

# Spelling Reform Anthology edited by Newell W. Tune

## §8. Specific designs for reform, with their critiques.

Since it would be impractical to list and discuss the hundred or more reform schemes known to me, we are including only two articles plus an editor's thoughts on how to overcome resistance to change.

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*[Spelling Reform Anthology §8.1 p126 in the printed version]*

*[Spelling Progress Bulletin December 1962 p17 in the printed version]*

### **1. Some Thoughts on How to proceed in Overcoming the Present Resistances to a New Phonetic Alphabet, by George J. Hecht, Publisher of Parents Magazine.**

While I know comparatively little about the subject, perhaps these thoughts might be helpful because a complete amateur can occasionally see the forest more clearly and not the trees. I indulge myself in the pleasant thought that I am a public relations expert of sorts. I feel that the public relations aspect of the alphabet problem has not had sufficient consideration.

- (1) The adoption of a new phonetic alphabet is too big a step forward to be practical. Progress can rarely be made by trying for big steps forward. Usually it is more sensible to aim at a series of small steps ahead.
- (2) I urge concentration at present of the testing of what I think should be called "Phonetic Teaching Alphabets" in schools in English speaking countries and in classes in foreign countries in which English is being taught to adults. When the advantages of such phonetic teaching alphabets are generally recognized, then it will become possible to make efforts for the universal use of the best of such alphabets. The present names of the proposed alphabets are a great handicap. The name "Augmented Roman Alphabet" is a name stressing typography. Few people even know that the Roman Alphabet is the one used in the English language. [\[1\]](#) I suggest a change to Pitman's "Phonetic Teaching Alphabet". The name "A Compatible and Consistent Alphabet" and the name "Single-Sound Alphabet", both of which Mr. John Malone is using, should be changed to "Malone's Phonetic Teaching Alphabet". The World English Spelling Alphabet might be called "SSA Phonetic Teaching Alphabet" (the SSA relating to the Simpler Spelling Association). Dr. Frank Laubach's "New Spelling" could be changed to "Laubach's Phonetic Teaching Alphabet".

- (3) All tests of the various alphabets in schools will probably be successful because they are all easier and quicker to learn than what is now in use with its many variations and exceptions. I have no fixed ideas as to which of the proposed phonetic alphabets is the best. Digraphs, such as those proposed by the Simpler Spelling Association; augmentations and ligatures, such as are proposed by Sir James Pitman; or original denotations (new letters) such as proposed by John Malone, each have certain advantages and disadvantages. Perhaps the school tests of these alphabets will indicate which is the most practical. Out of the tests that are now being conducted and the many more that will be conducted, some conclusions should be drawn as to which is the best of the proposed Phonetic Teaching Alphabets.
- (4) An International Commission with representatives from each of the English-speaking nations will hopefully be formed to appraise the advantages and disadvantages of the various Phonetic Teaching Alphabets. Perhaps eventually, when there is general agreement as to which of the proposed teaching alphabets is the best, it might well be called the "New International Alphabet". [\[2\]](#)
- (5) When there is general agreement of the advantages of a Phonetic Teaching Alphabet, then the struggle will start to get it employed not only for teaching purposes but also for universal use. Joint action by Great Britain, the United States and other English-speaking countries will be most helpful. An effective way to get such an alphabet launched is to get Federal legislation passed in each country so that all Government documents will be written in the new alphabet five years after the passage of the act.

Parents Magazine, New York.

[1] Ed. note: Probably all teachers know it - and A. R. was intended to be used primarily by teachers.

[2] Ed. note: The difficulties of selecting a large enough set of symbols to cover the sounds of all languages is tremendous, yet it has been done with scholarly skill by the International Phonetic Association. However, what is necessary for indicating *all* the sounds, is not necessary for the indication of the lesser number of sounds used by individual nations. A discussion of the limitations and disadvantages of the I.P.A. Alphabet for any one nation's use would require a small book. However, as a starting point, many of the I.P.A. symbols could be advantageously used, since they have the advantage of being readily available and well known.

[Spelling Reform Anthology §8.2 pp126-128 in the printed version]  
[Spelling Progress Bulletin Spring 1970 pp16-18 in the printed version]

## 2. A Gradual Means of Making a Minimal Change in our Spelling, by Newell W. Tune

A few years ago, the Research Committee on Spelling Reform circulated a questionnaire which asked (among other questions), "Which is preferable for adopting a reform of our spelling?,  
(1) a gradual basis, or  
(2) a complete change, to be adopted at a future date after a period of education in the new spelling." While the returns on the Questionnaire showed unmistakably that most persons (3 to 1) preferred the abrupt adoption of a perfected system, there is no reason why we should not consider a gradual change method of educating persons into the advantages of simplified spelling by making a series of steps of changes.

In such a gradual change, the first and easiest change should be the one that is the least offensive to the stand-patters. This would be the elimination of the unnecessary silent letters in about 888 words. These are the words, such as: *build, friend*, where the omission would not obscure the meaning and would aid the student in determining the pronunciation, instead of, as now, obscuring it. Of these 888 words, there are 123 with silent initial letters. While their omission would change their location in the dictionary, which is indexed by the T.O. spelling, it should cause no handicap, and indeed, should make it easier for students to find words, because then they would have a reliable means of looking up words from their initial sound, where as now, they must know the spelling before they can locate such words.

This list could be used by teachers (with the approval of their supervisors or the Board of Education) as a list of words with acceptable alternate spellings, thereby paving the way for progress on the path to more sensible and reliable spellings. These words are all serious spelling demons.

### 888 Words with Unnecessary Silent Letters

a silent with short -e: *abreast, aecium, aedile, aegean, aeneas, aeolian, aeon, aesthete, anapaest, bear, bread, breast, breath, cleanse, dead, deaf, dealt, death, dread, feather, head, health, hearse, heaven, heavy, instead, jealous, lead, leant, learnt, leather, meant, Michael, pheasant, plead, pleasant, pleasure, read, ready, leapt, realm, sergeant, spread, stead, steady, stealth, swear, sweat, tear, thread, threat, wealth, wear, weather.*

a silent with short -i: *bargain, Britain, foliage, captain, carriage, mountain, topsail.*

a silent with long -o: *coarse, cocoa, hoard, hoarse, pharaoh.*

a silent with long -i: *aisle, faille.*

a silent with long -e: *appear, appearance, appease, bereave, breathe, cleave, crease, disease, decrease, displeasure, ease, grease, grieve, heave, leave, increase, plead, please, reave, season, seize, sleeve, tease, weave.*

a silent: *balsam, board, boarder, cupboard, gingham, wreak.*

b silent: *bdellium, bomb, climb, comb, crumb, debt, doubt, dithramb, dumb, ebb, gimblet, jamb,*

lamb, limb, numb, rhumb, subtile, subtilize, subtle, subtley, succumb, tomb, thumb, womb.

c silent: ascend, ascertain, ascetic, ascidian, back, barrack, cneus, conscience, crack, cteno-, ctesiphon, czar, descend, discern, indict, kick, knack, knock, lack, lock, lick, luck, mackeral, mackle, mickle, mock, muck, nick, nickle, pocket, quack, quick, rack, reckon, reminiscent, rickets, sack, scene, scenario, scent, scepter, scheelite, Schiller, schist, schizo-, scianoid, sciagram, sciatic, science, scimitar, scintilla, scion, scirrhous, scissile, scission, scissors, sciurine, sciuroid, scylla, scyphus, schick, scythe, scythia, sick, sock, suck, victuals.

ch silent: drachm, schism, yacht.

d silent: add, addict, adduce, adduct, address, adjacent, adjoin, adjourn, adjudge, adjunct, adjure, adjust, blindness, budge, commandment, fieldfare, goldfinch, granddaughter, -father, -mother, -son, grindstone, handful, handkerchief, handmaid, judge, knowledge, landlady, -lord, mindful, ribband, sandbox, soldier, thousandth, Wednesday, veldt.

e silent: aesir, amateur, axe, bier, cheese, eider, foreign, heart, height, pigeon, queue, sieve, sleuth, surgeon, griffe, raffle, teint, Tuesday, Wednesday, suffix -ed.

f, omit one of double f's: bluff, buff, cliff, cuff, doff, duff, fluff, griffe, huff, jiffy, miff, muff, off, offer, puff, luff, raffle, ruffle, scruff, scuff, skiff, sniff, snuff, stiff, stuff, tiff, tuff, whiff.

g silent: align, apothegm, arraign, assign, benign, bourg, campaign, champaign, coign, cologn, condign, deign, diaphragm, ensign, fiegn, flegm, foreign, gnat, gnaw, gneiss, gnome, gnomon, gnosis, gnu, impugn, malign, oglio, oppugn, paradigm, phlegm, phragm, poignant, reign, repugn, resign, thegn.

gh silent: aught, eight, fraught, freight, height, straight, taught, though, thought, through, weigh, weight, wrought.

h silent: aghast, Anthony, brachi-, burgh, catarrh, chord, Czech, dahlia, exhaust, exhibit, exhort, ghat, ghee, gherkin, ghost, ghetto, ghoul, gingham, heir, herb, honor, hostler, hour, Isaiih, khaki, khan, khedive, khol, khmer, Michael, myrrh, Noah, pharaoh, platyrrhim, pyrrhic, rajah, rhabdomancy, rhaetic, rhamnaceous, rhapsody, rhatany, rhea, rheingold, rhematic, rhenium, rheo-, rhesus, rhetor, rhetoric, rheum, rheumatism, rhigolene, rhinal, rhine, rhinitis, rhino, rhinoceros, rhinology, rhinoplasty, rhinoscope, rhinoscopy, rhizo-, rhizome, rhizoid, rhizopod, rhizopus, rho, rhodamine, Rhode Island, Rhodes, Rhodesia, rhodic, rhodian, rhodium, rhodo-, rhodocrosite, rhododendrum, rhodolite, rhodonite, rhodora, rhomb, -ic, rhombohedron, rhomboid, rhombus, Rhone, rhubarb, rhumb, rhumbatron, rhyme, rhymester, rhyolite, rhythm, rhythmic, -rrhage, Sarah, schedule, scheme, school, scholar, schooner, schirrhous, thaler, Thames, Thomas, thyme.

i silent: achieve, aggrieve, believe, braise, bruise, bruit, business, ceil, conceive, cruise, daisy, deceive, friend, frieze, fruit, gardiner, heifer, juice, kier, liege, lieutenant, niece, ordinance, perceive, praise, raise, raisin, receive, reprieve, retrieve, sailor, Salisbury, siege, seize, sluice, soldier, thief, tierce.

j silent: hajji, kopje, sejn.

k silent: knack, knap, knar, knave, knead, knee, knell, knew, knickers, knife, knight, knit, knob, knock, knoll, knot, knout, knowledge, knickknack, knuckle, knurl.

l silent & doubled: almond, balk, balm, baulk, bill, calf, calk, calm, calve, chalk, colonel, could, call,

falcon, fill, folly, folks, full, half, hill, Holm, Holburn, holly, hull, loll, Lincoln, lull, palm, psalm, pill, pull, qualm, salmon, salve, sell, should, sill, soldier, stalk, still, sullen, sully, talk, tell, till, toll (tole), walk, well, will, would, yellow, yolk.

m silent: comptroller, condemn, mnason, mnemonic, psalmiter.

n silent: autumn, column, condemn, damn, hymn, inn, jinn, kiln, limn, solemn.

o silent: adjourn, anxious, bouillion, bouquet, bourbon, bourg, clamour, colour, colonel, coupon, couple, courage, cousin, couth, double, glamour, humorous, jealous, journal, leopard, oedipus, eonology, oenomel, oesophagus, oestrin, people, Phoebe, sojourn, toward, trouble, through, you, youth.

p silent: accompt, attempt, comptroller, consumptive, contempt, corps, cupboard, empty, exempt, oppugn, pneuma, pneumatic, pneumatology, pneumo-, pneumonia, preempt, psalm, psalter, psammite, pseu-, psephite, pseudo-, pshaw, psilasis, psilomelane, psilosis, psittacosis, psoas, psora, psocalea, psoriasis, psyche, psycheathenia, psychic, psycho-, psychro-, ptarmigan, pter-, ptisan, Ptolomy, ptomaine, ptosis, ptyalin, raspberry, receipt, sapphire, sapho, tempt, unkempt.

ph silent: apophthegm, phthalein, phthalic, phthisis.

q silent: lacquer, licquor, picquant.

r silent or doubled: arrack, arraign, arrange, arrant, arras, array, arrear, arrest, arrhythmia, arride, arris, arrive, arroba, arrogance, arrogate, arrow, berry, catarrh, err, error, furry, hurry, merry, myrrh, part, platyrrbim, pyrrhic, verracua, verrucano.

s silent: aisle, apropos, avoirdupois, Carlisle, corps, desmesne, faux pas, grosgrain, guess, Grosvenor, isle, island, Issah, less, lisle, mesne, mess, miss, puisne, rendezvous, sous, viscount.

t silent or doubled; omit between *s* and *le*, *en* and before *ch*: apostle, batch, botch, bitch, bristle, bustle, castle, catch, clutch, crotch, depot, ditch, etch, fasten, fitch, flitch, glisten, hasten, hustle, hitch, hustle, hutch, itch, jostle, listen, match, mortgage, nestle, notch, often, pestle, pitch, psittacosis, putch, ragout, rustle, scotch, scratch, smutch, snatch, spatch, splotch, stitch, stretch, switch, thistle, tmesis, tmolus, Tnemec, twitch, watch, whistle, witch, wretch.

th silent: asthma.

u silent: aunt, brogue, build, buoy, buy, catalogue, chauffeur, chassuer, course, court, decalogue, dialogue, epaulet, epilogue, four, gauge, gourd, guarantee, guard, Guernsey, guerilla, guise, guitar, guidon, guild, guile, guillotine, guilty, guinea, guipure, disguise, guy, hauteur, licquor, monologue, opaque, pedagogue, plague, pique, plaguy, poult, pour, quay, rogue, synagogue, though, tongue, tour, vague, victuals, wrought, your, suffix -ous (over 300).

w silent: aglow, answer, below, bestow, blow, bow, crow, flow, glow, grow, know, knowledge, low, mow, row, show, slow, snow, sow, stow, strow, throw, tow, two, who, whoop, wrack, wraith, wrangle, wrap, wrasse, wrath, wreak, wreath, wreath, wreck, wren, wrench, wrestle, wretch, wriggle, wright, wring, wrinkle, wrist, writ, write, wrong, wrote, wrath, wrought, wrung, wry.

x silent: beaux, billet-doux, faux-pas, roux.

y silent: yeisk.

z silent or doubled: buzz, buzzard, buzzwig, Czech, fuzz, guzzle, huzzy, muzzle, nuzzle, puzzle, rendezvous, tizzy.

Total = 884 words, of which 123 are silent initially. P & w account for 64, k 21. In addition there are 339 out of the 1000 commonest words with unnecessary terminal e's, and probably another 300 in the next 9000 commoner words. And the silent e in suffix -ed would account for probably another 400, and silent u in suffix -ous might add another 300. So the total number of words with unnecessary silent letters may be over 2200. This is the burden a student must carry in his mind. This list could easily be expanded to include more if someone would take the time and trouble to do so.

The next step could be to add another list of words which would be regular by means of two artificial rules now used, but not consistently, e.g.

(1), the rule of silent terminal e to indicate that the previous vowel has the long vowel sound. At present this rule, according to Ina C. Sartorius [1] is of little value, as among the 1000 commonest words, there are 339 exceptions while only 248 conformals. Of course, this means that the silent terminal e shall be omitted whenever it now wrongly indicates the previous vowel sound, as in: *hav* and *giv* (but not in *gave* and *live*). Hence this rule adds 339 of our commonest words to those that can be taught by a reliable rule. Among the 10,000 commoner words there are least double that many.

(2), the second rule, now used fairly consistently, would be to double the consonant to indicate that the previous vowel has the short sound. Usually this vowel is in closed syllable (except for schwa and schwi, as in: *data* and *piti*). The doubled letter could be phonetically added to the syllable following, and thus present no great problem in teaching.

While this is not a step toward phonetic spelling - and because of this, its adoption may be controversial - it would have the power of affecting a minimal amount of change, and making a rule regular would aid in its teaching. At present the following consonants usually follow this rule: *b, f, g, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, z*, and sometimes *c, d*. These never follow the rule: *h, k, w, x, y*, and *j* and *v* do in only one word each.

In the past a number of such minimal change systems have been offered, one of them notably by Dr. Axel Wijk, whose three books on the subject are very well written and comprehensively explore the subject. Another system by E. Jones was presented to our readers in our March, 1963 issue. In our March, 1964 issue, another article on minimal change also discussed the Ryt Ryting of Dr Clarence Hotson, Revised Spelling (now Eurospelling) of Frank T. Du Feu, and Leo Davis' StAbilized Speling. Unfortunately, all of these systems employed a large number of rules, which required a rather extensive study and a good memory and a great amount of practice to be able to write in them. However, once the system was learnt, understanding the meaning of printed matter in these systems was without doubt, easy for anyone old or young even though many words were changed (mostly for the better).

Herewith is presented the author's ideas of a more simple and less drastic minimal change system. It is hoped that this demonstration will show that a great improvement is possible in our T.O. without being so drastic that oldsters will have to go back to school to learn all over again. And that such regularizing changes could easily be made in our spelling habits without an Act of Congress.

## A Transitional Spelling Reform System

While most foneticians think that, if our spelling iz to be reformd, the change shoud be made to a completely fonetic alfabet which woud ad 18 or more new letterz to our alphabet, many otherz feel that the public, and more important, Congress, would not axept such a drastic chanje without an intermediate gradual step. Az a compromize, I propoze that a tranzishunal sistem be adopted which wil be consistent, regular, rezunably fonetic, and yet conform to prezent usaje whenever usaje consistentli folloz fonetic rulez. Sins this kind ov a reform woud leev meni ov our prezent wordz eether unchanjd or with onli slite chanjez, it coud be red more ezili without speshul educashun than the more drastic step to completeli fonetic spelling with an enlarjd alfabet.

The rulez ar simpl and eezi to rimember. Six rulez regulate the spelling ov all wordz:

1. The onli silent letter iz the terminal e, which indicates the previus vowel haz a long vowel sound.
2. Wun syllabl wordz ending in a vowel giv it the long vowel sound.
3. Wordz ending in a consonant giv the previus vowel the short vowel sound.
4. Consonant letterz and consonant digrafs shal be uzd foneticalli and shal reprezent consistentli the soundz thae most commonli hav in T.O. and: the queen wittth azhuer iez.
5. The plural ov wordz shal be formd az folloez:
  - ad s to words ending in *c, f, k, p, t, tth*.
  - ad es too wordz ending in *h, s*.
  - ad z to words ending in *a, b, d, e, g, i, l, m, n, o, r, u, v, th, ng*.
  - ad ez too wordz ending in *x, z, ch, sh*.
6. The short vowel soundz shal be indicated bie the singl vowel letterz, az in "*that pet iz not a mut*," the long vowel soundz: eether bie the silent turminal e, or bie the digrafs in "*Mae see thie toe Tuezdae noon*"; the intermediate and difftthong vowelz bie the digrafs in: "*faather haul our guud oil soon and further*."

Possibli this kind ov riform wil satisfie no wun, being too drastic for sum and too unfonetic for utherz. Houever it haz several advantajez. Besidez leeving unchanjd more ov wurdz, it eliminates meni homofonez. Wurdz having long vowelz can be spelt eether with vowel digrafs or bie folloeing the rule ov silent turminal e. If the rulez ar folloed consistentli, it wil be regular and eezili lernt.

Probabli yoo hav notist the gradual chanje in speling az the articl progrest, not becuming cupleme until after the end ov the rulez.

[Spelling Reform Anthology §8.3 pp129-134 in the printed version]  
[Spelling Progress Bulletin March 1964 pp18-23 in the printed version]

### **3. A Minimal Change System of Spelling Reform, by Newell W. Tune**

Since there may be quite a few persons who would object to a radical change in our spelling, let us see if a minimal change system can be devised that would be practical and yet worthwhile. From the suggestions of several alfabetees, we may be able to devise a system with no more change than necessary to be consistently regular and yet one that will follow a few rules, and by doing so, will be easy to teach. This should be acceptable to the many who are ultraconservative and fear that a reform of our spelling will be unreadable at sight without having to go back to school and learn all over again. Of course, such a spelling system cannot be expected to be entirely phonetic because it will have to follow some of the rules governing our present spelling.

There are four rules presently used quite extensively, yet not consistently. These are:

1. The silent terminal e, used to indicate that the sound of the previous vowel is the long vowel sound. Sartorius tells us in her book that out of the 1000 commonest words, there are 345 conformals to the rule, 369 exceptions to the rule, and the balance of 286 words do not come under the rule.
2. A consonant is doubled to indicate that the previous vowel has the short sound, consequently, an undoubled consonant generally is preceded by a long vowel.
3. C is used for the sound of k before a, o, u, while k is used before e, i, and y and at the end of words. (Usually it is ck, but this is an unnecessary duplication).
4. One syllable words ending in a vowel have the long vowel sound.

In order to stay as close as possible to conventional spelling, it is likely that these rules should be followed - but followed consistently with no exceptions, otherwise the reform would not be worth having. Perhaps there are other rules that we will find necessary to follow in order to get a minimal change yet consistently regular system of reform.

In the March, 1963 issue of the S.P.B. there was a proposed alphabet system suggested by E. Jones which purported to be a minimal change system. However, that was published long before Dr. Godfrey Dewey's excellent book, *The Relative Frequency of English Speech Sounds*. Hence, Jones did not take into consideration the frequency with which some sounds would appear on the printed page and wrongly used a different symbol for the voiced sound of th while leaving unchanged the symbol for the unvoiced th-sound, which occurs less than 1/9th as often. This mistake certainly made his system look unnecessarily strange. Also in the March S.P.B. there was an article on the *Best Means of Representing the Th-sounds*. While Dr. Dewey prefers to use for the symbol for the unvoiced th-sound, the letters *thh*, this author prefers to use *tth*, partly because it is easier to write, saves space, but in general looks less changed.

There seems to be general agreement among most alphabet designers that the following consonant digraphs are used consistently with sufficient regularity to warrant their adoption: *ch, ng, sh, th, wh, zh*, along with the new *tth* or *thh* will complete the 7 familiar consonant digraphs.



Before proceeding to select individual symbols, let us make assumptions as to those letters to be accepted as phonetic symbols to be unchanged in our minimal change system. It is generally agreed that the following consonant letters are used with sufficient consistency in our present spelling to warrant our using them phonetically *b, d, f, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, qu* (for the kw-sound), *r, s, t, v, w, y, z*. In addition, it should be agreed to use the *g* only for the hard sound, as in *gag*. If *x* is to be used (and it occurs quite frequently in conventional spelling), it should be used only for the ks-sound and the words spelled phonetically whenever *x* is now used for any other sound. *C* will have to be used consistently according to rule 3. Whether we should also use the rest of the rules as outlined by E. Jones, is a debatable question. Certainly they are necessary if we consider that minimal change is preferred to strict phoneticism, so let us try using them. They are:

A second symbol is used for some of the sounds in certain defined positions; i.e.,

*k* for *c* before *e, i,* and *y* (when sounded as *k*, and at the end of monosyllables; (but *cynic* (*sinnik*), *cycle* (*sytle*)).

*y* for *i* before vowels and at the end of words. Also, at the end of words, in formatives from the same, and before vowels in the middle of a word, use-

*ay* for *ai*, as in *pay, payer, payee, payment, payabl*;

*oy* for *oi*, as in *joy, boyish, loyal, toying, joyful*;

*aw* for *au*, as in *saw: sawing, sawyer, lawful*;

*ow* for *ou*, as in *cow coward: power, vowel, bowing*.

General rule: A vowel not followed by a consonant has its long or name-sound.

Special applications:

1. At the end of words: *be, she, go, sho, my, by*;

2. A vowel before another vowel in the middle of a word is long, as in *trial, dual, deist*.

In Jones' article, he makes one use that is not listed in the rules; that of *w* for both its consonant sound and the vowel sound in *boot*. Since this never occurs in our regular spelling and we are not following Welsh, it is considered a mistaken idea, and the *oo* will be used consistently for the vowel sound in *boot* while *uu* will be used for the vowel sound in *full, book, could*.

Almost all alphabet designers agree on the use of the single vowel letters for the short vowel sounds, as in: "That, bet, is, not, much." So they will be used only for these sounds, coupled with Jones' rules. A study of the long vowel sounds in Dewey's book indicates that *ee* should be used for the long e-sound when it cannot be indicated by the rules. Likewise, *ie, oe, ae*. But long-a is more frequently indicated by *ai*, as was well demonstrated by E. Jones in his article, so this deviation from the regular sequence of the e following a vowel to show the long vowel, will be used. The vowel diphthongs will be used as in; *aid, pay, oil, boy, out, cow, fuel, yoo*, as well as *au* and *aw* in *caught* and *saw*.

If there are other rules needed to complete our system, it is hoped that the readers will call our attention to them.

Now let us see what a passage of diversified prose looks like in our minimal change system; we will use the nonsense passage which George B. Shaw used to illustrate the sounds:

"Chang at leezhuer waz superi or too Linnch in hiz roozh, munching a lozenj at the beri al in Meri on Square ov Hi-peeri-on, the Alyen hoo vallued hiz billyards so hily.

"Quick! Quick! Heer the queer story how father and sun wun time sat in the house man to man eeting bred and telling the tale ov the fur on the side ov the roed too the sity by the see, following the coast too its faul fuul too fathomz deep. There tha livd togethur servd by the cari-ur, hooz nerrowur minde tthroo bir waz sore and hooz puur boy shivvurd over the fire aul day linguring in a tangul ov tactles empty instinct ineptly swallowing quartz ov stingko."

The first thing that should be noticed is that the above prose is inadequate to illustrate many of the unphonetic letter combinations such as: tion, sion, sion (shun), ci, sh, and such as exit (egsit), exact (egzact), xylol (zylol), except (exept).

The second thing we find is that the rule of a vowel before another vowel having the long vowel sound, needs some modification as it is frequently a short vowel. In this case a dash was used to separate the short vowel from the second vowel. Another thing found was that the r-difthongs and triphthongs require special treatment. They were used as follows: err (air, verry), fur, ore (for), ir (here), sorry (forr), poor, fire, flour, pure. Whether there is need to distinguish between far, starry and sorry is a moot question, which we do not feel qualified to decide. At least T.O. does, and perhaps we could follow it without a violation of the rule of regularity.

Another thing that should be noted, is that one syllable words ending in a vowel do not always have the long vowel sound, vis; do, data, the, to, two, who, pa, me. This was pointed out by Theodore Clymer in *The Utility of Phonic Generalizations* in the Jan. 1963 *Reading Teacher*. In his table, compiled from the words used in four widely used readers, he noted that in 23 words the rule was applicable while in 8 words it was not. These latter are among the most commonly used words. However, *a* and *i* are never sounded long in the terminal position. Long *a* is spelt either by *ay* or *ey*. Long *i* may be either *y*, *ye*, *ie*, *igh*, or *uy*, but most frequently is *y*. *E* is seldom long in the terminal position, there being only 6 one syllable words following this rule, viz: be, he, me, she, we, ye, whereas 32 one-syllable words use mostly *ee*, but also *ea*, *ie*, *ey*, *y*. Two words ending in the diphthong *u* are spelt with *u*, and the only word ending in *u* (Hindu) has the long-oo sound. [\[1\]](#) For long-o, there are only 7 one syllable words (fro, go, ho, no, pro, so, lo) plus 6 two syllable words (ago, also, banjo, forego, hello, outgo), whereas there are 32 one syllable words and as many more multisyllable words that don't follow the same scheme. True there are many borrowed words from the Romance languages that use terminal-o, but most of these are multisyllable words, to which the rule would not apply. Hence, the rule should be considered as unworkable.

The following plan will be used to indicate the long and short vowels. In addition to the silent terminal-e, and as alternative, certain vowel digraphs will be used, such as:

- ai* for long-a (initial or medial), and *ay* (terminal)
- ee* for long-e
- ie* for long-i (initial and medial) and *y* (terminal)
- oa* for long-o (initial and medial), and *oe* terminal)
- ue* for long-u (initial and medial), and *ew* (terminal)

This will necessitate using final-y only for long-i. We cannot use *ye* as five times as many words use *y* in final position for long-i as *ye*. So for words ending in short-i, the letter *i* will be used. While this will make many words look strange, it is necessary to avoid confusion.

In conventional spelling, a consonant is frequently doubled to indicate the previous vowel has the short sound. These are: b, d, f, g, l, p, s, t, v, z. K is not doubled but ck used instead. To be consistent, perhaps the other consonants j, m, n, and r, should also follow this rule. Actually, m, n, and r, are doubled because they are so pronounced. Can we eliminate the unpronounced doubled consonants by strictly following the rules for long vowels? Undoubtedly this would make too many altered words. So it appears the rule of doubled consonants needs to be followed whenever the letter might be mistaken for a long vowel.

For the diphthong sounds, Jones' rule seems to cover properly the most frequently used symbols, so it will be followed. While this plan is a great deal more complicated than a completely phonetic system, it should leave unchanged a much larger number of words.

**Let us compare this system with that of Leo Davis, and the Ryt Ryting of Dr. Clarence Hotson, and the Regularized English of Dr. Axel Wijk, and the Revised Spelling of F. T. Du Feu.**

### **Leo Davis has 12 rules for his Minimal Change Orthography.**

He says, "It is quite evident that the basic and major trouble with T.O. is the erratic interchanging of the symbols, rather than the number of roles a given letter may play. As herein demonstrated, dominant patterns of T.O. can be stabilized in such a manner as to constitute basic and major reform without distorting the pattern beyond fluent legibility. With this thought in mind, I offer these simple rules for M.C.":

1. Retane oll dubbl-konsonants indicating a preseding stresst short vowl, suplying the extra konsonant only in avoiding kreashon ov identical spelling for tu different wurdz. (Oltho this aplys mostly tu the shorter words, it 'helps a lot').
2. Retane final silent-e indicating a preseding long vowl in the last sillabl, suplying the e after a konsonant folloing a long vowl, but suplying it elswhare only tu avoid kreating identikal spelling for different words. (Thus most ov the long vouls, in the last sillabl, orr identified. This, in konjunkshon with rule wun, leves littl dout about pronunsiashon ov short wurdz, and 'wurd memery' iz quite dependabl for the longer wunz, bekoz: the rong pronunsiashon ov even won vowl in a multipl-sillabl wurd seldom produces a bona fide wurd).
3. Yuze *ar* in lu ov *er* in such az: very, there, their, air, merry, etc. (Thus we avoid most ov the konflikt with *er* az the soft-r notashon).
4. Yuze *ur* for the stresst-r and *er* for the unstresst. (This prezurvs a more familier over-all pattern than if ether a notashon wur yuzed oll the way, and ades in deturmining stress).
5. Yuze hord-c before *a*, *o*, *u*, *l*, and *r*; elswhare yuze *k*.
6. Yuze *aw* az in *law* in final pozishon only; elswhare yuze *o* in lu ov *a* in such az: what, are, all, etc. (Inazmuch az the basik vowl foneme in *are* and *starry* iz the same az in *sorry*, the yuse ov *a* in this pozishon iz wun ov the the basik trubbls with T.O. The sound unqueschonably belongs to *o*).
7. Yuze *qu* within the sillabl and *kw* elswhare. (It iz tu be noted that *kw* iz seldom sene in T.O., and then only in seperat sillabls az in *awk-ward*, never az the blended foneme in such az *quiet*).
8. Yuze *ks* az independent letters in seperat sillabls, befor a stresst vowl, and *x* for the blended foneme elswhare in rule words. (Oltho *ks* iz seldom sene in T.O., it will be sene more frequently in M.C., bekoz ov the *cc* wurdz tu be ajusted. In keping with this rule we hav such az *ak-sept* bekoz ov the folloing stresst vowl, but *ax-ident* bekoz ov the folloing unstresst vowl).
9. Yuze *yu* inishally and *eu* elswhare. (This retanes a more familier over-oll pattern than if ether notashon wur yuzed oll the way).

10. Yuze final-y for short-i and long-i, not only in rute words, but also in variants. But yuze *i* insted ov vowl-y elshware. This not only eliminates konfeuzhon about whare tu chanje *y* tu *i*, but also ades the peupil in rekognizing the rute wurdz involved).
11. Eksept for *a* and silent-*e*, let the unasisted vowl indikate its long sound in the final pozishon. (Inazmuch az final-*a* iz tradishonally soft or indefinat, the familer *ay* iz retaned in the interests ov M.C. Furthermore, final-long-*a* iz truly a difthong, enyway. Likewize final-long-*i* may be treted az a difthong in avoiding a wun-letter wurd, by offering *iy* for *eye*).
12. Oltho plural and tens endings may be spelld fonetikally, the final silent-*e* must be retaned, even tho it iznt pronounst.

Miner inconsistensyz such az the tu soundz of *th*, the missing *g* in such az *ink*, and the diffrens in the vowlz in *cot* and *caught* orr considerd tu insignifikant tu justify further distorshon ov pattern, leving thoz teknilaliz tu oral instrukshon, per diakritiks in the dikshonary, just az in the past.

### **Clarence Hotson, Ph.D.,**

says, regarding his system: The common sense solution to the problem of spelling reform is to find the best way we now have of representing any particular sound of English speech, and to make that the rule, excluding so far as practical all other representations. At present we use over 500 symbols for 40 sounds, so that English is 8% phonetic. My reformed system that I call Ryt Ryting reduces the number of symbols to 43, with the result it is 85% phonetic. This makes certain that the new spelling shall not be too unfamiliar, and yet conserves everything of our present style that is worth keeping.

### **Now for the 25 rules for Ryt Ryting:**

Consonants are: b, ch as in chat, d, f, g (only as in go), h, i (consonant, as in *ia, ie, iu*), j, k, l, m, n, ng as in rang, nk as in rank, p, r, s, sh, t, th as in this, tth as in tthin (thin), v, w, y, z, and zh; 26 consonants. 'gh' may be added, but it is used only for the guttural sound in Gaelic and German (not in modern English at all) as in *logh* (Loch Lomond). The symbols c, ph, qu, tch and x are for use in proper nouns only.

Vowels are: a as in had, ah as in fathur (father), hurah, sahri (sorry), ai as in aid, or terminally, ay as in pay, au as in taut, e as in bed, ee as in feed, o as in got, oa as in oats, oo as in boot, ui as in guid (good), i as in bid, y as in my, oy as in boy, ow as in owl, u as in bud; 16 vowels.

When *u, eu, or ew* or anything except something with consonant *y* is pronounced *yoo* in present spelling, the symbol *iu* is used for that sound in Ryt Ryting. In this combination *i* is used as a consonant. Examples: iniuendo (inuendo), iutiliti (utility), iunyun (union), kumiunyun (communion), iufemizm (euphemism), iuniform (uniform), saliutaishun, but jeenyus (genius), unyun (onion), yungstur.

Consonant *i* occurs also before *a* as in brilliant, familiar, sivilian, valiant, and before *e* in ailien (alien), ekspedient, ekspiriens (experience), graident (gradient), ingredient, kunvenient, obedient, rezilient, and sailient (salient). Where *ie* must be pronounced as two vowels, the hyphen separates them: durti-est, nasti-est, priti-est (prettiest).

Letter *y* is used as both a consonant and a vowel, but its own vowel sound is only that of *y* in by, fly, my. The first personal pronoun is *Y* (I). With *a* it makes the vowel sound in: day, pay, say, way. With *o* it makes the vowel sound in: boy, joy, toy. If *y* immediately precedes a vowel in the same syllable, and begins the word or syllable, it is consonant *y*, if not, it is vowel *y*.

The doubling of *y*, with consonant *y* preceding vowel *y*, is possible only in three words I find in the Oxford Universal Dictionary and nowhere else: *yyk* (yike), *yp* (yipe), and *yyt* (yite).

To distinguish *yearn* from *iron*, Ryt Ryting spells *yearn* as *yurn* and *iron* as *yrn*. It writes *ion* as *y-un*, iodine as *yodyn* and iodoform as *y-odoform*. If spelled phonetically, *ionic* will become *y-onik* and *Tieyoung* (a place name) will be *Ty-yung*. But aside from the rule that proper names are exempt from spelling reform, such occasions for the hyphen are rare anyway.

*Lyunyz* for *lionize* is clear enough, the rule being that if *y* is preceded by a consonant and followed by another vowel, and can be pronounced as vowel *y* to form an actual word, it must be so pronounced, and the following vowel must begin a new syllable.

Examples of vowel *y* are: *bryt* (bright), *byur* (buyer), *defyunt* (defiant), *denyul* (denial), *dezyn* (design), *dyet* (diet), *dyul* (dial), *dyur* (dyer), *forsyt* (foresight), *hwyt* (white), *hyt* (height), *inspyr* (inspire), *jyunt* (giant), *klyunt* (client), *kuntryvuns* (contrivance), *kwyut* (quiet), *lyun* (lion), *myt* (might), *nyt* (night), *pyn* (pine), *pryoriti* (priority), *pryur* (prior), *relyunt* (reliant), *revyl* (revile), *syuns* (science), *sylunt* (silent), *tryul* (trial), *wyn* (wine), *ydea* (idea), *ylund* (island), *yrait* (irate), *y* (eye), *Y* (I), *y-odyn* (iodine), *y-unyz* (ionize), *y-unyzaishun* (ionization), *yrn* (iron).

Examples of consonant *y* are: *bilyus* (bilious), *bunyun* (bunion), *iunyun* (union), *jeenyus* (genius), *lauyer* (lawyer), *sauyur*, *unyun* (onion), *yank*, *yard*, *yarn*, *yel*, *yelo* (yellow), *yeeld* (yield), *yesturday*, *yet*, *yir* (year), *yogurt*, *yu* (you), *yuir* (your), *yungstur* (youngster), *yutth* (youth).

Except before *r*, the vowels *a*, *e*, *i*, *o*, and *u* are pronounced in closed syllables, as in: *bag*, *beg*, *big*, *bog*, *bug*. Before *r* in the same syllable, vowels are pronounced as in: *bar*, *bair* (bare or bear), *bir* (beer or bier), *bor* (boar or bore), *bur* (burr), and *buir* (boor). Example: *Th bairfaist buir hu spoak with a bur bor hiz bir frum th bar.* (The barefaced boor who spoke with a burr bore his beer from the bar.) Pure and cure are spelled *piur* and *kiur*.

At the end of a word and also in its compounds, *ay* is preferred to *ai*: *alay* (allay), *aray*, *betray*, *bray*, *day*, *defray*, *delay*, *display*, *flay*, *gay*, *gray*, *hay*, *klay*, *kunvay* (convey), *lay*, *may*, *pay*, *play*, *portray*, *pray*, *say*, *survay*, *sway*, *thay* (they), *tray*, *way*; and also *baybari* (bayberry), *betrayul*, *daybraik* (daybreak), *daylyt* (daylight), *hay-fevur*, *haystak*, *layman*, *mayfly*, *maypoal* (maypole), *payload*, *paymastur*, *portrayul*, *survayor* (surveyor), *waylay*, *waysyd* (wayside), *way-worn*, *waywurd* (wayward.).

Instead of the conventional spelling of *gaiety* and *laity*, Ryt Ryting has *gayeti* and *layiti*, preserving the root form of the words. Whenever the *ai* sound is followed by a vowel, *ay* is mandatory. Thus, *betrayul*, *defrayul*, *portrayul*.

*Kayman*, *krayfish*, and *mayhem* are rare cases where *ay* is preferred at the end of an open syllable. But, *daili* (daily), *laibur* (labor), *laiden* (laden), *maiden*, *naibur* (neighbor), *naishun* (nation), *oraishun* (oration), *raiment*, *saibur* (saber), *sailur* (sailor), *traitur* (traitor), follow the main rule for the end of an open syllable which is not the end of a word.

Where *z* is added to *ay* for the plural or otherwise, *ay* is retained: *obay* (obey), *obayz*; *play*, *playz*; *pray*, *prayz*. Thus, *day*, *dayz* (daze, daiz) *way*, *wayz*; *wayz* and *meenz*, *yayz* and *nayz*. Where *d* is added for past tense, *ay* is usually retained, but not always: *lay*, *layz*, *laid*, *pay*, *payz*, *paid*, as well as *play*, *playz*, *playd*; *pray*, *prayz*, *prayd*; *way* (weigh), *wayz* (weighs), *wayd* (weighed). Follow the model of present-day spelling practice in this regard. [2] Otherwise, *ai* takes over in closed syllables especially, and as shown above, in most open syllables also.

When final *ia* in present spelling is pronounced as two vowels, it is spelled thus: amonea (ammonia), ahrea (aria), anemea (anemia), but area, numonea (pneumonia). When, however, it is pronounced in one syllable, it is spelled thus: inursha (inertia), milisha (militia), nostalja (nostalgia), nuiralja (neuralgia).

For convenience, the indefinite article *a* is left as it is, however actually pronounced.

*Ah* is employed where *o* (as used in closed syllables only) seems inadequate to convey the emphatic *ah* sound required: "On bahmi dayz th swahmi fed pahm leevz and pahpahya to hiz kahm Leahma." Note that the *ah* sound in kahm (calm) requires the *ah* vowel even tho in a closed syllable. Short *o* is confined to close syllables, of course, so that in open syllables *ah* is always needed for this sound:

"Ah, bah" sed Mahma, "this drahma, aul spah, howdah, and blah, iz not wurth a hurah."

Letter *e* at the end of word or syllable, or as a syllable by itself (except at the beginning of a word), has the sound of *ee*: be, he, me, she, we, ye; employe, legate (legatee), siniue (sinewy); barborean, bereul (burial), being, belo (below), but bello (bellow); defend, depo, desent (descent); desunt (decent), detuir (detour), feloneus, but felun (felon), and felo (fellow); reseshun (recession), resunt, rezent, durteur (dirtier), lareat (lariat), laureat (laureate), realiti, champeun (champion), espeonahzh (espionage), delireus (delirious), infireur (inferior), kareur (carrier), sireus (serious), supireur (superior). But, eedikt, eegotist, eegur (eager), eekonomi, eekwul, eekwyn, eethur (either), eethur (ether), eevun, eevent, eevul (evil), eez, eezi.

Since the definite article *the* is pronounced differently before a word beginning with a consonant than before one beginning with a vowel, the *e* slurred before a consonant is to be dropped: "Th big felo met the old man in th street." Since final *e* always has the sound of *ee*, and the vowel in *the* before a word beginning with a consonant is reduced to the minimum needed to vocalize *th*, *e* must thus be dropped for consistency. It also results in quite a saving of letters. Otherwise *e* sounds as in beg. In closed syllables the *ee* sound must be written *ee*, beef, deed, deal (deal), neet (neat).

Vowel *i* in final position, or at the end of a word, sounds like short *i*, but almost like *ee*. duli, duti, siti (city). Plurals, duteez, siteez. Otherwise vowel *i* sounds as in big, except, of course, in *ui*: buil (bull), buir (boor), guid (good).

Letter *o* before *ng* or *r*, has the sound of *au*: along, gong, song, strong; or, bor, mor, sor (sore).

Letter *o* has the sound of *oa*.

(1) When it is a syllable by itself, or ends a word or syllable: obo (oboe), open, omit, ovur, odeus; hobo, pokur, topur, polo, solo; gro, so, wo; folour (follower), swoloing.

(2) Before *ld*, *lt*, *st* or *tth* in the same syllable: bold, bolt, host, post, both (both). Roster, in the present spelling, must be written rahstur, to avoid rostur (roaster). Postern in present spelling will be pahsturn to avoid confusion with postur.

Letter *o* otherwise in closed syllables has the sound in bog. In such syllables, the long *o* sound must be written *oa*: boat, goat, tthroat, telefoan.

Letter *u* has the sound of *oo* in boot:

(1) At the end of a word or syllable: du, hu, tu, yu; bruur (brewer), duli, duti, duur (doer), gruel, kruel, influens, instrument, lused (lucid), pursuur, stupid, wuur (woer).

(2) Before *tth* in the same syllable: butth (booth), rutthles, sutthsayur (soothsayer), trutth, tutth (tooth), unkutth (uncouth), yutth (youth), but, sooth (soothe), and smooth.

Before a consonant in the same syllable, or in a closed syllable, *u* has the sound in bug. Except before *tth* in the same syllable, the sound of *oo* in closed syllables is expressed only by *oo*: food, introod (intrude), inklood, eksklood, prood (prude), proon (prune); fool, rool (rule).

Because of the vowel sound of *ui* in buil, buir, guid, puir, *i* may never follow an ordinary *u* directly; du, but dooing; su, but sooing, tatu, but tatooing; wu, but wooring; inkongruus, but inkongrooiti.

Thus,

altrooist (altruist), flooid (fluid), intooishun (intuition). But after *iu* it is all right: ensiu, ensiuing, pirsiu, pursiuing, riviuing (reviewing).

To conform to Ryt Ryting rules of position among others, don't is written do n't and won't, wo n't. Can't is ka'n't and shan't is sha'n't. Mayn't is may n't, doesn't is duz n't and, wasn't is wuz n't. Weren't and daren't become wurn't and dairn't and mustn't becomes mus'n't. Y'm (I'm), yui'r (you're), wi'r (we're), and thai'r (they're) are needed, as well as Y'd, yu'd, we'd, thay'd, as well as Y'v, yu'v and we'v, thay'v, he'z and she'z. Y'l, yu'l, he'l, she'l, we'l, thay'l and it'l complete the needed list of colloquialisms.

The great merit of Ryt Ryting is to bring out with emphatic distinctiveness the specific sounds of English, particularly vowel sounds, and to reduce to a minimum the symbols needed to express these special sounds. These rules are mostly codifications of peculiar English practices which are worth preserving, and when preserved make for good readability and efficiency. It is consistent and essentially phonetic, efficient and easily learned either by new learners or by people used to our present style. It can be used especially to teach foreigners to read English, as a phonetic key to transliterate ordinary English text, thus overcoming the stumbling blocks of irregular English.

### **Dr. Axel Wijk's Regularized English**

was comprehensively detailed in his book by the title published by Almqvist and Wiksell, of Stockholm, Sweden in 1959. This 361 page book gives some 62 rules and about 35 exceptions to the rules in order to regularize English with as few changes as possible. Naturally with such an objective it does not pretend to be as nearly phonetic as other reform systems. In fact, it allows seven different letter combinations to stand for the sound of *sh*, such as: sh in bishop, ssi in mission, sci in conscience, ci in special, si in pension, ti in nation, ce in ocean, while at the same time each of these letter combinations represents different sounds in such words as: mishap, mississippi, disciple, circus, city, sit, design, tin, tide, celt, cent, cello. From this acceptance of numerous anomalies it appears that his sole objective is to retain unchanged as much as possible of our erratic traditional spelling. In this objective he claims that Regularized English is 85 to 88% unchanged from T.O, and therefore deserves the prize for the most unchanged system of reform. However, Newell Tune proposed a system requiring only two rules, and which was 99.98% unchanged. The rules are: 1. Drop the unnecessary silent letters in the following 135 words: head, know, knew, gnu, etc. 2. Spell the rest of the 77,000 words in the dictionary as they are now spelt. Nuf sed.

As it would take more space than we could possibly give, Wijk's rules cannot be given here. Instead an example will be given: (from page 316, *Regularized English*).

### **Prezent State ov Affairs in Inghlish Orthografy**

In the corse ov its historical development Inghlish haz becum the moste widely spoken and the moste widely taught ov aul the languages in existence. To aul intents and purposes it iz indeed aulreddy the principal language in the wurd. Oeing to its wide diffuzion and to the grait political, cultural and financial importance ov the peeples hooze mudher tung it iz, it seems likely that it will

continue to hold this position and even become increasingly important as time goes on, if we are not engulfed by a major world catastrophe.

For its role as the principal auxiliary language in the world, English is exceedingly well equipped in several respects. Its greatest merit, in comparison with other languages, lies undoubtedly in its comparatively simple grammatical structure, which makes the language easy to learn from this particular point of view, especially at the lower and intermediate levels. Anyone who has tried to learn to speak a foreign language will admit that this is the quality that must first of all be required of an auxiliary language. English has further the advantage of an enormously rich vocabulary, which covers all existing fields of knowledge and thought and enables us to express every imaginable shade of meaning. It is true that this immense wealth of vocabulary entails a drawback in so far as it makes it extremely difficult, not to say impossible, to acquire a complete mastery of the language. But now one needs to master the vocabulary in its entirety in order to use the language as a means of everyday oral or written communication. A knowledge of the 3,000 commonest words together with their most frequent compounds and derivatives will generally suffice to enable us to understand ordinary spoken or written English. Two other important features of the English language, should be emphasized: the international character of its vocabulary and its extraordinary capacity for absorbing and evolving new linguistic material. These qualities are largely due to the fact that English derives its origin from three principal sources: Germanic, Romance and Latin speech elements.

Besides the above-mentioned advantages, we also find one very great disadvantage, which forms a serious obstacle to the general acceptance of English as a universal auxiliary language. Its orthographical system is hopelessly antiquated and confused. There is hardly a letter or a combination of two or three letters in the alphabet that cannot be pronounced in two or three different ways, and a good many of them actually have from half a dozen to a dozen different pronunciations. Moreover we often find a great many different spellings for one and the same sound, especially in the case of the vowel sounds. It is the first kind of irregularity, the varying pronunciations for one and the same letter or for one and the same combination of letters, which is particularly objectionable, and which in any attempt to reform the spelling, it will be essential to eliminate to as large an extent as possible. The second irregularity, the many varying spellings for one and the same sound, may be somewhat disturbing to those who think that it would be desirable to have a completely phonetic spelling for English. But actually it does not matter very much if we have two, three or even four or more different spellings for a particular sound, as long as the various symbols for it are only used to denote this particular sound. In fact, it is in many cases extremely useful to have several symbols for one and the same sound, since it enables us to distinguish between words that are identical in sound, such as mail-male, vein-vein-vane, pray-prey, way-weigh."

It might be interesting to figure the percentage of unchanged words in the above running text. Of the 605 words, 445 were unchanged, or 73½%, which is considerably higher than other systems but less than the percentage of unchanged words in the dictionary as he expressed at between 85 and 88%. This is because the common words which occur more frequently, also are more irregular and require change.



## **F. T. Du Feu, M.A., *Revised Spelling*, a new approach to the problem of English spelling reform:**

"In this approach to the problem of English Spelling Reform, we ascertain the sound most commonly represented by any particular letter or group of letters and then restrict that letter or group to that one sound only.

For example, if the language is represented by the 5,000 commonest words, it will be found that the digraph *ea* represents the sound in *dream* or *near* 92 times, the sound in *thread* 19 times, the sound in *break* or *bear* 8 times and the sound in *real* 3 times. We accordingly restrict *ea* to the sound in *dream* or *near* and re-spell the words in the other three groups.

After earlier spellings have been carefully considered, all the words in a minority group are re-spelt in the same way or left as exceptions.

As none of the words *shut*, *shoot*, *shout*, *shot* is in a minority group, and *u*, *oo*, *ou*, *o* are the only spellings of the short vowel heard in *put* and *foot*, it follows that there is no current spelling available for this important vowel. We represent it by the letter *w* for the following reasons:

- (a) Because it bears the same close relationship to the semi-vowel consonant *w* (*wet*) as the short vowel *y* (*myth*) bears to the semi-vowel consonant *y* (*yet*).
- (b) Because the other five short vowels are represented by one letter only.
- (c) Because *w* represents this vowel in the current spelling of a number of Welsh place names.

The complete integration of *w* with the other five short vowels calls for some small changes in the consonants that follow *w*. Thus *rook* is respelt *rwck* to bring it in line with *rack*, *reck*, *rick*, *rock*, and *ruck*; while *footing* is respelt *fwtting* in line with *cutting* and *sitting*.

The suffixes *-hood*, *-ful* are re-spelt *-hwd*, *-fwl*.

It will be seen:

- (1) that very few words are not immediately recognizable at sight;
- (2) that words have been re-spelt, when necessary, in such a way as to obscure their derivation as little as possible;
- (3) that there is no loss of efficiency as would be the case if words like *mete*, *meat*, *meet* had a common spelling;
- (4) that the rules of current English spelling have been clarified rather than superseded.

In the following examples an accepted spelling is shown in relation to one or more re-spellings of it:

- 1. k for ch; sh for ch; ch. Because of a mekanical fault the man's parachute opened much too soon.
- 2. gi; ji for gi. It would make me giddy to look down from the top of that gigantic cliff. (jibe is an alternative spelling for gibe.)
- 3. q for qu; qu. The masqerade was quite a success.
- 4. ce for se; -se. A pencil is no uce for that work; you must use a pen. (Note: advice, noun - advise, verb).
- 5. -s; -ss for -s; -s. (in words of one syllable) Has the visitor given thiss child some toys?
- 6. -e (mute); -y for -e. I much prefer a columbine to an anemony.
- 7. -ie for -y; -y. He will occupie till next January the house we occupied last year.
- 8. ie for i; i. Do you miend sailing in a strong wind?

9. i-e; e-e for i-e. This device is much used by the polece (gasolene is an alternative spelling of gasoline).
10. ia for ie; ee for ie; ie; i for ie. The propriator of that large feeld has just died in the colonis. (cheef, feeld, feend, greef are found in Chaucer).
11. ea; ei for ea; e for ea. I mean to return home to-day for a breik, indeed, I ment to return last week. (fether, hevvy, jelous, ment, are found in Chaucer; steik is the M.E. spelling of steak).
12. ear; er for ear; eir for ear. These shares are not dear; we lem that they beir interest at 6%. (derth, herse, perl, yern are found in Chaucer).
13. ea for ei; ei. Seaze the reins if the animal tries to move. (reave is an alternative spelling of reive).
14. ee for e; e. The patient had no feeever and was never very ill.
15. ey; ee for ey. (in words of one syllable) They must be very careful not to lose the kee.
16. ay for ey; ey. (in words of more than one syllable) A party of students will leave here to survay the abbey.
17. a (before l); au for a (before l). Thou shalt not bear faulse witness against thy neighbour. (cauldron is an alternative spelling of caldron).
18. ae for a; aa for a; a. Potaetoes, tomaatoes and radishes are the main crops.
19. a; o for a. It is not necessary to splash so much when you wosh (wobble is an alternate spelling of wabble)
20. or for ar; ar. A swarm of bees invaded the farm.
21. aught for ought; ought. We thought that the plants wwd suffer from the drought.
22. oo; w for oo. Thiss food is unfortunately no longer any gwd.
23. ow; ou for ow. The nativs attacked with bows and arrows from the bou of the ship. (hou, nou, bouel are M.E. spellings of how, now, bowel).
24. oo for ou; ou; u for ou; ow for ou. A small woond was found on the yong boy's showlder. (cariboo is an alternative spelling of caribou; sowl is found in Chaucer).
25. oar for our; our; ur for our; oor for our. The director spoke to foar of our jurneymen on his toor of the factory. (burgeon is an alternative spelling of bourgeon).
26. oa for o (before r); o (before r). Thare will be an oaral examination in moral philosophy.
27. oe for o; o; u for o; o. They came oeover on the hovercraft to recover the property. (spunge is an obsolete spelling of sponge; many words now spelt with an o had an earlier spelling with a u).
28. oo for o; o. Doo your friends always go by ship?
29. ur for or; or. There was far too much wurk on that land for one fork.
30. ue for u; u; w for u. The puema rushed into the bwshes to escape. (pws is Welsh for puss, pwdin for pudding).

As an example of the above system, he has transliterated a portion of Alice in Wonderland:

The Fish-Fwtman twck a greit letter, as large as himself from under his arm and handed it oever to the uther. "For the Duchess," he sed, "an invitaetion from the Queen to play croeqeh." Then boeth fwtmen boud low and in a moement the Fish-Fwtman was gon.

Alice went timidly up to the door and knockd. "Thare's no uce of knocking," sed the Fwtman with the frog face, because I'm on the same side as you are and because they'r making such a noise inside, no wun cwd possibly hear yoo."

Thisss wos quite true but at last, after lissening to a greit deal of foolish tauk bie the Fwtman, Alice oepend the doar and went in.

The door led right into a large kitchen filled with smoke. The Duchess was sitting on a three-legged stool nursing a baby. The cook was leaning over the fire stirring a pot of soup. "There's too much pepper in that soup!" Alice said to herself, trying as well as she could to keep from sneezing.

Even the Duchess was sneezing and the only things that did not sneeze were the cook, and a large cat which sat grinning from ear to ear; this proved to be a Cheshire cat.

After a while the Duchess, who had been most unpleasant to everyone, suddenly cried, "Here! You may nurse it a bit." And she flung the baby at Alice. I must go and get ready to play croquet with the Queen, and she hurried out of the room.

Alice caught the baby and it grunted in her arms. She looked at it and found that it had changed into a pig. Alice carried it out into the open and finally put it down on the ground, and felt quite relieved to see it trot quietly away into the wood."

In the above example of 309 words, there are 226 unchanged - exactly the same percentage as in Wijk's system.

Some of the shortcomings of the above system are readily apparent. The use of *w* as a vowel cannot be justified if one is trying for minimal change. The short *oo*-sound in *put* and *foot* is represented by *u* or the combination of letters *ou* with sufficient frequency that *uu* would be changed less than *w*. For example, *put*, *puut*; *could*, *cuud*. What happens in Welsh has no possible bearing on English because Welsh is completely unreadable to an Englishman. His other reasons have no relation to minimal change.

The "use" of *c* for the *s*-sound is most certainly an infrequent use that should be eliminated - not extended. Also the use of *g* for the sound of *j* is a maladroitness that no system should espouse. Many of the examples he uses to justify exceptions are too unusual or rare to be considered in a minimal change plan.

On the whole, the rules are not expressed in a workable manner and are too complicated to be taught successfully and easily.

The whole scheme is based upon faulty logic - that the most frequent letter combinations among the 5000 commonest words (and the most illogically spelt) could promote regularity, when they often conflict among themselves, and are often unphonetically spelt. Even this is not followed consistently. Take the examples of the *w* and the *uce*, as well as the "or left as exceptions."

In a future issue, the *Bulletin* will compare these systems in a prose especially designed to illuminate the duplication and consequently confusing characteristics of some of these minimal change systems.

[1] These are: Zebu, Emu and Gnu.

[2] Ed. note: If you must know and follow our present system when in doubt, is this a very satisfactory rule?

*[Spelling Reform Anthology §8.4 p134 in the printed version]*  
*[Spelling Progress Bulletin March 1964 p23 in the printed version]*

#### **4. John Hazel, by F. T. Du Feu, (in the Author's Revised Spelling)**

Mie heero was an aulderman hoose yung vivaecious daughter  
Protested that he ran as deep as eny Lakeland wauter.  
John Hazel thought himself to be a moest astute detectiv;  
Hou Sherlock Holmes misssd simple clues occaasiond his investiv.  
Sed Pam wun day, "I doen't feel well." Then speaking raather louder,  
"Nou be a reeal comrad, Pop, and purchase at the village shop,  
A tieny Seidlitz powder."  
He acquiesced and left in cloethes not smart but clean and decent.  
Haa! Bludstains on the fwtpath and comparativly recent!  
So Hazel saught his microscope impeld bie force of habit;  
That blud had never vietalized a sheep, a dog or rabbit.  
It must in fact be hueman; the conviction made him shudder,  
And feel for thirty seconds like a ship without a rudder;  
Or vaerying the simily, an unsupported girder.  
Determind to investigae thiss glaring cace of murder,  
He found, a furlong up the hill, the stains wer sumwhot lighter,  
While haaf that distance doun the hill, incomparably brighter.  
I can't see whot he gatherd from thiss trivial observaetion,  
But he continued doun without a moment's hesitaetion.  
The gruesome trail meanderd past the houce of Sargent Brissle,  
Hoo, thogh off duety, came along betimes and blew his whissle.  
A corner turnd and they discernd, across a feeld of stubble,  
Sum six or seven officers approaching at the dubble.  
As they drew near their cheef remarkd upon their smart appearance,  
Their curage to enforce the law and brwk no interference.  
The possy moovd along at wunce, John Hazel nou observing  
Hou, in the cace of justice, they wer loyal and unswerving.  
The trail wos followd to an inn, and here, it seems, the barman  
Had oenly seen a taul marene, a painter and a carman.  
The painter wos a frend of his, the carmm wosn't wauking  
They'd recognise the felon and shwd not delay the stauking,  
For hevly clouds wer roeling up and rain wwd spell disaster,  
They aught to make an effort to progress a little faster.  
Nou haaf a mile beyond thiss place the train appeard to finish.  
Recoiling from the sudden shock, they felt their zeal diminish.  
But Hazel saved the force again, with staggering composure  
He led them to an iorn gate before a smaual enclosure.  
They enterd stelthily. A man wos nonshalantly givving  
The pillar box a coat of paint. Visions of not outlivving  
Thiss melankoly day arose. Men hoo cwd crush a riot  
Shwd scaercely fiend it difficult to keep the matter quiat.  
Accordingly the wurkman wos permitted to continue,  
Compeletely unaware of aul that welth of brawn and sinew.  
But Hazel is no more a sleuth; and credit mie assertion,  
He thinks the C.I.D. a sham, and catching butterflies for Pam,  
Is nou his sole diversion.

[Spelling Reform ed Newell Tune t8.5pp135-137]

[Spelling Progress Bulletin Summer 1973 pp3-5]

## 5. Obscure Events in History: Anecdotes from Harry Veenstra's Autobiography

### Introduction

"The historian needs to know what ordinary people are thinking and feeling," said Edward Fitzgerald. "I wish we had more biographies of obscure persons."

Lord Macaulay in his *History of England* states: "No man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present!"

With these quotations in mind, I present a few incidents from the 300-page *Adventures* which my 93-year-old father, Harry M. Veenstra, wrote for his children. I hope this account will entertain, but more than that, I trust that its transliteration into World English Spelling will induce the readers of *Spelling Progress Bulletin* to draw some conclusions about the use of this orthographic system as an initial teaching medium for children.

The recently organized Phonemic Spelling Council, as successor to the Simpler Spelling Association, will continue the endorsement of World English Spelling until such time as the Council's research indicates that a different system is more practicable.

The spelling used herein is in accordance with the guide lines and vocabulary examples given in Godfrey Dewey's *World English Dictionary*, Lake Placid Club, New York: Simpler Spelling Association, 1969. 100 pages. \$2.00.

It differs somewhat from a strictly phonemic spelling because in order to be a valid comparison with Pitman's i.t.a., this example of World English as an Initial Teaching Medium must follow closely the deviations shown by i.t.a. from phonemic spelling. This means that the k-sound is represented by: c, or k, or ck, or cc according to whichever is used in T.O. Also the short-i sound in *plenty* is written by y. Consonants are doubled whenever they are doubled in T.O. regardless of whether they are sounded twice or not. Proper names are spelled in T.O.

*Helen Bonnema, Ass't Editor, Spelling Progress Bulletin.*

### advenchurz, 1880-1887

reesently muther and **ie** droev from California to Colorado and then on to Michigan. wee maed the cumfortabl trip in our aercondishoned car, covering the distans from Los Angeles to Denver in three plezant daez.

**ie** recaull very different three-dae trips bie hors and buggy or uther veeiclz when **ie** woz yung. the form ov transportaeshon which standz out in mie urliest recollectshonz iz the barj. **ie** livd in the Netherlands whaer a wied, deep canal floed oenly a fue feet from the front dor. it woz uezd bie barjez, each wun ov which woz draun bie a hors on the toe path, or bie the man boo oend it, and hoo livd aboard with hiz family. whot fraet woz stord in the hoeld, **ie** do not recaull, eksept in that ov the scavenjer barj which stoppt peeriodically in frunt ov each hoem. every family had a privy connected to the back ov the hous. beloe the seat woz a reseptacl which the scavenjer emptid when hee maed hiz periodic caul. hee then deliverd the contents to farmerz hoo spred it on thaer feeldz for fertilizer.

our family livd in roomz back ov a smaut paent and wauillpaeper stor. among uther thingz, mie faather paented wuuden shooz. thaer wur aulmoest aulwaez a number ov them liend up near the dor redy for delivery to the customerz. thae wur a shieny black, probably for **sundae** waer. hou.ever in mie family, lether shooz wur worn on **sundae**. **ie** aulwaez had coeld feet then. wuuden shooz ar much waurmer.

each year faather baut a yung pig which, after beeing fattend, woz buucherd in the faull. this probably constitueted the maejor part ov our meet die.et. fish wur abundant, but **ie** recaul seeing mie muther prepaer oenly wun kind. theez wur freshly caut eelz which wur plentiful in the dichez. wee children wur fasinaeted bie thaer riething in the frie.ing pan aulthoe long sins ded.

**ie** woz fond ov a surten tuf cuuky, liek our jinjerbred men. on mie burthdae muther wuud tie wun ov theez to mie left arm with a ribbon and let mee figuer out hou to eet it bie twisting mie hed.

on mie wae to scool wun dae, when crossing a medoe, mie bruther **nickolas** askt mee if **ie** wuud liek to see the moon. ov cors **ie** wuud. soe **nick** toeld mee to remoov mie jacket, lie on mie back and luuk throo the sleev which mie uther bruther, garret, held suspended abuv mie faes. in the meentiem, **nick** hurrid to a neerbie dich, filld hiz wuuden shoo with wauter, and pord that doun the sleev into mie faes. **ie** cried. but laeter on when **ie** woz living in America, **ie** shoed the moon to sum ov mie plaemaets!

faather woz doo.ing well with hiz littl stor, but seeing noe fuetuer for hiz sunz in the Netherlands, hee desided to emigraet to America, and did soe in 1887. the steemship voi.ej tuuk 21 daez. from New York wee had a sloe traen ried to Grand Rapids, Michigan. thaer woz a long stop at the Buffalo staeshon whaer a cupl ov swindlers, poezing az raelwae offishalz, tuuk from us unsuspushus forenerz, hoo wur not akwaented with the English langgwej or raelwae travel, the unuezd and transferabl parts ov our tickets.

### **1887-1892**

upon settling in our nue hoem, wee boiz found meny interesting thingz. probably the best attracshon ov aull woz the fier staeshon. eech dae at noon, the bell in the enjin hous rang, the dorz in frunt ov the staebld horsez floo oopen, the horsez trotted out and stoppt under the harnessez suspended from the seeling. meenwhiel the fiermen caem from thaer kwaurterz, sum slieding doun the shieny brass poel from upstaerz, and in noe tiem compleeted the harnessing ov the horsez, jumpt on the seets, and dasht out. for puer drama thaer ar fue seenz eekwal to a steem-pou.erd pumper cuming doun a sity street, horsez galloping at top speed, beeing urjd to eeven graeter effort bie the whip ov the drierer, with smoek and sparks belching from the enjin'z short smoek stack. wun fierman boested that thae attaend such speed at tiemz the sucshon cree.aeted bie thaer veehicl puuld the skurts off the laediz standing at the curb. well, bee that az it mae, **ie** did actueally see a pees ov ekwipment maek a dounhill left turn with such speed that the too riet wheelz left the ground moementarily.

when **ie** woz oenly thurteen **ie** got a job at the Kent Furniture Company duering the summer vaecaeshon. **ie** wurkt 60 ourz a week! from 7:00 in the morning to 12:00; from 12:50 to 6:00 for 5 daez. saterdaez till 5:00 o'clock. for the men hoo cuud not shaev themselvz with the straet-ej raezorz then uezd, **saterdae** afternoon woz the tiem to goe to the barber for thaer weekly shaev. getting off this our urli.er on saterdae afternoon seemd liek a holiday.

**ie** urnd \$3.50 a week and woz paed every too weeks. when **ie** handed \$7.00 to mie muther and reseevd 70 sents az spending muny, **ie** woz proud and happy.

in the factory, the goeing woz ruf for a lad ov 13. **ie** tended a rip sau. **ie** stued behiend it and had to sort and plaes in pielz the mateerial which the man running the sau puusht throo. sorting the widths wuud not hav been espeshally hard to doo if the man had workt at a moderet stedy paes az uther ripperz did. but the wether woz hot and hee liekt to spend a lot ov tiem in the men'z toilet. this woz a long wuuden structuer partly supported bie pielz sunk in the river and ekstending oever it. wun long timber ran from end to end. on this the men sat sied bie sied. on a sunny, breezy dae, this plaes, in spiet ov its obvius defishensiz offerd welcum releef from the dusty, noizy factory -- a plaes whaer a man cuud sit for awhiel and indulj in tauk that woz not the kind a boi ov 13 shuud heer! mie man spent soe much tiem thaer that when hee returnd hee wuud bee far behiend hiz sceduel and had to wurk at a fuerius paes to cach up. hee puusht the lumber throo the sau soe rapidly that **ie** found it impossibl to keep up. the bordz pieling on the flor maed mee luuk laezy and ineffisient.

at that tiem factoriz wur not yet ekwippt with saefty deviesez, and meny men wer injerd or maemd. it woz sed that mor men in the furnituer sity ov Grand Rapids wur mienus fingerz than in eny uther sity in the uenivers. whiel **ie** wurkt at the Kent factory, **ie** sau a man get aull the fingerz ov wun hand cut off in a buzz plaener. the man stued in a daez, luuking at hiz bluudy fingerless hand. thaer wur uther seerius and gory acsidents which **ie** doen't wish to descrieb.

neer our hoem livd a man hoo wuz a bie.er ov scrap ie.ern, ragz, boenz, and uther castoffs. boiz scourd the naeborhuud for such ietemz to sell for a fue penny. back ov the man'z hous woz a barn in which hee sorted and stord the stuff until it woz soeld to larjer deelerz. to him the boiz braut thaer bagz ov whotever mateerial thae had gatherd. hee wuud plaes it on a scael and after deturmining its waet and value giv them a littl pees ov paeper on which hee had ritten a 1, 2, 3, or whotever number ov penny the junk woz appraezd bie him. thae tuuk the noet to the hous whaer hiz wief paed them. an oelder boi with hoom **ie** becaem akwaented sum yeez laeter recaulld that sins thae wur shoor the rag bie.er woz cheeting them, thae sumtiemz aulterd the slip having a 2 or 3 on it bie plaesing a 1 befor the dijit and with it collected 12 or 13 sents.

sumtiemz the boiz hunted for scrap ie.ern along the neerbie raelroed tracks. sum ov the oelder boiz cliemd on the fraet carz, remoovd the wheel with which the braekman set the braeks, plaest the wheel on the ground and broek it into smaull peesez to sell. the rag bie.er must hav noen whaer thoez scraps caem from, but hee askt noe embarrassing kweschonz.

the rag bie.erz sun, a boi about mie aej, naemd toeny, akwierd the nicknaem "raggy." hee caem to a trajic end. our paerents had forbidden us to swim in the Grand River, but wun afternoon a groop cuudn't rezist the temptaeshon. the loecaeshon wee selected woz neer a saumill. wee undresst on wun ov the boomz ancord off shor and soon wur aull in the wauter. raggy tried to perswaed mee to swim with him to a spot farther awae in the river whaer, hee sed, it woz shalloe. wee cuud stand on a sand bar, rest a bit, and return to the boom. **ie** nue **ie** cuudn't swim that far and refuezd to goe along. raggy woz unaebl to get enywun els to swim with him soe hee went aloen. apparently hee lost hiz baeringz and when hee ekspected to tuch bottom hee must hav been terrified to discover hee woz in deep wauter. hee becaem panic stricken, thrasht in the wauter caulling for help which nun ov us boiz cuud giv. wee yelld to the men in the saumill, but the men ignord us. on uther occaeshonz oelder boiz hoo wur guud swimmerz had gon out a distans, and splasht around screaming for help. then when the men responded bie running out thaer boet, the boiz maed sport ov them, thinking it a guud joek. raggy drownd. wee wur horrified. wee wur scaerd that nou it wuud cum out that wee had disoebaed our paerents bie goeing in the forbidden river. wee hurridly dresst and then thaut ov the pathetic littl piel ov cloethz ov the dround boi. whot wuud wee doo with that? eventueally sumwun pickt them up. wee tuuk the bundl to raggy'z hoem. without telling enywun, wee plaest the cloething under the back porch. **ie** doen't remember whot happend after this: hou the trajic nuez woz broeken to the paerents, or hoo toeld them about toeny'z cloething under the back porch. it mae bee that nun ov the boiz did, and that the cloethz wur discoverd acsidentally.

faather bilt up a paenting and decoraeting clie.entel. at furst hee uezd a puushcart tuu transport his ekwipment, but az hiz customers multiplied hee purchast a hors and delivery wagon. this maed it nesessary to bild a smaull barn in which to staebel the hors and keep the wagon and feed. with the help ov a carpenter, faather droo a plan for hiz barn and had him bild it in the backyard. aull this woz dun without a bilding purmit, indicaeting hou fue wur the governmental reguelaeshonz. attacht to the barn woz a larj bin for the hors manuer. this becaem an iedeeal plaes for fliez. the backyard privy, situeaeted between the barn and the hous didnk help matterz eether. and this riet in the sity! thaer woz a well besied the kichen dor giving wauter for aull cuuking and drinking. aull the naeborz had thaer oen wellz, and it iz a wunder peepl maentaend eny degree ov helthh. probably meny ov thaer illnessez wur braut on bie such condishonz.

it woz a never-ending battl to keep wun'z hoem free from fliez. muther wuud cut wun ov the 25-pound paeper flour sacks into long strips about an inch wided aulmoest to the ej and rap the end around a short stick. beeting the aer with this, shee wuud chaes awae az meny ov the fliez az possibl towaurd the screen dor, kwickly oepen it and driev out aull shee cuud. after repeating this operaeshon several tiemz, the number ov fliez in the hous wuud bee graetly reduest. then shee wuud set out poizon flie paeper for the stragglers. the children liekt to sae: "a flie and a flee in a floo wur imprizond. sed the flie, 'let us flee.' sed the flee, 'let us flie.' soe thae floo throo a flau in the floo."

in scool wee lurnd a poe.em about the harmless littl flie hoo buzzez cheerily aull throo the summer dae. wee wur toeld to bee kiend to him az well az to uther littl creetuers.

## 1900-1912

[editor'z noet: the author had meny interesting ekspeeriensez befor hee fienally reecht hiz goel ov becuming an artist. for lack ov spaes it will bee nesessary to skip theez.]

in 1900 **ie** went to Chicago to wurk for the J. Manz cumpany which woz the best art stuedioe in the sity and had in its emploi sum ov the cuntry'z topnoch artists such az J.C. Leyendecker hoo woz a much saut-after illustraetor, and hoo paented nuemerus *Saturday Evening Post* cuverz. the furst pees ov wurk that woz assiend to mee at the Manz cumpany woz a multi-culord flour sack desien for a mill in mie hoemtoun ov Grand Rapids. bie a straenj coe-insidens, **ie** had draun a desien for the saem mill the week befor **ie** left the art stuedioe in Grand Rapids. evidently the flour mill had not acsepted mie iedeeas and desieded to trie a big Chicago stuedioe. **ie** nou nue whot thae did *not* liek, and with that advantej turnd out wun thae did. **ie** feel that the presteezh ov the Chicago furn naem aulsoe helpt mateerially.

in 1910 **ie** secuerd a pozishon in New York Sity. **ie** recaull an insident which occurrd on the trip thaer. arrieving in Detroit at the Pere Marquette raelwae staeshon, **ie** wisht to goe to the D & C boet docks. **ie** had reservaeshonz on a Great Lakes steemer for Buffalo. **ie** didn't noe that the dock woz oenly a short block awae. as **ie** steppt out ov the staeshon, **ie** haeld a hack and toeld the driever to taek mee to the D & C turminal. the driever cuud hav pointed with hiz finger and sed, "thaer it iz, mister." but hee oepend the carrej, and sed, "giddap" to hiz hors. **ie** had baerly got seeted when wee arrievd at the docks. **ie** had to pae oenly the minimum faer, but **ie** felt liek a hick.

in New York, **ie** woz to bee at the Bartlett-Orr stuedioe at 9 o'clock in the morning. **ie** reecht the plaes urlly and sat down on a bench neer the entrans ov a subwae. woching the stream ov peepl cuming out ov it, **ie** sau a man hoo remiended mee ov Allie Burg with hoom **ie** had wurkt sum yeerz befor in Grand Rapids. **ie** whisld to him uezing the distinctiv for-noet caull which the felloez uezd with eech uther, but to which a straenjer wuud pae littl attentshon. the man lifted hiz hed, halted moementarily, but then went riet on. **ie** woz convinst that mie impreshon woz correct, soe



ie whisld agen. this braut the man to a fuull stop. it woz Allie hoo turnd around. "whot bringz yoo heer?" ie toeld him ie woz goeing to wurk at the Bartlett-Orr stuedioe. "whie, harry, that's whaer ie wurk. cum along with mee. but furst ie'll tip yoo off to a fue thingz."

hee toeld mee ov the meny pitfaullz awaeting. Mr. Bartlett, hoo founded the stuedioe, had gathered about him a groop ov men hoo wur tops in thaer profeshon, and hee woz satisfied with nuthing short ov perfecshon. to wurk heer woz the goel ov just about every ambishus artist in the cuntry. natuerally the Bartlett-Orr men wur not happy about aull this potenshal competishon. thae tried to keep it to a minimum. for a nuecumer the goeing woz ruf. hee wuud bee given the moest undesierabl spot in the stuedioe, which woz at the front ov the room with everywun at hiz back. the men seemd to bee -- and reely wur -- a bunch ov normal, frendly men. after the introducshon to them bie the manajer, and reseeving an assienment, the nue man wuud becum soe absorbd in hiz wurk, and in hiz effort to maek guud that hee becaem oblivius to hiz serroundingz. just about that tiem sumwun back ov him miet cazhually remark, "sae, that nue felloe haz aufully big eeerz, hazn't hee?" the nuecumer wuud bee arouzd from hiz absorbd staet and wunder about such roodness, but desied that sielens miet bee the best polisy, oenly to reseev further shock when sum uther vois chieemd in, "yes, and luuk at hiz haercut!" possibly everything wuud bee kwie.et for awhiel and hee wuud think this woz the end ov the matter, but far from it. for the rest ov the dae hiz appeerens or cloething or the possibility ov hiz maeking the graed wuud bee freely discusst. ie wuns sau a nuecumer get up in fuery and offer to lick enywun in the plaes, oenly to bee met with compleet sielens. noewun luukt up and thae aull seemd to bee absorbd in thaer wurk, oblivius to hiz tantrumz. it woz soe infueriaeting and frustraeting! sum men got soe upset that thae gatherd up thaer ekwipment and waukt out. it woz to this that Allie Burg alurtd mee. beeing forwurnd, ie wetherd the storm and got along well thaer.

in mie recolleeshonz about autoez, thaer iz wun which standz out cleerly. it iz the 1912 combinaeshon bizness and plezhuer car which mie brutherz baut. it had noe windsheeld, oenly a dash liek a hors-draun buggy, and had to bee crankt bie hand, ov cors. wee wur very proud ov our hedliets -- a very injeenyus nue invenshon. thae had too chamberz. wun contaend calsium carbied, and the wun abov that woz filld with wauter. when it got dark, wee got out ov the car, oepend a littl valv which wuud start wauter dripping on the carbied, waet until the aseteleen gas woz jeneraeted, liet a mach and liet the gas lamp with it.

mie too brutherz and ie desieded to taek a trip from Grand Rapids, Michigan, whaer wee livd, to the farm ov our oeldest bruther in Wisconsin. wee started on a mundaie morning, travelling az far az Kalamazoo for lunch at noon, a distans ov 50 mielz. wee spent the niet in a hoetel in South Bend, Indiana. if yoo wonder whie such sloe progress, consider the fact that the roedz wur dusty, ruddy, durt tracks. on tuezdae wee droev throo Chicago and on to Evanston, Illinois. in Evanston wee roomd in a hoetel and put the car in a garaazh for the niet (thae didn't caull them garaazhez at that tiem). it woz a larj barn occupied bie a Cadillac dealer. wee left the car in a staull, just az wee wuud hav left our hors when maeking a trip. in our conversaeshon with the Cadillac dealer-mecanic, hee sed, "ie ran across an articl todae in an automobeel magazeen telling that the Packard cumpany iz goeing to instaull sum kind ov a contrapshon on thaer car which will crank it. it'll never wurk!"

the nekst dae, wenzdae, wee reecht a littl toun north ov Milwaukee. yoo mae still wonder whie such sloe progress. in addishon to poor roedz, wee wur delaed bie having too punctuerz. repairing a punctuer woz a maejor operaeshon. wee carryd noe spaerz as yet, and punctuerz had to bee fikst on the spot. wee puut on oeveraulz, jackt up the car, and remoovd the flat from the rim. that woz hard wurk. the tier had to bee pried off with a pees ov flat ie.ern. then the innertueb had to bee remoovd and pacht. this wozn't eezy. after the tier woz repaerd, plaest back in the caesing and on the rim, wee had the backbraeking job ov inflaeting the tier to a presher ov from 70 to 80 poundz.

for this wee uezd a hand pump which woz standard ekwipment with every car. wee tuuk turnz at this becauz it woz such egzausting wurk. too punctuerz wur not at aull unuezhual. aull tierz wur ov infeerior kwolity. mie brutherz got oenly 1200 mielz out ov thaer furst set,

staeing on the riet roed wozn't eezy. wee had a map purchast befor leeving hoem. direcshonz went liek this: "set yoor odometer at 0. proseed north until yoo see a larj red barn on yoor left, mielaj 21.7. turn left and folloe foen poelz markt red and bloo to . . . and soe on. it tuuk wun man to drieb the car and anuther to reed the map. eeven then wee frekwently had to ask the wae, for the red barn miet nou bee sum uther color or miet hav bin remoovd bie a siecloen, or a fier, or to maek room for a nue wun.

the nekst dae, thurzdae, wee got az far az Appleton. thaer wee sau our furst concreet paevment -- oenly a fue mielz long, wun car width -- just an eksperimental project.

on friedae nick woz perswaeded to taek the wheel, but after wun ekspeeriens, not agen! az wee reecht the crest ov a hill, wee sau a wagonloed ov hae approaching from the bottom. our car pickt up speed. when it aulmoest reecht the haeloed, nick lost hiz hed and darted to the left sied ov the roed, passing the farmer on the rong sied. hee had to goe partly in the dich to pass.

thaer wur noe filling staeshonz conveyiently spaest az thaer ar nou. on the running bord (which carz doen't hav enymor) wee carryd too 5-gallon canz filld with gasoleen, which woz needed offen. thaer woz noe gas gaej on the dash, and not seven wun on the tank. that caem laeter. peeriodically wee had to get out ov the car, wauk to the back and with a dip-stick determin the amount ov gas left.

wee fienally reecht bruther charley'z farm neer a small toun caulld Birnhamwood. wee had been on the roed 5 daez!