

# Town Names



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
Drawing by Ray Walters.

**A**LTHOUGH the motorist, whom the artist has pictured above, may feel a bit like Christopher Columbus, you probably will look in vain for Lindy, Neb., on your map. For like its famous namesake, it soared into fame overnight and that was so recently that it's doubtful if the mapmakers have yet got around to putting a little dot on the space occupied by the Cornhusker state and lettering in the word "Lindy." But if you will start out from the town of Bloomfield, Neb., and travel 14 miles northwest, you'll discover a busy little place of more than 100 inhabitants with dozens of bungalows along its streets, a Methodist church (used by two other denominations), two general stores, two cream and produce stations, an implement store, a blacksmith shop, a restaurant, a confectioner's store, a filling station, a barber shop and beauty parlor, a paint shop, a pool hall, a variety store and a telephone exchange. (That is, it had all these when this article was written, but if its motto, like that of many other towns is "Watch Lindy Grow!" all this data may be sadly out of date by the time you read it.)

For Lindy was founded as a town early last year when four farmers bought the townsite on Howe creek, sold 40 lots at auction and a miniature boom resulted. For some time the people of that vicinity had needed a trading center. Four years ago an attempt was made to found a town there but crop failures interfered and nothing was accomplished. Then the four farmers got busy and the result—the latest great American hero has the latest addition to Nebraska's municipalities named after him (and the "eternal fitness of things" demands that another town should spring up near by and that eventually there be "twin cities" of "Lindy" and "Ann")!

But just because you won't find Lindy, Neb., on your map, don't think that the other towns named on the billboard in the picture above are fictitious. For there is a Muleshoe, Texas, and the one will continue to be one if a famous Texas editor wins his fight. He is Gene Howe of the Amarillo (Texas) Globe, son of the famous Ed Howe of the Atchison (Kan.) Globe. Some of the residents of Muleshoe have started a movement to change the town's name to Roseborough because it "sounds prettier." But Editor Howe believes in preserving "local color" and since Muleshoe is named for the Muleshoe ranch, famous in the days when cattle was king in Texas, he has been conducting a strenuous editorial campaign to save its honored and historic name. There's only one Muleshoe in the world, say those who believe as he does and there's already a Roseborough, N. C., not to mention any number of Rosebuds, Roseburgs, Rosebushes, Rose Centers, Rose Creeks, Rosedales, Rosefields, Roseglens, Rose Hills, Roselands, Rosemonts and Rosevilles.

## An Ancient Mystery

One of the oldest representations of an insect in art has come to light in the archeologically famous cave of the Three Brothers in the commune of Montespoulet-Avantes, France. It is a grasshopper crudely carved out of a bit of ancient bison bone now in the possession of Comte Begouen, father of the three youths who first discovered the cave of prehistoric wonders, and for whom it is named.

nation would be lost," says an editorial in a recent issue of the Kansas City Star, commenting upon the Howe crusade, "if there should be a concerted effort to change such names as Jamboree, Ky.; Jelly, Calif.; Rocky Comfort, Mo.; Nowata, Okla.; No. Wood, Wyo.; Beehive, Mont.; Horse Haven, Wash.; Papeose, Okla., and Rough and Ready, Calif. So you see the artist who drew the picture above knew what he was about and there really is a Rough and Ready, Calif. and a Jamboree, Ky. There's a T. B. Maryland, too. And there hangs a tale.

T. B. is a small village in the southern part of Prince Georges county in Maryland. But just because T. B. is the slang abbreviation for tuberculosis, don't think that there's a sanitarium there. The letters composing the name are the initials of Thomas Brooke, who acquired several thousand acres of land in that neighborhood in colonial days. There is a tradition that when a village grew up one of the original Brooke boundary stones was found within the limits of the village. This stone bore the initials of Thomas Brooke and from the circumstance the inhabitants fell into the habit of calling their village T. B.

Punkin Center was the name of a fictitious town wherein lived a fictitious character named Uncle Josh Weatherby, made famous on the phonograph by Cal Stewart a few years back. But there really is a Punkin (and it isn't Pampkin, either) Center. It's ten miles east of Hutchinson, Kan., on U. S. highway No. 50-S and it got in the news a few months ago when some escaped prisoners from the state reformatory were captured there. And there's a Hicksville on Long Island in New York, too.

Kansas not only has a real Punkin Center, but it also has the smallest town in the world with the biggest name. Jumbo, Kan., is in Gray county, about midway between Cimarron and Fowler, and its population is 5! But another state has that record beat. For three families own all of America—America, Ind.

The hamlet of America in Liberty township, Wabash county, once was a boom town, being on the direct route from towns south to Wabash, Ind., through which grain, en route to the Wabash and Erie canal at Lagro, was handled. In 1850 a plank road was built from Marion to Lagro and the town of America, halfway between the two places, saw an unusual growth. In 1860 the Cincinnati, Wabash & Michigan railroad (now the Big Four) was built, but missed America and passed through the town of Lafontaine. Now the lots in the once thriving town are used for farm purposes and only a tumble-down building remains. The total assessed valuation is \$1,075.

Recently the Houston (Texas) Post-Dispatch, in commenting upon the

fact that a highly entertaining book could be written on the names of Texas towns, said:

For instance, Bug Scuffle, a little community up near the Red river, probably was not inspired by any physical conflict of insects. The name of this community has been changed to Bath, but the folks still call it Bug Scuffle, and "Bug" for short. Possum Walk, in Walker county, may have come by its name honestly, as likewise Hogtown, in the Ranger oil field, whose name was changed from the ridiculous to the sublime—Desdemona—but to little avail.

Other places are named for structures, as Bee House and Board House. Money, the root of all evil, is the basis of several community names. Gonzales has its Cheapside, but on the other hand Hunt county has Cash, Live Oak county has Dime, and Lee county is saving up with a Dime Box. Energy is a snappy town in central Texas, Fort Spunky is a brave one, Gay Hill and Happy are carefree.

There's a hint of romance in Lovelady, one of sternness in Necessity, and one of patriotism in Old Glory. A town in Travis county is named Mud, but hopes are bright in Rising Star. Eastland county knows its Okra, and prohibition doesn't worry Liberty county as long as it has its Rye.

Sasparilla is a contraction of "Smith Asphalt Manufacturing Company," or something of that sort. Smithville is not the home of the Smith brothers, but Sugar Land is the home of sugar. Sabine county enjoys a good Time. Veribest claims to surpass all other towns; Austin county extends a Welcome to the world and Zephyr is a breezy little place in Brown county.

But the Western states aren't the only ones which have queer names for their towns. A short time ago the New York Times printed an article about the odd names of towns in New Jersey whereupon a loyal Jerseyman wrote as follows:

May I take the liberty to say that our towns have no more peculiar names than some of those in New York state?

For instance, in northeastern New York is a little village called Alpa. Eastern New York has Bliss, while western New York has Joy and Friendship.

The old proverb "More haste, less speed" seems to have been reversed, for New York has Ubers, Speedsville, Rushville and Gallupville. Every New Yorker must speak the truth because I see Sayville and Truthville.

Tip in Wayne county there is a place called Lock Berlin, where they present visitors with the key to the city and then change the lock. An automobile trip from New York to Buffalo by numerous back roads would take one to many strange places. After crossing Golden Bridge in Westchester county, one would pass through Oregon, Stormville, Salt Point, Silver Nails, Blue Stores, Athens, Halfmoon, Damascus, Killowag, Dundee, Italy, Naples, Piffard, Wyoming and Wales. One might return via Holland, Java, Cuba and Cairo.

It must be admitted that New Yorkers are patriotic. There is Union, Freedom, Victory, Eagle, Columbia and Liberty.

Such odd names as Steamburg, Painted Post, Fly Creek, Burnt Hills, Modeltown, Owl's Head, Hornshead and Hunters Land grace some of the quaint little villages throughout the state.

It was William Shakespeare who once said "What's in a name?"

## There's a Distinction

"To pay what you owe," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "is enough to bring you into esteem as an honest man. It requires a far more delicate sense of obligation to give you rating as an honorable man."—Washington Star.

## Got Name From Russia

Muscovy glass, or musovite, a variety of mica, was so named because it was formerly used instead of glass for windows in Russia.

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### Cow to the Rescue

Being chased by a bear and rescued by a cow was the experience of Mrs. Fred Howard, of Straight, Pa. She was fishing near her home when a bear and her four cubs appeared. Mrs. Howard's screams attracted her husband and also a cow, which gave chase to the bear. The cubs made no effort to escape and climbed an apple tree.

Famine and gluttony alike drive nature away from the heart of man.—Theodore Parker.

A man still gets a good deal of clothes for his money.

## Sulphur in Meteorite

The ether regions, traditional source of "fire and brimstone," are not alone in their quota of sulphur. A meteorite, which descended from the sky to a group of Indian ruins about five miles from Winona, Ariz., and which was discovered by a flagstaff filling station operator, has been found to contain more than 5 per cent of sulphur. This has been determined after analysis by two geologists.

The meteorite was egg-shaped, but badly decomposed as a result of the years that have elapsed since it fell. It was buried ten inches below the ground. It is of the stony type, but contained small amounts of iron. The sulphur was present in the form of iron sulphide.—Kansas City Star's Science Service.

### Skilled Archer

The world's archery champion is Clinton W. Douglas, an instructor in a Los Angeles high school. In recent competition he scored 704 points out of a possible 810.

### Good Substitute

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