

A CHALLENGE ANSWERED

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In the August 1994 **Word Ways** I challenged readers to find the smallest rectangle in which one can pack the 37 different US presidential surnames with at least one name in each of the eight possible directions (but connectivity not required). My answer to this challenge is shown below, an $18 \times 12 = 216$ rectangle in which FILLMORE does not connect to any other; each diagonal direction has a single representative.

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G t r J e f F e r s e N o s i d a m
n R E O r n O m   f i l l m o r e r
i u A H a r R i s o N o t n i l c u
d m g N e g D i l o c C a r t e r h
r a a s T a y l o R o o s e v e l T
a N N o       e i s e n H o w e r f r
H l o N a n a h c u b   s s m A d A
o o s o e c r e i P   r   u t
o c k S e y a h o   n E r u B n a v
v n C L e v e L a n D L e i f r a g
e i a i m c K i n l e Y d e n n e k
r l j w w a s h i n g T o N i x o n
  
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A true search-a-word (square format, with at least three and at most six surnames in each of the eight directions) can be placed in a $15 \times 15 = 225$ square. Letters shared by two presidents are capitalized, and by three (K, J, R) in boldface. The span is 11, from MONROE to PIERCE, FORD or VAN BUREN, and there is one cycle (WILSON, EISENHOWER, COOLIDGE, MCKINLEY) in the graph. All names are connected.

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P e b r g n J o H N S o n e
i o g u e A i e   a o m i   y
e   l d C v r x f   r S a e
r r   K i h o f o f e d L d f
c o s e c l a o i N e n i I a
e O n n a h o n H e i r l n W
N s l n r a   O a k l l s a g
o e o e t y w n C N m D s o
t v c d e E o M e o r h b n n
n e n y R s a r R o i   u a e
i l i e i d u E f n       s m o
l t L r i b a   g a r t H U R
c y r s n g   T n a r g   r n
t a o a a r O l y a T a f T o
h n v n d N a l e v e l c   m
  
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