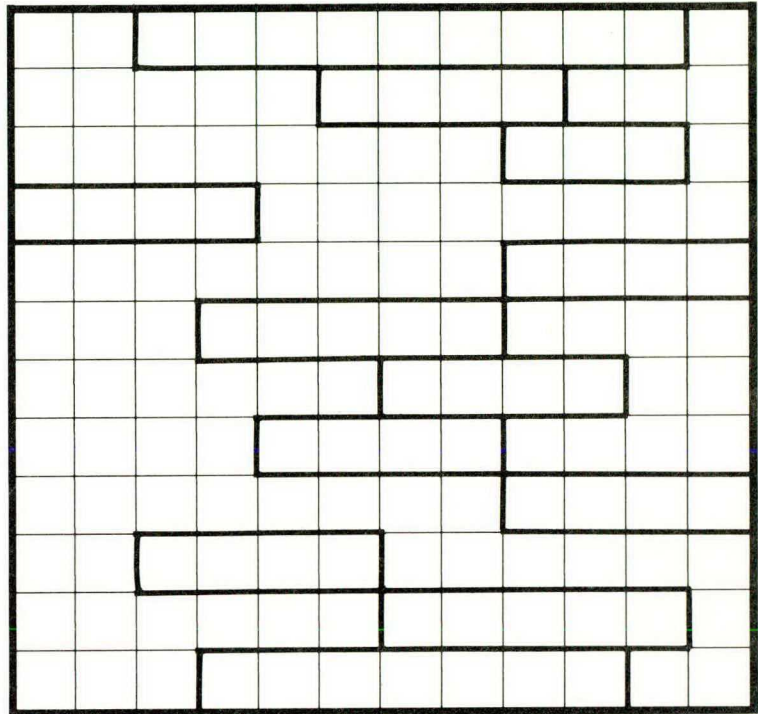


The Atlantic PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

GIFT-GIVING

Many things are denied solvers of this puzzle: indications of answer lengths, bars and numbers in the grid, even the assistance of a symmetrical pattern in the diagram. All that remains is a listing of Across and Down clues in their proper order. But in a spirit of generosity, we have boxed one gift in each Across row of the diagram to help solvers check their entries. Answers include six proper words, one a brand name; 20A is uncommon. Punctuation may be used deceptively.



ACROSS

1. Give handiwork of elves?
2. Face lifted, crossed with wrinkles
3. Guys notice being around a frenzied woman
4. Go too far with paramour, losing head at party
5. A creme centrally, sandwiched by two circles!
6. A bit of emollient in gunshot wound increases one's endurance
7. Retreat halfway to hollow
8. Source of milk, a beverage
9. Walking encyclopedia comprehends American playwright
10. Pitching sailor on sound
11. Stately old ship with lion's head at the prow
12. Chamber of teen star's heart collapsed
13. Round included among peasant's songs
14. Report of the Duke's decline
15. Back raised on mother cat
16. Inhibit weight-watcher, not myself
17. Waifs playing on harps
18. Satisfied youthful FBI agent?

19. Pass or show flush
20. Opportunity returns for you to see "Jungle Fever"
21. Bone can keep breaking
22. Pure rocky land
23. Listened without aspiration, having bad hearing aid
24. University admitting queen's excellence

9. Portable port
10. Aware of Chinese soup's contents
11. Gang sounded cocky?
12. Punches on the head taken twice by larger, rougher combatant
13. Spar with flourish
14. Back up member of combo after lead
15. Prepared to drive from mount whose top's blown off
16. Carbon monoxide, or an unnatural part of atmosphere
17. Light gold carriage
18. Test for last trace of mercury in fish
19. Secure English philosopher
20. Run away from East European uprising
21. Get smaller measurer?
22. Disheartened, sprayed and weeded the garden
23. Forbidding filth, for the most part

DOWN

1. Damage in a mooring area
2. Look for match
3. A knob's terminal
4. Scold class
5. Beat egg in regular way
6. Disarm cattle herd on rampages
7. Trojan foe get up horse concealing about 101
8. Fare's above prudent amount

Note: The instructions above are the special instructions for this month's puzzle. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving, write to The Atlantic Reprint Department, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

*The solution to last month's
Puzzler appears on page 98.*