

COLLOQUY

Susan Thorpe adds the following examples to "ABCDE" in the February Word Ways: DEBAChiella (a hymenopteran, in Nomenclator Zoologicus) and DECABates (an arachnid, also in NZ). She also augments Jeremy Morse's May 1999 Colloquy item consisting of words with letter groups made from alphabetically-consecutive letters. All words are found in the OED unless otherwise labeled:

- 5-letter groups: hEIGHFer, FIGHElden (in Wiltshire, England), GIPHEn, HEFIG ('heavy' in Chambers English Dictionary), cHIEF Good, owL-MONKey, coLOMPNe, MONKLy, PROSQualodon (Nomenclator Zoologicus), thiRST-QUenching, thRUST-Vector, eSPROQuin (Dorland), VURSTe
- 6-letter groups: fixED FIGHt (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), FIGHEd ('figh' in English Dialect Dictionary), hiGH-DEFInition, hiGH FIDELity, tHE FIDGets, plouGHED FIEld (Bloomsbury Thesaurus), whIG-DEFeating
- 7-letter groups: doG-FACED Baboon, etCHED FIGure, scratCHED FIGure

Is there a PORT SQUARE somewhere in the US or the UK?

Rex Gooch writes "Keith and Morice make no reference in their May 1999 article to the half dozen previous pieces since 1970 on this subject in Word Ways. The last of these was by me (cunningly disguised as "Telephone Words" May 1996). It contains more and longer words for quite a few of the categories for which they give results, as well as words in some categories they do not discuss, such as sets of words that require the same physical actions [numerical homonyms like SWINGER and PYGMIES]." He notes that under "Quick-Change Words" each letter is on a different key (not keypad), and he finds the term "Touchtone Dial" confusing (keypad is a better descriptor). On page 85, one KEYPUNCHes a keypad, not a telephone dial! He notes that the UK has started to use letters once more, placing the missing Q and Z on PQRS and WXYZ keys, respectively.

Christopher C. Mihelich, one of the authors of "Edith Plays Word Treblecross" elsewhere in this issue, is a 17-year-old Harvard freshman msjoring in mathematics. He began taking advanced mathematics classes at Butler University in 1994, and in May 1998, he won first prize in the Westing-house Science contest for a paper entitled "Structure of a Polynomial Quotient Ring Involving Symmetric Polynomials." The Treblecross article resulted in a summer school class on games in general taught by Farrell and audited by Mihelich.

In response to Dave Morice's Kickshaws request for animals beginning with the letter X, Susan Thorpe suggests: Xanichthys ringens (Sargassum triggerfish), Xantusia vigilis (desert night lizard), Xenopeltis unicolor (sunbean snake), Xenops minutus (a songbird), Xenopus laevis (African clawed toad), Xenosaurus sp. (various species of lizard), Xeromys myoides (false water rat of Australia), Xerus Erythropus (African ground squirrel), Xiphias gladius (swordfish), and Xiphophorus helleri (sword-tail). "I assume Dave was referring only to the higher orders of animals because, if we include the entire animal kingdom, the number of X-animals exceeds 1000!"

Sir Jeremy Morse writes "By recourse to English dictionaries I can improve some of the results in the Keith-Morice article. For instance, a longer single-key word is DEEDEED, in the OED. Some longer paired-key words are: 2-7 ASARABACCA, 3-7 PREFERRERS and REDRESSERS, KILHIG or KILLIG ("a short stout pole used as a lever or brace to direct the fall of a tree"), 4-6 ONIONING, 4-8 THIGHT, 4-9 WIGGY ("formal" in Britain, "crazy" in US), 6-9 MONONYMY (first three in Chambers, others in the OED). SPOONFEED, cited without a hyphen in the OED, is a longer non-increasing word in both the conventional and telephone alphabets. For the most repetitions of a key within a word, I offer 2 asarABACCA, 3 DEEDEED or fiddleDEEDEE, 4 HIGHish, 5 miLKLess, 6 MONONOMial, 7 overSPRead, 8 sTUTTer and 9 asphyXY."

Errata: in "Het Clabbers Downplay" ROTIFERS should have been capitalized, and UNNOTICED continued should be in Answers and Solutions. In "Wuthering Flapdocks" FLAMES should be FLAMBS (top of p 93), and the word GRIMTHORPED should not follow BUCKSAW. In "A Statename Chain Revisited" GNIS is found at mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis.gnisform.html. In "Trisograms, Quadrisograms, Quintisograms" VOX and ZEMSTVO are found in the OED (not Webster's), BARUZHKY should be BARUKHZY, and BACKLIGHTS should be replaced by JACKLIGHTS. In "The Gunpowdery Blacksmith" PATHOMINGLY should be FATHOMEDLY.

Michael Keith follows up his article "The Piku" in the February Word Ways with a haiku mnemonic for remembering the first few digits of pi, the letters of which can be anagrammed to a haiku mnemonic for remembering the first few digits of e!

Rip, o thus;
A rhyme attaining pi
Angel's slave net.

My natural e:
Pleasing in strength,
A positive 'Ah'!

On a related topic, he has improved the six-word accidental pi-mnemonic FOR A TIME I STOOD REGARDING, found in H.G. Wells' *The War of the Worlds* reported in the August 1997 Word Ways. In the King James Version of the Bible, 1 Kings 10:19 contains the sentence "Now therefore call unto me all the prophets of Baal, all his servants, and all his

priests; let none be wanting: FOR I HAVE A GREAT SACRIFICE TO do to Baal..." This seven-digit mnemonic is matched by the fourth line of Rudyard Kipling's "The Ballad of the 'Clampherdown'":

It was our war-ship Clampherdown,
Fell in with a cruiser light
That carried the dainty Hotchkiss gun
AND A PAIR O' HEELS WHEREWITH TO run
From the grip of a close-fought fight...

He also found a 66-letter pangrammatic window (only one more than *The Beth Book*) in *The Poems of Henry Timrod*, in the Introduction & Life of the Author: "Or we smo[ked], conversing lazily between the puffs,

Next to some pine whose antique roots j]ust peeped
From out the crumbling bases of the sand."

Hugo Brandt Corstius, the distinguished Dutch logologist and author of *Opperlandse Taal- & Letterkunde*, writes about Word Ways: "Imagine a man who loves Bach music more than anything. He is also an astronaut and on his way to a faraway planet. The whole long journey our man listens to Bach CD's, he does not want to confess it is beginning to bore him. Finally he arrives. He steps from his space-ship and before seeing any of the inhabitants of the planet, he hears a music that sounds very much like Bach, but yet it is new. It is different and the same...I want to 'earn' my WW's by writing in them...I can understand you do not want to clog WW with Dutch contributions, but I think the inhabitants of the far planet USA may like to listen to our music." Indeed we do!

The Apr 19 1999 issue of Time magazine mentioned a placename with 6 L's: an Incan sacrificial child-victim was found on Mount LLULLAILLACO in the Argentine Andes.

The Merriam-Webster series *The Lighter Side of Language* plans to issue *The Best of An Almanac of Words at Play* in September, combining the late Willard Espy's two books on this topic. The publisher writes "I have to admit we have only modest expectations for this book (language books are a tough sell), but we wanted to do our part to keep the memory of Espy as alive and fresh as we can."