A PRESIDENTIAL QUIZ

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To honor the bicentennial year, we offer the following double-barreled quiz on American presidents. We are all so used to hearing the surnames of our presidents that we seldom give the matter any thought. To those interested in the field of onomastics, however, it is interesting to consider the basic derivations or etymological roots from which these well-known names have originated. How many of the phrases in the first column can you translate into presidential surnames?

The art of bestowing nicknames on public figures was better-developed a century ago than it is today. The second column lists sobriquets of the twenty presidents in the first column, but in a different order. How many of them do you recognize?

1. Lake colony 1. J. F. K.
2. A rock 2. Silent Cal
3. Very famous 3. Tricky Dick
4. Little pool 4. The Man from Missouri
5. From the neighborhood 5. The Sage of Marion
6. Iron miner 6. The Trust-Buster
7. Fox 7. The Stocking-Foot Orator
8. Red earth 8. The Buffalo Hangman
9. Red swamp 9. The Dude President
11. Home rule 11. The American Caesar
12. Thunder eagle 12. The Last Cocked Hat
14. Fair hero 14. The Surveyor President
15. Rose field 15. Ike
17. Loyal servant 17. The Napoleon of the Stump
18. People’s victory 18. The Wool-Carder President
20. Misshapen head 20. The Buffoon

All but one of these pseudonyms were taken from the Handbook of Pseudonyms and Personal Nicknames (Scarecrow Press, Metuchen, N.J.), a two-volume work compiled by Harold S. Sharp and published in 1972.