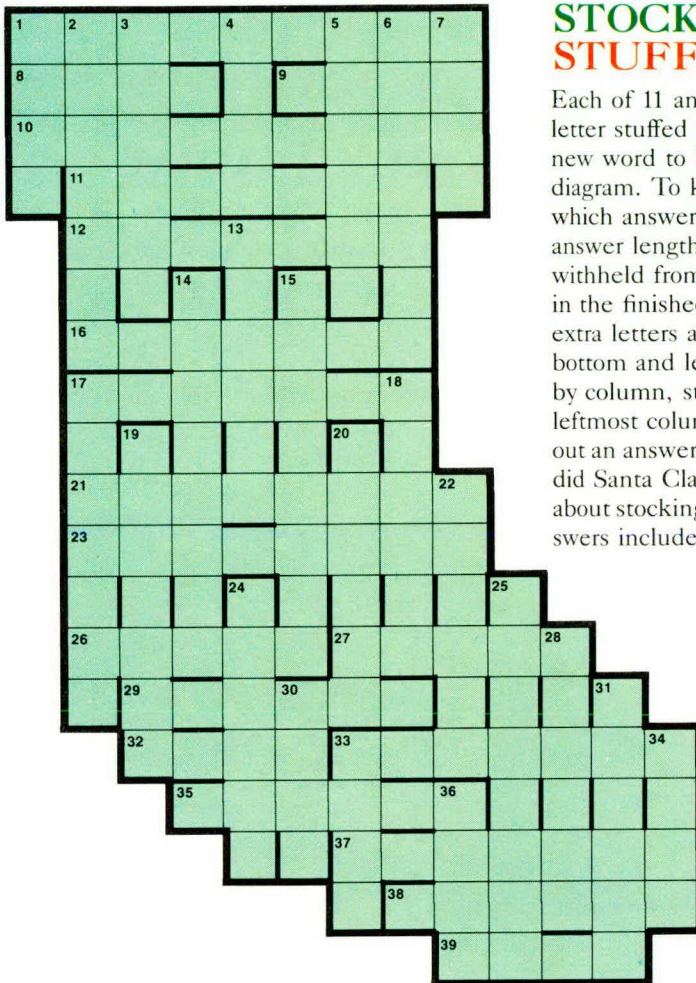


THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON



STOCKING STUFFERS

Each of 11 answers gets an extra letter stuffed into it, forming a new word to be entered in the diagram. To keep from showing which answers are thus affected, answer lengths have been withheld from the clues. When, in the finished diagram, the 11 extra letters are read from top to bottom and left to right column by column, starting with the leftmost column, they will spell out an answer to the riddle "What did Santa Claus entitle his book about stocking-stuffing?" Clue answers include five proper nouns.

33. Went beyond wheel on front of truck carrying stray
35. Fish school eaten by pony
37. Stop terrible fight in mail site
38. It's obvious—head not empty
39. Lament the French way

DOWN

1. Fuel up for fall
2. Baseball arbiter grabbed by the right hitter
3. Put new rollers on and go to bed
4. Sign up with sea captain
5. Something of tin, yet ductile
6. Relaxes with tube during swimming lesson
7. Northerner jerk
13. No use in mouse squeaking without a king in church
14. Country has choice word for big picture
15. Born and raised elitist consuming our drinks
17. County board reformed Spanish city
18. Narrate a new version about the bowman
19. Far-out spacers' astronomical distances
20. Article lodged in long, large gland
22. For audiences, fashion steps over a wall
24. Cryptic rune I make harder
25. Musical text #51-B upset river dweller
28. Carried up empty dress
30. *New York Times* supports "love rock"
31. Stick around Italian river with gangster
33. I goofed, overturning salt, pepper, and eggs
34. Final error in New Testament
36. Capsized, sinking ship's deserter is seaman

The answers to last month's *Puzzler* appear on page 103.

ACROSS

1. Oddly sore about red Christmas ornament
8. A third of the Volunteer State's number
9. Even characters in Farnham make a collection of miscellany
10. Uranium plant captured by one robot
11. Drunk I'm turning back is splitting
12. E.g., man's lip covered with meat spread
16. Senora's novel uses logic
17. Beat someone hitting someone else over the head loudly
21. A Dixie soldier in prison sent back meals
23. Trap garden snakes ahead of time
26. Disallows half of female wailers
27. Name from 1967 song "A New Life"
29. Use persuasion on old king holding a jack
32. Avoid getting hot in sun

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 envelope to *The Atlantic Puzzler*, 8 Arlington Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.