



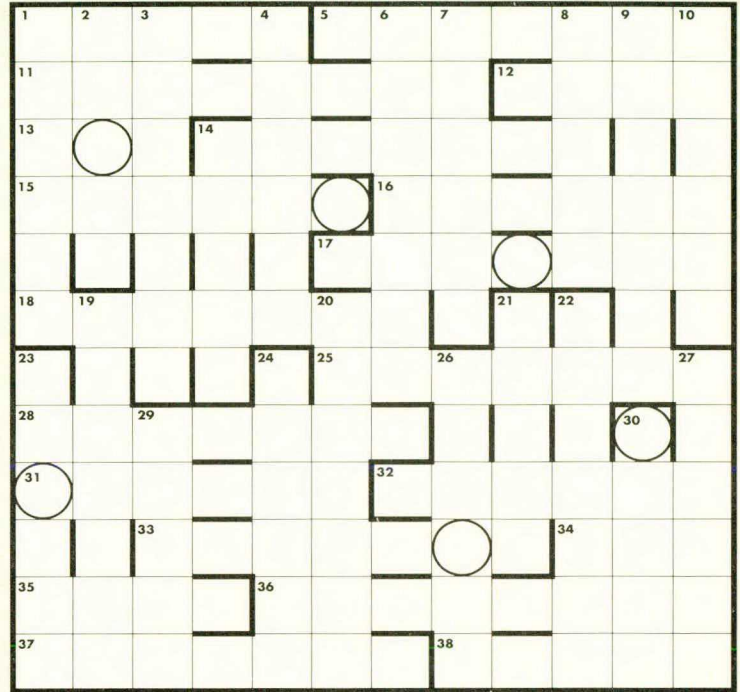
THE PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

Seasonality

Ten of this puzzle's clues contain no definition, only cryptic wordplay (anagram, reversal, charade, and so forth). The answers to these ten clues are of a kind, and each is replaced in the diagram by a new entry. As a guide, the unchecked letters in the ten replacement entries can be arranged to spell A GANG, A RAKE. The six circled letters in the finished diagram can be arranged to spell a theme-revealing word. All other clues are normal, and their answers include nine proper words, one of them an acronym, and a variant spelling at 31A.

See page 145 for Puzzler contest details.
The solution to last month's Puzzler appears on page 142.



Across

1. Revere rode horses around after the first of April (5)
5. Kind of craft club holding stuff in (7)
11. Rapid shot taken by nonprofessional gem collector (8)
12. Kingdom from a long time ago, way back (4)
13. Member of a colony, long after the beginning (3)
14. Part-time athlete's broken promise (7)
15. Some sports enthusiasts retired briefly into lofts (6)
16. Brad, at one, going the wrong way (7)
17. Cooked in pit with a pair of utensils (7)
18. Sharpest knife in a new set (7)
25. In streamlined compartment, we're driven (7)
28. Like mail mistakenly received by lord (7)

31. Leader of army's jailing me and bachelor in tiny cells (6)
32. Perfume bottle nary a farm youngster returned (6)
33. Rear of commuter train in Kansas makes another connection (7)
34. Sign in kindergarten (3)
35. Southwestern side turned hot (7)
36. Sam's head is covered by phony "rug" (toupee) (10)
37. Trap set inside very backward puzzles (7)
38. A stretch in autumn is a nice part of the Jewish calendar (5)

Down

1. State a question in Latin article (6)
2. American physician finally pursues pathogen (6)
3. Pick flower, pressing one that's best (7)
4. Channel swimmer leered rudely (6)
6. Jokes about an elephant's face (8)
7. Mediterranean island tree—when there's someone there to hear it? (6)
8. A group of 12 almost napping (5)
9. Fiction penned by greater dramatist (7)
10. English doctors owning live plants (6)
14. Chair the opening of our alliance (5)
19. Frost, locked in jail of a European peninsula (7)
20. "Sun Ra" is playing (7)
21. Soldiers sharing a meal around cafeteria's back tables? (5)
22. Bridge is highest on the western side (7)
23. Chief of Iroquois, after breaking his law (7)
24. Prostitutes turned up around a winter event (6)
26. Bandleader Lawrence in heaven (6)
27. Extrasensory perception a tenor developed (9)
29. No heart for free lunch? (6)
30. Bum had no car (5)

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.