



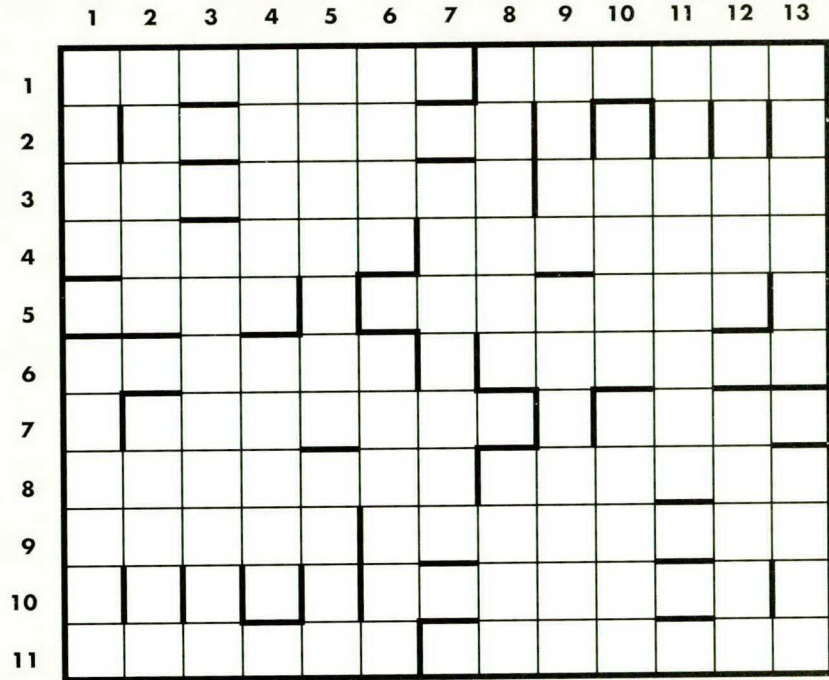
THE PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

Keyholes

This puzzle's clues are numbered according to their answers' rows or columns, in order within each row or column. A certain number of squares must be skipped (left vacant) in order for answers to fit in the diagram. These "holes" should be marked as such with circles. When all clue answers have been placed in the diagram, the solver should be able to insert a "key" letter into each hole such that a new word or phrase is created *either* across *or* down. There may be some ambiguity, but those solvers who insert all the right keys will be rewarded with a final Key Word, reading left to right, column by column. There are five capitalized answers.

The solution to last month's Puzzler appears on page 142.



Across

- Pugnacious agent eating roll in Vegas
Composer dismissing finale by a horn owner?
- Unopened assortment is more extensive
- Pouring rum for clique (*hyphenated*)
Schools of whales seen around northern bodies of water
- Peg, in track, makes use of performance-enhancing substances
Clara's reformed bad kid
- Thoroughly shaft
Secure young socialite coming back with some quarters
- Fresh sod he watered
Rescued from hail in South Dakota
- Asides off stages
Genesis has first of rules written in stone

- Papers initially bury playwright
Cut short, thin poles
- A suggestion about some bread
Traitor with endless ego, and boor
- Gold units one put in racing vehicles
- Shows with animals traveled on wheels
Hick's eyes had improved

Down

- Came out with one in blue
Someone who's optimistic about passing hare, perhaps
- Staff maintaining old rapid transit?
Legendary queen accomplished nothing
- Outside of playhouse, waited in a queue
- Feel bad about hype for a certain period of time
- Sort of wave placard at hearing
- Fruity items set around above cribs
Fast food center in the way in China
- Shoot wolf from behind
Delaware department store missing piece of antique furniture
- Favor pressure point
- Underwear pierced by 500 nails
Second time for liquids
- Agents with good names
Answer about a second showing
- Company doubled upon introduction of alcoholic drink
In a contrary way, refuse misses
- Linger uncertainly around one German city
- Term of address for mothers?
According to hearsay, repents of trick
- Having places to walk, adult follows directions?
Macho guy's earring

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving, send an addressed, stamped long envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 745 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.