STRANGE NAMES

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UNUSUAL NAMES

A quick scan of the national White Pages reveals at least five residents named Anita Locke, and an equal number named Anita Key. I am personally familiar with people born with both names. Thankful Bassett (1687-1777) lived in Sandwich Massachusetts. I find the name Phil A. Drinker in the Belmont Massachusetts phone book. Mort(on) Gage is a resident of Manhattan, and there are several people named Jacquilin Hyde—in Omaha Nebraska, East Liverpool Ohio, and other localities. Ben Lucky lives in Colorado Springs Colorado, and Katz Meow is a former resident of Hoquiam Washington. Here are some other unusual names of actual people:

John A Baptist, Fairhaven MA
Les Blessing, Seattle WA
Maye Day, Decatur AL
Harry Dog, Knoxville TN
Christian Hell, Fort Collins CO
April May June, Darlington SC
Harry Wacko, Cleveland OH

John Train’s Remarkable Names (1977) lists July August September, and his Even More Remarkable Names (1979) mentions T. Pud Pucker Tucker of Bountiful UT. Venus De Mars was an actress in the TV series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."

APTLY NAMED

In 1998, a U.S. patent was given to a Hollister, California inventor named Wilson Q. Invencion for his automatic bingo machine.

In June 1998, newspapers reported that a man was arrested for robbing eight Dunkin’ Donuts shops in Manhattan. Police identified the robber as Douglas Duncan. No charges were brought against his alleged accomplice, Howard Johnson.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

In 1946, University of Boulder physics professor George Gamow and graduate student Ralph A. Alpher wrote a paper published in the Physical Review of April 1, 1948 (note the date!) titled the "Hot Big Bang". Gamow, without telling his colleague Hans Bethe of his plan,
added Bethe's name to the author credits so that it would read "by Alpher, Bethe and Gamow". (Bethe is pronounced 'beta', and Gamow is said to be pronounced 'gamma'.) Gamow, a native of the Ukraine, is credited with almost single-handedly inventing the Big Bang theory, but sadly was never awarded the Nobel Prize for this achievement.

My nominee for best book title and author's name is *The Profit* by Kehlog Albran, a play on *The Prophet* by Kahlil Gibran. Faith Popcorn is a contemporary author.

John Lennon loved to annoy Herman's Hermits lead singer Peter Noone by addressing him as Peter No One.

**STRANGE PLACE-NAMES**

Imagine sending a loved one a letter postmarked from one of these locations (thanks to Dan Tilque for his contributions to the list):

- Accident MD
- Bad Axe MI
- Battiest OK
- Black Lick PA
- Blunt SD
- Bovina TX
- Bumpass VA
- Cheesquake NJ
- Chicken AK
- Crazy Woman Creek WY
- Crooks SD
- Cucumber WV
- Difficult TN
- Dime Box TX
- Dogpatch AR
- Drab PA
- Drain OR
- Dry Prong LA
- Eek AK
- Embarrass MN, WI
- Fingerville SC
- Footville, OH, WI
- Gap in Knob KY
- Knob Lick KY, MO
- Laurel Bloomery TN
- Left Hand WV
- Mud Lick KY
- Nags Head NC
- Oblong IL
- Shock WV
- Smackover AR
- Toad Suck AR
- Vinegar Bend AL
- What Cheer IA
- Whynot NC
- Zap ND

Some similar names from Canada:

- Dogpound Alberta
- St-Louis-du-Ha! Ha Quebec
- Blow Me Down Newfoundland
- Witless Bay Newfoundland
- Porcupine Ontario
- Black Tickle Newfoundland
- Come-by-Chance Newfoundland

Had Geoff Mack included some of the above names in the final verse of his classic country song "I've Been Everywhere," it might have come out something like this:

- Fingerville, Footville, Cucumber, Cucamonga,
- Cheesequake, Leaf Lake, Smackover, Opa Laka;
- White Fox, Dime Box, Fort Knox, Alameda,
The best-known version of that song was the 1962 hit by Canadian-born country music legend Hank Snow (Clarence Eugene Snow), "The Singing Ranger."

In San Diego, there is an intersection of Haveteur Way (have it your way) and Unida Place (you need a place).

A contributor to the World Wide Web provided this confusing information:

The geographical center of Boston is in Roxbury. Due north of the center is the South End. This is not to be confused with South Boston, which lies directly east from the South End. North of the South End is East Boston and southwest of East Boston is the North End.

Author Paul Dickson reported that Goblu (go, Blue!) and Beatosu (beat OSU!) appeared as towns in the 1979-80 Michigan State Highway Commission map, but were deleted from the 1980-81 edition.

A man in Frankfurt left town, fed up with being called a Frankfurter. At last report, he was living in Hamburg.

On your visit to Illinois, be sure to stop for a meal at Sam-N-Ella's River Club in Kankakee. On your way to the left coast, you might want to have a trim at Western Hairlines in Canon City, Colorado. There are at least two other haircutters with this name.

French Liquors is the name of a store outside of French Lick, Indiana, near the First Baptist Church of French Lick, which is a few miles from the home of basketball legend Larry Bird.

As of this writing, there are at least ten U.S. restaurants named The Garden of Eatin'.