If someone were to ask you to name three American communities beginning with the letter Z, could you? Unless you happen to live in one, you might have difficulties, for there are only two cities in the nation with populations exceeding 10,000 and beginning with the letter Z: ZANESVILLE, Ohio and ZION, Illinois. Yet, there are many hundreds of communities in the United States beginning with the last letter of the alphabet. While some names occur in a good many states — there are numerous Zions, for example — the actual number of different Z names is a figure approaching two hundred. This vast reservoir of Z names surrounding us has led an underground existence until now, from a logological standpoint. The time has come to bring it out into the open.

Listed below are 184 Z names, culled from two editions of the Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide: the 1984 edition, and one of some five or ten years ago (I don't remember the exact edition that I originally used). This composite list therefore represents all Z names in the United States in the last few years. Each name is identified with only one state in which it occurs, even if it is found in quite a few others. Two of the most interesting names on the list, taken from the older edition, are no longer recognized by Rand McNally. One is ZIPPERLENVILLE, the longest single-word name on the list; the other, ZZYXZ, the alphabetically last place name in the United States. Let's declare a day of mourning for the departed!

Zabckiville TX
Zacarter LA
Zaćata VA
Zacha Junction TX
Zachar Bay AK
Zachariah KY
Zachary LA
Zacharytown TN
Zachow WI
Zack AR
Zafra OK
Zag KY
Zahl ND
Zaidee GA
Zaleski OH
Zalma MO
Zama MS
Zambarano Memorial Hospital RI
Zamora CA
Zandale KY
Zander WI
Zane OH
Zane Addition OH
Zanesfield OH
Zanesville IL
Zaneta IA
Zangar Junction WA
Zann's Corners OH
Zanoni MO
Zante CA
Zap ND
Zapata TX
Zarah KS
Zarephath NJ

Zavalla TX
Zayante CA
Zehlers Center UT
Zeagler FL
Zeal VA
Zeandale KS
Zearing IL
Zeba MI
Zebedee LA
Zebina GA
Zebleys Corne GA
Zebulon GA
Zediker CA
Zee CA
Zeeland MI
Zehners PA
Zeigler IL
Zeigler Junction WI
Zeiglerville MO
Zela WV
Zelienople PA
Zell MO
Zellobee GA
Zellwood FL
Zelma IN
Zelobee GA
Zemple MN
Zeumly MS
Zena NY
Zenas IN
Zenda KS
Zenia CA
Zenith GA
Zenith Height
Zenith-Saltwater
Zeno OH
Zenoria LA
Zent AR
Zentner CA
Zenz City OH
Zeona SD
Zephyr NC
Zephyr Cove
Zephyr Cove- Zephyrhills FL
Zephyrhills SD
Zephyrhills West
Zeppe VA
Zerbe PA
Zerker MN
Zero MS
Communities happen to live in two cities beginning with Z, there are beginning with Zer in a good hundred. The actual hundred, there are an under-

ions of the 1984 edi-

Zavalla TX
Zayante CA
Zcmi Center UT
Zeagler FL
Zeal VA
Zeandale KS
Zearing IL
Zeba MI
Zebedee LA
Zebina GA
Zebleys Corner PA
Zebulon GA
Zediker CA
Zee CA
Zeeland MI
Zehners PA
Zeigler IL
Zeigler Junction IL
Zeiglerville MS
Zela WV
Zelienople PA
Zell MO
Zellobee GA
Zellwood FL
Zelma IN
Zelobee GA
Zemple MN
Zemuly MI
Zena NY
Zenas IN
Zenda KS
Zenia CA
Zenith GA
Zenith Heights MI
Zenith-Saltwater WA
Zeno OH
Zenoria LA
Zent AR
Zentner CA
Zenz City OH
Zeona SD
Zephyr NC
Zephyr Cove NV
Zephyr Cove-Round Hill Village NV
Zephyrhills FL
Zephyrhills South FL
Zephyrhills West FL
Zepp VA
Zerbe PA
Zerkel MN
Zero MS
Zerus CA
Zeta MO
Zetella GA
Zetto GA
Zetus MS
Zevely WV
Zia Indian Reservation NM
Zia Pueblo NM
Zibilich LA
Zieglersville PA
Zieglerville MS
Zif IL
Zigler WV
Zigman WA
Zigzag OR
Zihlman MD
Ziler TX
Zillah WA
Zilwaukee MI
Zim MN
Zimco AL
Zimmerdale KS
Zimmer Estates OH
Zimmerman MN
Zinc AR
Zincville OK
Zingara CA
Zinnia WV
Zinzer CO
Zion AL
Zion Acres TN
Zion City AL
Zion Crossroads VA
Zion Grove PA
Zion Heights AL
Zionhill PA
Zion Hill KY
Zion National Park UT
Zion Park Lodge UT
Zion Station KY
Zions View PA
Zionsville IN
Ziontown OH
Zionville NC
Zip City AL
Zipp City TX
Zipperleville TX
Zippville TX
Zirconia NC
Zirkle VA
Zita TX
Deserving special honors are those names including a second Z somewhere in their spelling: ZENZ CITY, ZIGZAG, ZINZER, and, of course, ZZYXX.

**A NONSENSE-PHRASE GENERATOR**

Word Ways readers may be interested in a software program called "Off-The-Wall", provided by the Salinon Corporation (7430 Greenville, Box 31047, Dallas TX 75231, 800-722-0054) for $29 postpaid. Suitable for PCs or compatibles (256K, DOS 2.0+), it creates nonsense sentences using a variety of built-in phrase generators. Some examples:

Affluence is the root of all amazement
All is depressing in romance and politics
Try composure when you have failed at jubilation
Tautology is to excellence as devotion is to perfection

**ANSWER**

A PUZZLER'S ANSWER:

1. trinades
6. bouts-rils
15. anagram
20. reverse-shaws
25. 1
29. equivocation

ROBOTS ON 1

1. (The) Tin Man
6. android
12. ecuops
17. R2-D2

MYSTERY MALES:

The names in parentheses are suggestions: 1. jackal (a wild dog) 2. giraffe 3. (a wild hog) 4. Cephalopod 5. (a wild mule) 6. (a marine mammal) 7. a marine mammal 8. (a yelp) 9. (a wild hog) 10. Pterodactylus 11. a marine mammal 12. ecolus 13. gam (a flying mammal) 14. (a flying mammal) 15. (a human male) 16. (a human male) 17. (a human male) 18. (a human male) 19. (a human male) 20. (a human male) 21. (a human male) 22. (a human male) 23. Melosa