

THE PUZZLER

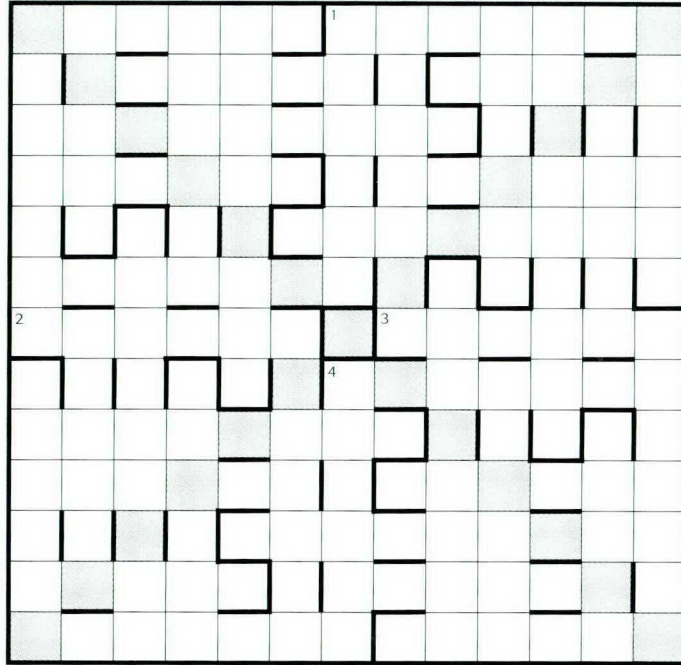
by EMILY COX and HENRY RATHVON

Sign of the Times

A different letter of the alphabet belongs in each of the 24 shaded squares crossed by puzzle entries. The remaining two letters of the alphabet are reserved, aptly, for the 25th shaded square, at the center of the grid; when placed there in the proper order they will form a timely symbol. The four entries not intersecting any shaded squares are clued in the order of their given locations; all other entries are clued in mixed order. Clue answers include three proper nouns.

Twenty-five years ago this month the first Atlantic Puzzler was published in these pages. Since then Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon have crafted a puzzle for every issue. They also make puzzles for The Boston Globe, The New York Times, Attaché, and the National Post of Canada.

Last month's Puzzler solution is on page 155.



ACROSS

- 2. Portion containing puzzle's primary junction (6)
- 3. Pitches a fastball at the back of the ankle (6)

DOWN

- 1. Set of steps going around full curb (6)
- 4. Cover of darkness or lightness? (6)

MIXED

- a. Piece of code cracked by right sort (5)
- b. Noble sights on Broadway for the audience (8)
- c. Monk absorbed by buzzer in Michigan city (9)
- d. Decade for men's formal wear (7)
- e. Described cap worn by foreign men (6)
- f. Stays in rough sector (6)
- g. Members of a Canadian tribe eating first of peach pancakes (6)
- h. Sly looks taking in a Democrat's bosses (7)
- i. The guy filled with cheer, privy to ace (4,2,3)

- j. One who tilts after starting removal (6)
- k. Nine catching cold, each part of a mountaineering outfit (3,2)
- l. Giant white rabbit? (7)
- m. Networks' confusion about helium (6)
- n. Okay, stuff dug up behind foe's back is not a pretty sight (7)
- o. Bar what's found in a heel (8)
- p. Oswald mangled maxim (3,3)
- q. Matched anger, breaking tablet (6)
- r. A sect is disturbed about 100 hermits (8)
- s. Part of staff is called regarding money matters (6)
- t. *Veggie Lover's* inaugural article about how Lincoln introduced himself? (4,4)
- u. Fiddle music initially interrupting recorder (6)
- v. In hearing, is allowed to measure composition (6)
- w. Server's situation unsatisfactory in one period (2,3)

- x. Turning down J.R., get nice convertible (9)
- y. Art supplies some beers around one (6)
- z. Innocent, assuming positive intention (7)
- aa. Opening of dam gathers waterfowl (6)
- bb. Keeping quiet, balance large knife (7)
- cc. Pioneering astronaut missing premiere on one of the Fab Four (6)
- dd. Located around university proper (6)
- ee. Destroyer must ultimately like Atahualpa (3,3)
- ff. Is seen again in Spanish for antecedent (9)
- gg. Bad atmosphere for Maureen O'Sullivan? (6)
- hh. Physicist's room surrounded with iron and iodine (5)
- ii. Vague period just before taking credit card back (7)
- jj. Setting next novel in bed (7)

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.

The Atlantic Monthly (ISSN 1072-7825) is published monthly except for a combined issue in July/August by The Atlantic Monthly Group, 77 N. Washington St., Boston, MA 02114 (617-854-7700). Periodicals postage paid at Boston, MA, Toronto, Ont., and additional mailing offices. Printed in U.S.A. Subscription queries: Atlantic Customer Care, Box 37585, Boone, IA 50037-0585 or call 800-234-2411. Privacy: We make portions of our customer list available to carefully screened companies that offer products and services we believe you may enjoy. If you do not want to receive this information, please write to the Customer Care address above. Advertising and Circulation: 200 Madison Ave., 20th floor, NY, NY 10016 (646-695-8500). Subscriptions: one year \$19.95 in the U.S. and poss.; add \$8.00 in Canada, includes GST (123209926); add \$15.00 elsewhere. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement 0261327. Back issues: send \$7.50 per copy to The Atlantic, Back Issues, 1900 Industrial Park Dr., Federalsburg, MD 21632 (or call 410-754-8219). Vol. 290, No. 2, September 2002. Copyright © 2002, by The Atlantic Monthly Group. All rights reserved. Postmaster: Send address changes to Atlantic Address Change, Box 37585, Boone, IA 50037-0585.