

# The Atlantic PUZZLER

by Emily Cox and Henry Rathvon

## THEME AND VARIATIONS

(Acknowledgments to *The Listener*)

Nine lights (i.e., diagram entries) are unclued. These include three Theme Words, A, B, and C, a familiar group (one of them a two-word entry). Each Theme Word has two Variations—words related to it in some way. For instance, if the Theme Word is *Reindeer*, its Variations may be *Comet* and *Cupid*, two examples, or *rain* and *dear*, homophones of its component parts. Each Theme Word is related to its Variations in a different way.

Clue answers include one proper noun. Punctuation in the clues may be used deceptively.

### ACROSS

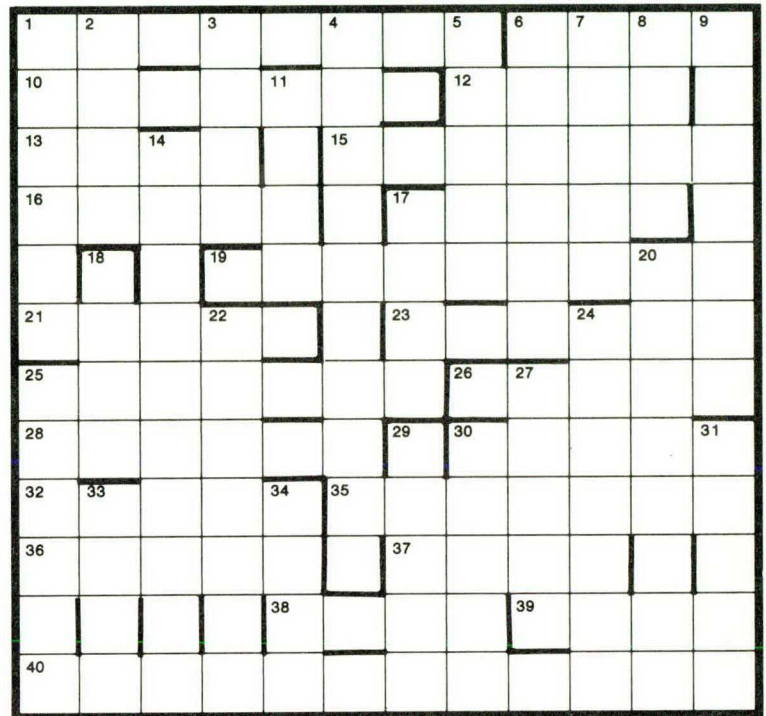
1. Thinks, eats, wraps present (8)
6. Theme Word A
10. Period in macaronic poet's work (7)
12. Spike can puncture at the end (4)
13. Helping a couple of Mexicans with pronunciation (4)
15. Spiritual mediums with little craft losing face (7)
16. Variation on B
17. President in '50 died highly regarded (5)
19. It might be Winston Churchill's primary target—i.e., maneuvering (9)
21. Light's counterpart (5)
23. Variation on C
25. Sailor, unassisted, gets sea creature (7)
26. Crass wound marks (5)
28. Take journey around the middle of December (6)
30. Theme Word B
32. Variation on C

35. Someone with self-discipline may have skill in bridge (7)
36. Herod misrepresented in mass (5)
37. Right sort of dessert food (4)
38. The opposite of melancholy in spirit! (4)
39. A free desert (4)
40. Taking again of tinted camera shot (12)

### DOWN

1. Variation on A
2. At company this would be promised discount (4)
3. Ready to run—get up and go outside (4)
4. Sign tossed out for lack of imagination (10)
5. Excitement about a way to get high (5)
6. Variation on A

7. In brook's mouth (5)
8. Born and died in poverty (4)
9. Grotesque scab covers messy, skinless wound (7)
11. Opposing view in *The Atlantic* (4)
14. Theme Word C
17. Bind fifty-one (4)
18. Child born to Abraham (4)
20. Double portion of salt and one cup of a mineral substance (8)
22. Odd clue is not clear! (7)
24. About one pound, bird is light (7)
25. Someone who's like Cupid or more mischievous? (6)
27. About 101 car crashes (5)
29. Take up canvases, get fish (5)
30. Variation on B
31. Positive side to a poem (5)
33. Pointless worship? (4)
34. Appear in meeting place with speech (4)



**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 103.*