

CRYPTOGRAMS

Edited by LEXMAN

C-1. Random puns.

yodaughter, Houston TX

IKTC LDP'ET YDIC WL GKT QTM MCY MC TTN
WAGTQ LDPE RCTT, GKMG'Q M XDEML. YDOQ SMC'G
DVTEMGT *X*E*A QSMCCTEQ, WPG *S*M*G QSMC.

C-2. Third-letter change (*1*1*1, 3); Reversal (3) (one 3 repeats) QOZ, Redmond WA

NO REPO ETA BON QCZIKYKETJ POIKSRO — Q
*U*K*A*J*F FIQF YOSECOJ Q *J*O*S*E*B*M NIOB
DET MAKPO KF TBMOANQFOA.

C-3. For word nerds only.

See note.

NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

MWT OXR TVY ITPRXKXSTV.OWQ/IXU.BUQS UW
VWSDY XRG OJYXUY QXRM UMKYV WE CWJG
KTHHSYV. PU PV EJYY.

C-4. Dead letter office.

See note.

ULTIMO, Port St. Lucie FL

PFGZKFTKSQ MC MFEOSH OSC, IFCLKEUFTVVDZK
TZOZ *ZTHKT PEF HSY KCLSYFDKSF PEF
*IAFDZKVTZ. "HES_!"

C-5. Music therapy.

See note.

WITZ, Vancouver BC

ADIOSTSFI PFDQYOSTSL NX *IKOMFLKX ^TDQYO
^PSESF IUMTLOFKJR LDKQTUJSL HDOY NKL JKIS
UP YSSNDS-*NSS *QSSI.

C-6. Desperate measures.

DRAUK, Midland MI

RZKSAHS BHOJUG PQLZ LNIT, UFWOUZ SNRGWPU
LK RQFHSU. IUXZNRUP AUNOFHIUZ OUSFNPU,
"ZBNFF BUOHWB NG FNPJU."

C-7. Strung out.

*FBYR *OSRHNB = not MW

raw, Ogdensburg NY

RZORYYJNR UDBSMIY BA *FBYR *OSRHNB
HRMPRH DV QMJIIJMT CBHQ JMPJYIJMOI:
IRGSJEU YIBOQJMT KESHHRP.



December 2018

The National Puzzlers' League

#1370

EDITOR'S MUSINGS

Another year is coming to an end! Happy holidays to all and early wishes that your upcoming one is healthy and prosperous!

ELECTION RESULTS

The members of the 2019 board as elected in October are:

President: Jeffurry

First Vice-President: yodaughter

Second Vice-President: B-Side

Secretary: Expelliarmus

Treasurer: \$8.90

Historian: Willz

Editor: Teki

Proposition 1 (to make the webmaster a board member) failed.

Proposition 2 (to include the Code of Conduct in the bylaws) succeeded.

Pursuant to the acceptance of the Code of Conduct, Mercury has updated the Guide to the Enigma to include the latest version of it as an appendix. The new Guide has been updated to the website as a PDF file, where it is available for your perusal. I will send you a copy of the PDF file if you request it from me at editor@puzzlers.org.

BOARD BITS

Expelliarmus has volunteered to act as liaison between the board and the discussions about the Code of Conduct. She is in the process of adding a discussion group to Slack to handle those discussions.

The webmaster reports that they are transitioning from an Access database to a web service to handle member information, making life easier for our new treasurer, \$8.90.

L. A. PUZZLE PARTY — by BLUFF

Our next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, January 12, starting at noon, at the same location. I'll send the first reminder/confirmation email sometime in December.

Be well, Bluff (John Suarez) 805-499-1880

NEW MEMBERS

Laura Ahlborn, 201 E 25th St Apt 15H, New York NY 10010

Auzzle: Ilya Osipov, 104 Raposa Vis, Novato CA 94947-2113, auzzle@puzzlers.org

Cousin Joe

DtheW: Matthew Hester, 943 N Quince Ln, Mt Prospect IL 60056

Gnod: John Gnoldtke, 1902 Yuma Trl, Okemos MI 48864

Halcyon Trek: Kathryn Cole, 1411 Grant Ave, Rockford IL 61103

HalfSL: Eric Hassell, 148 Main St Apt 3, San Mateo CA 94401, /half ess'll/

madman-omega: Brent McGee, 1 Calle Cabito, Santa Fe NM 87508,
madman-omega@puzzlers.org

The Runs: Chris Higgins, 539 Starkstone Ct, Spring TX 77386,
theruns@puzzlers.org

Zoe Walker, c/o Pembroke College, Cambridge CB2 1RF, United Kingdom

Bob Willoughby, PO Box 191, Spring Green WI 53588

REJOINING

Ucalegon: Daniel Lepage, 2 Sherman Ct, Somerville MA 02145

CHANGES

Art Brut: artbrut@puzzlers.org

Dillard: Susan Brown, 401 Rushingwater Dr, Cary NC 27513, (919) 332-2423

Erfael: Joey O'Donnell, 401 Rushingwater Dr, Cary NC 27513,
erfael@puzzlers.org

madman-alpha is the nom chosen by David Carney:
madman-alpha@puzzlers.org

RESIGNED/REMOVED

Allison Bingham, Adam Crumpton, Chris Haigy, Ben Huizenga, Cory Oldweiler
(Cyranos)

National Puzzlers' League Board of Directors

President: Fuldu
First Vice-President: Sprout
Second Vice President: Jeffurry

Secretary: Expelliarmus
Treasurer: Mercury

Editor: Teki
Historian: Willz

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F-1.

J K
OZ GE
MED BAY
ABEL HOST
RUBON MOMMA
CLAWED RAWBAR
HOTHEADEDNESS
NEEDLEPRICK
SALTBLOCK
TERRINE
DEICE
YEA
F

F-2.

DFRHNCHTTN *Die Frau ohne Schatten*
DRRSNKVLR *Der Rosenkavalier*
MNNLSCT *Manon Lescaut*
LCSTS *Alcestis*
RPR *Reaper*
C *oca*
Aida, fido, Rorem, hornily, insincere, snail's pace,
Cook's tour, havocs, outlet, tre, un

F-3.

UPPERCASE
TORTOISES
ANECDOTES
HYPHENATE

F-4.

DICTIONARY
FRACTURE
UPTAKE
SAGE
LO

F-5.

ABABBCCDCD
FIREROOM
DIZAIN
MEWL
LL

F-6.

CAVIAR
AVENGE
VERSED
INSANE
AGENDA
REDEAL

F-7.

COSMONAUT
OPRIMALLY
OPENARMED
LOWERCASE

F-8.

ROT
MACRO
RAGTIME
OCTOBER
TRIBUNE
OMENS
ERE

F-9.

A C O U CHI
R A M P
M R S
PI ETA
L E K
M I C E
PHI L T E R

F-10.

R
MAT
AERIE
INTENTS
ENTERTAIN

15. so/nnet, re/use 16. host, hostile [a la infant/infantile]; rest, restive [a la mass/massive] 17. sacre bleu, securable 18. pie(d-a-te)rre 19. electronics, stone circle 20. fiendish, finished

- C-1. All I know about wine is that the purple stuff is “red” and the yellow stuff “white,” and pink “rose” rhymes with “José.”
 C-2. What is the difference between a hippo and a Zippo? One is heavy and the other is a little lighter.
 C-3. I belong to the AAA, the American Alternade Association. I call them to fix my flats and extras.
 C-4. One *Magic: The Gathering* card uses every letter: the quick onyx goblin jumps over the lazy dwarf.
 C-5. Five exclamation marks, the sure sign of an insane mind. From *Reaper Man*, Terry Pratchett novel.
 C-6. Child who adamantly contends cola ocean truly exists is disconsolate to discover it was merely Fanta sea.
 C-7. Deductions: bilateral anterior lower extremity components from knees to ankles for Donald.

- X-1. Einstein discovers that time is actually money. Gary Larson, *The Far Side*
 X-2. Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry. *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, Twain
 X-3. Between grief and nothing I will take grief. W. Faulkner
 X-4. You could live a lifetime here and not see all of Colorado, she says. Heck, I can do that without leaving Oregon. (I'm coming.)
 X-5. Calories are those tiny creatures that live in your closet and sew your clothes a little tighter every night.
 X-6. If it weren't for the last minute nothing would get done.



BANTERWEIGHT

Banterweight died of a heart attack on November 24. She was out to dinner with a friend and fell to the floor. They called 911; she was taken to the hospital and she died there. Many Krewemembers responded to npl-folk on hearing this sad news. If any of you want to provide more thorough remembrances of her, send yours to editor@puzzlers.org and I'll publish them in the January issue.

NOVEMBER ERRATA

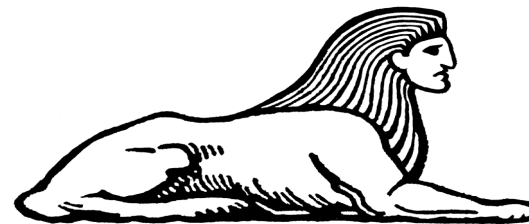
It was Ai who sent the note about Ned Rorem, not raw. My apologies to both. In #27, KING should be tagged “NI2, online MW.”

DECEMBER PUZZLES

1. Combinom: A. Chemem/A. Chemsy
 11. Combinom: Newrow/Jerg
 54. Combinom: Tyger/Next Lingo
 65. Combinom: Spoon/Firetruck

F-4. This is not a Guide form. The shape is apt for this form. You may solve this form as a 7x16 diagramless with left / right symmetry...or you may simply use the on-line grid.

- C-2 has two pairs of extra answers that should be submitted for full credit.
 C-3. ITPRXKXSTV.OWQ/IXU.BUQS = not MW
 C-4. IFCLKEUFTVVDZK = inferable
 C-5. YSSNDS = part of 11C entry; *NSS *QSSI = not MW



NOVEMBER HINTS AND DECEMBER EASY LIST

27—Consider all words in every flat carefully.
 33—One answer is an unusual version of a better-known word.
 38—See note to #27.
 December Easy List: 1, 2, 10, 16, 25, 31, 55, 57, 59, 63.

PENETRALIA

Solution words and phrases not found in 11C (11th Collegiate) are labeled for the most recent Merriam-Webster dictionary in which they appear: 10C, N13, N12 Addenda, or N12, or, failing that, RH2 or 12W. Non-MW words are noted. “+” signifies foreign, slang, dialect, obsolete, archaic, and the like. Capitalized words get a “*”. Words that are capitalized (as in names, titles) but normally uncapitalized with the same usage get a “^”. Enumeration for MW phrases is [bracketed] in anagrams and flat types where non-MW phrases are allowed, to wit: spoonergrams, mutations, palindromes, rebuses, heteronyms and homonyms, welded flats, variations on these types, and flats labeled “freewheeling.”

Send your solution lists after January 1 to QUICKS?LVER (solutions@puzzlers.org) or mail to LIRATH, Eric Suess, 1901 Parr Rd., Pocatello ID 83204. All lists must be received by 11:59 p.m. PST on January 31.

1. ENIGMATIC REBUS (1 4 2 3 7)

T



“Never let them see you cry.”
Stand firm as bullies jeer and lie.
Though the moisture pricks the eye,
Just make sure IDENTIFY.
(The logo above’s not right, you see.
Something is off. What can it be?)
=A. CHEMEM/SY, Chesapeake VA

2. ACROTELESTICHAL ENIGMA (3-5)

A. USA has a burden to make up lost money.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

3. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK (7, *5 4 3) (7 = +, *5 4 3 = online MW)

Light-hued brews that are named for a South Asian land
Have a whole lot of hops, which some drinkers can’t stand,
And in thousands of pubs they have griped through the years
That when scanning each line on those pubs’ lists of beers
Nine in ten will be beers of that ilk; it’s absurd
How (forsooth!) they, in place after place, have RECURRED.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

4. THIRD-LETTER CHANGE (8)

Almond milk is de rigueur
For those who are not lactose-based;
On cornflakes or in coffee cups,
It has a lovely nutty taste.

I prefer more spirited drink
That warms the throat and helps romance.
A glass of *WINE and Cupid comes;
A WIFE attends erotic dance.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

5. FREEWHEELING DELETION (5, 2 *1*1) (BERSERK = 2 *1*1 = not MW)

“It’s just a store,”
You say before
You step up to the clerk.
“Don’t act the fool.
Just keep your cool
If you want this to work.”
The bottle in
Your hand feels THIN.
Your smile is more a smirk.
He looks at you
Then points up to
A sign that reads “BERSERK.”
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

F-1, F-3, F-4, F-7. LaDiDa 27, 43, 46, 67, C-4, X-1, X-2. Linko 3, 4, 14, 34, 52, 63, 65, 66, F-7, X-1, X-2!. Lirath 3, 10, 24, 47!, 64, F-7, C-4. Lyric 2, 15, 35, 63, 70, 80, F-1, C-4, X-1!, X-2. Mercury 10, 16, 27, 30, 33, 41, 53. Munro 3!, 18, 33, 40, 42. Newrow 1, 10, 68, 80, 81, F-1, X-2!. NJ Ninja 31, 34, 49, 51, 52, F-1, F-4, X-1!, X-2. Noodle Noggin 20, 46. Pebbles 5, 13, 14, 20, 21, 30, 36, 38, 46, 57, 60, X-2!. Pen Gwyn 44. QT-Oh 40, 58, 59, 66, X-1, X-2. Quicks?lver 4, 7, 10, 18, 20, 21, 24, 27, 34, 35, 37, 38, 44, 47, 48, 50, 56, 66, 72, 82, F-1, F-4, C-4, C-7, X-2!. R/EDS 13, 19, 34, 41, 81, F-7, C-7!, X-1, X-2. RUgame? 16, 37. Treesong 12, 22, 28, 34, 35, 44, 54, 56!, 70, 78, 80, F-1, X-1, X-2. Tyger 34, 35, 66, 70, 78, 80, F-1, F-2, F-3, C-4, X-1, X-2!. Witz 5, 16, 24, 35, 56, 66, 81, F-1, C-2, X-2!. Wordsmix 46, C-4, C-5, X-2!.

OCTOBER SOLUTIONS

1. Banjul, Ljubljana 2. undeserved revenues 3. gnomon, non-GMO 4. Doncaster, standard score, second-rateness 5. barque, bight [bark/bite] 6. false alarm; dune, Dunedin 7. doubter, obtrude 8. Maria 9. capsule, escape clause 10. red e(n)sign 11. hex, hectic [a la climax/climactic] 12. Alberta; able, rat 13. Medusa, amused 14. unsolaced, endonuclease, candolleaceous, scandalousness, *lucus a non lucendo* 15. onto, towage, wageless, lesson 16. franchised, French Canadians 17. renitent, Internet 18. Zeno, one; Zeno, zero 19. Watteau follower [“W (=watt); O follower”]; double up [double-u, P] 20. rec-a/e-nt 21. ascribe, acai berries 22. data set, day to set 23. barnacle, barn, tent, tentacle 24. coyly dart, D’Oily Carte 25. car-a-pace 26. gyrate, John Raitt, ion 27. St. Paul 28. Cumbrian, *Carmina Burana* 29. bidding war, wading bird 30. Moscow moss cow 31. bran-dish 32. shape, heaps, phase 33. caruncle, unclever; carver; uncle; car(b)uncle 34. shar-k/p 35. hydroponic; drop, yon, Hi-C 36. o/bject, a/vert 37. rodent, do not enter 38. clean, lance; spare, spear 39. protractor; art, proctor 40. foul tip, flip out 41. toccatas, staccato 42. GRunt, EArache, TAlon, UKraine 43. Cointreau, kitty, quantity, crow 44. speculate 45. desi(gning) 46. duck, geoduck; desist, geodesist 47. spin or solve?, silver spoon 48. slice, scissile 49. Fred, Federer, refereed, deferred; stein, tennis, Nineteen-Nineties 50. thicker, hitchhiker 51. physical, psychically 52. bradyon, baby on board 53. broaches 54. poltergeist, poult erg iced 55. sa/nguine, li/lt 56. fluff piece, puff fleece 57. Crisco, copy, crispy 58. wicke-t/d; googl-e/y 59. de(tail)ed 60. centroids, direction cosine, interconnectedness 61. Rapa Nui, European 62. unto, toque, quest, stun 63. N(ewswe)ek 64. prosody; prod, soy 65. agon, nonagon [a la art/nonart] 66. WNFR, ANWR 67. blu(ebe)rry 68. munch 69. cot/illion, b/eau 70. hydrate 71. bowels of the earth 72. metathesis 73. tandoori chicken 74. Dmitri Mendeleev 75. mensuration 76. the desk calendar 77. minute 78. mind-numbing 79. multiplication table

CON FLATS: 1. parqueted, arcade 2. linen in Easy’ll ab-let oolong [line nine: a syllable too long] 3. kyrielle, curl 4. poison arises [PO is ON (“Poe” → 1st “One”); AR is ES (“quart” → 2nd “quest”)] 5. epigram, grim reaper, premarriage 6. Spooner, oops, man, manner 7. Wisconsin flat [W is C on S in flat] 8. locates, lactose 9. long cruise, wrong clues 10. venti lat(t)e 11. bum, zucchini, bikini, zoom 12. poetry, prototype 13. Ouija board, jaybird 14. rifles, fireflies

SEPTEMBER SOLVERS

The September 2018 Enigma had 82 flats, 7 forms, 7 crypts, and 2 extras. 30 solution lists, representing 63 solvers, were received.

DelphiRune/Papayagi/RUgame?, /dev/joe/Vraal/Tinhorn/Om Nom, Donimo/ Wordsmix/Quicks?lver, Jo the Loiterer/Manx/Pen Gwyn/Stewball, Philana/ Mercury, and Witz/Andreas had completes.

Accepted: 3–ROAR) “OWE A TEN-BYRE ID, SALLY [R, O, arow, eaten by Reid’s ally]; 23–WIDENS, WEEDINESS; 37–WIT (HA!) STYLES PUNK NIGHT [with a style (=la-di-da) spun, knight (=N)] (2); 55–REDLINED (6) and REJOINED (1) for RETAINED; 58–FATHER, HEREAFTER (5) and LISTEN, STILLNESS (4). Not accepted: 1–LEND A LIFE for FILLS A NEED [freewheeling]; 23–CRAVES, CREVASSES (2) [2nd solword must be singular]; 29–REGULATION, NO LIGATURE [freewheeling]; 58–CRETIN, RETICENCE (2); 82–GASOGENES (9) [sol must be singular; repeats ‘GAS’ from the clue]. —QUICKS?LVER, Solutions Editor

FLATS/FORMS/CRYPTS/EXTRAS SOLVED (* = complete): A. Chemem 57/0/6/0. Ajde 15/0/6/0. Alaraph 0/0/0/1. Alice/A-Plus/Arachne/Hot/Ming 72/0/0/0. AroundEve/Geneal/GrandBairn/Melifier/Serendipity 78/*/*/. Badir 31/3/3/1. BanterWeight/Dragonfly/Libra 81/*/*/. Barkis/QT-Oh/Noodle Noggin 67/*/*/. Clio 56/5/4/0. Dischorran 81/*/*/. Drauk 46/*/*/1. Dye Key 55/*/*/. Joker/ LeXman/Lirath/YoMama 80/*/*/. KayZero 64/*/*/. LaDiDa/Glee 58/*/*/. Linko 35/2/4/*/. Loki-5 81/*/*/. Lyric/Munro 72/*/*/. Newrow/Jerg 71/*/*/1. NJ Ninja 40/*/6/*/. Pebbles 78/*/*/. R/EDS/415 lb of snake 78/*/*/. Treesong 74/*/6/*/. Tyger/weefoot/Wolverine 81/*/*/*.

SOLVING FREQUENCY/NUMBER OF KUDOS/TOP KUDOS: FLATS: 1–22/2, 2–24/1, 3–21/3/1, 4–18/2, 5–22/4, 6–24/1, 7–21/2, 8–16, 9–26, 10–17/6, 11–21, 12–26/1, 13–27/2, 14–19/2, 15–25/4, 16–26/6, 17–24, 18–21/4, 19–20/1, 20–29/3, 21–24/2, 22–27/1, 23–22, 24–15/3, 25–26/1, 26–28, 27–27/4, 28–26/1, 29–16, 30–27/3, 31–29/1, 32–25, 33–26/3, 34–26/10/1, 35–25/7, 36–29/1, 37–13/5, 38–27/3, 39–28/1, 40–21/2, 41–21/2, 42–22/4, 43–26/1, 44–26/6, 45–21/2, 46–28/6, 47–14/4/1, 48–28/3, 49–27/1, 50–24/1, 51–29/2, 52–27/5, 53–21/1, 54–24/1, 55–20, 56–18/3/1, 57–26/1, 58–17/1, 59–24/3, 60–24/1, 61–22, 62–23, 63–24/4, 64–17/3, 65–27/1, 66–17/10, 67–22/1, 68–28/6/1, 69–27, 70–28/4, 71–26/1, 72–24/1, 73–28, 74–21, 75–29/1, 76–29, 77–26, 78–29/3, 79–25, 80–27/5, 81–29/4, 82–12/2. FORMS: 1–24/10/1, 2–24/2, 3–26/2, 4–23/3, 5–24, 6–24, 7–26/6. CRYPTS: 1–28/1, 2–28/1, 3–27, 4–28/6, 5–24/1, 6–25, 7–22/4/1. EXTRAS: 1–24/11/2, 2–24/19/9. MISCELLANEA: KU-1–13/1.

KUDOS (! = top kudos): A. Chemem 1, 15, 16, 18, 25, 45, 52, C-7. Alice 66, 68!, X-2. Anomaly 6, 15, 30, 34!, 35, 39, 63, 66, 68, 70, 71, F-1, C-1, C-7. Badir 5, 46, 81, X-1. Barkis 7, 16, 18, 37, 44, 45, 59, 68, X-1, X-2. DelphiRune 5, 10, 16, 35, 37, 44, 51, 52, 66, 68, X-2. /dev/joe 34, 42, 44, 48, 59, 64, 75, 78, 82, F-1!, F-2, F-7, X-1, X-2, KU-1. Dischorran 10, 34, 42, 47, 52, 63, 66. Donimo 27, 33, 37, 42. Drauk 46, 47, F-7, X-2!. Hot 34, 38, 48, 64, 68, X-2!. Jo the Loiterer 15, 66, 80,

6. TWO-WORD DELETION (7 8)

The WHOLE worked hard throughout the night.
He thought a show re THREEs just might
Attract some Thursday viewers, but
The truth was, he had no clue what
A monitor’s supposed to do!
This caused the network boss to spew:
“Your prospects here are TWO, or dead!
You’ve not a ONE of sense. Instead,
Your head is filled with naught but air,
And I am pulling out my hair!”
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

7. OVERLOADED PHONETIC WORD DELETION (7, *4, 4)
(can be sung)

We’re off to see the huts soon, Ojibwa-ish
domes that are from
A Great Lakes spot—they’re now in
Hagåtña! Soon our plane will thrum,
And (due to our motion) whir, hiss, or
hum!
We’re going, in sum, in days to come
To DRUM, to DRUM, to DRUM, to
DRUM, to DRUM!
(This flat can be chanted by Frances
Gumm.)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

8. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK
(4-4, 7 4) (4-4 = not MW; 7 4 = NI3,
inferable usage)

Are you wishing to turn
Those hard *Brassica* pips
Into rich spreads and dips
With the right dose of burn?
I’ve a first-rate book
Says adding them entire
Yields not a bit of fire!
Here, have yourself a look.
For results with maximum zest,
You *have* to pop open that VEST!
=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

9. OVERLOADED METATHESIS (6)

They dated for years but he wouldn’t
commit.
The girl had an itch that he never
would scratch.
So no one was shocked when they finally
split.
It was a BOTH WORDS HERE
relationship, natch.
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

10. SPOONERGRAM (6 5, 5 5)
(clued in order)

Mrs. Witz said, “Write a flat.”
The base was hers—imagine that!
’Twas in a diner where we sat.
The fare was rather poor—oh drat.

Her suggested plot’s not bad:
Enchanted prince who’s very sad;
BIG WORDS were the sounds he had;
WIG BIRDS with burgers irked the lad.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

11. SINGULARITY (4 4, *6)
(TWO = not MW)

My heart will go on, says TWO D.
A ONE that’s immortal
May open that portal,
Allowing such magic to be.
=NERG, Brookuse MY

12. REVERSED METATHESIS (6)

Romantic FIRST for Mom,
For Johnny, toys in excess,
Sweater and tools for Dad.
Santa’s an altruist. Yes?

But Santa scattered soot.
With cookies he made a mess.
He spilled milk on the table.
Santa’s also a SECOND. Yes?
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

13. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (7)

Do you have fervor for a cause?
Perhaps resent what others choose?
If you're GOOD, your side may win,
But if you're WOOD, I think you lose.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

14. LETTER BANK

(6, 8, 3 5, "3 4 4 5")

(THREE = online MW;

FOUR = not MW)

True!—nervous—to a dreadful degree,
But mad? Not I. Not me.

I trust you'll fancy me not quite
"THREE."

Observe! Hear out my plea.

'Twas that TWO eye! I declare to thee—
Into a ONE it worked me.
Peering from some dark otherworld—
see!—

The eye, not I, you'll agree.

My senses, acute, can overwrought be.
From this I'll ne'er be free.

Beat by beat, I've laid it out for thee
In FOUR. Hear out my plea.

=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

15. FIRST-LETTER CHANGE (*5, 5)

(ONE = not MW)

FOURTH-LETTER CHANGE

(*5, *5) (THREE, FOUR = not MW)

I was driving alone in my ONE,
When a deer crossed the road in a run.
I made a TWO swerve
As I rounded that curve,
Hit a tree, totaled car as I spun.

Now I desperately need a new car.

Jaguar? Too expensive by far.

A THREE, a Ford or

A new Chinese FOUR?

(But I'll secretly crave that Jaguar.)

=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

16. OVERLOADED TERMINAL
DELETION (6)

"Can we redecorate this hall?"
"Sure! BOTH a picture on the wall."
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

17. LETTER BANK (8, 12)

When I was a youngster, my health
was superb.

I never got shots or ingested an herb.
But now I'm much older, it seems my
BROCHURE

Is PAGE new diseases, which I catch
for sure

Then give him preposterous payments
to cure!

I find it confusing deciding if he
Is someone I owe or if he should pay
me.

=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

18. ENIGMATIC REBUS (*8 3)

(3 = part of phrase; reading
contains non-MW material)
(can be sung around the menorah)

Solo Queen Elizabeth II

Britain's Queen sings "*Ma'oz Tzur*"

Alone—but not Princess Leia.

She has someone sing with her,

Plus ten pianos. (Each player

Must play that tune for FOLLOW

Corda so it's all low,

Volumewise; she thanks those guys

With "Ta!", which means "*Mahalo!*".)

=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

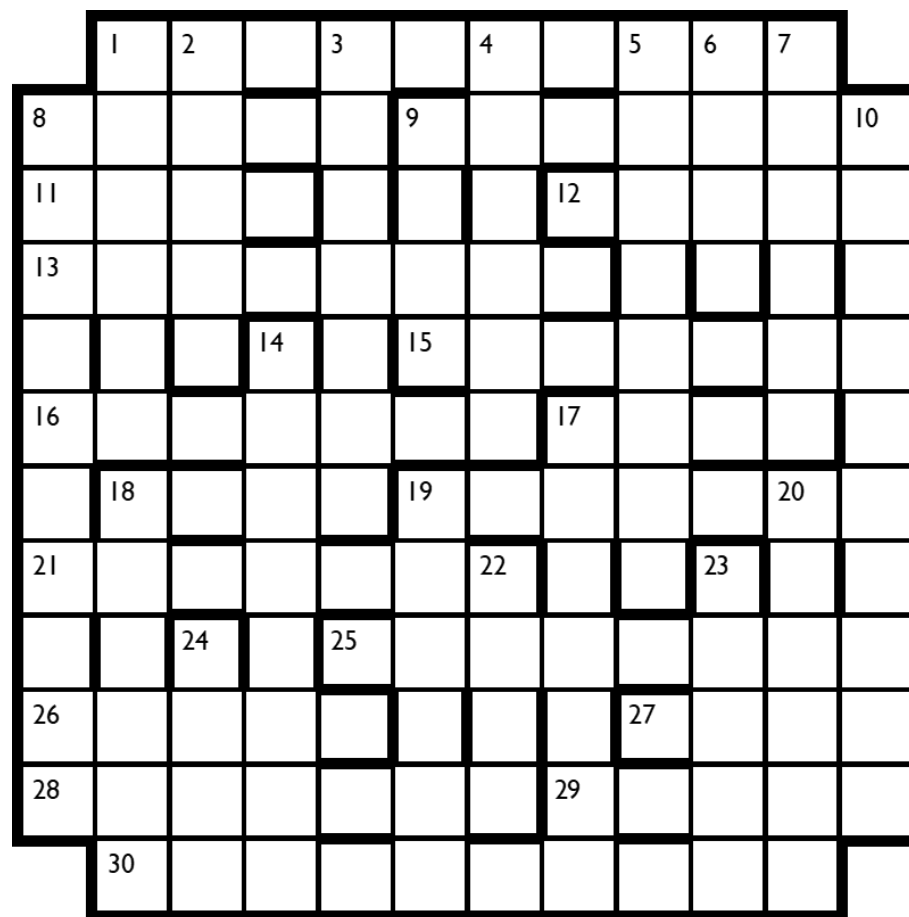
19. SUBER (*6? 2)

S

Ham has given us a lot.

But a SUBER, surely not.

=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ



X-9. NUMBERS AND WORDS— by MR E, Portland OR

Most clues contain an extra word that must be removed before solving. In clue order, their first letters spell out an instruction for obtaining an answer from each remaining “clue”, for each of which the solver must determine the numerical value of the unknown. These answers are to be highlighted. One of these answers will be entered in jumbled form; all answers are in 11C.

Along with the completed grid, solvers should submit a list of the numerical values (in order of increasing clue number), followed by four additional words.

Across

- 1 A company's leader directed to reorganize approved jobs (10)
- 8 Beat up when pocketbook changes hands (5)
- 9 In Tennessee eight wandering minstrels become close (7)
- 11 Notice old basilica and bishop next to it (4)
- 12 Clean lint off sharp weapon (5)
- 13 Troubled genius retaining an optimistic expression (8)
- 15 Reportedly tools for harvesting pears taken (7)
- 16 Commerce Secretary busy in August after start of boycott (7)
- 17 Part of funeral rite seen in Sleepy Hollow recently (4)
- 18 Strong birds easily beheaded reptiles (4)
- 19 Neighbor's lawsuit about our wild drunken revel (7)
- 21 A fraction of medical transcripts needing revision (7)
- 25 Huge border home in California is illegal (8)
- 26 Send a message advertising life in Brazilian city (5)
- 27 Eatery open? Sadly not the case (4)
- 28 Travel writer returning to Davenport to retrieve important journal (7)
- 29 Messenger has wonderful news for convicts – governor's signature (5)
- 30 See those zebras running around end of dune – they come in across the beach (10; 2 wds.)

Down

- 1 Author invited teens to create a poem about lovers (6)
- 2 Epees can make a metallic sound (5)
- 3 Winter Olympic athlete, rapidly rising American star (7)
- 4 Onetime film producer is raising money overseas to support Southern Democrat (6)
- 5 Cunning boy gains attention by skipping the introduction (8; 2 wds.)
- 6 Mountain in Tibet oddly named (4)
- 7 December fifth — that is about end of fall class in statistics (6)
- 8 Trendy in a weird private way – like Dancing House? (10)
- 9 It's initially hard to work – it's not that obvious (4)
- 10 He's got papers refuting FDR backer around end of thirties (10)
- 14 During Act II cop smashed backs of skulls (8)
- 17 Somebody's word for mass is solid energy (7)
- 18 Idiot abstracts tires — not new ones (6)
- 19 On holiday in November, person with knife nicked George Washington (6)
- 20 Cutting line, cowboy attaches stirrup (6)
- 22 Codeword for Leon L Bean (4)
- 23 It could be a bit of rumbly noise when one's umbrella's out! (5)
- 24 Employer lied about not having any work (4)

20. BEHEADMENT (7)
(SECOND = phrase usage)

An excited, happy SECOND,
He scrooched down in the chair.
Planned to catch old Santa,
Catch him unaware.
Mom's ideas were different.
She knew what it took.
Johnny FIRSTed up the stair
When she used “that look”.
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

21. PHONETIC FALSE PAST TENSE
(5,4) (WRING, WRUNG)
PHONETIC FALSE PAST TENSE
(6,5) (HANG, HUNG)

Winter is icumen in,
I've no mood to sing.
Iceth street and trip up feet,
HUNG fall up to WRING.
Wheeze: Goddang.
Freezeth lung, and runneth WRUNG
And then doth lhude HANG!
Bless you; Wheeze: Goddang.
=N, Cambrrrridge MA

22. REVERSED BEHEADMENT
(5, *1*1*1*1) (clued in order)

In school I did the artsy thing.
My twin was rough-and-tumble.
So after school I was a SING.
My twin was in the MUMBLE.
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

23. SPOONERGRAM (*7 *6, 5 7)
(neither MW) (can be sung by ONE)

Jeep Wrangler,
It's the SUV with a sturdy frame,
And I do proclaim
It's no cheap Wrangler.
Sure, it's got a TWO that can rival trucks'
But the mileage sucks!
=[reap] JANGLER, Nashville TN

24. ENIGMATIC REBUS (4/3/5)

sox

When the Sox's near-sweep
Was completed, one sheep
That was nearly as round
As a baseball was found
And “Sox Win!!!!” was applied
(With some paint) to its side,
Like a billboard; that TREAT
Was, O gentleman, neat.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

25. PHONETIC DELETION (8, 6)

“If it is SHORT”, A. Camus LONG,
“It's in my realm. I can't be wrong.”
=ANDREAS, Vancouver BC

26. SINGULARITY (8, *5)
SINGULARITY (8, *1*1*1*1*1*1)
(NOOTE = *1*1*1*1*1*1 = not MW)
(same NOTTE in both = 8 = inferable,
NI2)

NOOTE good friend EVE has now
settled in NOTE—
This old hilly country is remade.
The new towns are NOTTE, with no
tower, no moat
To hamper free movement and trade.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

27. DELETION (6)

Our tour guide had a cache of facts
With train of thought not fast derailed.
From Bronze Age times to Byzantine,
Through many centuries she sailed.

A THRUST was once a prince or bishop,
No modern tyrant, cruel, unjust.
That's when people knew their station.
(And now her train has reached its
TRUST.)
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

28. LETTER BANK (6, 5-2-5-3)

No guarantees here in this
HYPHENATED system.
SMALL chances when they come—
keep waiting if you missed 'em.
=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

29. FALSE GERUND (*4, 7)
(ONE = not MW)

Chris ONE was Mr. Big.
Hardly a TWO, ya dig?
=MUNRO, Chappaqua NY

30. TRANSPOSAL (5 3; *8)
(PEA = 5 3 = not MW)

The PEA soup was on special at the
E.P.A. Café,
But the King pursued a strictly no-fish
diet,
And he didn't care at all for Chinese
cooking anyway,
So Charlemagne, of course, refused to
try it.
=ENDGAME, Portland OR

31. REBUS (5 6)

OLEOS

I'm putting OLEOS into a jar.
I'm saving coins to buy a car.
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

32. REBUS (1 9)

If Christmas week off isn't nearly
enough,
Then a beater duration might prove to
be TOUGH.
This simple suggestion I've offered for
free,
But, if you're compelled, buy a laate for
me.
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

33. REBUS (9)
TRANSPOSAL (10)

TA
Keep moving, no time for a nap.
ONE, baking, and presents to wrap.
So TWO the things you need.
Make a list and proceed
To REBUS each task: It's a snap.
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

34. OVERLOADED TRANSPOSAL
(6 5, *5 *6) (6 5 = +, online MW;
*5 *6 = not MW)

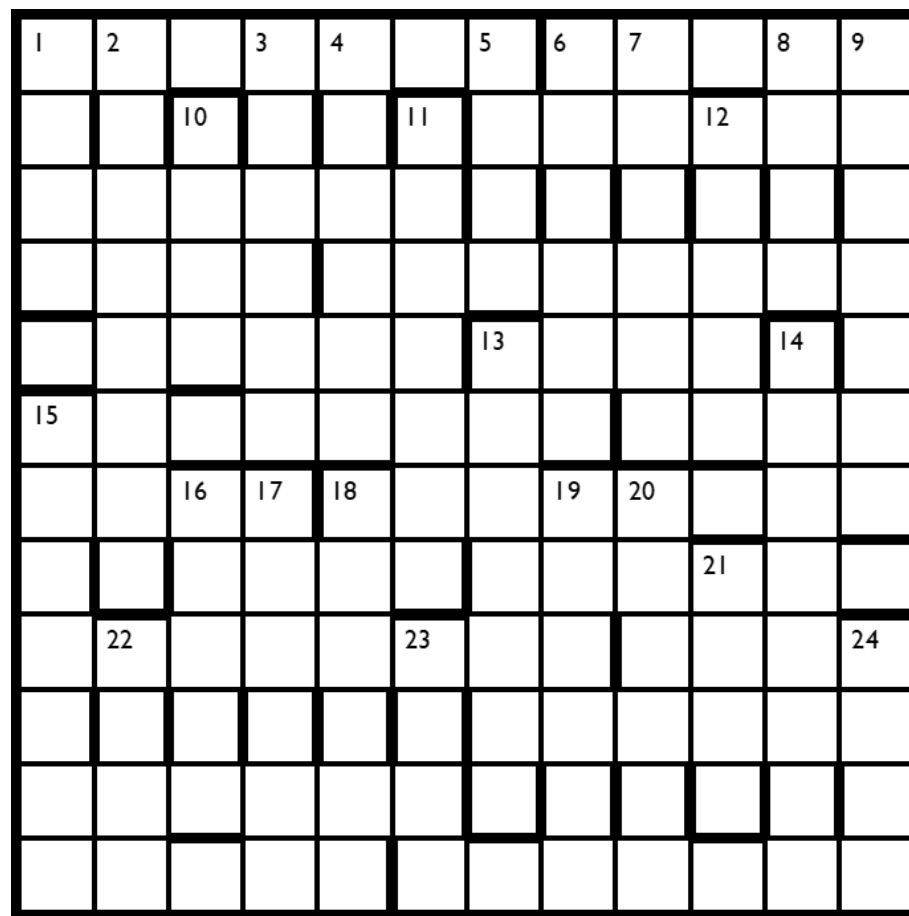
The second start-of-workweek in
December makes us blighters grin;
The eco-conscious folks we see
Alarm our boss, and therefore we
Get *rafts* of hazard pay for no
Real risk! We *love* THE STATUS QUO!
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

35. FALSE SINGLENESS (13, 16)
(SOLARS = NI3,
MONOSOLARS = inferable)

The way the rings grow round the molars,
Canines and the like
May help the state of MONOSOLARS
Coroners see spike
As pranksters come and switch each
name
And modify each file,
So no one knows which corpse's the same
As once was found. But smile—
Just study SOLARS of class Mammal
And how humans form enamel.
=FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA

36. CONVOCAD (6, 6, 6, 6)

Near a forest of PAY,
A Thanksgiving DAY,
With fresh ales and POO,
And fruit, just the DOO.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA



X-8. CHRISTMAS SCENES 2 — by WHEELS, Dunnville ON

The clues to the Across entries are strung together in the Scenes in random order (one entry is two words).

Scenes

The Man Santa

Endlessly flying around covered walkway
until going into reverse.
Like an idiot, I'm behind.

North Pole

Almost cool, mostly nerdy backward
kids (dozens) spending time with
Santa's helpers.
Drizzle honey on their tongues.

Rudolph and Company

Vixen's uncoordinated and short.
Prancer essentially struggles to guide
front of sleigh by gnarled tree.

Christmas Tree

Trim one surrounded by bad weeds
e.g.—barely nice re-trimmed.
This guy uses frosting decoration for
tree—messy.

Silent Night

Making smooth carol—nailed with
savoir faire.
Hear a couple singing to this.
Writing actor beginning to record trite
new jingle, a piece about what a
lord does in a carol.

Gift Wrapping

Ribbon finally in place.
Earlier it's put out for Santa to fill
with small gifts.
Carrying my ribbon in my mouth,
making a drink.

Down

- 1 "Bye Father Christmas" (ultimately
Santa's left) (4)
- 2 Strong water flows in spirited
partying (8)
- 3 Fair question in times when
getting written up (6)
- 4 Trust money is worse when
withdrawn around the beginning of
Christmas (6)
- 5 Ignoring the odds, Christmas
parties to make some Asian cuisine (4)
- 6 Candy canes: energy for spirited
meeting? (6)
- 7 Amazing rates: Boxing Day
transactions (6)
- 8 Ornate tree to be in Paris (4)
- 9 Loud rejection of a gold ring (7)
- 10 Dance from loud to quiet (4)
- 11 Brady Bunch actor is getting close
to great reviews again (7)
- 12 Turn out on the Internet: Nice
Christmas Color? (5)
- 13 Tax department has some radicals (7)
- 14 Criticize expert, one having a
remedy for everything (8)
- 15 Excellent cryptic clue to say in
public (7)
- 16 Number of geese-a-laying in
articles about birds (5)
- 17 Present contains essence of silk
covered with hair (6)
- 18 Plants last of flowers at fringes (6)
- 19 Source of sugar wins—pull tooth (6)
- 20 Cat once set on a beautiful person (6)
- 21 Makes lace immediately after
retiring (4)
- 22 Shower with acclamation (4)
- 23 Part (third) of Christmas cheer (4)
- 24 Extremely precise branch of
mathematics (4)

37. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK (4 5, 6 8)

The Pelicans, Raptors, and Hawks all
take care
That the biters that live on their
namesakes will ne'er
Land on *them*, lest a bug bite make one
of them stop,
Then start bouncing again. No one
wants any SLOP!
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

38. BEHEADMENT (9)

The room was a shambles!
Debris, litter, and twine.
All those splashes of red
Reek of mayhem and NINE.

Earlier the scene of
Gifts, singing and EIGHT
Shared with loved ones who care.
All that trash? Let it wait!
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

39. PALINDROME DELETION (7)

I was not just a little upset when the trees
Tumbled down. I've now not a few fears
That the not insignificant pile of fees
Means that I am not out of arrears.
So the policy now doesn't not leave me
covered.
(The use of THE BIG ONE are not all
THE OTHERED.)
=FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA

40. LETTER BANK (*1-5, 2 3 4) (ICONIC = 2 3 4 = not MW)

I find it more than a touch ironic
To see writ on that sleeve "ICONIC",
Containing, as it does,
A photo (by the fuzz)
Of some poor car, recently IONIC.
=AROUND EVE, Chicago IL

41. REPEATED-LETTER DELETION (8, 6)

Of genius and hard work there was no
CLOCK
When Lee and Yang (and Wu)
disproved that LOK
Was in every case preserved.
The Prize was well-deserved.
=NEWROW, Brookline MA

42. TRANSPOSAL (4 5, 9) (NINE = online MW usage)

The sleigh hurtles down, but the
Smiths aren't asleep,
So Santa turns up, makes a sudden
and steep
Ascent, and the Smiths sit to ponder
two NINE:
1) Dear Santa's routine you should
not undermine.
2) So don't FOUR AND FIVE if you
hope he will leave
Some goodies for you come the next
Christmas Eve!
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

43. PROGRESSIVE DELETION (6)

I am SIX FIVE, though FOUR THREE
say
TWO bod looks great in lingerie!
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

44. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK (6, 11) (6 = var.)

On that planet (much cooler than
Earth) they believe,
As Algonquians do, in a force they conceive
Of as filling the world like the NH₃
rains
Soak the ground. (That's called
"splurk"—or in English, "REFRAINS".)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

45. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK
(5, 12) (12 = NI3) (can be sung)

The old-time songs that on Christmas
rang out
Made no mention of Rudolph's red,
radiant snout
Or Frosty's schnozzola, a button. No,
these
Ancient tunes never mentioned
proboscides.
Oh well, oh well, oh well, oh well...
Oh how I miss the old BRASS BELL!
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

46. OVERLOADED LETTER BANK
(10, 15)

Though I don't like your latest verse,
The one before was slightly worse.
It's clear your overloaded letter
Banks are getting BOTH WORDS better.
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

47. REVERSED PALINDROME
DELETION (10)

Products are very exciting,
Differences often are fun,
Quotients are sometimes not boring,
But naught is as NOSELESS as SONs.
=NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

48. OVERLOADED HOMONYM
(*10, *1*6 5)
(*10 = online MW pronunciation)

Down near the Florida border
The BIG OL' mushrooms grow,
Where sons of Georgia planted them
In swampland, years ago.
=ewolf, Thousand Oaks CA

49. FIFTH-LETTER CHANGE WNFR (6)

Time, and time, and time again, I told
you how to prosper...
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

50. THIRD-LETTER CHANGE
GROUP (5, *7, 5)

Spare me your French fashion and your
couture U.S.A.;
If I want clothes to wear with style, I
won't leave the UK.
I'll take a trip to Savile Row, a London
shopping street,
To get a nicely tailored top as ultra-
modish treat.
The bill will be leviathan, of that you
can be sure:
One solitary menswear piece will leave
me feeling poor.
But that's the way it goes when one's in
search of quality.
I rather think that one should also get
a ONE TWO THREE.
=LINKO, London UK

51. REBUS (11)

NG
NI

My precocious young son talked to
Santa today,
And, when he was done, he had
something to say:
"I think the old guy with the beard is
SOL HERE.
He badgered me re what I asked for
this year!"
=EARL E. BYRD, Aiken SC

52. PHONETIC CHARADE (8)

A hiker was happy when he
Came FIRST a magnificent deer.
Rejoiced less in the bite he received,
Or the rash (from a SECOND, it's clear).

So much for the hiker and deer.
The WHOLE is before you, you see.
In sight, but upended it stands.
Check it out and I'm sure you'll agree.
=A. CHEMEM, Chesapeake VA

EXTRAS

X-1. KNIGHT'S TOUR CRYPT
(2 4 5 4 2 5, 4 2 5 8 5 4?)

I
E T L F N
R E D L T
M S L E N S W
I R S M O E O
S B T O T N N
D W I G S W M
E E A I O
O E T R W

B
=QOZ, Redmond WA

X-4. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (4 2 1 10 4 4 4 1 5 7 5 3. *1. *6)

A A D E E E F G I I L L M O O R S T Y
A W H A L L P R A D O Y I I T B Y D W
T I A C A N E T T T T P R E D T H C O
=🏰, Bellevue WA

X-5. VERTICAL ANAQUIP (*1 4 2 4 10 2 *1 3 4 6 6 3 5 2 2 3 4 7.)

A A C D D E E E E I I I K M N N O O O S T T T
O S E D S A I N U I L P T P A C A D E N L P P
E N E I E A S M H B F D T E C L T S E T I F O
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

X-6. VERTICAL ANAQUOTE (3 10 8 2 1 5 4 4 3 5 3 5 2 3 6. *11)

A A C D E E E F F F G I I M N N N O O S S T T U X
A W F L E H T D E O T A L K H T U H T T U M O A E
R R H E U E H Y A E P X E C E S S E B S K E T A S
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

X-7. SHUFFLED QUOTE

E _ * _ E _ E E _ A E D _ B _ E E E A _ A
G _ B H E A F R _ K E E * S _ G G I E I N
T _ E I G G N T S S N E ' S I G L P R M S
T H T T P N S U T U R E P W I L X T T N S
=🏰, Bellevue WA

X-2. ANAQUOTE (9 2 2 3 5. 2 4 1 7 9,
2 2 4 5 2 3 4 11 4 2. *6 *7)

AMU ANF ASU ATI BJE CTO DGE ELJ
ELV ERE ESO FTW IND INF ISO ITS
KNO KNO NDS NOW OHN OKI ONU ORM
PON RWE SON URS WEC WEK WLE WWH
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

X-3. MOSAIC QUOTE (4 2 2 4 5 4 6 7. *6)
[5 columns, 2 rows]

AT EB GI IS ND TE TO UR UR WH
LI AN US GH NG NI TM FR KL VE
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-8. VWLLSS TRNCTD PRMD

Across:

- 1 Creator of Buck Mulligan
- 2 Urban studies activist Jane (*The Death and Life of Great American Cities*)
- 3 Totalitarian symbols
- 4 Revolutionary War naval commander
- 5 He said "Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men shall look on and do nothing"

Down:

- 1 See 3 Down
 - 2 He killed Jezebel, allegedly
 - 3 With 1 Down, the first U.S. chief justice
 - 4 Tropical wading birds
 - 5 Top prize
 - 6 Deep-dish dessert
 - 7 Filmmaker Ray (*Pather Panchali*)
 - 8 Napa County neighbor
 - 9 Seat location in the theater
 - 10 Singer J.
- =AI, Charlottesville VA

F-9. PYRAMID

Across:

- 1 Blood type
- 2 Twitching
- 3 Shopping areas
- 4 Knock flat
- 5 Towers shaped like this form
- 6 Antisocial

Down:

- 1 Standard deviation
 - 2 Animal: combining form
 - 3 Bullfighting lance
 - 4 Sorcerers
 - 5 Ballroom dance
 - 6 Vessel for regulating the delivery of a lubricant
 - 7 Santa ____
 - 8 32-card game
 - 9 Old English or Icelandic fricative: var.
 - 10 Scale part
 - 11 Top speed?
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-10. DOUBLE SQUARE

Across:

- 1 Hanukkah and Christmas both have them
- 2 Artificial
- 3 Very poor
- 4 Make unkempt
- 5 Spots
- 6 Most circumspect

Down:

- 1 Profits
 - 2 A crowding
 - 3 A dwarf
 - 4 Mischievous in Midlothian
 - 5 Removes from consideration
 - 6 Most furtive
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-11. DOUBLE SQUARE

Across:

- 1 Strips of land (NI2 plural)
- 2 Marine worm
- 3 Seasonal top
- 4 Exact satisfaction
- 5 More barren
- 6 Resources

Down:

- 1 Conference
 - 2 Supplementary power mechanisms
 - 3 Wooden bowls and other woodenware
 - 4 Buttocks
 - 5 Small racing car
 - 6 Loafers
- =WITZ, Vancouver BC



53. PROGRESSIVE WORD

DELETION (*7 *7) (ALL = not MW;
THREE = * = NI3 phrase)

Who killed Boddy (from Clue) with a shade tree, in FOUR
Blood and far-from-FOUR plasma, not far from the core
Of the blue Mu Columbae (just brighter than TWO)?

It was ALL in the THREE with the ONE, Scarlet knew.
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

54. BROOKLINE LETTER CHANGE (4)
(TRAM, CRAM, TEAM, TRIM, TRAP)
QUANTUM HOMONYM (<5>)
(TREM, TRAM, TRIM)

A soccer TEAM between the folks
Who TRAM for York and Bootham Oaks
Did not directly harm a hair.
But people fleeing out of there
All sought a TREM to safer space,
But found themselves in no such place.
There was no TRAP to breathe. (The game (Which also has a British name)
Was quite a TRIM.) The legal slam,
"Assault with deadly weapon: CRAM,"
No longer seems so strange or odd,
As thirty souls have met their God.
=ROAR, Hobington NM

55. METATHESIS (4)

To say one's "happy as a LONE"
Makes zero sense. How is it known
That LONEs are happy? It should be
"As LENO as a LONE". Agree?
=NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

56. WELDED DELETION (9) (GREGE)
WELDED DELETION (9) (TESTS)

The vase was GREGE, and therefore dear.
Thank God for the installment plan!
I paid one bill a little late
But TESTS the check (a simple scam).
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

57. PHONETIC FALSE ADJECTIVE
(4, *6)
BEHEADMENT (*6) (*6 = not MW)

SIT up before CITY; the price
Of the gas there is now at a crest.
And Frisco is ITY (though nice)
So gas mileage won't be the best.
=NEXT LINGO, near Beantown

58. SPOONERGRAM (10, 5 *5)
(10 = NI3, *5 = non-MW usage)

Live long and prosper, spineless bird.
You'd never SECOND, FIRST. Absurd!
=FIRETRUCK, Kirkland WA

59. LETTER BANK (7, 5 6)
(7 = non-MW usage)

My favorite order at the delicatessen
Is a toasted bagel with a LENS of
LESSEN.
=AROUNDEVE, Queens NY

60. LETTER BANK (*6; 3, 6)
(TWO = online MW)

One of ONE's creations was
Goofy. That is true.
Not another was, because
Just the one was, TWO.
=WRYBOSH, Montville NJ

61. TRANSPOSAL (9)
(shout out to Sep 2017 #47)

He failed to have ONEd a supplier of silk,
So he settled for something of much lesser ilk.
A suit made of TWO was his ultimate choice.
But, alas, it did nothing to make him rejoice.
=A-PLUS, Pittsburgh PA

62. TRANSPOSAL (*5, 5)

The myths say Zeus was born on *ONE;
No ancient temples are still DONE.
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

63. LETTER SHIFT (4) (can be sung)

I like traffic MITEs.
I like traffic MITEs.
I like traffic MITEs.
(I've said this more than TIME.)
I like traffic MITEs.
I like traffic MITEs.
I like traffic MITEs.
(Their fiery hue won't rhyme.)
=UCAOIMHU, Somerville MA

64. LETTER BANK (7, *7 ^4)
(LONG = *7 ^4 = not MW)

That store we love is SHORT? Oh, no!
Their building toys cost less, and so
Before too long I know I should
Buy LONG before they're gone for good.
=NEXT LINGO, Lexington MA

65. MYNORETEH (*6, 2 4)

When Arthur traveled to Hawaii,
Man, that place was way too hot.
While gazing at the mountain, he
Recalled, "At least in TOP, there's
POT."
=HOOK AND LADLER, Woodinville WA

66. ENIGMA (*6) (can be sung)

My streets—it's the name of this old
Western ballad;
My streets are the setting for this cow-
boy song.
You'd think my name tells how a bit of
the tune goes,
But each of the three notes you'd guess
would be wrong.
=N, Cambridge MA

AMBIGRAM

67. MAN: "TALK VITA? CHUG
BEER." HA! (*5 *7 *9)
=DRAUK, Midland MI

ANAGRAM

68. TO DR.: "YAWN) MERE EASY
MENTAL..." ("10, 2 4 *6")
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

ANTIGRAM

69. IT'S SANTA!
=raw, Ogdensburg NY

FORMS

F-1. SQUARE

1 Iridescent birthstones
2 Irreligious one
3 Type size
4 Oily seasonal treat
5 Show scorn
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-2. VWLLSS RCTNGL

Across:
1 Founder of 2 Across
2 Where Willz got his law degree
(Wikipedia)
3 NPL convention site in 1987

Down:

1 Immediately
2 Dismissal
3 The OED's principal editor James
4 Customarily
5 Landing wharf
6 Soft as if from a pampered existence
7 Matisse's crowd
8 Reach a destination
9 American sculptor George (*The Commuters*)
10 Obliterate
=AI, Charlottesville VA

F-3. RIGHT WINDMILL

1 Absorbs moisture
2 NH compound
3 Mid-abdomen depression
4 Routine
5 Some calisthenic exercises
6 Japanese porcelain
7 Polite
8 Toll
9 Manages for profit
=WITZ, Vancouver BC

F-4. ROTATED AND FUSED 3, 4
HEXAGONS

Across:

1 Test answer opposite to 7 Across
2 Way to sway
3 Respiratory concern
4 Elbows on the table?
5 First recorder of 4 Down (Amende)
6 Go green, perhaps
7 Test answer opposite to 1 Across
8 Motive
9 "A Visit From St. Nicholas" and others
10 Dr. McCoy's sickbay device (not MW)
11 Retailer owned by Gap (Forbes)
12 Movie lawman with a cool exterior
(Maltin)
13 Shop honcho
14 Rat Pack name (Amende)
15 Road picture?
16 Survey answer analogous to 1
Across

Down:

1 Round Table knight
2 H&R Block party; Flattop crew members
3 Jiggery-pokery; Roof timber (not MW)
4 Holiday hit since 1950 (Wikipedia)
5 Mighty strange; Fitch on Lake Erie,
e.g. (Wikipedia)
6 Piper's take?; Food Channel
descriptor
7 *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* org. (IMDb)
=al dente, San Jose CA

F-5. RIGHT STAR

1 43rd of 45
2 Word which should not be
mispronounced at Renaissance Fairs
3 44th of 50
4 E, F#, G, A, B, C, D scale
5 Pointless
6 Gentile
7 Less ripe
8 Owners of what's ours
9 Half of a D
=LEXMAN, Davenport IA

F-6. VWLLSS RCTNGL

Across:

1 Popular name of an Elgar work
(Oxford Companion to Music)
2 Some (apt!) flats (NPL)
3 Another flat type (NPL)
4 Yet another flat type (NPL)

Down:

1 Primeval
2 Rhizome used as a spice
3 Intend wrongly: obs.
4 They're planned and organized
5 Like cooking oil that has gone bad
6 Class alternative to a lecture
7 Prepare for hatching by providing
warmth
8 Series of meetings
=AI, Charlottesville VA

F-7. LEFT WINDMILL

1 Parrot
2 Flavoured mayonnaise
3 It's always found in the ratio 10:1?
4 With a speaking voice
5 Tilting objects?
6 Relating to pelvic bones
7 Place of restraint
8 Epithet
9 Rebuke
=WITZ, Vancouver BC