Cryptic Puzzle | TOM TOCE

Agonister

NOW THAT THIS PUZZLE FEATURE has been running for several months, I've had the opportunity to meet and communicate with many of its solvers. At an actuarial meeting last fall, I was asked whether I also enjoyed Sudoku puzzles. The answer is, I used to, but after the 12-step program, I've managed to cut back a bit.

	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
a			S						
b			E		S	T	A	N	G
c		G					R	E	
d	N	A	O						
e			R						
f									
g						O	N	I	
h					E	R	G		
i									

I got to thinking, though, that Sudoku, which usually employs numbers, has great natural appeal for actuaries. And I thought a combination cryptic/Sudoku might rock everyone's world.

The completed diagram will meet Sudoku requirements: The nine letters A, E, G, I, N, O, R, S, T will each appear once in every row, once in every column, and once in every 3 × 3 square.

To get you started, 20 letters spelling out IGNORE STRANGE ORANGES have been provided.

But these letters are insufficient for solving this Sudoku the regular way. To arrive at a unique solution, at least some of the clues must be solved. There are 81 letters to be derived from the clues, which will fill the 81 squares in the diagram. Starting and ending points are provided (and shaded in the diagram, as additional guidance). The answers can be read from adjacent squares, moving up, down, left, right, or diagonally, just as IGNORE, STRANGE, and ORANGES can now be read.

A correct solution will include the answers to the 18 clues as well as a properly filled out Sudoku diagram

All of the answers are common words. There are three out-and-out proper nouns and two semi-proper nouns. (A semi-proper noun can occur, for example, in a double definition clue where one of the double definitions is a proper noun and the other isn't.)

The clues are all cryptic clues. This means that one end is a fairly straightforward definition of the answer, while the other is an alternative, often mechanical, way of getting to the same word. The mechanical means I may use include puns, homophones, anagrams, constructions, and double definitions. (For a further explanation of cryptic clues, e-mail me at Thomas.Toce@ey.com.) Ignore punctuation, which is intended to mislead.

Thanks to Eric Klis for his test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Solutions may be e-mailed to the author at Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must by received by May 31, 2009.

This Issue's Clues

a1..a2 No, a retrocessional broker (3)
a3..a4 Observe Benedict's chair (3)
a6..b6 Something compelling by Juan the Cubist at last (5)
b1..g2 Brin, Sergey embracing Salon employee (6)
b9..c9 Boodles and Tanqueray at Whitney designs (4)
c2..e3 Ron Guidry is running back in Florida (5)
c4..f5 Inert gas after entropy (groan) (5)
c6..d7 Corigliano is elegantly incorporating cacophony (5)
c8..a8 She inspires lyric poets to orate crazily (5)
d9...e7 Dance and catch some rays in Argentina? Vamos! (5)
e5..f6 Alternative to coffee break—eat! (3)
g4..f3 Sang off-key with difficulty (4)
g5..h7 In operation--and wearing out (5)
h2..i2 Omen stated in trigonometric function (4)
h8..f8 Tires badly at mezzanine and upper deck (5)
i1..e2 Mafia don took a leading tone (5)
i6..h5 Angry, self-defining statement made by a pricing actuary? (5)
i9..i7 Ben-Hur employed these alternatives stereophonically (4)


CORBIS

Triangles Solution

There was an error in the triangles puzzle, which several solvers pointed out. I mixed up "sewn" and sown." The mechanical definition led to "sown," but the straight definition would have been "sewn." I regret this error and appreciate those who pointed it out.

UP TRIANGLES

1-2-3-4 CANS—homophone of "Cannes's" ("film festival's")

2-5-6-7 PANS—reversal of SNAP ("kind of judgment")

4-7-8-9 PACT—homophone of "packed" ("kind of snow")

5-10-11-12 HONE—PHONE ("call this number") – P

7-12-13-14 PEON—homophone of "pee on" ("urinate all over")

9-14-15-16 ROUT—"tour" anagram

10-17-18-19 RON—"noir" anagram

12-19-20-21 BREW—BREADWINNER ("family's provider") – "A DINNER"

14-21-22-23 BOMB—insert "OM" ("meditative tone") into "B.B." ("guitarist king")

16-23-24-25 TUBA—"but a" anagram

17-26-27-28 TIDY—insert "ID" ("drive") into "TY" ("Cobb")

19-28-29-30 LARD—LAIRD ("Melvin in Nixon's cabinet") – I

21-30-31-32 BOLD —homophone of "bowled" ("thrown in the alley")

23-32-33-34 BODE—homophone of "bowed" ("played the violin")

25-34-35-36 AVER—"rave" anagram

26-37-38-39 LAST—triple definition

28-39-40-41 DILL—D ("five hundred") + ILL ("sick")

30-41-42-43 SOIL—"Lois" anagram

32-43-44-45 DOWN—double definition

34-45-46-47 EARN—homophone of "urn" ("pot of coffee")

36-47-48-49 RAID—double definition

37-50-51-52 GAUL—homophone of "gall" ("chutzpah")

39-52-53-54 CLUE—delete the odd letters in "e coli uses"

41-54-55-56 CLIP—second through fifth letters of "eclipse"

43-56-57-58 LOAN—homophone of "lone" ("sole")

45-58-59-60 CANE—CA ("California") + NE ("Nebraska")

47-60-61-62 CLAW—C ("copyright") + "law"

49-62-63-64 LISA—"Ilsa" anagram
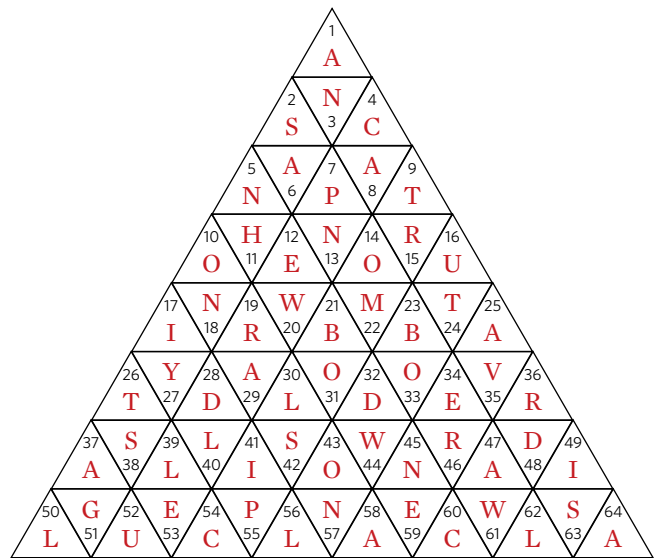
DOWN TRIANGLES

6-7-8-13 NAPA—"Japan" reversed - J

11-12-13-20 WHEN—noW HENrik

13-14-15-22 NORM—NORMA ("Bellini opera") – A

18-19-20-29 WARN—WA ("Washington") + RN ("nurse")

20-21-22-31 WOMB—WOMBAT ("marsupial") – AT ("present")

22-23-24-33 TOMB—TOM ("your author") + B ("second-rate")

27-28-29-40 LADY—anagram of "Dylan" – N

29-30-31-42 ALSO—"Laos" anagram

31-32-33-44 WOOD—homophone of WOULD ("is willing")

33-34-35-46 ROVE—double definition

38-39-40-53 SELL—homophone of CEL ("phone")

40-41-42-55 LISP—double definition & literally

42-43-44-57 SOWN—"now's" anagram

44-45-46-59 WREN—double definition

46-47-48-61 WARD—"draw" anagram

One reason casualty actuaries find triangles so compelling: ACTUARIAL CALCULATIONS.

Solvers

Tim Adams, Steve Alpert, Dean Apps, Karl Baker, Steven Barclay, Jan Brown, Andrew Buckley, Bob Camp, Bob Campbell, Lois Abel Cappellano, Todd Dashoff, Mark Daulby, Josh DenHartog, Mick Diede, Gregory Dreher, Ryan Elmore and Wade Hess, Tim Fitzgibbons, Nick Franceshine, Bob Gardner, Olivia Giuntini, Elliott Goldstick, Philip Gollance, George Green, Rich Harder, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, Ruth Howald, Paul Ivanovskis, Brian Klimek, Eric Klis, Andrew Lang, Philip Lew, Dave McGarry, Lee Michelson, Jon Michelson, Brett Miller, Jim Muza, Anil Narale, Alan Putney, Ralph Reese, Debbie Rosenberg, Corinne Rozon, Lou Scarim, Bill Scott, Bob Share, Philip Silverman, Jonah Smith, Tim Swankey, Betsey Uzzell, Arlene Woodruff, Frank Zaret

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