

## Names in Brief

*Nolin*.—The origin of names given to rivers and creeks may be from sources only akin to the original meaning of the term. For example, a small river five miles from my birthplace in Kentucky takes its name not from the original meaning, though such a source in this instance would be consistent, of the designated name but from a historical incident. About the time Kentucky was admitted to the Union, 1792, a group of pioneers set out to hunt down some ravaging Indians on the banks of an unnamed stream. One member of the party was named Lynn,—a very common name with an interesting origin. In this scouting Lynn was lost and did not return. His associates scouted for him, but they returned with the report—*No Lynn*. Thus they named the unnamed stream where their own party member was lost, killed by Indians or beasts, *No-Lynn*. Shortly this longer term was contracted to *Nolin*, and by that shorter form the river has been called for more than one hundred years. This authentic story has been handed down from my great-grandfather, one of those pioneers of Kentucky, born a century and a half ago.

Of course, this name *Nolin* could have originated, since the little river is a gently flowing stream, in the original meaning of *lin*, *linn*, *lynn*, *lynne*, and *hlynn* (torrent or cataract), but it did not spring from this meaning of the common name plus a negative. It does not come from no—cataract stream, for those pioneers who named *Nolin* river knew no Anglo-Saxon and word origins. They knew their associate *Lynn*!

DAVID BROOKS COFER

*Chuparrosa Spring*.—In his *California Place Names* (p. 64), Erwin G. Gudde expresses his belief that the name Chuparrosa or Chaparrosa southeast of Bear Valley in San Bernardino County, California, has its root in *chaparral*, “place where the evergreen oak grows.” While this explanation sounds plausible another origin of the name is just as possible. The “dictionary” Spanish word for hummingbird is *Colibri* but I have never heard it used by a Mexican of California, Arizona or Sonora. This bird is always known

colloquially as "chuparosa." By association, therefore, a certain wild plant of the Colorado Desert border-land is called *Chuparosa*. This shrub (*Beloparone californica*) has bright scarlet tubular flowers that appear at all sorts of times during the winter, thus furnishing a carry-over food supply for humming-birds that winter in small numbers in protected canyons among the desert hills. Chuparosa Spring is located in just such a spot. Though I have not camped at the spring itself, I have worked on three sides of it and feel confident that *Beloperone* is to be found growing not far away. Would this not be a likely explanation of the name rather than from a corrupting of the word *Chaparral*? The doubling of the "r" could easily be an error by the cartographer. LOYE MILLER

*More Latin American name literature.*—There are several basic and general works that should be added to Dr. Dabbs' list under "Latin America, general" in his article on "Namelore in Latin America" (*Names*, September 1953). First, in point of time, would be the names and etymologies scattered through the great work of the first official chronicler of the Indies Gonzalo Fernández de Oviedo y Valdés (*Historia General y Natural de las Indias, Islas, y Tierra-Firme del Mar Océano*, various editions from 1535 on; best edition 4 vols., Madrid, 1851–55, which contains a compiled "Voces Americanos"). Then, the various *Relaciones Geográficas de Indias*, such as the replies to the 50-point questionnaire compiled by the first cosmógrafo y cronista mayor de las Indias Juan López de Velasco about 1577, which has for its first point (freely translated): "In the first place . . . the name of the district or province . . . and what said name means in the language of the Indians, and why it is so named." Other points were also concerned with names, such as the ninth: "The name and the surname which each city or village has or used to have, and why it was so named—if this should be known—and who named it . . .," etc. A scattering of published and manuscript *relaciones* are known for areas from Chile to México. Passing over many valuable works, we must mention the greatest Latin American gazetteer, near the close of the colonial period, by Colonel Antonio de Alcedo y Bexarano (*Diccionario Geográfico-Histórico de las Indias Occidentales o América*, 5 vols., Madrid, 1786–89; and especially the improved English edition, 5 vols., London, 1812–15).

Finally, the greatest study made to date of Amerindian names, by Georg Friederici (*Hilfswörterbuch für den Amerikanisten*. Halle a.S., 1926), in what is essentially an enlarged second edition (*Amerikanistisches Wörterbuch*, Hamburg, 1947, 722 pages). This great general work should be used in conjunction with more detailed regional studies, such as those by H. R. R. Lenz and R. R. Schuller (influence of Mapuche on Chilean Castilian), the studies of Brazilian Indian languages in their impact on Brazilian Portuguese (as in Raymundo Moraes: *O Meu Dicionário de Causas da Amazonia*, 2 vols., Rio de Janeiro, 1931; and Arthur Neiva: *Estudos da Língua Nacional*, São Paulo, 1940), and the writings of the great Mexican philologist P. González Casanova and his students (e.g., in *Investigaciones Lingüísticas*, 5 vols., México, 1933-1938). A basic bibliography can be compiled from the citations provided by Friederici and Neiva (mentioned above) and *A Bibliographical Guide to Materials on American Spanish* by Madaline W. Nichols, which is Misc. Pub. No. 2, Cambridge, 1941, of the Committee on Latin American Studies of the ACLS. This very useful guide has a general section on "Toponimia" and also one for each country, e.g., Guatemala on page 80.

DONALD D. BRAND

*The Quints in Geography.*—The Canadian Pacific has named a new station Camey, in honor of the Dionne quintuplets. Camey is coined from Cecile, Annette, Marie, Emilie, Yvonne.

*Names that Talk.*—With reference to page 138 of *Names*: We have in Minnesota a lake and a county named Lac qui Parle, "lake which talks." Cursory research seems to indicate that this is a French translation by early explorers of an Indian name of the same import, bestowed because of a murmuring sound audible at the outlet of the lake, true to this day when the water level is about normal.

R. W. KELLER

*Stry in Alberta.*—The village of Stry in Alberta has a typical transplanted name. According to the official explanation that has been given in *Place Names of Alberta* (Ottawa, 1928, p. 121) this settlement was named "after a town in Poland, former home of early settlers." To this explanation can be added that the city of Stryj lies in the sub-Carpathian area on the left bank of the Car-

pathian river of the same name in western Ukraine. The city took its name from the name of the river and therefore the Canadian place name can be considered as a secondarily transplanted name.

Historical records give the following data about the place name in Europe: 1396, in *Stryg* (*Akta grodzkie i ziemskie . . .*, III, 115); 1421, *de Stry* (*ibid.*, II, 64); 1499, *Strigenses* (*ibid.*, IX, 162); 1525, *ad Strey* (*ibid.*, XVIII, 575); 1657, *in castro Stryi* (*Zherela do istoriji Ukrajiny-Rusy*, VII, 222), and many others. All these forms of the name were superimposed on the phonetic form *stryj*.

With regard to the toponymic background of this name and to the comparative onomastic material of it, its etymology is not difficult. *Stryj* belongs to the same category of river names as *Strujazh* and *Strypa* (western Ukraine), *Strusto* (Russia), *Stowange* (Prussia), *Strymon* (Macedonia), *Strumica* (Bulgaria, Serbia). All these names belong to the same root as the appellatives: Ukrainian *strum*, *struja* "stream," Russian *ostrov* "island." Polish *struga* "stream." They are related to the English *stream*, German *Strom*, Latvian *straume*. All can be derived from the same Indo-European root \**sreu-* with various apophonic forms of the vocalism and with an introthetic *t* in the Slavic, Baltic, Germanic and Thracian group. The original meaning of this root was "running water, stream."

J. B. RUDNYCKYJ

### NAMES AND TRAINS AGAIN

*Trains named after Horses.*—From Louise M. Ackerman's article in this issue it appears that the *Man o' War* of the Central of Georgia was named after a famous race horse like many other trains. A few years ago the Chesapeake & Ohio named its new passenger Diesels after famous horses: *Dan Patch*, *Gallant Fox*, *Seabiscuit*, *Traveler*, *Twenty Grand*, *Winchester*.

*Relative to Phoebe Snow*, page 131 of *Names*, as a newspaper man I believe even advertising men should have their just due. So let us not leave Phoebe's "bright young father" anonymous. I think you will find that the bright young man was that pioneer advertising genius who has become a tradition in our field, Earnest Elmo Calkins—and there is an "a" in his first name, Earnest.

R. W. KELLER

*R. R. Nicknaming.*—The jargon of railroad men and of many regular passengers on trains abounds with nicknames. Many of the fine sounding names of passenger trains have an entirely different designation in popular language. Freight trains, usually only known by numbers, have been especially subject to nicknaming, indicating their speed, their freight, their special characteristics. *Merry Widow, Whiskey Dick, Sad Sam, Dirty Shirt* are some of the more colorful (and printable) nicknames. *The Tomkat* between Pittsburgh and the Southwest has a quite legitimate origin. It is coined from the first letters of the official name "Texas-Oklahoma-Missouri-Kansas-Arkansas Traveler." Locomotives, of course, have their nicknames too. The *Woggle Bug*, the *Teakettle*, the *Limb Dodger* of the Illinois Central may serve as examples. Even R. R. companies have not escaped nicknaming. Indeed, the Toledo, Peoria and Western has published a little pamphlet on the nicknames of the line, ranging from "Tired, Poor and Weary" to "Tried, Proven and Worthy."

*Freight Trains.*—A booklet, *Names and Nicknames of Freight Trains*, recently published by the Associations of American Railroads, reveals the fact that many railroads now prefer to give names to freight trains in addition to numbers or symbols. To quote from the Preface, "Much of the folklore and the romance of the rails are reflected in freight train nomenclature. Train names, in many instances relate to the railroad's history, the region in which it operates, or the nature of its traffic." Among the more interesting official names of freight trains we note: *Bee Pee Two, Bethlehem Star, Blue Streak, The Bug, Cabbage Cutter, Cock o' the Walk, Dizzy, First Bullet and Second Bullet, Flying Saucer, Hobo, Long Suffering, Mad Run, Maybe, Naked Lady, The Thing*. The nicknames are no less colorful: *Beaner, Blockader, Mae West, Ping Pong, Sally Rand, Tar Heel*. Favorite names in both categories seem to be: *High Ball, Hot Shot, Paper Train, Rocket*. There are not only three *Clippers*, but also one *Ripper* and one *Zipper*.