



THE PUZZLER

by EMILY COX and HENRY RATHVON

Gift Array

In the spirit of the season, your unstinting puzzle makers have put together an array of gifts. The gifts are labeled, in a way, by the ten unclued entries in the grid. Each of ten clue answers is one letter too short for its space in the grid and must be entered with a gap before, after, or somewhere within the answer. The otherwise empty boxes will each be filled by a letter from a crossing gift label. When read in order column by column from left to right, these bits will display a self-descriptive phrase. Eight clue answers are capitalized.

Last month's Puzzler solution is on page 177.

ACROSS

1. Vocal sign traps constituent
4. Jazz legend, upon being embraced by jerk
9. Goal of some programmers: understanding poet
10. Greater number of people's conventions
11. Way of moving entire audience when speaking
12. Problem with hearing that thing conveyed by name in an elevator
13. Officer material needed for brass
14. Clear daughter of Lady Bird with Democrat
19. Publicly ridicule invalid with ring in nose
22. People in general cotton to auditors in Oregon town
24. Bushes embraced by Plaza leaseholders
26. Cruise, after a bit
27. Entertainer Gibson picking up instrument
30. Member-owned store returned hot dog
32. Fire back in low Mediterranean land
33. Desperate, opening random number generator? (*hyphenated*)
34. Slow pitch taken by Cincinnati player

DOWN

35. Tea urn changed character
36. Attempted carrying two pianos, and stumbled
37. Sound a warning about operation for nursery-rhyme figure (*two words*)
1. Sweet-talk one of the Little Women into spinning lace
2. Top-level routine, one with me pocketing \$1,000 (*hyphenated*)
3. Neckwear from exotic isle
4. Maintaining denial, bribe investigator?
5. One way to get a meal in African country
6. Conservative criticizes gambling game
7. Shooting star's hand out on the other hand
8. Old Saxon feeds birds
9. Fall well within interpretation of "a nut"
15. Scheduled tenor performance by two
16. New rug's a honey
17. Last Friday in Alabama
18. Give away soup veggie to those attending
20. Drive into split fortification
21. Have success with one wearing sullen look (*two words*)
23. Host's oddly overlooked red mackerel
25. Support company in broadcast
28. Dupe about love in melodrama
29. Back in Nigeria, zero money from central Africa
31. Koi do a lot of complaining
32. Organized crime gang holding a town in Utah

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 visit www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm or send an addressed, stamped long envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 77 North Washington Street, Boston, Mass. 02114.

