FUN WITH NAUTONYMS

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In the preceding article, Jeff Grant and I explored nautonyms in several dictionaries. We limited our study to single or hyphenated words, so omitted three cases we found of two-word nautonyms: CREE CREEK (Colorado), PIPE EYE (lazy crossed eye from meths) and FRANCES FRANCIS. Of the last, paired homophones, there must be so many as to make them trivial. Here’s an alphabet of coined phrase nautonyms that mostly avoids paired homophones (but not silliness). They’re not checked thoroughly as was the previous article so will include some not quite perfect nautonyms.

AWAKE—OH, ACHE! hangover

BABE, ABE! answer to "Why so blue?"

CREOLE CREE HOLE a New Orleans Cree ghetto

DROWNED ROUND Obese yet didn’t float.

DARED AIR. Did it in the street!

EQUAL SEQUELS Sameness II, Sameness III, etc.

EXTENDED SEX: TEN DIDS a potent all-nighter

FORK-ASSED FORECAST Unreliable, it may precipitate in either direction.

GAUGING AGING growing old scientifically

HOUSE SOUSE resident drunk

I’M MIME, but my gestures get mocked;

JEST YOUR GESTURE. Make fun of it.

KU KLUX KOOK LUCKS. Idiot rants racist slurs in Harlem yet avoids lynching.


MILITARISM: ILL LIT ERRISM Opinion, as in

NIXING NIXON, a 60s and 70s preoccupation.

OCTOPUS SOCKED A PUSS. I warned kitty to stay out of the water!

ONEROUS, SONOROUS Alarm clock? (compare AWAKE)

PEDIATRICS: SPEEDY HAT TRICKS three quick ploys to calm a child or get its attention

QUACK WHACK slapped by Dr. Duck

REEK CREEK euphemism for where you don’t want to find yourself without a paddle

SPOONS → POONS familiar sequence

STILTS TILT ... And the clowns came tumbling down.

TOAST OAST a pop-up kiln

UMPIRE RUMP HIGHER In tennis sits in high chair.

VERSE, IRV! With feeling, Mr. Berlin!

A WONDER O' UNDER kilt mystique

XMAS SEX MUSS untidy holiday affair

YACKY YACK Don't talk back!

ZOO'S OOZE very overcrowded animal park

And some Triple nautonyms:
Fleas: ADAM HAD 'EM, MADAM. combining two oldies

ENDEAVOUR, REND EVER AND EVER strong dedication to some unnamed rending job
HIGHNESS SIGN IS I-NESS. the Royal “Wego”
HYMN-HEM HIM. Confine God to church choirs.
MANIC, YOU’RE MAN I CURE, MANICURE Delirious fingernail artistst “heals” bad nails.

Finally, a Mary (of Wight)’s Lamb parody built of ca. naunonymic pairs:

_Merry Mary’s Lamb Contrary_
Merry Mary, white Wight lamb lam, wander.
Wonder-ewes use sheep’s cheep psyches:
“Hikes? School’s cool!” (Law’s loss!)
Kids in kids’ sin lamplight lamb plight, lampoon lamb poon.

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One misty, moisty morning,
When cloudy was the weather,
I chanced to meet an old man clothed all in
leather,
He began to compliment, and I began to grin.
How do you do? and how do you do?
And how do you do again?

Find another man.