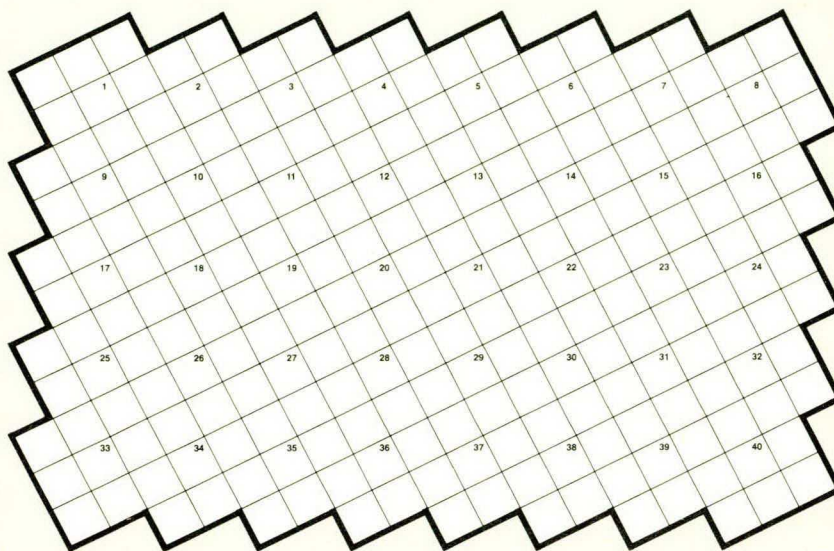


THE PUZZLER

BY EMILY COX AND HENRY RATHVON

FORTY-NINERS

Each of this puzzle's 40 clues has a nine-letter answer. Every answer should be entered with its first letter in the correspondingly numbered square and the remaining eight letters rotating around that square sequentially. Neighboring answers should help in determining where the eight-letter sequences begin and whether they go clockwise or counterclockwise. In addition, the twelve letters at the diagram's corners, reading clockwise from one of those corners, will provide an appropriate setting. Answers include a variant spelling at 24 and one proper noun.



The answers to last month's Puzzler appear on page 79.

CLUES

1. Mysterious piece of gold found in reworked mine (Act I)
2. Worn-out patent let go
3. Announce failing as dieter, gaining five
4. Lid with knot covering barrel in entrance
5. French general's infantile outfit taking on Air Force
6. Prosecutor slipped away, returning with flowers
7. Revenuers collecting on mid-month date must be brave men
8. Unfortunately, chose poor forecast
9. Puck winding up in the air
10. Mastery of piano in use is excellent
11. Appreciate receiving one honker's explanations
12. Prove a sun exploded in astronomical event
13. Shame about getting into argument
14. Removes ducks around island
15. Unions upset about termination hints
16. Timely pop or punk song
17. Required fellow to run in 24 hours
18. Artist's appeal garnering scrap
19. Animals in Noah's ark go wild, ditching Noah finally
20. One Swiss city in enmity with rest during the winter
21. After 51, Roberta changed, becoming freer
22. Business operating amid strike mania
23. Canteen is breaking lease terms
24. Tops back road around one high school (*two words*)
25. Watch out for the contents of meat hash
26. Worms carry off prospector's supplies
27. Two-base hit goes over head of the shortstop, for sure
28. Walk with nutty poetess in march (*hyphenated*)
29. Chew or burp in highest-altitude aircraft
30. Plump up large bird rejected some time before Easter
31. Prohibition put the heartless Republican in charge
32. Send riper bananas, washed beforehand
33. Priest stowing brother's telescope
34. Take a breather with oxygen during unyielding conflagration
35. Sea gull trapped by a delayed switch
36. Comments from enemies about a TV Indian from the east
37. Then lump of charcoal has nickname
38. Rock quarry containing Yale alumnus shrine
39. Ill-tempered lament about the cot being bumpy
40. Cattlemen conducted church with love

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 envelope to The Atlantic Puzzler, 8 Arlington Street, Boston, Mass. 02116.