



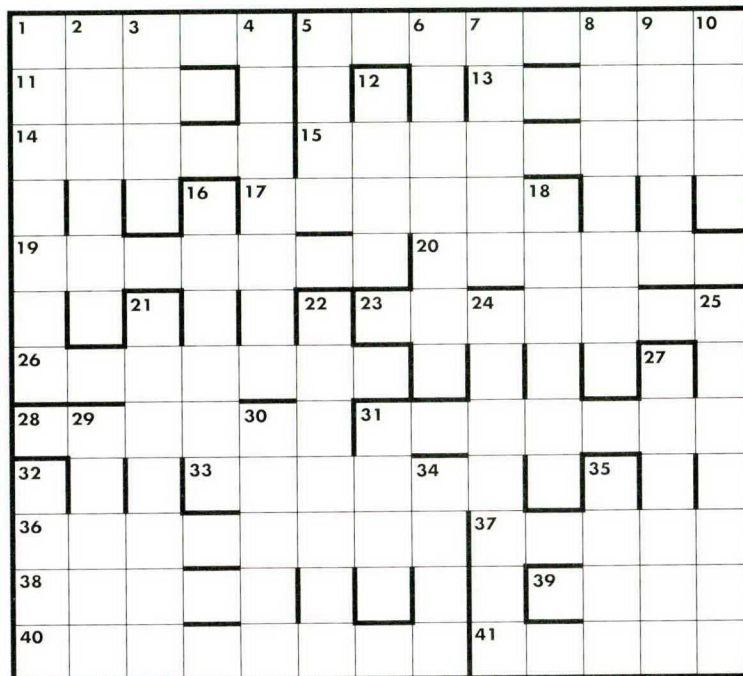
THE PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

Blankety-Blank

Every clue with a blank is missing an element necessary to its solution (though the missing element contributes nothing to the clue's superficial sense). Each blank represents a single word, and the blanked-out words are members of a set that can be found in many common reference books. Answers include six capitalized words and rather uncommon terms at nos. 2, 18, and 22 Down.

The solution to last month's *Puzzler* appears on page 112.



Across

1. Reason soldier wears some hair cut short (5)
5. Take the shine off poor ___ husband's face (8)
11. Computerized money machine contains nothing ___ (4)
13. Couple of tomatoes behind ___ navy bean (5)
14. Three-quarters of mile west of an Italian town (5)
15. Dilapidated hotel in "X" broadcast lasting hours (8)
17. Facial cleansers in heaps outside of emergency room (6)
19. Paving material for New ___ St. (7)
20. Holy crew mostly dressed in blue (6)
23. *Help!* including ___ McCartney's first fallacy (7)
26. Drunk ___ has Rex curtailed and neutered (7)
28. Soprano breaking proper small glass objects (6)
31. Row around ___ getting more sloshed (7)

33. German pronoun grasped by listener is not so tough (6)
36. The guy nets ___ 1000 in local sports event (8) (*two words*)
37. One ___ performing with man on a wheel (5)
38. Take guns from ___ NRA in disarray (5)
39. Actor Jacques ___ missing the musical note (4)
40. Slowly develops tales about ___ making a comeback (8)
41. Chief of Comanches pursues nomadic ___ Native American (5)

Down

1. Dance ___ embracing first of admirers (7)
2. Lazy bum is too excited at first (6)
3. First prize for returning dead piece of wood (4)
4. Saracen ___ regiment includes horseman? (7)
5. Brought up Old Testament ___ preposition (4)
6. Rocky ___ commits a football infraction (7) (*two words*)
7. Works up one item taken back for lack of payment (5)
8. "Naturally get hit," Erin cracked (7)
9. Ripped off a thing like a scarf (5)
10. Hot single: "Get Sharp" (4)
12. Talent ___ mostly seen around north (4)
16. Smile when you say this bit of trochee's erroneous (6)
18. Rock ___ when in barrier-breaking jet (6)
21. Marks from tee in ___ back of links (7)
22. Coming forth in heraldry sets Jan apart (7)
24. Seasoning scattered ___ around Rhode Island (7)
25. Terribly ___ stupid (7)
27. Regarding speck of dust far off in space (6)
29. ___ Northeastern French river (5)
30. Moving ___ molten rock (5)
31. Newsmagazine with back issue (4)
32. Tough loveless criminal?! (4)
34. Touches beheaded fish (4)
35. Sanction pitching a fit (4)

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.