



THE PUZZLER

by EMILY COX and HENRY RATHVON

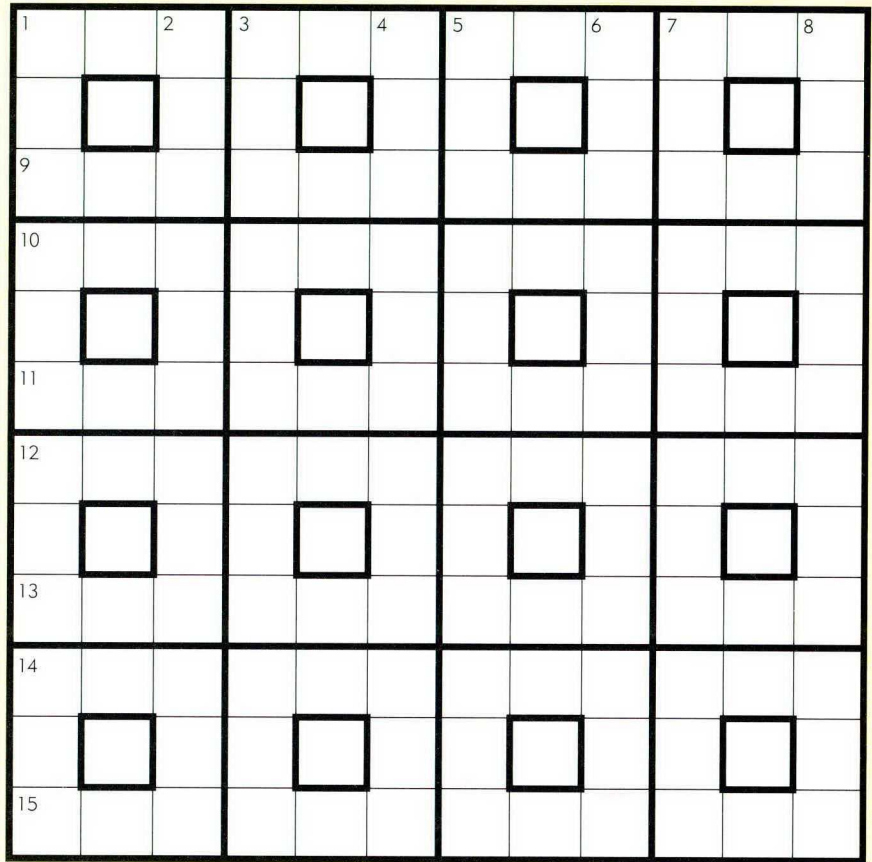
Central Intelligence

Each numbered row or column is filled by two words, clued in order but with no answer lengths given. These words are to be entered without regard for the diagram's heavy bars. When all answers are in place, each 3 x 3 square will contain eight letters, two of them identical. By placing that repeated letter in the center of each 3 x 3 square, solvers will spell out a phrase descriptive of their handling of this business. Four clue answers are capitalized.

Last month's Puzzler solution is on page 126.

ACROSS

1. Lost in fog, according to hearsay
Collared by Edward, Spot chewed the scenery
9. Thailand's westernmost border foes?
Edible crustaceans pop into stomachs
10. Working hard but lovelessly in floor design
Greek character's pet grape
11. Lover put me in hopper?
Miscreant's ultimate motive for crime
12. Pass time, and stick around
Chief spy group turned old
13. Carol takes bite, engaging in barbed insults
Get an alien spy
14. Use a PC set within reach
Author right in the middle of washing
15. Hunter's living quarters in back
Fork stuck into fish for test



DOWN

1. Rather dull color was of substance
Examine unfinished stint
2. Hawk possesses medium sense of perception
Most saw well
3. Seem pleased about one comparison
Chief of police in crime finale
4. Note of the scale in awful hymn
Theodore keeps relative ragged
5. Charm of Latin and English, in retrospect
Acting governor, for example, in rift
6. Initially, old dogs don't sense chances
Wood lodge for a Navajo in springtime
7. Follow team's leader on run
City of New Orleans
8. Aloofness of Ollie's partner surrounded by tumblers
Bit of trivial clothing is just one of those things?

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, 77 North Washington Street, Boston, Mass. 02114.