

FLEDGE LEDGE EDGE

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From the last issue's Ledge Edge we peered mostly at the missing: intentionally omitted words, vowels and syllables. Now we flap away from the "eschewed" and go espying the askew--odd assortments and arrangements of what is there. But as with my mother's elves, you have to start flying before you can see them. You didn't know about my mother's elves? They were a family secret, and my father never admitted to getting the note she wrote about them, but then maybe he didn't get it-- "Ed: odd, I am nuts. I flew. As I did, I saw elf! I stun maid! --Dode." With palindromes, it helps if your parents' names were Ed and Dode, and mine really were.

1 PALINDROMES: Sem. Ord. Nil! (A.P.)

2 ANAGRAMMATIC VERSE: Verges at cram mania.
(Ram gem! Vest arcania!
Mame, gravest crania
erect grammas vania.)

3 EXPANDING RHYMES: If you add one letter to the first word each time, they expand cutely (first word letters are from "Cute rhymes expand").

X - is the letter.
EX - unwed's better.
AXE - for the lawyer.
AXER - he's sawyer.
EXTRA - I got kids!
X-RATES - my new beds.
RETAXES - sold beds.
EXACTERS - those Feds.
EXECRATES - single state!
SEX-CREATED - back with mate.

4 TRIADS: TRY ONE OUT. TAKE TWO OUT. DOWN ON THREE.
FOUR IRON HOLES. PICK FIVE UP. SIX PACK DOGS.

Now, you may wonder why it takes SIX people to PACK the DOGS into the car (Rule 1: the three words must make sense). But some of them are PACK DOGS, which are big (Rule 2: words 2 and 3, in that order, must form a recognizable term or expression). Besides, there are SIX DOGS (so must words 1 and 3), so it's a hot, sweaty job; that's why there's a SIX PACK (likewise, words 1 and 2) It would probably be worse if it were a dog pack, but it isn't (Rule 3: word pairs joined in

reverse order don't count). Rule 4: meanings shouldn't duplicate each other, which is why I said it takes SIX to PACK the DOGS, not that there were SIX PACK DOGS, and why it takes FOUR to IRON the HOLES.

5 ChaINS: INSuRED REDirectionS' ONSET: SETTEE TEETotalERS, ERSE'S, SESSION IONIC, NICKED KEDS, ED'S. ED'S EDSEL SELL-OUT OUT-maneuverED REDskIN'S INSuRED REDirectionS ONSet.

6 DUPLICATE WORDS: Something else told in same words = So meth in gel set ol'; dins, a-mew, ords. Or, ad-versely...

"Ed!" she say, "Enough! The bee's there! The reality earns close-closed raw petals! O

(Ed's ... he's a yen. Ought he be? "Esther, ethereal it yearns close! Close draw, pet, also.")

"Stop!" she'll assay. "I'm over. Go eschewing pleasure; do me another kind. Linger not, Ed."

("'s tops! Hell! as say I!" Mover goes chewing. Pleas: 'uredo,' mean other kindling 'er noted.)

"I sin ."A slight's her idem, e'er o, soft entreats.

("Is in! As light she ride me Eros often treats!)

Or apt, "Alas! she replies. "One ache's cargo too onerous, Ed." She sucked ...

(O, rapt! A lass here plies on each escargot.

Oo! one roused! She's ucked.)

Ed we know, but who's Esther?

7 WORD-DUPLICATES: word duplicates are grouped repetitions of previous words. Word-previous duplicates' repetitions of words are grouped.

8 DUPLICATE WORD-DUPLICATE PALINDROMES: Dromes in pal, Cate Li, up D Word. Cate Li up'd

9 A-Z WORD PALINDROME: Xenia Unstung ("Xenia" means welcome or hospitality)

Ahh!	Zinnias'
Bee	yields:
could	xenia,
drink	when
every	valued,
flower...	utterly
gazes	treasures
happy	sense;
into	raptured,
jewelweed	quietly
kisses	peer-
like	offered
manna	Numen,

Numen-	manna-
offered...	like,
peer	kisses
quietly	jewelweed
raptured,	into
sense	happy
treasures	gazes...
utterly	flower
valued --	every
when	drink.
xenia	Could
yields	be.
zinnias.	Ahh!

I hope that nosegay of zinnias soon finds springtime xenia in your home. But if not, how about a rose? A lot of nothing's probably called something. I ought to call the next piece

10 THE STORY OF OSE:

If "The Story of O" left you feeling empty, perhaps it's because you needed more Ose. Now comes this real zero story--an exp0sé of what goes on in the coastal town of Ose..

"Morning r0se over the Fo0se house in Ose. Cl0se to comat0se, Rose ar0se, ate Cheerios, h0sed her r0ses (grossly cespit0se where the compost decomp0sed), and mor0sely ch0se to lose five pounds. No M0ses, but R0se knows how th0se five make her Supph0se worsen her veric0se. JOsè, R0se's bellic0se Fenil0se-d0sed go0seherd, p0sed it to her in imitable pr0se: "Your clothes aren't getting lo0ser, R0se." JOsè's mostly a p0seur.

Opp0sed to mo0se hunts, Rose m0seys to Melr0se Place, the Ose town hall, to be dep0sed. Ambr0se Bo0se, Blanche deB0se and Glenn Cl0se are among th0se who imp0se their demands, but they're all transp0sed to the ho0segow. (Police Chief Mongo0se "the n0se knows" Ose hunts mo0se, and he's an Ose, a big one. That's why he was picked.)

Ose isn't grandi0se, but supp0ses that to exp0se the cabo0se in public serves the purp0se as well as the no0se. "O! O! O!" cried Rose--like that, several Ose juxtap0sed--when the sentence was discl0sed. "JOseph in heaven!" said Glenn Cl0se. "Comp0se yourselves," said Blanche deB0se, "Just wear a n0segay." But Ambr0se encl0sed them all in his joc0se grin. "I'm predisp0sed to prop0se a toast," he said, "and a r0sette for the papo0se's cabo0se the townsfolk cho0se, wh0soever they c0-select."

Under a cirr0se sky the folks of Ose, with their various thromb0ses, halit0ses, and cirrh0ses, gathered and gasped. "Cellul0se!" they diagn0sed. "Wh0se?" "Hers!" For R0se it was like the R0setta Stone. So home she goes to disp0se of the fruct0se, gluc0se, lact0se, dextr0se and

sucrOse in the house (but not the LaxitOse). ClOse to comatOse, ROse repOses. With adiOses to all, the sun dos-a-dOses the moon over the FoOse house in Ose."

See you when the flowers do!

FRACTURED ENGLISH

A successor to *Anguished English* and *More Anguished English*, this is Richard Lederer's third "anthology of accidental assaults upon our mother tongue." Thousands of new examples were sent in by readers of the earlier volumes. Word Ways readers can now enjoy the cream of the crop in this \$12 Pocket Books paperback of 185 pages (ISBN 0-671-00036-5). Lederer believes that English is an especially rich source of bloopers because the 600,000-plus words dramatically increase the probability of unexpected collisions between similar words. A sampling:

The patient was bitten by a bat as he walked down the street
on his thumb

Canal: a small stream of water made by man

Diatonic is a low-calorie Schweppes

Church parking sign: violaters to wed at their own expense

Boy Declared Dead, Revives as Family Protests

Allies Push Bottles Up 10,000 Germans

Wanted: steady young woman to wash, iron and milk two cows

Indian Jeweler's Sign: we shoot earholes

Mrs. Malaprop: there's no astigmatism attached to that

Mixed metaphors: I've got an ace up my hole

Slogan: our goal is to have you drive away a satisfied customer

Some of these seem too good to be accidental, but no matter--enjoy!