

How Peculiar got its name

Scratch Ankle, Alabama
Cut and Shoot, Texas.
Peculiar, Missouri.

Not everyday names for a hometown, but in the United States, such names are not all that unusual. As the U.S. was settled, most geographical names were chosen informally and on the spur of the moment, reports the current issue of National Wildlife magazine. Behind each of the three million geographical names in the U.S. lies a little part of the nation's history.

European explorers, upon their arrival in the New world, adopted (or adapted) a wide assortment of Indian names. Thus, the Indian word "Mesconsing" (meaning "the long river"), became "Ouisconsin" for French explorers Marquette and Joliet. Years later, it became "Wisconsin."

The National Wildlife Federation publication notes that while the early British colonists named most of their coastal settlements after their hometowns (Roxbury, Plymouth, Dorchester), this trend ended after the Revolutionary War, as communities were named for war heroes. Today, there are over 250 American towns named "Washington," reports the magazine.

Some of the nation's most imaginative names are a result of the 19th century frontier days. Cut and Shoot, Texas, was named after a community shootout over the shape of a new church steeple, explains National Wildlife, and Scratch Ankle, Alabama, was named because of the town's large population of biting flies. Settlers also favored animal names, especially birds. The eagle surpasses all other species as a place name source, followed closely by the swan, the goose and the duck.

With the rapid christening of towns, rivers,

mountains, and the like, problems were bound to arise — duplication, confusion, misspellings. To deal with these, the U.S. Board of Geographical Names was formed in 1884. The Board soon established one ironclad rule: Whenever there is a conflict, the local name and spelling win out.

Today, the Board is still hard at work. Each year it reviews some 10,000 new

names and suggested changes. In recent years for example, the Board has allowed the residents of "Mole Hill," West Virginia to change their town's name to "Mountain."

Currently, the Board is involved in the controversy over a suggested name change for Alaska's Mount McKinley. Many would like to rename the mountain "Dinali," its original, cen-

turies-old Indian name.

What about Peculiar, Missouri? National wildlife magazine explains that a store owner, applying for a postal listing under the name "Excelsior," was turned down because the title was already claimed in Missouri. So the store owner wrote back saying that any name would do, as long as it was "different or peculiar." The rest is history.

Bradleys in Smithville



Mr. and Mrs. Carmen Bradley and their children, Lee and Kelly, of Mount Joy are shown at the historic town of Smithville, N.J. This place features scores of buildings that have been transplanted from all over southern New Jersey (Smithville is 12 miles north of Ocean City), a reconstruction of a 19th Century village, and craftspeople. There is also an airfield.

Chiques AAA

Co-ed Volleyball

League results

Here are the results of the last two weeks of the Chiques AAA Co-Ed Volleyball League:

July 26th: The Sixers beat the Set-ups 15-11 and 15-9. the Rookies won by forfeit over the Kings and Queens.

August 2nd: Set-ups beat the Kings and Queens 16-14 and 15-10. The Sixers won by forfeit over the Rookies.

Standings are Sixers 7-1, Set-ups 6-2, Rookies 3-5, Kings and Queens 0-8.

Surprise anniversary party for the Roberts Arnolds

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arnold of RD1 Bainbridge were the guests of honor at a surprise drop-in party at their home last Saturday. The party was hosted by their daughters in honor of the couple's 35th wedding anniversary. About 55 guests attended.

The Arnolds were marri-

ed on July 31, 1943. Their three daughters are: Sandra, the wife of Walter S. Almony, RD1 Bainbridge; Marlene, at home; and June, the wife of Ben Billett, Marietta. They have one grandson.

Mabel is the daughter of the late John and Ida Trostle. She is a Sunday

school teacher at Reich's E.C. Church, where she also is active in the choir, Women's Missionary Society, and the Family Circle Class.

Bob is self-employed at Arnold's Welding Shop located at his home. He is the son of the late Frank and Daisy Arnold.

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To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
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—Selected by Terril D. Littrell

Richard D. Smedley

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