

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 irresistible. The result has rewarded efforts. Francis captures the names of all 37 US presidents within an area of $17 \times 29 = 493$ square units. The rectangle below measures only $19 \times 22 = 418$, 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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