

## *The Strangest Crossword Puzzle*



Since the common crossword puzzle is currently the most popular of all word games, it becomes the logical starting point for our adventures in the world of words.

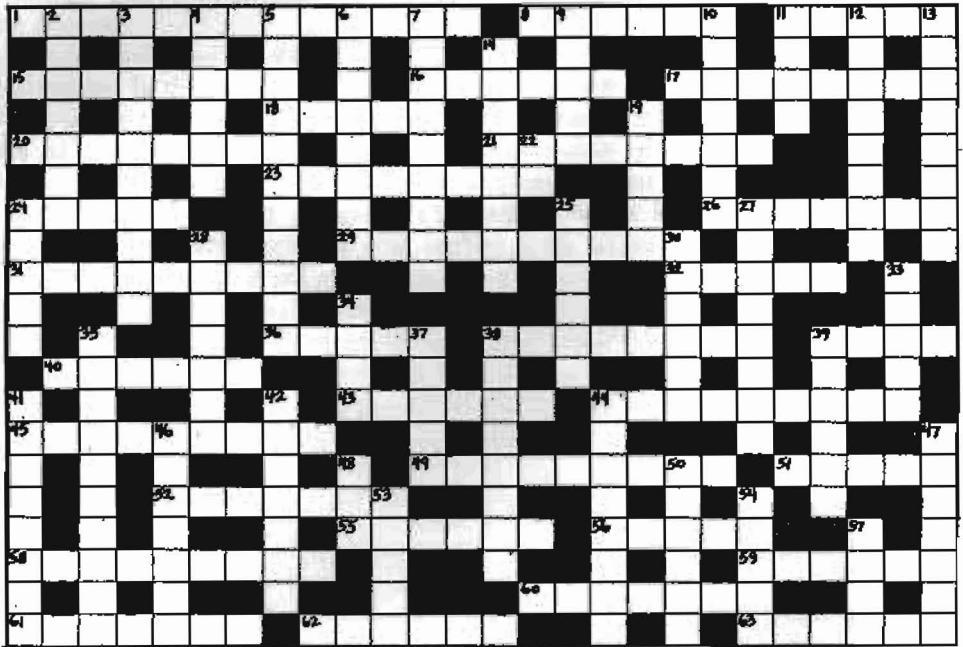
Presented below is a crossword puzzle designed to test the ingenuity of even the most skillful solvers. The pattern provides for a generous number of unkeyed letters, resembling the style of British crosswords, and its freedom from the strait jacket of symmetry is a refreshing novelty.

The real innovation, however, is in the form of the definitions or clues, which does not correspond to any conventional style, British or American. To give you an idea of what you may expect in attempting to solve the puzzle, we might define NET by using the admonition, "Look to the stars for this," since Reticulum—the NET—is a southern constellation. Similarly, the clue, "Grab your pencil boldly and firmly" would point to HARDLY as the solution word; "Terrible, isn't he?" would describe IVAN; and the word MEDIA might inspire a clue such as, "They'll keep you in spirits."

Naturally, you may expect some of the answer words, or even a good many of them, to be considerably less common than the examples just cited. However, all of them can be found either in the Second or in the Third Edition of *Webster's New International Dictionary*, as may the definitions on which the puzzle clues are based.

Credit for constructing this crossword puzzle goes to Mr. Edward L. Lee, of St. Petersburg, Florida, one of America's foremost puzzle constructors. Will you be able to take the corresponding credit for solving it?

The correct solution to our baffler will be published in the next issue of WORD WAYS, with an explanation of the more tantalizing clues.

*The Crossword Diagram**Horizontal Clues*

1. Change you cannot spend.
8. An angrier redskin.
11. Drink hearty—it's holy!
15. What prisoners may pray for.
16. A sad road to travel.
17. The bark of the goatbush is seldom heard.
18. From the land of the unfree . . .
20. Kind of long for an abbreviation.
21. A little is dangerous, they say.
23. Name it if you can!
24. It is used with a palm branch.
26. A sneaky, snaky place to drink.
29. He slept for 57 years.
31. This path is straight or oblique.
32. Blessed be the tie that binds.
36. Living like Eskimos.
38. Girls that changed to birds.
39. Burlesque queens don't grind like this.
40. They go up and down.
43. Don't talk about it; just throw it.
44. Often the cause of death.
45. Deserving of the prize.
49. Not even a bit of evidence.

*Vertical Clues*

2. Bubble, bubble, causes trouble!
3. It makes no never minds.
4. She married a tenor violin's twin brother.
5. An elevated vessel.
6. All scrambled up . . .
7. A female ape.
9. Mottled glasses.
10. A holy district.
11. Something sailors used to sail around.
12. Smell anything fishy?
13. He was here first!
14. With all the trimmings.
19. Something to climb in Scotland.
22. Do it with ease.
24. This race isn't on the level.
25. This will win you two for one.
27. Rob me blind if it isn't Robin Hood!
28. It's a big lie!
30. It has thin, parallel blades.
33. This sharpie picked a pig to win.
34. He taught the art of making love.
35. Eavesdrop.
37. Often seen at a carnival.

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|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 51. Get Georgia on your mind for this.        | 38. Keeps one scratching.              |
| 52. His car was off.                          | 39. He cut off her head reflectively.  |
| 55. Drains England dry!                       | 41. Strings and lumps.                 |
| 56. You won't find this suit in a card deck.  | 42. The state you are probably now in. |
| 58. The ghost of time.                        | 44. Old men often lose it.             |
| 59. Try and get it!                           | 46. It makes things shine.             |
| 60. Work that rhymes with a month.            | 47. Can you top this one?              |
| 61. It catches flies in the Pacific.          | 48. Round and round the base we go.    |
| 62. They're descended from bop, pal           | 50. Swell swill for Arabians.          |
| 63. Wattle I do, like a stupid sitting goose? | 53. For those who have preceded us.    |
|                                               | 54. Something's gone wrong here.       |
|                                               | 57. Wolf call.                         |

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## CIRCULAR DRESSING

Do you have trouble remembering how to spell MAYONNAISE correctly?

There is a simple mnemonic device that will solve your problem. Write the word along the circumference of a circle, so that its last letter is immediately followed by its first letter. Now read the word backwards, starting at the letter I. If you have spelled the word correctly, the sentence, "I ANNOY AMES!" will greet you.

Should you want a financial reward for your achievement, scramble the ten letters, and you'll have ASIAN MONEY!

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## IMPROVING A PROVERB

For more than 600 years, speakers of the English language have bemused themselves with a proverb which, in its modern form, states that "a rolling stone gathers no moss." Anything repeated for so long a time becomes trite and outworn. We propose, therefore, to infuse a new spirit into this worthy adage by dressing it up in more colorful verbiage. What we have in mind reads somewhat as follows:

"While bryophytic plants are typically encountered on substrata of earthly or mineral matter in concreted state, discrete substrata elements occasionally display a roughly spherical configuration which, in the presence of suitable gravitational and other effects, lends itself to a combined translatory and rotational motion. One notices in such cases an absence of the otherwise typical accretion of bryophyta."

There are many other time-honored proverbs desperately in need of a similar rejuvenation. Readers are urged to address themselves to this vital project, and to send in the fruit of their labors, for future publication.