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.

Harry Randall points out that the terminal consonant cluster SKST (that is, SK'ST) in "The Monosyllable Machine" appears in a magnificently ungainly line from a sonnet by Matthew Arnold: "Who props, thou ask'st, in these hard days, my soul?" Philip Cohen found it a fine exposition, enjoyable to read, but missed an attempt to enumerate the possible monosyllables with some agreed set of clusters and phonotactic rules. He adds "the claim that never A, only EY, occurs before G, is contradicted by the example, which ends in AG. He uses A for the vowel of PAT, EY for the vowel of PAY, and the vowel of 'flag' is the former, at least in most American dialects. There are even a few pairs showing both A and EY before G: hag/Hague (or Haig), baggin'/Begin, vag/vague".

Advertising signs compress English text, too -- on a trip to Scotland this summer, the editor saw in Oban the following pitch for Polo mints (like Life-Savers): IF IT WASN'T FOR THE HELD IT WULDN'T BE PL. The English aren't particularly addicted to punning business names, but the outstanding SEW NICE was seen.


Writes Harry Randall: "I am afraid that Louis Phillips has set himself an impossible task with his Alphabet For a New Year in the August Kickshaws, but I was able to get rid of a few of those initials and make one or two questionable improvements on names: Clair Bee, Ortega y Gasset, Em (of Clara, Lou and), Q (the pen name of Arthur Quiller-Couch), Karl van Eas, Shih Huang Ti, Jackie Ickx, Thomas J. Wise. Never apologize, never explain... well, hardly ever."

Jay Ames has heard the superlatives DANCINGEST and WORKINGEST in local conversation, but can offer no printed verification of either one. He also heard a young woman refer to a third party as the "HONESTEST person she'd ever known."
Alan Frank came up with WITHDRAWALS as a transaddition of SHAW-WAL for Tom Pulliam's "Calendar Transadditions" in the August issue. Kyle Corbin was sure WHITEWASHABLE would be in Webster's Second, but it wasn't. Ed Wolpow suggested the two-word HAWK SWALLOW. He adds HEAVENISH as an improvement for HESHVAN, WANAS (below the line in Webster's Second) as a transposition of SAWAN, and RADIOTHERMY for THERMIDOR.

Several people noted improvements for Ed Wolpow's "A Maximum Mono- and Di-Syllabetic" in August. Ed Wolpow himself notes that Ralph Beaman in the May and August 1970 Word Ways had HAIR-BREADTHS and THROUGHSTITCH. Jeremy Morse adds CRANCHED, THRACHED, CROSSTHRACHED (a tie) and THROUGH-REACHED from Webster's Second, and the up-to-date coinage DRAUGHTPROOFED. Kyle Corbin mentions SQUIRRELLED, in Webster's Collegiate.

Harry Randall questions Maxey Brooke's identification of YEAH as a slang term for YES (in "Yes, Indeed"); it doesn't quite track as a descendant of GISE, but tracks perfectly as a descendant of GIA.

A late -CIDE entry from The Word Wurcher, who saw it in Newsweek: SIBLICIDE. SIBLING is itself a jargon word coined to provide an English equivalent for the German 'Geschwister' which means SIBLINGS collectively, not just one.

Alan Frank discovered that Gary Crum's putative pan-crashing set -- AYOU, EOSIN, I-HEAD, MIAOU, OUIJA, SEUGH, UAYEB -- doesn't do the job for Webster's Second: ympne (hymn), Yngvi and ystle (istle) were missed.

Jeff Grant notes that SPRAE is in the English Dialect Dictionary, adding one missing word to one of the examples in "Transposition Rings" in August. Using the OED and Webster's Second, he quickly found another Type 1 Ring: ISHER-SHERI-HERIS-ERISH-RISHE. HERIS is found under 'hers' and ERISH under 'Erse' in the former reference.

Commenting on Darryl Francis' analysis of SPEAR CARRIER (used sometimes to denote a leader, other times a follower), Jay Ames says "almost akin is our local word for newcomers from the West Indies or Bahamas -- SPEAR CHUCKER". The two terms are probably unrelated etymologically, but he claims to have heard the latter on British TV.

Speaking of punning business names, Louis Phillips found HAIR AT LAST (a new variant of the hair-here interchange), HAIRIZONA (in Phoenix, of course), NEW HAIRIZONS (an improvement on examples from Phoenix and Minneapolis), and the excellent HANK OF HAIR in...
Kansas City, with a proprietor named Henry. And how about CLIPSO, noted in Scotland this summer by the editor?

Kyle Corbin points out that the common word sizzlE improves the LZ sequence in calzone in Alan Frank's May 1982 article, "Long Diagrammatic Strings". Similarly, Alan Frank offers tacHYDYdrite as an HY improvement.

Louis Phillips forwarded an unusual newspaper clipping relating to short surnames: "Coldwater, Michigan, July 20, 1931 (AP). H. P. Re, reputed to have the shortest name of any man in the United States, died yester-day... He was 75 years old. A newsdealer in Coldwater, he spent a good deal of his time explaining to strangers that his name was really Re." Fifty years ago, single-letter surnames in the United States must have been exceedingly rare, if not non-existent.

Darryl Francis offers a few shorter-word improvements for Alan Frank's "A Friendly Alphabet" in the May issue: FRNEDH, frenched (or frenched); JKASOP, pajocks; ASOPGMC, campongs.

Responding to Louis Phillips' plea for duplicated names, Harry Randall notes Norman Norman (a prominent advertising executive), Jerome K. Jerome, and that famous diarist, Humbert Humbert. And how about the French actress Miou-Miou?

Kyle Corbin adds DEET and DEETS (from the latest Addenda to Webster's Third) and RIS (plural of RI) to Alan Frank’s "High Scoring Boggle". Too bad INGESTABLE isn't Websterian, says Philip Cohen.

Errata: Kilimanjaro is the correct spelling of that IJKLMNO word, and the Hebrew song repeats Dayenu, not Dayenn. Philip Cohen notes that Uqoqo and Favrura, mentioned in the August Colloquy, are not Websterian, but from the Times Index-Gazetteer.

A pat on the back for Howard Bergerson from Philip Cohen: "I think (the Ronald Reagan interview) is the most enjoyable thing he's ever done for WW. Remarkably clear, true-to-Reagan, with well-constructed discourses as well as individual good sentences. Bravo!"

Another telephonemonic: according to The Word Wurcher, there is a Long Beach restaurant which advertises "Call 43 PIGGY".

Jay Ames footnotes the Silent Alphabet in the February Word Ways: "Whereas 'Limeys' say 'tuppence' for two pence, northern Irish have 'flippence' for five pence".