

KICKSHAWS NOVEMBER 2015

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~ PRESIDENTIAL DRINKER

Rich Lederer says "I've been thinking about the name James Sensenbrenner, Republican congressman from Wisconsin. Here are some features of his last name. I suspect that you can add some more. It is a 13-letter univocalic. It begins with a double triple letter, and it ends with a six-letter palindrome. The first five letters spell SENSE." Rich wants to know if anyone can find other logical facts in the name SENSENBRENNER."

I've noticed an alcoholic-alphabetic bit of logology. The name begins with SEN-SEN, which according to Wikipedia is the original breath mint. My father always kept Sen-Sen hidden in the car, because he was fond, too fond, of the alcoholic beverage that appears in the last name of the congressmen--BEER. Together, they look like this:

SENSEN BrEnnER.

~ PALINDROMIZING P-45

One of the longest words in the dictionary begins with a P and continues for 44 more letters: Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis!

In the August 2012 Kickshaws, Jim Puder discussed the longest words and names used in palindromes. At one point he said, "Although the notorious P-45 word is probably not a record threat, as it is not very amenable to palindromization...." Jim's comment brings up a question that hasn't been tackled quite in this way before. Instead of asking whether P-45 can be palindromized (which we all know it can't), let's search the web and allow the most unusual words be allowed in order to force the issue. How close can we come to making a palindrome with P-45 in it? He's my attempt:

SIS, O, I? NO! CON A CLOVO. CIL IS CIPOC, SORCI, MART, LU. O, NO MU, EN?
PNEUMONOU LTRAMICROSCOPICSILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS!

It looks like it's written in a foreign language, doesn't it? It uses some very over-the-top words to make it work. Here is a list. They were all found with Google searches.

First, here is a "translation" of P-45

Sis, O, I? No! Con an island linked to Croatia. The Common Intermediate Language is the base 10 number 7791292 converted to base 28, Sorci, Mart, Lu. O, no Greek letter,

typographic measurement? Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis!

And next, here are the "definitions" of the obscurest words in it.

Clovo -- The name of an island linked to Croatia

CIL -- an acronym for Common Intermediate Language

Cipoc -- The number 7791292 converted to base 28

(<http://www.numberworlds.com/numbers/7791292>)

Sorci -- Ello Sorci, one of the first "paparazzo," a term coined by Federico Fellini

Mart -- a masculine given name

Lu -- male or female given name, a form of Lou

mu -- the English word for the Greek letter m

en -- a typographic measurement

~ ENGLISH LANGUAGE ANOMALIES

Bill Brandt says, "I have always been attracted to combinations of words that create something that is unusual and difficult to classify. For example, 'a dishtowel get wet when it dries' and 'blackberries are green when they are red.' I have taken some of these and put them in (what else but) a limerick format." Here are Bill's anomalies:

The English language can be confusing,
Sometimes not clear about words it's using.
Pay attention if you please,
The subject is anomalies,
Where logical thought can take a bruising.

It's a strange world and truth to tell,
I've seen a lot and I know it well.
Don't look at me with such a frown,
I say that we're built upside down,
Cause noses run and feet sure smell.

I'm really not here to pick a bone,
Just wonder why, and I'm not alone,
On days when it is sunny,
It does seem a bit funny,
That cars slow down inside a speed zone.

After doing some checking I did surmise,
Though this may come as a big surprise,
So here is what I think,
When working near a sink,
A dish towel gets wet whenever it dries.

All I know is what I've read,

I've also heard that it's been said,
About the sweet blackberry,
Won't ripen in a hurry,
These berries are green when they are red.

Now for the next my hat I'll doff,
And please don't be the next to scoff.
A clock with an alarm,
It has a certain charm.
We turn it on so it goes off.

There's something else I want to know,
I thought of it some time ago.
My question is quicksand,
Please help me understand,
Why does quicksand work so slow?

Now for the next I have no doubt,
We have a rule that's very stout.
When a form you must complete,
In addition to being neat,
To fill it in you must fill it out.

Many times I have been told,
By people who were very old,
No matter if you're fast,
You will learn at last,
You can't catch a hot, but you can catch a cold

I learned this a long time ago,
You wind up a watch to make it go.
But winding up a speech,
The speaker we beseech,
To make it stop and end the show.

I heard this once from my good friend Stephen
Late last month just as I was leavin'
The way you style your clothes,
Your face and then your nose,
You can look odd but you can't look even.

Here is something on which to chew
I think you'll find it's nothing new
Striving to be wise,
You must realize,
That partly false is partly true.

Arriving home to your chagrin,
The door is locked, you can't get in.
And then to your surprise
A locksmith soon arrives,
To help you out he helps you in.

A person we know of great renown,
Who's certainly known in this small town,
Did farming for a change,
And found out something strange,
A duck grows up after it grows down.

We often know what everyone thinks,
Despite their many crafty winks.
I'm sure it's something true,
Although it's nothing new,
That root beer floats but cast iron sinks.

The firemen living in our town,
Are certainly men of great renown.
So when I did inquire,
They said about a fire,
When a house burns up it also burns down.

I play the lottery and hope to win,
But people say the odds are grim.
My chances may be bleak,
But any chance I seek,
A fat chance is as good as slim.

I've often heard that people say,
On stages they find some dismay.
For actors and bards,
It's all in the cards,
They play at a recital and recite at a play.

I've heard in a state that's far away,
What people do there every day.
With cars that they are driving,
It is a bit surprising,
They park on the driveway and drive on the parkway.

I met a man who's not a clown,
A lumberjack of great renown.
He said you can't be lax,

Each time you use an axe,
To cut up a tree first cut it down.

When I was driving into town,
I saw a sign that made me frown.
My speed I must reduce,
And so I did deduce.
If I slowed up then I would slow down.

Sometimes driving gives me fits,
I'm thinking I should call it quits.
Cause when I'm rush hour driving,
I am soon realizing,
It's lasting more than 60 minutes.

We didn't come here to inflame,
Or tell someone their speech is lame.
And we're not here to preach,
About the type of speech,
Sharp or blunt it's all the same.

With geometry I have a flare,
And now with you would like to share,
That I'm a little vexed,
And a bit perplexed,
Why boxing rings are always square.

When target shooting I'll tell you this,
It's something that you can't dismiss.
Please don't have a fit,
When scoring a near hit,
It's also a near miss.

Here is something I bet you knew,
It may seem odd but it is true.
Whenever you are counting,
And totals soon al re mounting,
Quite a lot equals quite a few.

~ THE INVISIBLE L

"In the recent May issue," Bill notes, "I liked Richard Lederer's article
"Letter Perfect, but I have a question. Where is the invisible L in SALMON? I always
thought it was pronounced SA-MON, which would make the L silent rather than
invisible. What am I missing here??"

With regard to the 4 letter grammagrams, here are a few more I found in the Letter Word Dictionary from the November 2003 issue of Word Ways.

Arabian	RABN
beauteous	BUTS
geology	GLOG
immensity	MNCT
Indiana	NDNA

If we include numbers with the letters there are the following:

eliminating	LMN8N
everyone	FRE1
exonerate	XNR8
illuminating	LMN8N

A 5 letter example is 'idealism' IDLSM

One of the longest examples is "expediency." XPDNC, can be made even longer with "inexpediency" NXPDNC.

For the verses I always liked the following:

FUNEM
SVFM
FUNEX
SVFX
OKLFMNX

And speaking of verse, what about the letter word limericks? There were at least two published in "Word Ways." Here is one, also from the August 2003 issue.

NRE S N 10-SE
I C E S E-10 A B
E S UUN D BB
N N-6 S DD
2 QR A B-9 LRG

~ WHAT RAY LOVE FOUND ON THE WEB

Thought you might want to consider getting on board early. A German Engineer just started his own business in Afghanistan. He's making land mines that look like prayer mats. It's doing well, and he says prophets are going through the roof.

~ ANIMAL UNIVERSES

"Here are four Kickshaws submissions," Anil says." Mainly AUs which I think are suitable for Kickshaws but not for kids, except the first, a repeat of the Bonobo poem. The others are a parody of Mary's Lamb and an enhanced version of the ASS poem I emailed you May 31. I put the bonobo poem first of the three AUs in order to re-introduce the concept.

• BONOBO POEM

This poem was specially written for Friends of Bonobos and Vanessa Woods (author of *Bonobo Handshake*), who published it online in their newsletter, facebook and twitter sites. It's another of my "Animal Universes" (AUs) or mono-rhyme poems (as in Dave Morice's *The Adventures of Dr. Alphabet*, '95, p.142). They aim to make a sort of music out of alliteration. Bonobo had enough rhymes and near-rhymes that the poem could include an appeal in the third verse, and if it's not out of place I urge readers to donate to this poorly funded but most worthy charity which is raising and rehabilitating orphan bonobos in the Congo. They're our closest ape relatives (per DNA), models of a peaceful society, and are endangered.

Bonobo and Friend in Concert

A BONOBO nicknamed Bobo
plays the oboe virtuoso
to a LOBO, fellow hobo,
while the Lobo in a solo
with a mojo magic elbow
plays a slow bow to Bonobo.
They play *poco arioso*,
furioso, grandioso,
till their show glow reaches Togo!

As they do so, folks drink cocoa
and eat gobo with adobo
and rococo escargot-go
neath a low bo, have a ho ho
and go loco over Bobo.
The tree, "Bo" bo, loves it also!

*(If you bravo Bobo/Lobo
give some kobo for their show, Beau!
You got no woe, they got no dough.
That you owe, schmo, you big yoyo.
Let it flow, Bro! Like the dodo
they'll be 'no go' if you forgo.
What a low blow if you no-no!)*

- This next AU is a parody and titillating (per)version of Mary's Lamb, where Mary and Mare are diminutives of Mariam.

Mary Had a Little Trouble

Miss Mariam, she had a LAMB.
 Lo, 'twas a RAM called Sleazy Sam.
 They had a wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am
 and Sleazy Sam got Mare in jam.
 He jumped a tram, went on the lam,
 like in a scam the villain swam.
 When our Madame had little Mamb
 (half-MAre, half-laMB), part girl, part ram,
 she did not scam to buy a pram.
 Tell all? No, Ma'am! She played the clam
 to veil whim 'wham!' and hide young Mamb
 with bold program of bald flimflam,
 nor let it cram for school exam
 for kids to slam and tease poor Mamb.

(Well I'll be damn! And what a sham(e).
 She should have used a diaphragm!)

- This AU might be called a lexicological challenge to male chauvinism. Most of my animal universes suffer extensive editing and rewriting, but this one wrote itself in a minute or so.

Trick Question

Who said that LASS
 should rhyme with ASS?
 Some macho brass
 or wordsmith sass
 just to harass
 the female mass?
How very crass!

(That is unless
 young *jenny* ass
 was sought to pass
 this word test class.)

• AN ISLAND NAMED ISLAND

Isn't it a "cool" coincidence that the native name of Iceland is Island. A happystance for English. *Is* and *land* are the pan-Germanic including Danish and Old English precursors of ICE and LAND. English "island" on the other hand is unrelated to ice and only to

land by later influence. Island is of mixed origin but mostly from isle, from L. *insula*, island.

Greenland, another island, is another is-land, and it deserves the name Island more than Iceland. They should swap names. Iceland is greener than Greenland and Greenland is icier than Iceland. (For a while! In a century will it be called Wasland?)

~ WORDLAND

Anil's comment in the previous item led into a world of words in which places ended in LAND, all the way from ALAND to ZEALAND. Can anyone find a full alphabet of -LANDS? Here are some more by Anil.

England, Scotland, Poland, Bechuanaland (now Botswana), Togoland (now split into Togo and part of Ghana), New Zealand, Thailand, Somaliland, Swaziland. Plus (not countries but geo regions) Lapland, Gotland = Gottland = Gothland = Gutland), Queensland, Rhineland, Saarland, Nagaland, Zululand, Matabeleland, (Prince) Rupert's Land, Holy Land. Would you count Land's End (in England)? Not to mention Cleveland, Dixieland and Wonderland! And a tiny town in W.A. name Frankland.

"I cheated," Anil confessed. "I cheated and used the rhyming dictionary, so this is probably a complete list (with your five). I even checked -end, -ind, -ond and -und. However, Aland wasn't listed in the RD, nor were Holland, England and Scotland! Amazing omissions! So there may be more. If you're still hungry for more, try scanning an Atlas or Gazetteer index!"

"They're not amazing omissions, it finally dawned on me. The reason England, Scotland, Holland, New Zealand and Poland aren't listed under -and rhymes is that the stress is on the first syllable, not on -land. Indeed three of those five do not have any rhyme, but NZ rhymes with eland, Leland and Zealand*, while Poland, listed under -owland, rhymes with lowland and Roland. "

Jeff Grant came up with more Wordlands: "Off the top of my head, Newfoundland, and NZ provinces Westland, Northland and Southland (bound to be an Eastland somewhere), Dreamland, Motherland?, Fatherland? and the very unPC imaginary Congobongoland (Monty Python?).

"If Dreamland is an amusement park, then of course Disneyland and Graceland qualify. I got cute with Wonderland, but, although it's a real place name if fictional, I think you shouldn't expand the target too much. There's no end of possibilities, actual and imaginable, including common nouns such as farmland and eland (a very very tiny territory in Africa) and concoctions such as e-land, Kiwiland and Kickshawsland." Also Rheinland as the German spelling of Rhineland. Other non-countries are Rhode Island and Maryland. (How could I have overlooked the state I got my PhD in?) And have you considered counting the eleven or so countries that end in -stan, which (I think) translates as -land or Muslim Republic?"

~ KEY IN A LOCK

The following is a visual poem. Originally I had planned it to be the beginning of a novel that used alternating shapes instead of paragraphs, but it was tricky enough to do it as it appears here. The first shape is logical, and the second shape balances against the first in a positive way. In fact, both shapes together make this poem an example of logical positivism as opposed to illogical negativism. I hope you enjoy unlocking its meaning.

If you
Place a key in a lock,
And turn the key, the lock may
Pop open. But not always. The key
Might not be the right one, or the lock might
Not be. The key or the lock or both might be
Broken. Or one of several other things could make
It impossible to unlock the lock. If the lock holds
A door shut, then no one can walk through the
Door until the key is broken or the door is
Smashed or something else happens to
Create an entrance to the room
On the other side, if there
Is a room on the
Other side.

The key prevents the lock from being opened.
The lock prevents the door from being opened.
The door prevents the room from being entered.
Is the door built into a wall, or is it nothing more
Than a standing door? In that case, you can walk
Around the doorway to get into the other side. If
The other side is a room, where are the walls? If
It isn't a room, why is there a door? Suppose a
Room with four walls exists. Is the room one of
Several rooms building a house, or is it a single
Room existing for its own sake? A room like that
Raises many questions, many, many questions...