Webster's Dictionary defines colloquy as mutual discourse. Readers are encouraged to submit additions, corrections, and comments about earlier articles appearing in Word Ways. Comments received up to a month prior to publication of an issue will appear in that issue.

In "More Figures of Speech" in the August issue, John McClellan called the corruption of Ste Anne de Beaupre to "Burpy" a substitute pronunciation. Philip Cohen notes that this figure of speech is called a hobson-jobson; in the February 1970 Word Ways, Mohan Lal Sharma pointed out that the word hobson-jobson is itself a corruption of the Moslem call "Hassan, Hussain" at the Moharram festival. John McClellan and Cornelius Roosevelt reminded me that American soldiers were responsible for changing the French spa Aix-les-Bains and the Paris street Place Pigalle into "Aches and Pains" and "Pig Alley", respectively. Mr. Roosevelt added two more recent airline examples: Pan American Airways into "Pandemonium Scareways", and Air France into "Air Chance". On a recent trip, I noted two English examples: the Welsh town Betws-y-coed is often called "Bet’sy Coed" by tourists, and a section of London known today as the Elephant and Castle is said to have gotten its name from Catharine, the Infanta of Castile, the first wife of Henry VIII, who lived there before her marriage. Mr. Roosevelt mentioned a possibly apocryphal double hobson-jobson: St. Anne's Well in England gradually came to be called Hanwell by the Cockneys, but when everybody referred to it by this name, the Cockneys called it "Anwell and gave it back its original pronunciation. The same is said to be true of Healing which was converted to Ealing by the Cockneys and then back again to Healing. No doubt an extensive monograph could be written on hobson-jobsons and related mutations.

Leroy F. Meyers sharpens John McClellan's definition of a malapropism figure of speech by noting that "revelant" is called a metathesis.

Several people made additions to Edward Wolpow's article on repeated prefixes and suffixes in the August Word Ways. Darryl Francis supplied hyperhypercytosis, hypophyphysism and pseudopseudohypoparathyroidism from Dorland's (Wolpow cited medical literature as a source for the latter word), and zenzizenzicube, zenzizenzicubic and zenzizenzisenzic from the OED. Both he and Tom Pulliam found supersuperabundance, supersuperabundant, and supersuperabundantly in Webster's Second. For doubled endings, Darryl came up with worsterer in the OED (discussed in his February 1978 article on com-
paratives and superlatives), and Philip Cohen proposed fruiterer, a flawless example in Webster's Second and Third (the first -er's from the French -ier, but that corresponds to the English -er). Michael Ravitzky says that phobiaphobia, hydrophobiaphobia and ologyology can be found in medical dictionaries. Finally, Cornelius Roosevelt gave another example of the great-great-grandfather genre: to counter a ballistic missile, one develops an anti-ballistic-missle-missile; to counter this defense, one then equips the ballistic missile with an anti-anti-ballistic-missle-missle-missle, and so on ad infinitum.

William Sunners notes that the rebus puzzles cited in Will Shortz's "How to Collect Puzzle Books" are of a type that may not be familiar to the modern reader -- they are in the form of cartoons, rather than pictures and letters connected by plus and minus signs. Many of these were used in puzzle contests of that era. (Unlike Will Shortz, he believes that cartoon rebus puzzles will never come back -- "too many ifs and maybes about puzzles of that type") Readers interested in more detail are referred to Bradley and Meyerson, Picture Puzzles and How to Solve Them (1937) and Sunners, How to Solve Rebus Picture Puzzles (1951), cited by the Encyclopedia Britannica. Philip Cohen wonders if others noted the ambiguity in Will Shortz's sentence "It's a rare book sale that doesn't have something of interest."


More Strange Paradoxes: Ed Wolpow notes that at the end of the year a professional athlete must decide whether to re-sign or resign. Richard Lederer says that a near-miss is actually a near-hit, one can add up a column of figures by adding down, and fathers can mother but mothers can't father.

Jeff Grant completes Leslie Card's nine-letter positional word list in the August Word Ways with overQuell -- the latter four-letter word, an obsolete Scottish variant of weal, is in the OED. He corrects Philip Cohen's criticism of bewareth by rewriting the line "Beware th' gifts; ... "; the OED cites several examples of th used before a consonant as a contraction of the.

Richard Lederer footnotes Boris Randolph's eponymous quiz in the August issue by sending a copy of John Updike's charming poem "Some Frenchmen" from which we quote a verse: "Humane and gaunt, precise and tall / Was Docteur J. J. Guillotin; / He had one tooth, diagonal / And loose, which, when it fell, spelled fin."
Errata: Correcting the mistake in the August 1978 Colloquy errata, "In "Bokannölan", förekomst should have been förekomst..." Two other errors in the last issue are noted and corrected in Kickshaws.

Writs Leroy F. Meyers of Roger Hannahs: "Why not Hannah Reger, possibly relative of composer Max Reger?" Philip Cohen adds that Roger Hannahs is obviously a pseudonym of Mr. Boobit.

Rudolf Ondrejka was surprised that Darryl Francis's article on "All-Vowel Three-Letter Words" in August 1978 did not include examples from "All-Vowel Hawaiian Words"! In May 1974; although he did not include foreign languages, Hawaiian occupies a somewhat special place as an enclave in the U.S. For the record, one can add AAE (harvested taro patch), AOE (not), AOO (elderly), EEI (filthy), EIA (here is), EOE (not), IAU (me), III (very small), IUI (ceremonial term), OAA (fibrous), OAI (to stir), OAU (cat), OEE (kind of chant ending), OOO (stingy), UAI (to push aside), UAO (to reconcile), UOA (kind of fish), UOI (to move along), UOO (tough), UUA (slippery) and UUU (to strip off). Consulting Lorrin Andrews, a Dictionary of the Hawaiian Language (Charles Tuttle, Rutland, 1974), Tom Pulliam added three more: AAO (a kind of banana), OOI (sharp) and OOU (to call aloud).

More Contronyms: According to Ed Wolpow, the phrase "upwards of" is listed in Webster's Third as (1) more than: in excess of, and (2) a little less than: not quite. He also adds LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT and FAST FOODS to Philip Cohen's list of self-contradictory terms; Richard Lederer discovered SUPERETTE and GROWING SMALL.

Philip Cohen, working on an article summarizing unsolved challenges in Word Ways, has filled in bits and pieces of various older articles. In "Vowel-Consonant Patterns" in November 1977, 'pightle' replaces 'fifthly' to eliminate the vocalic Y. In "Caroline" in May 1971, 'coire' is listed under coir in the OED, filling the cellor blank; in the August 1971 Colloquy, 'corl', also in the OED, fills clor. In the November 1975 Kickshaws, Dave Silverman asked for three words spelled the same way on a telephone dial; Philip suggests 'hm/in/go (all in N3) and DDD/eff/fee (all in N3). In the November 1977 Colloquy, Philip Cohen demolished the editor's alphabetic ring of triangrams in the August 1977 Word Ways which supposedly contained no triagrams legal in N2 or N3; he has now supplied a new ring which does the job: CVSGZYEJXAOIUFNMRBTKDLHPW. He notes that OED breaks the ring with acVSen (under accuse), and the TIG with AQOF, DLHA, Piz giUF, GhaxAQ, and ZYEnya lake. Finally, he fills in several holes in Darryl Francis' and Edward Wolpow's foreign cardinal transposals with More
In the May and November 1975 Kickshaws, several people constructed double shiftwords of the form STRICKLE/TRICKLES/RICKLEST, taking advantage of the archaic verb ending -est to form the third word. Jeff Grant has mined the OED and the English Dialect Dictionary for numerous additional examples: strample/tramples/ramplest, strangle/trangles/ranglest, strapple/trapples/rappest, stribble/tribbles/ribblest, striddle/triddles/riddlest, striffle/trifles/rifflest, struckle/truckles/rucklest, struddle/truddles/ruddlest, struttle/truttles/ruttlest and the nine-letter straunche/traunches/raunchest.

In the November 1975 Word Ways, the editor attempted unsuccessfully to construct a set of 21 five-letter words, each pair having exactly one letter in common; one of the partial solutions used the no-consonant word BWLCH, the name of a Welsh town. On a recent tour of Wales, he learned that this is the Welsh word for 'pass', quite analogous to CWM, the Welsh word for 'cirque' (closed valley). How frustrating that one of these words made Webster's Unabridged and the other did not!

Maxey Brooke sends in yet another consecutive letter-string: You'd think Judd'd DDT those bugs. He also points out that Shakespearean roosters crow "Cock-a-diddle-dow" (The Tempest: 1,11,386), contrasted with the present-day "Cock-a-doodle-doo" reported in the August 1977 Kickshaws.