A SMALLER PRESIDENTIAL RECTANGLE

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After admiring Darryl Francis's new presidential rectangle in **Word Ways** for May 1993, I began wondering if his result could be improved upon. The temptation to have a try finally proved irresistable. The result has rewarded efforts. Francis captures the names of all 37 US presidents within an area of 17x29 = 493 square units. The rectangle below measures only 19x22 = 418, a reduction of 75 square units!

To be fair, much credit is still due to Francis since the rectangle below borrows an important concept in his layout, namely the VAN BUREN-HARDING-GRANT-BUCHANAN loop, with its CLEVELAND-FILLMORE-GARFIELD and HARRISON-TRUMAN side branches. A purist's criticism of the new result might be that the POLK-FORD-JACKSON network forms an unconnected island. I challenge readers to go one better and produce a fully-connected layout of the same area.

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   W A S H I N G T O N   C A R T E R     J
         O                   A         A
  T     C O O L I D G E       Y     F   C
  Y   T   V         A         L   P O L K
  L   A   E   J     R   C     O     R   S
J E F F E R S O N   F I L L M O R E   D   O
  R   T       H     I   E   C           N
         M O N R O E   V   K E N N E D Y
E   R         S     L   E   I           P
I   O         O     D   L I N C O L N     I
S   O     H   N         A   L           E
E   S   V A N   B U R E N   E   A R T H U R
N   E     R     U       D   Y     E       C
H   V     D     C     T         A       E
O   E     I     H A R R I S O N   G   H
W I L S O N     A     U         A D A M S
E   T     G R A N T   M A D I S O N   Y
R               A     A             E
   C L I N T O N     N I X O N   B U S H
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