



By NELLIE M. SANDERS
Director, Pettigrew Regional Library

HOOTS

FUNNY WORDS — The English language is so full of peculiarities that the study of words can be endlessly fascinating. Vocabulary-building is a very important part of education but words can also be a source of fun and games. Ask any crossword puzzle nut.

Most everyone knows what synonyms are. They are words with similar meanings that are not similar in spelling. Examples are chatter: prattle, talk, gab; and praise: commend, honor, laud, compliment. There are special books which compile these similar words — Roget's Thesaurus is the best-known.

Not so familiar is the name given to words with opposite meanings — antonyms. Examples of antonyms are chatter: silence, quiet; and praise: blame, reprove, censure.

A new book has just been published which concentrates on the most interesting but most confusing category of words in the English language — homonyms. These are words that sound alike but are spelled differently. The flyer advertising this Encyclopedia of Homonyms is the source of information for this column. The author of the Tumbleweeds cartoon comic strip must know most of them since one of the characters uses them exclusively, or hadn't you noticed?

Some good examples of these interesting words are given in the poem (O) "Homophones" which formed the most attention-getting part of the advertisement. It began:

"Wood you believe that I didn't no About homophones until too daze ago? That day in hour class in groups of for, We had to come up with won or more. Mary new six; enough to pass, But my ate honophones lead the class. Then a thought ran threw my head, 'Urn a living from homophones,' it said. I guess I just sat and staired into space. My hole life seamed to fall into place. Our school's principle happened to come buy, And asked about the look in my I."

There are two more verses, but this is enough to illustrate the point.

Other variations on confusing words are also listed. The English language contains words which are spelled alike but have very different meanings such as dear meaning beloved and dear meaning expensive. These are called homographs. And then there are heteronyms which are also spelled alike but have different meanings when pronounced differently such as bow meaning a weapon and bow meaning to bend.

SCREECHES

FUNNIER STILL — The funniest words are the palindromes. These are words which are spelled the same backward and forward. Several years ago, John Ciardi wrote an article about this curious phenomena in The Saturday Review and listed the few that he knew (nine in all beginning with eve and madam). Phrases can also be palindromic and he soon discovered that there were many of them when readers began to write to him, so he had to write another article acknowledging their contributions.

The classic palindrome, quoted in Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, is said to be Napoleon's sentiments when he exiled, "Able was I ere I saw Elba." Many clever shore ones were included in Ciardi's summary of his correspondence, such as "Pa's a sap" and "amoral aroma." But the best one had to be, "A man, a plan, a canal — Panama"

Direct Flights Offered

NORFOLK — The current schedule of direct flights serving Norfolk International Airport is now being distributed.

United Airlines has added a third DC-8 departure from Norfolk — Flight 75 — to Los Angeles via Cleveland, Ohio. This departure marks the second daily direct flight from Norfolk to Los Angeles, the other operating through Baltimore.

Norfolk is served by Allegheny, National, Piedmont, and United Airlines. Wheeler Airlines commuter service also operates from Norfolk International Airport.

Anyone desiring copies of the Direct Flight Schedule may contact the Information & Services Department, Norfolk Port Authority, Norfolk International Airport, Norfolk, Va. 23518, (804) 857-3351.

CONSERVATION AT WORK — Conservation practices such as field borders can help to filter out sediment and other

polluting agents that normally enter into streams and rivers. (SCS Photo)

Non-Point Pollution Just As Damaging

By JAMES H. CANTERBERRY
State Resource Conservationist
USDA-Soil Conservation Service

Most city folks take considerable pride in their well-manicured lawns. And most farmers take equal pride in the crops that grow in their fields.

However many people don't realize that an attractive, green lawn — or that productive farmland — could be a source of water pollution. To use a technical term, either one could be a non-point source of pollution.

What is a non-point source of pollution? Simply a source of some polluting material — including sediment, or mud — that cannot be traced to a specific point. The drain pipe below an industrial plant, where industrial chemicals may pour into a stream or ditch, is called a point source.

But it's hard to say exactly where a chemical comes from, if, for example, a resident has a large, well-fertilized lawn and heavy rains wash part of the fertilizer into the storm sewer. It might come from that lawn or from a neighbor's down the street.

Similarly, a 500-acre field might have fertilizer, pesticides, and sediment particles that wash into a stream. It's difficult to say what part of the field — or even which field — the pollutant comes from.

That's why it's called a non-point source of pollution.

Realizing that the nation

needed to improve water quality of surface waters for the common good of all, Congress has enacted Public Law 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, which is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This law says that the United States is committed to a "broad and comprehensive areawide control of all sources of water pollution."

It goes on to say that the legislation aims "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters." This is a technical phrase meaning to keep the water clean.

The act further sets an interim goal of water quality where attainable by July 1, 1983. This interim goal is normally referred to as "swimmable and fishable" waters.

The act categorizes non-point sources of pollution and requires states to include in their water quality management plan a process to identify, if appropriate, non-point sources of pollution and to set forth procedures and methods (including land use requirements) to control the extent feasible such sources.

The categories of non-point pollution are:

*Agriculture — the

farmland referred to above; *Sivicultural activities — forests and other wooded areas;

*Mining activities — of all types, surface or underground;

*Construction activities — that shopping center or residential area;

*Urban runoff — front lawns and many similar activities;

*Hydrologic modifications — working on surface and underground water;

*Sources affecting ground water — excavating and many other activities;

*Residual water disposal — the way throw away items are handled.

Section 208 of Public Law 92-500 deals specifically with point and non-point pollution, and the law says that the Governor of each state shall be responsible for planning activities under Section 208. In North Carolina, the Governor said there will be no areas where Section 208 planning will not be required. So this has been the law in North Carolina since December 1973.

Two planning regions — Region J, in the Raleigh-Durham area, and Region B, at Asheville, have been approved and funded by the EPA for this water improvement work. The remainder of the state is also covered, but by the Division of En-

(See POLLUTION, page 7)

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People In The News

Mrs. Lloyd Ray Morgan, Deana Morgan, Daryll Morgan, of Winfall, and Mrs. Jimmy Stallings of Hertford were guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Stallings in Greenville on Tuesday of last week.

Lynn Boynton of Rock Hill, S.C. was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Felton, Jr.

Charlie Harrell is spending several weeks on a trip to Europe.

Dave Fuller of Gainesville, Fla. was a guest of Mrs. F.T. Johnson on Wednesday of last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Stallings spent a few days this week at Nags Head with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Ray Morgan.

Dwayne Proctor of Harvey Point is spending this week with Mr. and Mrs. Gil Underwood and Jim Underwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Winslow, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Kirby, Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Stallings, and Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Chappell spent last weekend in Asheboro and visited Mr. and Mrs. John V. Winslow.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bass

and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harrison left Saturday for a trip to Canada.

Dr. and Mrs. Frank Ainsley of Wilmington were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. W.F. Ainsley. They were accompanied home by their daughter, Susan, who spent last week here with her grandparents.

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