

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Bending.--X Y Z A Z 'B CW VZXXZA ZUZADEBZ GWA
 B X A Z C T X Y Z C E C T X Y Z Y Z S A X X Y S C A Z S D Y E C T
 R W F C S C R H E G X E C T O Z W O H Z P O.--S C W C. ALPHA
 Philadelphia, Pa.

2. Take Note.--O S A P L E B S A D F E H G, O S A P L E B S C A
 H S F E, K C E, K A S E G L A, M S Q S E O S A P L E E S
 T S E L.

3. Mellow Voice.--U N S L I V F C R P N F T U Y B N C P I Z B G N S
 I Z V P O. S N T U V M G Y B O A N V L S M J O X D, G N F I S Z C

T V Y J I S N F I X U S O P G N D Z T D O C Y V. FUBINE

Bastrop, Texas. HOODWINK

4. Off in a Huff.--Q U A I N T A I U, N G O L E F R U U K O Z,
 C U T N S N Y L E U P A E Y O L E F K Q, V U O X Q A R Y

E A T Z H Y F V H M F K C N U L, C L H Z K A E Y E L Q U

C L Z N O, M P H E H F T U H U M N. A O X N T M U T Z M N W E.

Piedmont, Calif. EMPTY

5. Paying Business.--B A L T I M O R E X Z I U T A C P T Y F G I Z A
 X B Z H K Y F A P, O K Z F G J R B G E F Z P K M Y U O N Z B C T R F

X B C F O. X Z I D F A N R B G O X Z I J M H F B Y X R F O P-

T X F A J. COMRADE

Baltimore, Md.

6. Daybreak.--Z X W V T S X R V Q W P N M T L N R V W K, N J R H W
 J R W G V F J N M P X K R D. G N L C M W R N C Q V C D F R J

Q B Z W N K F N C D V R Z, J N Z T M X. SUE DOE

MAY SOLVERS

EVERYTHING: Sober Kay, Sue Doe,*
 Fiddle, B. Natural, Lu, Empty, Evero,
 Nollid, X. Specked, Hoodwink.

FLATS: Complete, 34--Emmo W., Ixaxar,
 Allez, Orion,* Daft. 33--Bick, T. N. Joyum,
 Salome, Alpha, Lady Lila, Dhumbb Bhelle,*
 Roving Vic, Sol, Ifandor, Larry, 32--Oedipus,
 Genesian, Dunroven, Oslo, Billy Goat. 31--Nat
 Pal,* 29--Johnnie, Penny, Jim Bill, Ralph, L. Wood,
 28--Anti Que, Boo-Jee Kay, Blackstone, Atlas,
 Captain To. 26--Jack, Viking. 25--Amor. 24--Bee Wilder,
 22--Osaple. 20--Zordo, Neoteric.* 19--Jay Estee,
 18--Excel C. Orr,* Arcanus, 14--Plantina,
 10 or less--Mr. Ree, Archie Tech, L. D. R., Sherlock Holmes.

FORMS: Complete, 7--Lady Lila, Bick, Genesian,
 Dunroven, Oslo, Neoteric,* Jemand,* Arcanus,
 L. D. R., Sherlock Holmes, Billy Goat, Ralph, L. Wood,
 6--Atlas, Jim Bill. 5 or less--Ixaxar, I. N. Joyum,
 Johnnie, Penny, Excel C. Orr,* Blackstone.

CRYPTS: Complete, 6--Reynard,* Daft, I. N. Joyum,
 Oslo, Anti Que. 5--Alpha, Lady Lila, Roving Vic,*
 Johnnie, Penny. 4--Comrade,* Bick, Bee Wilder, 3--
 Ifandor, L. D. R. 2--Emmo W., Ixaxar, Atlas, Amor,
 Neoteric,* Billy Goat, Dhumbb Bhelle.* 1--Sherlock Holmes.

Total solvers, 57. One vote each was cast for Nos. 7, 9, 16, 17, and 30 as best puzzle of the month.

THE ENIGMA

SEPTEMBER, 1952

CENTRE HALL, PA.

NO. 582

DISTILLATE

By MOLEMI

Essence of old puzzle papers,
 Devotion of Beech Nut and Pitts,
 McGinty's masquerade capers,
 Mullins' and Terry's keen wits,
 The undying flame that was Ernest,
 Tunst's reduplicate ten,
 Damon and great-souled Remardo
 (Long ago passed from our ken),
 Brilliance of Ellsworth and Mentor,
 Effie Cee smiling through pain,
 Jovial Gi the physician--
 On runs the endless refrain.

Like some rare attar of roses
 Flooding an old Persian vase,
 Puzzledom's mystic elixir
 Breathes out enchantment and
 grace,
 A fragrance that angels might envy
 And time shall not dare to efface.

ANAGRAMS, OR PUZZLES?

By FRED DOMINO

There is great difference of opinion about anagrams. Some solvers hate them, they are tolerated by some, and others go into raptures when a good one bobs up now and then. Some puzzlers say that an anagram should be based on a single word; some say, on two words; and some of the most liberal-minded place three words as the absolute limit of length.

The Enigma is the monthly magazine of the National Puzzlers' League, Inc. The subscription price is \$3.00 a year or \$1.50 for six months. Membership in the League is included.

The Official Editor and publisher is Rufus T. Strohm, Centre Hall, Pa., to whom all communications should be addressed.

When it comes to making anagrams--long ones, short ones, good ones, bad ones, or what have you?--I place myself in the same category as St. Paul when he wrote in the First Epistle to Timothy of "sinners, of whom I am the chief." My anagrams have been on all sorts of bases of varying lengths of from one to ten words.

Some puzzlers take the ground that every anagram should be based upon a single word, as I have said above. I admit their stand is well taken, as far as it goes. The only trouble with one- and two-word bases is that the field is limited. Most one-word anagrams were worked to a frazzle long years ago. APT is a perfect anagram on pat; DO IT IN A STILL, on distillation; and I ADD IT ON, on addition. I NOTED A SIGN, on designation; and on and on and on. The fault with these anagrams (and I think they will pass all tests as anagrams) is that they are not puzzles. One glance at them is all an experienced puzzler needs to solve them. No mental gymnastics are involved in getting the correct answers. A perfect, or near perfect, short anagram solves itself.

What is a puzzle? Something that the mentally lazy can decipher with a minimum of effort? Something that causes the solution to appear before the solver's eyes without any mental effort, consultation of references, or any attempt to figure out the angle the composer was thinking about

Files of League puzzle literature have been deposited in the library of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, where they may be consulted by anyone interested.

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while he was composing it? I believe not.

What I have said about one-word anagrams applies to a marked degree to two-word anagrams. Our old standby by Anonymus--THEY SEE, The Eyes--is so obvious that it wouldn't puzzle even the rankest tyro. Dorothy Boolittles DINTS TEETH, The Dentist, is just as easy. Today's system of placing numbers after the anagram to designate the number of letters in each of the words in the answer makes about half of them as easy to solve as are good one-word anagrams. When a "3" designates the leadoff word in a two-word anagram, it is about a 25 to 1 shot that the first word is The. Then, we have a single word to find; and if it is an anagram, instead of a mutation, nine times out of ten the word is obvious. If the first word is denoted by "1", or "2", it is safe to bet that the first word is A, or AN. AH, PICK MEN TO STEAL (3, 13), The Kleptomaniacs; TREAD IN STEPS, EH? (3, 11), The Pedestrians; and THEY STAB ONE (3, 8), The Bayonets, are other examples, too easy to solve to be classed as puzzles.

Three-word bases are probably the best length for anagrams. From 15 to 25 letters are needed by an anagrammatist to make a good anagram and to include a little of the enigmatic in it. For one, I do not like anagrams on obscure subjects, whether people, places or events. Neither do I like bases on words that few people know, even though they are included in New International. Names of movie stars, sports figures, statesmen and others are all right if those persons have made the headlines sufficiently for even the backwoods weeklies to have carried feature after feature about them. But they should be familiar to everyone, even puzzlers who read only the dictionary, a word list, and the Enigma.

Here are a few anagrams on three-word bases: I HALT FINE ACT RUN, The Final Curtain; CHARTER LIFE-END TOURS, The Funeral Directors; TRACING SOLONS CREED HERE, The Congressional Record; and THIS NEAR PERFECT FOOD, French Fried Potatoes. None of these should be too difficult for any puzzler to solve, as all are based on things familiar to everyone.

This brings us to bases of four or more words, and the sky seems to be the limit. Years ago, I de A showed us PLAN ONCE DECIDED THE NATION FREE,

The Declaration of Independence. Jim Jam concocted A HARD, HOWLING, TOS-SING WATER SCENE, Washington Crossing the Delaware; Navajo scored with THEY TAKE IN WORST PERSONS, The New York State Prisons; and Peggoty hit upon PITH OF THIS, HE COURTS AND SMILES, The Courtship of Miles Standish. None

of these are any better or any worse than a number of anagrams of the same length printed in the Enigma within recent years. It seems that length of base has very little to do with the solvability of the anagram, provided it is an anagram and not a mutation. The longer anagrams are unmistakably puzzles and that is more than can be said for the short ones, if they are apt, pat and apposite.

The same holds true of the longer anagrams. If they are clear-cut and pertinent, solvers ought not to have too much difficulty in solving them. What's wrong with I AM OFTEN A FRIEND TO EACH LABORER, The American Federation of Labor? Five words, yes; but I showed it to a newspaperman in St. Petersburg, Fla., who did not know what an anagram was till I told him, and he solved it, right off the bat. One of mine that Arty Ess published in February, 1951, OH, ONE LAST HIT INDEED WINS--THEN HEAR BAT HUM (1,4,3,2,3,5,4,3,5,6) is the height of something or other. But, I maintain that it shouldn't have been hard to solve. BAT definitely suggests baseball; ONE LAST HIT INDEED WINS would cause any baseball fan to think of a home run. The first word, I, must be A. That gives us A HOME RUN, which, being ONE LAST HIT, must have been IN THE NINTH; and as it INDEED WINS, what could be simpler than WITH THE BASES LOADED from the remaining letters? One thing I maintain: If the anagram is a long one, it should be, without exception, based upon a common phrase, event, person's name, etc.

I recall a long one by Emmo W. that saw the light in the Enigma of July, 1950: HI, AGREE MY SHE TROTTER BEST HERE? (3,4,4,2,3,6,5). This would not be classed as simple, since a lot of folks, including myself, never heard the expression. The Grey Mare is the Better Horse; but I had no difficulty in solving it. Not intending to hold up Emmo W. as a horrible example, or myself as even a fair solver, surely this anagram does lack a great deal of attaining perfection; but it did tax one's ingenuity a lot more than a perfect one-word one like Mystique's

contribution IS NOT SOLACED, Disconsolate.

Old Man Coincidence and the duplication of anagrams printed long ago are other things in favor of reasonably long bases. Some time since, I evolved the anagram AN ELD LAY SUNG, Auld Lang Syne, and sent it to Arty Ess. A few days later, I was looking thru an old copy of Key to Puzzledom, published in 1906, and in it I found the identical anagram, under the nom of Primrose. No, not plagiarism on my part; just one of those things! Let's have anagrams, short and long, but let's be darn sure they're not mere mutations.

MINUTES OF 128TH CONVENTION

The National Puzzlers' League, Inc. held its 128th convention at the Hotel Jermyn, Scranton, Pa., over the 1952 Washington's Birthday weekend. The attendance was 16.

Pres. Mr. Ree occupied the chair at the business meeting. The minutes of the 127th convention, as printed in the February, 1952, Enigma, were approved.

Arty Ess, acting for the Credentials Committee, presented the following for membership, and they were elected:

L. Donaldson, Jr., Tiptonville, Tenn.
Tom E. Atherstone, Monrovia, Calif.
Mrs. Janet Tom, Marietta, Ohio.
L. E. Willcox, Hove, Sussex, England.
Henry Beyerle, Detroit, Mich.
Robert Kinoy, Woodside, N.Y.
Fred J. Schwab, Waldorf, Md.
Mrs T. Burch Athey, Baltimore, Md.
Maj. A. F. Grum, San Antonio, Texas.

The Secretary read letters from absent members. Several oral messages were also given in behalf of members unable to attend.

The Treasurer's report, printed in the February, 1952, Enigma, was approved. It was stated that about \$100 had been received for the typewriter.

The Official Editor reported that, because of his moving in April, the second class mailing privilege for the Enigma would be transferred from Scranton, Pa., to Centre Hall, Pa., at a fee of \$10. The Enigma envelopes will continue to be addressed by Gm Friday in Scranton.

The reports of the committees on Crypts, Flats, and Forms were read and given to the Official Editor for publication. Mr. Ree expressed appre-

ciation for the work of the committees.

Mr. Ree, chairman of the committee to revise the Constitution, turned the meeting over to Cassandra, First Vice-President, in order to report on the recommended revision. Each article of the Regulations and of the By-Laws was read, discussed, approved, or approved as amended. It was moved that the proposed revision be circulated to members and be voted upon at the next convention.

Arty Ess read an obituary of Nypho. The convention paused in tribute to Nypho, and to Two O'Clock, a deceased member of the Riddlers.

In response to an invitation from Dorse, it was voted to hold the next convention on Martha's Vineyard over the Labor Day weekend of 1952.

A motion was approved unanimously, thanking the local committee for its fine work in planning and carrying thru the program of the convention. The Secretary was also instructed to express the appreciation of those in attendance for the fine cooperation of the hotel management and Scranton newspapers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

NORMAN E., Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

Receipts for July were: \$1-L.D.R.
\$3--Billy Goat, Rayle Rhoder, Rogor,
A. I. Kinneman, Ta T. \$5-Sober-Ray.
\$6-M. U. Later. \$10-Arcanus. \$12-Si.
\$50-Pat.

Balance, July 1.....	\$800.70	
Receipts as above.....	29.00	
Total.....		\$899.70
Aug. Enigma, Roster..	68.81	
Postal cards.....	1.50	
Typewriter ribbon....	1.25	
Conv. envelopes.....	2.05	
Wrapping twine.....	.50	
Editorial secretary..	3.00	
Total.....		77.11
Balance, August 1....		\$822.59

C H A T

The character under I in No. 1 is a figure, not a letter. The first and last characters of No. 5 rebus also are figures.

N. Jineer and Me Too called on the editor and his wife on July 31--the first puzzlers to be welcomed to our new home.

11. HOMONYM (5)

Said one PRIMAL to another,
"Will you kindly read my fate
In the cards or in the tea leaves,
For I'm going on a date?"

Said that PRIMAL to the other,
"When you're fishing for a mate,
Please be sure to eat no FINAL
Or you'll surely get the gate."

Baltimore, Md.

ORION

12. TRANSPOSAL (10)

Equestrienne, just second-rate,
At shows, Jane took no prizes
For hurdles over bars aloft
In death-defying sizes.
Her PRIMAL figure, jodhpur-clad,
Brought boos from an observer;
Her mount was startled, shied and
bucked;
These upsets did unnerve her.
Together, steed and rider spent,
Crashed into stall construction--
SECOND, without strong tenons used,
To circumvent destruction.

Falls Church, Va.

B. NATURAL

13. HOMONYM (5,4)

Had I the TWO and cash to spare,
On a city bank I would draw for fare
To flee these streets and find
repose
On a country bank where the wild
ONE blows.

Flushing, N.Y.

IXAXAR

14. ACROSTICAL ENIGMA (11)

ONE seven weeks in shooting dice--
So sad to see a six up twice.

TWO is armed with shaft and spike--
A soldier's staff all set to strike.

THREE challenges in brawn and skill
And finds that they are equal still.

FOUR O there the summer's sure
To have the selfsame temperature.

FIVE in grave reflection sits
And seriously strains his wits.

TOTAL

At the seashore, striped sea-shells
Sister Susie sometimes sells.

Los Angeles, Calif.

SOL

15. PHONETIC CHARADE (8)

Our home is SECOND for sound:
The baby, the dog and T.V.
It's ever a gosh-awful din
When all you can hear is all three.

In a 'lectrical storm tother eve
Came a pop, then a flash of white
light,
And a PRIMAL of rubber that's burnt
Sent the Missus into a great fright.

So I headed at once into town,
As we TOTAL experienced help
To restore all that wonderful noise!
Baby's cry, video and dog's yelp.

Washington, D.C.

SOBER-KAY

16. SPOONERGRAM (11; 5,6)

With politicians on the loose
Sounding off throughout the land,
And you and I awondering where
We ought to take our honest stand,
Some few of you perhaps recall
The machinating old ELEVEN.
But just as you would never try
To slip me six for seven,
I'm sure it's true the gov'ner of
That dignified New England state
(As Webster in his careful way
Does this account for us relate)
Was not a scamp who would invent
That kind of vote-collecting fix.
Indeed, a mirthful kind of goose
He may have been, a real FIVE SIX.

Waldorf, Md.

MIDURNDIST

17. TRANSELETION (10)

All night long, it seems to me,
The trucks go trundling by;
My ONE is shattered noisily;
All I can do is sigh!
I toss and turn and toss some more,
And thus I fret and stew.
I get so tired every night
To have to hear their TWO!

Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

AMOR

18. TRANSPOSAL (5)

They sliced the FIRST--
'Twas large and green;
They squeezed the SECOND
In a small machine,
Then served them both.
Step up! Let's go!
A dessert and drink
Incognito.

Detroit, Mich.

NEOPHYTE

ANTIGRAMS

19. WON'T HARP ON RED SECRETS 3,3,14

20. A MORE MILD ACT

21. AIN'T QUERIES, SON

22. SURE, NO CHATTER

23. LO. BANS SANE SEER

24. SO COUNT I AM SIN

25. CAN'T RILE ONE

26. AREN'T GROSS SINS

27. MENDED RUIN

Corinth, Miss.

FRED DOMINO

1. 2. SQUARES

1. CASCASIA (Am. Ind.) 2. ARIEMABP
(Gods of Egyptians) 3. River, Spain;
Joins Minho. 4. CERETANA (Wr. Gaz.)
5. Amethysts* (1st Ed.) 6. SAVASKA
7. IBENTARA (R. & McN.) 8. Pert. to
both Africa and Asia.

Milford, Ind.

SAKR-EL-BAHR

1. VADAKARA (E.B.) 2. Controlled#.
3. Make a devil of. 4. (Eccl.) The
pall of the chalice. 5. A kailyard
(var.) 6. Stirs up. 7. RESTREPO (Hy-
amson). 8. Thing of no value (N.Std.)
(Given on pg. 674, N.I., as a 7-letter
word).

Centre Hall, Pa.

ARTY ESS

3. DOUBLE HALFSQUARE

Across: L.M. 2. The realm of dark-
ness. 3. Pound. 4. Sooty # (1st Ed.)
5. Italian math and poet; 1672-1760.
6. English writer (Compleat Angler);
1593-1683. 7. T. Grundy co., Mo., 8
N Trenton. 8. BUTTEREE (Worc. Gaz.)
9. Ropes' ends (Chamb.) 10. Animals
sheltered, kept, and fed in winter.
11. Picking up and taking into pos-
session. 12. Dentist's drilling ma-
chine. 13. Diesel motors. 14. Ungov-
ernableness.

Down: 1. M. 2. Ambary. 3. The realm
of Pluto. 4. Var. of GET. 5. To pine
away (1st Ed.) 6. Partly stifled laugh.
7. BENHALL (Barth. Gaz.) 8. Tutelo
(Am. Ind.) 9. WITHERENS (Mayhew) 10.
Rallies (Oxf.) 11. SOLDERING IN
(Oxf.) 12. MORTAR ENGINE (Knight) 13.
Internal-combustion engines. 14. State
of being motionless.

Worthing, S. Dak.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

4. 5. SQUARES

1. A foot bath. 2. Surplus goods.
3. Son of Laius and Jocasta. 4. Cape
near Anapolis, Crete. 5. A Linnaean
genus originally comprising all but-
terflies. 6. A member of Agudath Yis-
rael. 7. Inhabiting an island.

1. The Pope's palace. 2. T., Huel-
va, Spain. 3. Takes a liking to (pg.
2571) 4. A frozen waterfall. 5. In
"Twelfth Night," the name assumed by
Viola. 6. A little ant. 7. The study
of sacred edifices.

Princeton, N.J.

AL GEBRA

6. PYRAMID

Across: 1. C. 2. Book# (1st Ed.) 3.
Sand banks of China, in Yellow Sea.
4. Mange affecting the head of sheep.
5. Short for Consolato del Mare. 6.
Comm., Piedmont, Italy (1st Ed. Geo.)
7. American poet and social reformer
1819-1910 (1st Ed. Biog.) 8. JULIA
WARNER SNOW (Cattell).

Down: 1. J. 2. A blue or white por-
celain of the Sung dynasty. 3. Eighth
month of Canaanite calendar. 4. Esch-
erichia coli. 5. Striped Indian mus-
lin. 6. T. Burma, NE of Kong Lak. 7.
BARSONA (Andrees) 8. Customer* (Oxf.)
9. CHALARN (Map Ind. Fr.) 10. Errand#
(Oxf.) 11. STEHR (War Dept. Surg. Gen.)
12. Isl., Gulf of Aegina. 13. To pos-
sess. 14. EO (Oxf.) 15. W.

Iowa City, Iowa.

ARCANUS

JUNE SOLVERS

EVERYTHING: Sober-Kay, B. Natural,
Sue Doe,* Hoodwink, Fiddle, Nollid,
X. Specked, Evero.

FLATS: Complete, 47--Allez, Rayle
Rhoder. 45--Roving Vic, Sol, Emmo W.
44--Daft, Salome, Alpha, Lady Lila.
42--Dhumbb Bhele,* I. N. Joyum. 41--
Ifandor, Bick. 39--Atlas, Empty, Lu.
37--Anti Que. 36--Evergreen.* 34--John-
nie, Penny. 33--Oslo. 30--Oedipus, Dun-
roven, Genesian. 29--Boo-Jee Kay. 27--
Bee Wilder. 26--Osaple. 25--Jack. 24--
Zordo, Captain To, Larry. 19--Arcanus.
Amor. 17--Plantina, Grulla. 16--Billy
Goat.* 13--Jemand.* 12--Ixaxar, Excel C.
Orr.* Doc. 10 or less--Neoteric,* Mr.
Ree, Patristocrat, L.D.R., Sherlock
Holmes.

FORMS: Complete, 8--Sol, Bick, Em-
pty, Lu, Oslo, Arcanus, Jemand,* Ne-
oteric,* Sherlock Holmes, Lady Lila,
L.D.R. Billy Goat.* 7--Dunroven, Ge-
nesian. 6--Atlas, Captain To. 5 or less--
Boo-Jee Kay, Zordo, Doc, Excel C. Orr.*

CRYPTS: Complete, 7--Coeth,* Daft,
Reynard,* Alpha, I. N. Joyum, Empty,
Lu, Lady Lila. 6--Johnnie, Penny. 5--
Bick. 4--Roving Vic.* Bee Wilder. 3--
Anti Que, Oslo, Oedipus, Neoteric,*
Sherlock Holmes. 2--Ifandor, Emmo W.
1--Atlas, Captain To.

Total solvers, 55. No 21 was voted
the best puzzle in June.

Eloise, wife of Arcanus, fell and
broke her right leg near the hip. We
are sorry to hear of this hard luck.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. Wrapsallions.--W IETLCS IZVTEPHFLIS LV FOHF
MT OHPT H VFHZGT CIPTESRTSF LS *MHV0-
LSCFIS--LSXGDULSC FOT *HDCTHS.
Waltham, Mass. PATRISTOCRAT

2. Oddity.--A B C D E F G H B I J D I K E L F M B L I G H F L N =
N D F F G B H: M O N D P G B L F, R O N P D I G B L F, P T D H B R =
F D S L G B L F. I D A D I F D B I J D I: J L B E G P D I O E.
Philadelphia, Pa. ALPHA

3. Patterned.--B O X X E S G R M I F H O M E G O G, E F O B E S
K N O E K N O S. E F P T K X E U I A S R, X A K N I K P O I R K
K X E P O K K O S R S O U O I K O G, N I L O M E C O K E C T
I K K O F K A E F, L A Y.: M E S S A G E S, C O R R I D O R; K A K =
I F A M, F E F R K E U.
State College, Pa. CRYPTOX

4. Rude Pair.--A B C D E F G K D L C M N, O P A R B S T N F X C,
C N D E O M N U B C T M G H. V M P C D L, M F T X J A D R R N B =
J M C. T F C O M L Q D N E N F R V T X G.
Bastrop, Texas. HOODWINK

5. Got the Gate.--B A L T I M O R E C I T Y M D U T O C B D X Z W L =
P O E V R B M O T D L; D V F O B K P W X N B D R K. F D G W R T
H D L K M I A X B D G O L C E O C W U X. E R P C O T U W G O X
U L R X E V D A X B O.
Baltimore, Md. COMRADE

6. Active Folks.--I F B T X D Q Y V J Q S K B, K V X P B F J Y X V =
J Q Z B X J Q B F D M B O F P V D Q O X Z U V D F: M F Y I W B R
D V Z U B F J Q K S E X D V, K X D A V Z B.
Minneapolis, Minn. QUEZNA

CHAT

Hereafter votes should be cast for the best puzzle in an issue, and not just the best flat. But let us have more voting by solvers.

No. 44 in July has a U that should be H, to give Zero Fahrenheit as the answer. How the author made the faux pas I am unable to explain.

Roving Vic was in Minnesota at the last report, following a trip to the Mayo hospital. He was headed for Duluth next.

We extend a hearty welcome to Miss A. Irene Kinneman of Baltimore; also to Mrs. R. H. Wilde, daughter of Eyergreen; and to G. Holstein (TAT) of Washington, D.C.

We hear that Cincinnatus died last May. This oldtimer made the 11-pentagon a specialty, and many fine examples came from him.

Si is now at The Rose Revived Inn, Dewbridge, Oxfordshire, England.

Atlas writes that Davis, who died recently, was a retired B. & O. man.

THE ENIGMA

OCTOBER, 1952

CENTRE HALL, PA.

No. 583

HELP WANTED

By SOL

Methinks my brain grows more obtuse
Or flattists grow more clever.
Whatever be my weak excuse,
No list complete can I produce
Despite my firm endeavor.

Long years ago when I was young
I eschewed assistants.
Ofttimes the asterisk was hung
And oft my nom was found among
The solo complete listers.

But now I show a bit of rust,
I need collaborators.
So, when I find myself nonplussed,
I'll do as others found they must--
I'll join the syndicators.

NANTYGRAMS

By ARCANUS

This newest evidence of my aberration--due to octogenarianism--I have christened "nantygrams"--not because it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between my anagrams and anti-grams. Rather, the title is adopted because Loughhead, in the "Dictionary of Given Names," declares that Nanty means "inestimable." (More applicable here would be the prefix "un.") My first impulse was to name the sketch "Insanagrams"--for obvious reasons.

With that preamble, I shall plunge in medias res, by stating that anagram-making is a wonderful art, with many beautiful ramifications--and,

eke, many dark and devious pathways whereon daring travelers trek.

Of the anagram there are scores of families, genera, and species, the species most productive of grief to the creator and anger to the solver being the Almostia anagrammia. Illustratively, I append a typical quartet misbred in my puzzle atelier.

Having turned the leaves of Holy Writ to Matthew VII, 6, I read: They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel, and decided to anagrammatize that widely known figure of speech. Partial success came, but I was stymied ultimately. Then, truckling to necessity, I sought to give the wreck appositeness--the truly vital quality of a perfect anagram--by messing with the quotation, abbreviating a conjunction; substituting another; and using a pointless apostrophe, as some of my misdeeds. Then, pretending that I had completed the flat, I typed this:

WRONG RANT AN' GAS. ALLOW
GIANT CALAMITIES

Some men talk blatantly anent simple things that vex 'em,
While ignoring vital matter until it fairly wrecks 'em.

Over trivia they quite too often weep and wail;
As to affairs, important? Oh, that's a wholly diff'rent tale.

"Blind Guides," saith St. Matthew, in a parabolist's quaint way,

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