiot!" Decelerate. Signal. Turn. Enter. Park. Leave. Walk. Enter. Climb. Turn. Open. Enter. Close. "Morning." "Morning." "Busy?" "No." "Here." "Oh." Nod. Sit. Write. Erase. Type. Work. Smile. Work. Frown. Work. Yawn. "Jack?" "Yes." "Hurry!" "Okay." Work. Groan. Daydream. Forget. "Ring!" Answer. "Hello?" "Faster!" "Right!" "Now!" "Yes!" Work. Write. Work. Erase. Work. "Finished!" Break. Walk. Turn. Walk. Sit. Relax. "Jack!" "What?" "Coffee?" "No." "No?" "Nope." "Alright." Slouch. Daydream. Daydream. Daydream. "Jack!" "Huh?" "Here!" "Now?" "Immediately." Stand. Walk. Turn. Walk. Sit. Type. Type. Type. Correct. Type. Type. Remove. Proofread. "Lucy." "Yes?" "Photocopy." "One?" "Three." Watch. Admire. Desire. "Jack!" Turn. "Huh?" "Ready?" "Yes." "Where?" "There." Point. "Oh." Wait. Watch. "Here." "Thanks." "Sure." "Lucy?" "Yes?" "Lunch?" "Busy." "Dinner?" "Tomorrow." "Okay!" Smile. Daydream. Work. Daydream. Work. Finish. Rise. Deliver. "Jack!" "Sir?" "Lunchtime." "Oh." Turn. Open. Close. "Dpwn?" "Yes." Open. Leave. Walk. Turn. Enter. "Menu?" "No." "Order?" "Eggs." "Toast?" "Fine." "Bacon?" "Ham." "Coffee?" "No." Wait. Daydream. "Here!" Smell. "Yum!" Bite. Taste. "Delicious." Chew. Swallow. Bite. Chew. Daydream. Choke. Swallow. Finish. Pay. Tip. Leave. Turn. Walk. Climb. Turn. Enter. Sit. Work. Forget. Remember. Work. Work. Work. Yawn, Drift. Doze. "Jack!!!" Wake. "Sir?" "Asleep?" "Well..." "Well?" "Yes." "YES!?" Worry. Think. Pause. Listen. "Jack?" "Sir?" "Fired!" "What?" "Fired!" "Why?" "Leave." "Now?" "Immediately!" Rise. Pack. Walk. Open. Slam. Turn. Walk. Sigh. Think. Chuckle. Laugh. Guffaw. "Freedom!" Snicker. Walk. Remember. Walk. Turn. Search. Find. Lift. Dial. "Ring!" Wait. "Ring!" "Hello." "Lucy?" "Yes." "Fired." "Oh." "Dinner?" "No." "Please." "Sorry." "But–" "Bye." Walk. Wonder. Walk. Fantasize. Walk. Walk. Walk. Walk. Walk.

Haydn Go Seek

West Music is the classical music shop in Iowa City. When the store closes for lunch, the manager hangs this sign on the door: BACH at 1:00, OFFENBACH AT 1:30.

Dictionary Symphony Encore

In the last **Word Ways**, "Dictionary Symphony" discussed looking up definitions of the definitions of words. John Bulten has conducted the symphony before, and he has forwarded some of his results. Without the separation of definitions, much of it sounds like modernist literature a la Gertrude Stein. John suggests trying to find divisions between definitions without consulting the dictionary. A few excerpts from his fourth-level definitions of WORD found in

Webster's Ninth Collegiate display poetic, philosophical, and humorous qualities:

"...the heraldic color gold or yellow state of affairs in general or within a specified or implied sphere not definitely or exactly fixed conclusively or authoritatively or securely placed or fastened being the one and the other of two unspecified the first letter of the English alphabet a subject under consideration..."

"...a form or model proposed for imitation on the part of being what one or ones out of a group having real being whether material or spiritual particular states of affairs symbolize not perfect ones that represent having a point in a direction away from the inside or center or being an arch with a pointed crown before..."

"...a thoroughfare for travel or transportation from place to place into whichever a person or thing of consequence has identity with distributed in an orderly manner to or toward the inside especially of a house or other building..."

"...close to the wind to the state, condition, or form of to that extent situation being in one in particular has in mind as a purpose or goal into contact especially with the frame..."

Winterview

The Oxford Book of American Verse has 78 poets in its 1076 pages. This verse refers to 33 of them in its 24 lines. But why are there only 32 different names in the poem?

This Longfellow is Moody
And Aiken from the Pain.
Howe chilly are the Winters:
Hecht! there's Frost again.

The Bishop wears a Dickey;
His Taylor's in the street.
If I were any Snyder,
I'd Wright about the sleet.

My heat will cost a Ransom;
Moore Frost is in the ditch.
Yet all the Holmes on Bradstreet
Are Very, Very Rich.

No Hughes are in the rainbow
That's Duncan in the Brooks.
Our Cummings and our goings
Bear Winter's icy hooks.

This storm could Berryman now:
I Warren you, don't go!
My young son and my Olson
Drive Cranes to plow the snow.

So drink the whole Dorn Barlow!
The Masters aren't around.
It takes a bit of Whitman
To laugh instead of Pound.

The Censor's Christmas Card

Merry XXXmas!