

KICKSHAWS

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Readers are encouraged to send their own favorite linguistic kickshaws to the Kickshaws Editor. All answers appear in the Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue. Guest editors will continue to appear occasionally.

Postcard Word Games

A stranger sent me a strange postcard, and it seemed to invite a gamey response. The card said "Dear Sir--Could you please tell me if you have ever heard of my name before, or if you have ever seen me on television? Please at least confirm the receipt of this postcard. William J. Siebrand."

I wrote this letter in reply: "Of course I've heard of your name before. Hasn't everyone heard of William J. Siebrand, star of stage, screen, and television. Nobel laureate, noble philanthropist, Olympic champion, former Mr. America, industrialist, winner of the Indy 500, the National Open, and the Publishers' Sweepstakes, long-time friend of O.J. Simpson, sworn enemy of Fidel Castro, Zuben Mehta's mentor, swashbuckling adventurer, incurable romantic, accomplished tree surgeon, lover of dentistry, creator of the Siebrand Diet, shameless womanizer, soldier of fortune, gourmet chief, pinball wizard, award-winning color field artist, fashion designer, Time Magazine's Person of the Century, and possibly the next President of the United States? How many times I've seen you on television and said to myself 'That's William J. Siebrand. Who could forget his name?' I remember Johnny hugging you, Madonna slapping you, Jean-Luc Picard jokingly calling you 'a Klingon', Jimmy Carter seeking your advice on Haiti, Bill Clinton playing jazz riffs with you, Whoopie Goldberg asking you out on a date, and so many others who will forever stand in your ever-lengthening shadow. Yes. I received your postcard, a thousand times yes! If I hadn't received it, my life would be much less than it is now. After one reading, I understood the meaning of compassion, friendship, joy, and sorrow. Your words burned themselves into my soul, seared me to the inmost recesses of my spirit, made me examine my entire system of values, and gave new meaning to the word 'postcard'. I'll never forget the moment I held it in my trembling hands and read the name of the immortal William J. Siebrand, whose picture will soon be on the US cent, replacing Abraham Lincoln's image. I trembled as I read your words. I smiled, I wept, and I vowed then and there that I would change my ways. By the time you get my humble reply, I'll be in central Tibet meditating with a monk high on one of the mountains. I

invite you to join me. Together we can learn how to levitate. Thank God you wrote me! No, thank Siebrand you wrote me!"

However, I probably won't send it. I don't even know where he got my name and address. One theory I have is: He's a serial killer whose picture is on an FBI Wanted Poster or on America's Most Wanted TV show, and he's doing a mail survey to find out who still doesn't know him so he can murder them without being recognized. Another theory: He's a Democrat who just got voted out of office.

Schizoids

Susan Thorpe writes about a conflicting property that some words have: "Words such as S(HE), T(HERE) and Y(OURS) incorporate their opposite number, or antonym. Others incorporate an overlapping pair of antonyms, one of which is read backwards, which share one or more of their letters. Thus, in WELLington, WELL and ILL share LL, and in Smirnoff (vodka), ON and OFF share the letter O. There also exist an elusive band of words (OUTING is one) in which the antonyms (in this case OUT and IN) are both read forward, do not overlap, and, moreover, are adjacent. For all of these words, I propose the term schizoids.

"Are there any schizoids without an extraneous letter? Yes! HIGH-LOW, in Webster's Third, is either 'a come-on or echo in bridge or whist' or 'a game of poker in which the highest ranking and lowest ranking hands divide the pot equally'. But, how much better without the hyphen and apostrophe. Webster's Third defines HIGHLOW as 'an ankle-high laced boot', which sounds to be just what we need for our walk through the Peak District of Derbyshire where we discover HIGHLOW Brook running alongside HIGHLOW Hall, said to be the most haunted farmhouse in England. Another example of a schizoid without an extraneous letter: in 1958, Benjamin Britten composed 'NOYE'S Fludde', and NOYES is the surname of the English poet Alfred NOYES (1880-1958), author of 'The Highwayman'. Can readers find any other schizoids?"

Initial Additions

According to Susan, "Brent Weepy and Nurse Pathos have been playing around with what they prefer to call 'andagrams' but which readers will know as transadditions. In this context, they decided to take a closer look at some Christian names and, their **bete noire** being the Thorpe-Newby partnership, naturally their initial targets were the names SUSAN and PETER.

"It appears that PETER is a PEWTER EXPERT of REPUte who tends to RETAPE and REPEaT himself. On the other hand, he has a TEMPER and tends to PESTER, especially when he has to RETYPE.

"Pathos tells us that her alter ego is somewhat less pushy but she does, it seems, like doing things in style. SUSAN, on visits to the Bahamas, enjoys her SAUNaS in NASSaU. Which, adhering to everyday words, is all the lady has to offer, except for the

plural word which uses the letter E and which Pathos describes as 'that word which is the absolute end', preferring to use the E herself to run a TeASHOP. Pathos confesses that her partner BRENT, amenable to BaNTER, is actually a rather dishy BREToN of Mediterranean appearance, a BRuNET with dark skin and eyes and a dark BaRNET of hair.

"Nearer to home, we learn that error-prone BEN Pewtery, understandably, hasn't got a BEaN and periodically drives all and sundry round the BEnd. And it goes without saying that Peter's palindromic relative, WALTER Fretlaw, that sometime WALTzER, is also a WAsTREL!

"Having exhausted their own family repertoire, Pathos and Brent have mischievously gone on to play the game with the Christian names of some of the other **Word Ways** contributors, past and present. However, they wish to make it clear that 'logological forces alone determined who should, and who should not, be amongst the chosen few'!

CHRIS CHIRpS as he sings in the CHoIRS whilst imbibing kIRSCH
 TED is TiED to his DaTE DiET
 MARTIN is a MARTiAN MIgRANT living in a MINAReT, not a vARMINT
 ROSS gets cROSS when the temperature SOaRS, and gets SOReS when
 tending ROSeS
 LESLIE likes SEVILLE jELLIES
 PALMER lives in PALERMo with his pet LAMPREy
 LEONARD is a uRODELAN inhabiting the FORELAND, seeking the
 fame of a LEONARDo
 ERIC one hot day CRIEd "mERCI, it isn't a CRImE to like ICiER
 CiDER - it's nICER!

Redone Dance

Nyr Indictor writes: "How many times can the same letter occur consecutively? Onomatopoeia like OOOOOOOH is disqualified." He sends an example using the letter A: Nausicaa's typing was erratic, and she kept doubling words. When Aaron asked for "aa" he got from Nausicaa "aa aa". "Aa aa," Aaron said, "is redundant".

TV Wordplay

"Tumble, plunge, plummet - you pick the adjectives," said a newsman recently on CNN about a 90-point loss in the stock market. His verbs dropped through the floor, too.

After the Kansas City-Denver football game, which KC won with a dramatic last-minute pass, the sportscaster asked Joe Montana, the hero of the day, a question that made me do a mental double-take: "Emotionally, what were you thinking?" Rationally, how do you answer that? Montana should've replied, "Emotionally, I was thinking YAAYYY! AHHHHHH! WHOOOOOAAAAAAA! HOOHOOHOOHOO!"

On a Donna Reed Show rerun, Donna quipped to her hubby "You'll find the humble pie in the refrigerator right next to the sour grapes." When I heard that, I went bananas.

Ralph Begleiter, CNN newsman, had this to say about American reaction to the Haitian situation: "The sound of collective breaths being heard throughout the capital is almost audible." And when the Congressmen stopped holding their collective breaths, the hurricane season began.

Can You Supply a Cormorant?

Peter Newby has found an unanswered challenge in a lesser-known wordplay form of Lewis Carroll's. Peter writes: "In an endeavour to extend the scope of his Doublets (word ladders), Lewis Carroll invented a dreadful concept he named Syzygies. Ignoring--as he, himself, was wont to do--his complex word rules and a curious scoring system he attached to the format, the idea consisted in taking an aspect (a 'syzygy') of one word to use as an aspect of another as shown in this example of his: WALRUS rus PERUSE per HARPER arpe CARPENTER.

"Just as with his Doublets so with his Syzygies, Carroll had original and terminal words that bore a reasonably obvious relationship to each other as exemplified by the first few examples he had published in a British women's magazine, *The Lady*, in the 1890s. These were set as puzzles for the reader to solve and his KNIFE to FORK solution is as follows--KNIFE nife MANIFEST man WORKMAN ork FORK.

"But what **really** intrigues me is the 'solution' to his final puzzle--DEMAND eman GENTLEMAN gent TANGENT ange ORANGE oran CORMORANT. Did the ancient 'wag don' intend DEMAND to lead to such as SUPPLY only to get as far as CORMORANT? The question remains, can you take an aspect of CORMORANT to such as SUPPLY or any other, equally logical, terminal word?"

Abbot and Costello Meet Eemollet's Ocdnatobba

Peter tells of this 1940s comedy routine in *New Bybwen*: "In 1942. the US Army Air Force base in *New Bybwen* invited the top double act of the day, Abbot & Tobba, to perform their famous 'Needing a donkey' routine. The essence of the humor lies in the little fat guy's confusion between NEED, KNEED and KNEAD so that the straight man eventually loses his temper and beats Tobba senseless with his hat. However, little Lou added a new dimension to the act by descending into the archaic speech of the locals such that he used KNOD, the Middle English past tense of KNEAD. As he kicked the little fat guy viciously in the groin, Bud Abbot yelled 'YE KNOD A DONKEY?!'"

Pseudosynonyms

Peter has come up with a new wordplay form, the pseudosynonym. In the August *Kickshaws*, O.V. Michaelson presented a selection of pseudo-opposites, a form introduced in 1970 (CATWALK/DOGTROT). A pseudosynonym does the opposite: that is, the corresponding parts on each of the equation are synonymic. Peter provided NIGHT-

MARE/DARK HORSE and DUTCH CAP/POKE BONNET. He told the concept to Susan Thorpe, who took the ball and ran with it. Here are Susan's pseudosynonyms:

cruel sea/hard water	central time/Middle Ages
iron mask/poker face	tall order/high command
last request/final demand	stone circle/rock band
maximum/grandma	vulgar fractions/naughty bits
wind power/air force	soft centre/faint heart
raindrop/waterfall	

Grugprab

What does that word mean? It appears in Michael Helsem's ad on the back cover of the February **Word Ways**. Peter Newby asked me its meaning in a recent letter, so I spent an afternoon researching it at the library. I had doubts about its existence, but, after going through about 40 books, I found it. As I wrote to Peter: "You wonder what GRUGPRAB is? According to the 1914 edition of *The Complete Historical Atlas of Geographical Locations From Creeks to Countries Excluding Volcanos and Geysers*, GRUGPRAB was a medium-sized river in Beldovia, an island nation of the coast of Gondwanaland. The Grugprab River was the site of a decisive battle during the War of the Ragweed. It's made famous in an anonymous palindrome that incorporates the word BARPGURG, an outdated English term having etymological roots in the Old Stone Age. According to *Firble's Guide to Extremely Obsolete Words*, BARPGURG means 'capable: having the ability; able'. The palindrome, attributed humorously to the failed conquerer Leonna Po of North Beldovia, is "Barpurg was I ere I saw Grugprab."

Open Joints on Bridge

Chris McManus has come across a perplexing highway sign, which reads in two lines OPEN JOINTS ON BRIDGE. As drivers ponder the dozens of possible meanings, they may have dozens of accidents. Chris gives thirteen basic interpretations, and adds that "The answer might be none of the following, because bridge also has technical meanings for electricians and billiard players, and open and joint are both multifaceted words."

- * A commercial announcement that there are shops (joints) open on some bridge
- * A commercial advisory encouraging us to establish businesses on a bridge
- * A labor announcement: there are non-union stores (open shops) on the bridge
- * A warning that there are legally uncontrolled businesses (an "open town") on the bridge
- * A warning that there are marijuana reefers (joints) openly visible on the bridge
- * Assurance that it is safe to open up your packets of reefers on the bridge
- * A warning that there are severed limbs openly visible on the bridge--maybe the result of a gruesome traffic accident
- * An announcement that a band, The Open Joints, are performing

on the bridge

- * Reminder to musicians: keep open the joints on the bridges of stringed instruments
- * Advice to card-players: start the bidding ("open") in bridge games whenever you have some card combination called a joint
- * Advice to dentists: create openings in the join-areas of a denture
- * Reminder to doctors that there are visible joints on the bridge of the nose
- * Suggestion to look for visible carpentry joints on the bridge of ships (perhaps on waterways paralleling the highway)

China Shoes

In a similar vein of confusion, Iowa City's Add Sheet carried an ad for CHINA SHOES in big letters. What in the world could China Shoes be? A movie sequel to "The China Syndrome"? A tap-dancing troupe from the People's Republic? Or something else? The shoes could be made in China or made of china. They could be souvenir shoes shaped like China. China could be the company's name, or it could be a slang term like the word earth in earth shoes. And speaking of shoes, what kind? People shoes, horseshoes, brake shoes? There could be many different products with that name for sale at the store, which is called PREFERRED STOCK. What kind of stock. anyway?

'Ll: A Poem

With just a click, the TV set'll
Brighten, and you'll softly settle
On a garden show. Your pet'll
Try to claw a flower petal.

So you turn a different channel
To a crime show. Charlie Chan'll
Murder someone. Now a panel
Says "Just use this soap. Your pan'll

Shine--" Now click! Your eager cat'll
Watch a cowboy rustle cattle.
Then a vampire flick: A bat'll
Fight the cat and win the battle.

Click! A weight-loss show. One noodle
On the menu. Now a nude'll
Look much slimmer than a doodle
While a muscle-laden dude'll

Flex his pecs. His magic trick'll
Slow the cat's paw to a trickle.
Now a cooking show. This pick'll
Show ten ways to cook a pickle.

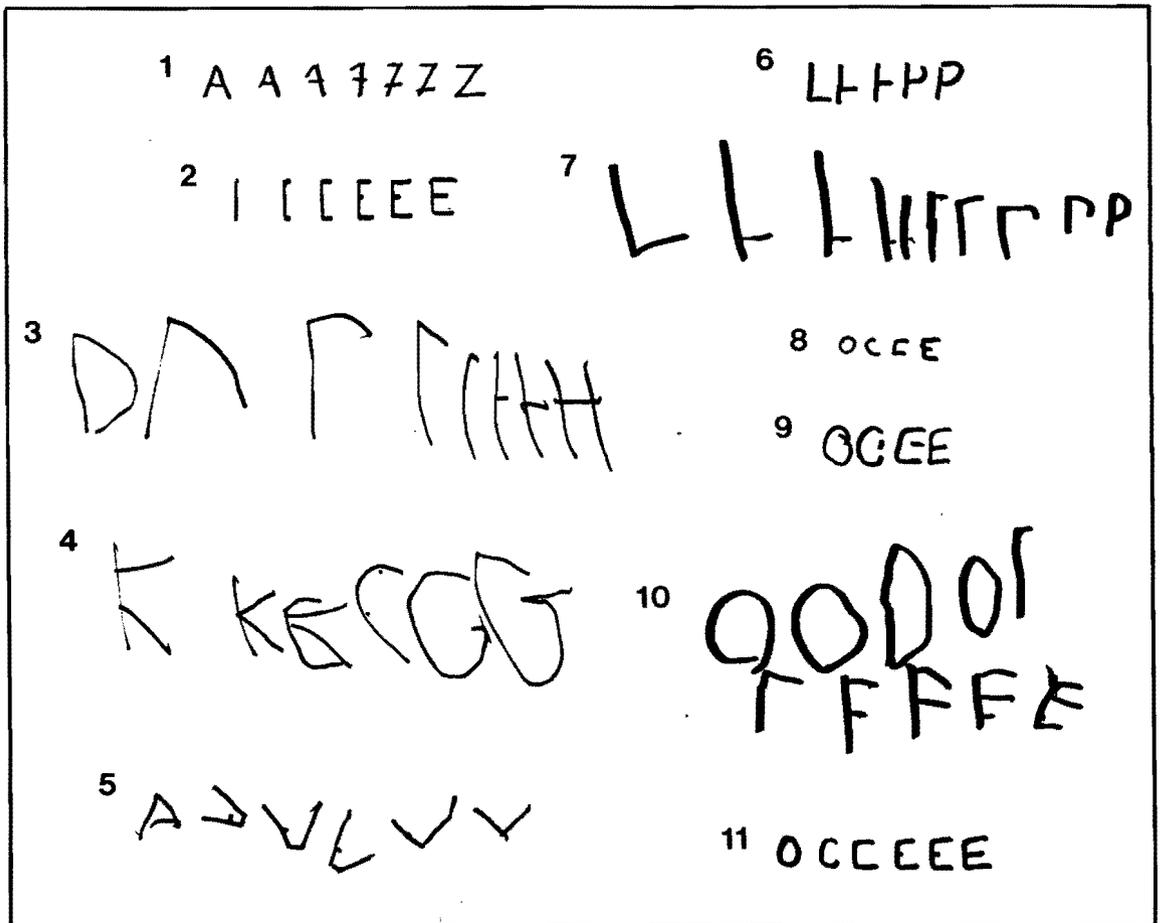
What's that noise? A bird. It's coo'll
Catch the cat's attention. Cool
Dreams of chasing wrens through dew'll
Lead her to another duel.

Alphatoons

You can turn any letter of the alphabet into any other letter by drawing a series of intermediate "letters". The design of each letter in the series differs slightly from those coming before and after it. During the transition, a line may grow longer, shorter, break apart, or disappear. A curve may straighten out, or change direction. Separate lines may move together and connect. If you printed the letters one per sheet on a tablet, you could flip the pages to make them move like an animated cartoon. I showed my son how to do it, and he wanted to try it himself. The Alphatoons figure shows two of mine, which change A-Z (1) and I-E (2), and three of his, which change D-H (3), K-G (4) and A-V (5).

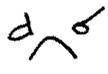
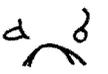
The strategies for making the changes may differ from person to person. To test this idea, my niece Samantha, my sister Michele, Danny and I tried the same letter pairs without seeing the others' work. Alphatoons 6 and 7 show L-P drawn by Danny and Samantha. Alphatoons 8 to 11 show the four different ways that Samantha, Michele, Danny and I changed O-E.

ALPHATOONS

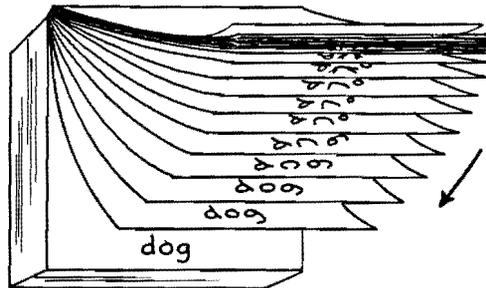


Letters and words can convert into other things. DOG is a longer alphatoon in which the word "dog" becomes a dog and then collapses into a pile of hair, out of which "cat" pounces. Originally I printed the contents of each frame on a different page in a tablet. When I flipped the pages, the movie began. Alphatoons are fun to make. Try your own hand at it, and send your results to Kickshaws Komix!

DOG

dog				
dog				
dog				
dog				
dog				
dog				
dog				

FOR THE ABOVE ALPHATOON, "READ" EACH COLUMN DOWNWARD, STARTING WITH THE LEFT COLUMN AND PROGRESSING TO THE RIGHT.



IN TABLET FORM, THE PAGES FLIP THIS WAY.

The Palindddrome Challenge

Peter has a palindromic challenge. Can palindromes be made with three (or more) repeated letters in the center for each letter of the alphabet? Avoid repetitions of words (as in 'TIS I--I--I! I SIT). Also avoid abbreviations, initials and obsolete words; otherwise, it's too easy. To start off, I've put together three:

HAS LEE EELS? AH! NOW A MALL LLAMA WON NOSE, ZOO OOZES ON

TV and OJ: A Palindrome on Trial

No set, I note, but no joy: O.J. on tube tonite, son.

Charade Names

Who took a nap on the peak of Mt. Everest?

Echo: Eve Rest.

Who says that bugs are adamant?

Echo: Adam Ant.

Who put his foot in the tomatoes?

Echo: Tom A. Toes.

Who locks up his donkey?

Echo: Don Key.

Who speaks so well when he gives a benediction?

Echo: Ben E. Diction.

Who laughs when he says "Aloha"?

Echo: Al O. Ha.

Who rings a bell when he's standing?

Echo: Stan Ding.

Who moped on ground that is hallowed?

Echo: Hal lowed.

Who holds a small container when she's jovial?

Echo: Jo Vial.

Who wove a rug with a bird in the pattern?

Echo: Pat Tern.

Madam, I'm Adam: A Palindrome Charade Play

A woman is standing next to the Grand Coulee Dam, which she mistakenly believes to be the Panama Canal.

WOMAN A man. a plan, a canal: Panama.

GRAND COULEE Madam, I'm a dam!

WOMAN You seem angry.

GRAND COULEE Mad am I, madam.

WOMAN Sorry. By the way, who made you?

GRAND COULEE Ma Dam. I? Ma Dam.

WOMAN Did you say "Ma Dam"?

GRAND COULEE Ma Dam. I'm a dam.

WOMAN Okay, you're a dam. But what did you tell your mother?

GRAND COULEE "Ma! Dam! I'm a dam."

WOMAN Do you have a lover?

GRAND COULEE Madam Ima Dam.

WOMAN You're from France, aren't you, Monsieur Adam?

GRAND COULEE M. Adam? I, M. Adam?
 WOMAN That's right. Oh, you're angry again.
 GRAND COULEE Mad am I! Mad am--
 WOMAN I think you're crazy!
 GRAND COULEE Mad? Am I mad? Am--
 WOMAN Crazy--or damn mad!
 GRAND COULEE Madam, I'm Adam.

A Charade in the Garden of Eden

After eating the apple, Adam was unable to devise a method for living in Eden. Consequently, he and Eve had to run out of there. To put it charadically:

O, HAD A MAN DEVELOPED A WAY!
 OH, ADAM AND EVE LOPED AWAY

Over Sea, Under Land

When you figure out what the next poem means, can you figure out what it means? What does that mean?

All is wide. Rabid
 jaw bore walk.

Mat had hair,
 marsh air,
 carp and tear!
 Jest, shire--
 Cad mocked her!
 Tell Dutch his
 cad or pill
 or wall?
 Rush! Wreck! Wean!
 Hum, Dee. Dumb Dee.
 All is door moss.

I Can't Believe It's Playtex

In the tradition established by I Can't Believe It's Not Butter!, Playtex has a new brassiere modestly called Thank Goodness It Fits. (Was there an earlier model called Oops It Fell Off?) People Magazine unveiled the new bra in a recent issue with an ad that sounds like a riddle: "I'm bigger than an A. But I'm not a perfect B." Baring in mind the product, can you figure out which letter of the alphabet is the answer? In the same spirit, Vanity Fair has produced a bra with the uplifting title It Must Be Magic. The only other phrase or sentence name I know of is Happy To Be Me, an anatomically-realistic doll. Do you know of any other such names for any products? The ones I've cited can become theatrical dialog, or play-text, as shown by this ad-drama "In The Negligeé Shop":

PLAYTEX CUSTOMER Thank Goodness It Fits
 VANITY FAIR CUSTOMER It Must Be Magic
 STORE CLERK I Can't Believe It's Not Butter
 MALE CUSTOMER (aside) Happy To Be Me

T.G.I.F. And Other Weekronyms

Thank God It's Friday! This triumphant cry of the working class rings throughout the nation weekly. The other days of the week aren't as fortunate to have famous acronyms, but there are some might-have-beens. I saw a greeting card with S.H.I.T. on it (really), and a friend of mine from Chicago told me she's heard of P.O.E.T.S. Can you decipher either one of them? Can you invent any weekronyms for the neglected days? I'll start the week off with M.A.D. It's not too hard to figure out, but if you can't see Answers and Solutions. Can you come up with any other meanings for T.G.I.F.? Thank Goodness It Fits.

Dictionaries = Indices' Ratio (Anagram Cross-References)

In a library of wordplay, the subject headings would be cross-referenced by anagramming them into two-part entries--direction (See, See Also, Find, etc.) plus alternate heading. Help build up the reference department by providing your own meaningful anagram cross-references to go with these:

SEPARATE see "apart"	TELEVISION SET see "it's not live"
INFIDEL find "lie"	ANTICOAGULANT again at "unclot"
INSIST it's in "S"	MANAGEMENT at "men nag me"
STATIC it's at "C"	DANTE'S INFERNO at end of "sinner"
ARTIST it's "art"	ALPHABET help at "A, B"
OPERAS re: "soap"	PALINDROMES as "modern lip"
TOWARD at "word"	PALINDROMES also "pre-mind"
HUMOR or "hum"	CONSTITUTION it is not "count"

Very Immense Palindromes (VIPs)

Last issue, Mark Saltveit discussed "Half-Palindromic Words" which are words that contain the other half of a sentence palindrome when they're reversed. He presented a selection of them ranging in size from TELL IF FILLET to NO, I TAN; I CULL A HALLUCINATION. I was particularly interested in his finds because I'd been accumulating palindromes by looking up words in the dictionary and reversing them to find phrases. My approach allowed for fitting words into sentences of longer lengths. I found several half-palindromic words in the process, but only NO, I TAX IF FIXATION was on Mark's list as well.

Words appearing in palindromic sentences tend to be fairly short. I divide palindromes into three types: a short-word palindrome has words up to seven letters, a long-word palindrome has at least one word of eight to sixteen letters, and a very immense palindrome (VIP) has a word of seventeen letters or more.

J.A. Lindon reached the heights of palindromic length by fitting a 19-letter word into a palindrome: "UNGASTROPERITONITIS--IS IT I? NOT I," REPORTS A GNU. That magic word, however, doesn't appear in the dictionaries I checked. If located, it would probably be UN-less (that is, no UN). The sentence that grows out of the word makes perfectly good sense, and what's more it's funny. In the November 1991 **Word Ways** Peter Newby topped this with

the 20-letter MICROMINIATURISATION, and one issue later Jeff Grant beat that with the 25-letter IMMUNOELECTROPHORETICALLY. These use obsolete terms, initials and unusual surnames, and required defining a few terms for the reader. I've been looking for one that would reach the peak, but it's a precipitous climb. I found two VIPs. They don't sound as natural as Lindon's but they are long.

The first VIP really stretches the point. It uses a 20-letter inferred feminine plural and two other odd words, REB and SERI, both in Webster's Second. SERI is an Indian of a tribe on a Gulf of California island; REB, used as an adjective here, is a colloquialism for REBEL. The sentence means "Southern women of extreme wealth restrict the amount of wood that can be placed on Serian Indian ointment rubbed on the nose."

At 27 letters, the second VIP truly touches the heights. It uses a word made famous by Shakespeare, but unfortunately it requires two oddball words (from Webster's Second) to complete the symmetry. DU is a variant of DO used in Scotland, and BAC means "a vat or cistern". By way of explanation, two people are wondering about something floating in the ocean. One of them says, "A submarine? It? A tin [like a sardine can]. I do [believe it] until I [don't believe it]. [It's a] vat if iron. O, honorif...!" Still, it doesn't sound natural like Lindon's masterpiece.

REB MULTIMILLIONAIRESSES ON A NOSE'S SERIAN OIL LIMIT LUMBER SUB? IT? A TIN. I DU 'TIL I. BAC IF IRON. O, HONORIFICABILITUDINITATIBUS!

While looking for VIPs, I found several words that fit into long-word palindromes. With long-word palindromes, the fun is in seeing what coalesces grammatically without too much concern for meaning: the long word drives the palindrome. If it makes sense, that's a lucky break.

DRAW, O CONSTANTINOPLE! HELP ON IT! NAT'S NO COWARD
 SIS: "OH, PROM ATE METAMORPHOSIS
 "NO," I TARE, "NUMERIC REMUNERATION"
 NO, I TAN, AMELIORATE TAR, OIL EMANATION
 "NO," I TUT, "IT'S 'NIX INSTITUTION"
 STEPSISTER, FRET--SIS PETS!
 NO RELAXATION? NO, I TAX ALE, RON
 PARASITISM, MS.? IT IS A RAP
 SUBMARINE: "MEN, I RAM BUS!"
 MASTICATE, TACIT SAM

Catcher In The Wry

In "Caulfield and Copperfield" Robert Fleissner suggested several thought-provoking reasons for Salinger picking the name Holden Caulfield for his anti-hero in Catcher in the Rye. I'd like to suggest the Anagram Theory: Salinger selected HOLDEN CAULFIELD because its letters rearrange to IF HE COULD END ALL.