ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

Common Ground by William Webster (May 2001)

The initials of the fifty individuals are the US postal codes for the 50 states: Carol Angelus = California, Mac Aroni = Massachusetts, etc.

Two Sonnet Anagram Puzzles by Mike Keith

Ms. Lowell’s poem contains exactly 140 vowels (including Y). This means that the anagram sonnet must use an average of one vowel per syllable (in fact, each syllable uses exactly one). This is well below the average, since a typical English sonnet uses about 185 vowels, or roughly 1.3 vowels per syllable.

The R.L. Stevenson letter has 280 vowels, demanding a sonnet with an average of 2.0 vowels per syllable, even farther from the norm. This does not mean that every syllable needs to have two vowels (though most do). A few three-vowel syllables were employed to sneak in a few single-vowel ones, such as the words “cash” and “part”.

Since there are words with more than two vowels per syllable, as well as words with fewer than one (e.g., “mightn’t”), it’s not true that 1.0 and 2.0 syllables per vowel are the maximum—but they almost are.

Kickshaws by Susan Thorpe

Inmates They Are sometimes replaced with an apostrophe. It Is something we HAve got used to, have nOt we? I Will certainly accept that, so cannot you?

A Problem of Communication When it follows a verb, as here, ‘away’ can sometimes mean ‘feel free, go to it’. Whether the child appreciated this when she was told to ‘look away’, or whether she wasn’t the angel her parents thought her to be is another matter!

Sentenced This sentence embodies the numbers ONE, TWO through TEN, in their correct order.

Bananagrams 14 by Edmund Conti

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Word Ways is interested in receiving original articles (non-fiction, fiction or poetry) relating to recreational logology. All articles should be sent to the editor, A. Ross Eckler, Spring Valley Road, Morristown NJ 07960 (wordways@juno.com).

Although handwritten articles are permissible, authors are encouraged to send typewritten ones. Most desirable are computer-ready articles in Microsoft Word having the following specifications:

- Title: 16 pt Helvetica Bold
- Text: 11 pt Times New Roman
- Page Size: 6 inches horizontal, 8 inches vertical
- Line Spacing: 6 lines per inch

Diagrams and the like should be drafted in black or India ink in a form suitable for photo-offset.

In non-fiction articles, the responsibility for the accuracy of any statement rests primarily with the author. The general scope of any investigation should be defined: for example, a statement that words have been taken from the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary or the Merriam-Webster Unabridged Dictionary, Third Edition., or place names taken from the Times Index-Gazetteer of the World. If a word or name comes from an unusual source, this should be identified. Footnotes in general should be avoided; references can be given either in the text or at the end of the article.

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