

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. Fud Pucker Tucker of Bountiful UT. Venus De Mars was an actress in the TV series "Alfred Hitchcock Presents."

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

Some similar names from Canada:

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

Matawan, Oblong, Dry Prong, Loma Linda;
 Waterloo, Havasu, Kalamazoo, Pasadena,
 Sioux City, Yuba City, Cedar City, what a pity--
 I've been everywhere...

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'.