A COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSE IN LOGOLOGY

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The February 1978 issue of Word Ways asked readers for information on recreational linguistics courses taught in college, secondary school, night school or the like. In the spring term of 1978, when I was a junior at the University of Massachusetts, I taught a one-credit colloquium entitled "Recreational Logology". In the fall term of 1978, I taught a three-credit course entitled "An Introduction to Recreational Logology" (Course SW-190) to 15 freshmen and sophomores, 13 of whom completed it. This met for three hours on Thursday evenings for 13 weeks from September to December, and covered the following topics:

1. what is recreational logology? related books, journals, dictionaries
2. pangrams, lipograms, ABC language (letter rebuses, as in 'A B C D goldfish' = Able, see the goldfish, or 'F E G' = effigy), rebuses
3. anagrams, palindromes
4. word squares, numerical logology (difference words, centrally balanced beam words, word weights and centers of gravity)
5. word surgery: deletions (beheadments, curtailments, charitable and stingy words, dismembered words), insertions (hydrations, hospitable and hostile words, insertion index), word ladders (isolanos, onalosis), transdeletions, transpositions (metalleges, shiftwords, cyclic transposals, reversals)
6. word and letter patterns: nonpattern words, pair isograms, word poker
7. poetic wordplay: sight rhyme (youth/south), near rhyme, false rhyme (assonance, as in name/Jane), impossible rhyme (orange, silver), alliteration and tongue-twisters, monosyllabic verse, humorous or witty verse forms (limericks, ruthless rhymes, clerihews, double dactyls, epigrams, haiku)
8. nineteenth-century wordplay: acrostic poetry, echo verse, equivocation, macarons, mosaics, chain verse, epitaphs, emblematic poetry
9. homonyms, heteronyms
10. paronomasia: puns, double entendres, malapropisms ('a progeny of learning'), spoonerisms ('a blushing crow'), Tom Swifties and croakers, stutterances ('Mimi eyed Ida, a new nudist ...'), conundrums, anguish languish ('Ladle Rat Rotten Hut' = Little Red Riding Hood)
11. miscellaneous: paradoxes, visual wordplay, jargon, euphemisms, parody, onomatopoeia, venereal terms (nouns of multitude, as 'a pride of lions', and humorous variants)
12. miscellaneous: oxymorons ('a pretty ugly building, a little too big

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for information- secondary 78, when I had a one-credit term of 1978, Recreational Res 13 of my evenings the following

13 word games and puzzles

In addition to all back issues of Word Ways, the primary references used to prepare this course were Dmitri Borgmann's Language on Vacation, Willard Espy's The Game of Words and An Almanac of Words at Play, C. C. Bomahh's Oddities and Curiosities of Words and Literature, and Howard Bergerson's Palindromes and Anagrams. The journals Verbatim and Logophile were also consulted.

The two-hour final examination consisted of 46 true-false questions (such as: the words sweetheart and bloodhound are isomorphs; an anagram is a word or phrase that cannot be transposed into a new word or phrase; the limerick is of Irish origin), three multiple-choice questions, several give-an-example questions (a curtailment; a trans deletion; a hostile word; the difference word of BIRD; a ten-step word ladder), and three name-it questions (a word which will admit a letter-change in any position is called an -- --- --). For extra credit, students were asked what comes between Heaven and Earth.

QUERY

While perusing The Cross Word Puzzle Book, 57th Series (Simon and Schuster, 1945), by Prosper Buranelli, F. Gregory Harts- wick and Margaret Petherbridge (better known as Margaret Farrar), Jeremiah Farrell was puzzled by an item in the Foreword. Discussing the use of the oblique or the wise crack as a cross- definition, it cites approvingly the following:

Cigarette -- AWOL
Hitler -- Man with a glowing future
Cricket -- Pinocchio's conscience
Radio -- Pandora's box

What do (or did) cigarettes and AWOL have in common? When he wrote Margaret Farrar, she was unable to enlighten him: "Your query ... is a stumper for me ... I believe my co-editor F. Gregory Harts- wick wrote that Foreword, and he has been dead for some years, so I can't put the question to him." Can Word Ways readers help?