

Hurricanes

IN SEPTEMBER, it's natural for an actuary's thoughts to turn to hurricanes. The following sonnet contains the anagrammed names of 14 of the most significant Atlantic hurricanes of the past 60 years. The anagrams are of either one or two words. The two-word anagrams always involve consecutive words. The other words in the poem are meaningless, at least as far as clueing goes.

In some cases, the hurricane's name is a one-word anagram. In other cases, it's a two-word anagram. Sometimes the two consecutive words will yield two hurricane names.

It's not necessarily true, as a result, that each line yields one hurricane name. Each pair of lines does yield a pair of hurricanes, though. Every line of the poem contains some anagram fodder.

September Song

Our storm preparedness was not in vain.
 The air tank in the basement eased our fright.
 And on that wondrous, awesome, wretched night,
 We sat and watched James Dean be quite a pain.
 Our set, by turns, was tuned to weather porn.
 "I'll devastate your cities," warned the wind.
 Some felt, no doubt, that God decreed they'd sinned.
 In our house, we treat Blaise Pascal with scorn.
 What hell is this? The TV cord's been yanked?
 Is that why East of Eden's now a blur?
 The law, I'm told, says power lines have snapped.
 We must lie calm and thank who must be thanked.
 Is this a Five or Four? A Him or Her?
 Alacrity in any case seems apt.

You might wonder whether 2007's Hurricane Dean fits the category. It does. But Dean is not the hurricane I have in mind for Line 4. There's another one whose name is truly anagrammed in the line.

One of the hurricanes comes from the 1950s, three from the 1960s, none from the relatively quiescent 1970s and 1980s, and one from the 1990s. The other nine were 21st-century storms.

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

Last issue's solvers:

Arlen Aakre, Michael and Jina Accardo, Anthony Amodeo, Dean Apps, Chanel Au, Karl Baker, Damian Birnstihl, Jack Brauner, Jan Brown, Andrew Buckley, Tim Buckner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Chris Carlson, Christian Coleianne, Tim Connor, Ann Conway, Jonathan Currier, Todd Dashoff, Mick Diede, Dave Dougherty, Greg Dreher, Mathew Eberhardt, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Sean Forbes, Nick Franceschine, Bruce Fuller, Mike Giampa, Olivia Giuntini, Phil Gollance, Timothy Grusenmeyer, Paul Haley, Walter Haner, Rich Harder, Jason Helbraun, Pete Hepokoski, John Herder, Robert Himmelstein, J and J Holloman, Ruth Howald, Ruth Johnson, Brian Klimek, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Nathan Kukla, Philip Lew, Charlie Linn, Tim Luker, Dave McGarry, Jerry Miccolis, Jon Michelson, Lee Michelson, Brett Miller, Becky Moody, Jim Murray, Jim Muza, Ray Niswander, Bill Penrose, Deb Poppel, David and Corinne Promislow, Alan Putney, Joe Rakstad, Francis de Regnaucourt, Jeff Reynolds, Daniel Rhodes, David Rueth, Eric Savage, Leon Schmerhold, Craig Schmid, Jason Schultz, Andrew Shewan, Martin Simons, Sally Jane Smith, Ethan Stroh, Doug Szper, Tom Timmermann, David Treble, Todd Trimble, Jon Turnes, Betsy Uzzell, Dave Wallman, Jim Wickwire, Arlene Woodruff, John Zalewski, Frank Zaret

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Solutions may be emailed to Thomas.Toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Sept. 30, 2013.

Previous Issue's Puzzle—Cryptic Acrostic

The quote is from the song “Crossword Puzzle,” lyrics by Richard Maltby and music by David Shire. It’s from their 1970s stage revue called *Starting Here, Starting Now*. Maltby is a well-known theater lyricist and director. He took over creating cryptic puzzles for *New York* magazine from Stephen Sondheim in the 1960s, then moved on to *Harper’s*, where I first encountered his puzzles in the late 1970s. He still creates a cryptic puzzle for *Harper’s* each month.

“I am sitting here doing the Sunday *Times* crossword puzzle, somehow the words won’t come. I am staring at squares, but my eyes never focus and my mind’s feeling strangely numb.”

Clues

- A. Haphazard careen ruins business, one assumes? R E I N S U R A N C E
104 12 124 18 84 24 88 130 136 34 98
- B. First pair of Quakers within Moses’ houses of worship M O S Q U E S
3 69 127 85 137 48 75
- C. Good things coming from idiots taking time A S S E T S
27 37 119 71 7 109
- D. “Long Island skill” means weakness L I A B I L I T Y
47 17 77 91 72 123 5 29 135
- E. Conflicted actor: R.I.P. T R O N
20 50 61 117
- F. Filling up B A T T I N G
139 2 128 67 79 100 132
- G. Manipulating Rodney from afar Y O N D E R
28 16 80 42 121 13
- H. Abnormal sacs seen in baseball’s young specialists after the eighth C Y S T S
107 114 9 6 49
- I. Matching frosty overtones R H Y M E D
35 57 95 51 103 62
- J. In regards to North Dakota going after mortgage insurer without preparation O F F H A N D
65 105 120 21 87 131 26
- K. Crawled an indefinite amount around Watts S W U M
38 59 44 74
- L. Wingman’s shifting a bit to two-position player S W I N G M A N
23 64 8 125 81 138 82 25
- M. Anyone would at first hover around me W H O M E V E R
55 11 60 115 32 102 14 78
- N. Produce more peeps, amount uncertain O U T M A N
54 86 93 31 110 5
- O. Made a contract with weak red ten R E N T E D
41 133 111 56 96 118
- P. Order to take down placards? D E S I G N
15 101 33 116 126 66
- Q. Extra costs surrounding premenopausal medium P R E M I U M
43 129 52 70 1 108 113
- R. Fortune 100 company following its country’s custom U S A G E
92 90 73 10 122
- S. At its core, “Dizzy Got Ella” is a fruitful collaboration Z Y G O T E
45 97 19 40 83 22
- T. Hums Mendelssohn’s First inside madhouses Z O O M S
46 106 36 94 4
- U. Weld running is in bad taste L E W D
134 58 39 112
- V. Tech is loose in morals E T H I C S
89 76 53 30 68 63

- A. REINSURANCE—Anagram of “careen ruins”
 B. MOSQUES—MO(SQ)SES (“First pair of Quakers within Moses”)
 C. ASSETS—ASSE (“idiots”) around T (“taking time”)
 D. LIABILITY—LI (“Long Island”) + ABILITY (“skill”)
 E. TORN—Double definition (referring to the actor Rip Torn)
 F. BATTING—Double definition

- G. YONDER—Anagram of “Rodney”
 H. CYSTS—CY (“baseball’s young,” i.e., Cy Young) + STS (“specialists after the eighth”)
 I. RHYMED—Homophone of “rimed” (“frosty overtones”)
 J. OFFHAND—OF (“In regards to”) with ND (“North Dakota”) “going after” FHA (“mortgage insurer”)
 K. SWUM—SUM (“an indefinite amount”) around W (“Watts”)

Q 1		F 2	B 3		T 4	D 5	H 6	C 7
I		A	M		S	I	T	T
L 8	N 9	R 10		M 11	A 12	G 13	M 14	
I	N	G		H	E	R	E	
P 15	G 16	D 17	A 18	S 19		E 20	J 21	S 22
D	O	I	N	G		T	H	E
	L 23	A 24	L 25	J 26	C 27	G 28		D 29
	S	U	N	D	A	Y		T
V 30	N 31	M 32	P 33		A 34	I 35	T 36	C 37
I	M	E	S		C	R	O	S
K 38	U 39	S 40	O 41	G 42		Q 43	K 44	S 45
S	W	O	R	D		P	U	Z
T 46	D 47	B 48		H 49	E 50	I 51	Q 52	V 53
Z	L	E		S	O	M	E	H
N 54	M 55		O 56	I 57	U 58		K 59	M 60
O	W		T	H	E		W	O
E 61	I 62	V 63		L 64	J 65	P 66	F 67	
R	D	S		W	O	N	T	
V 68	B 69	Q 70	C 71		D 72		R 73	K 74
C	O	M	E		I		A	M
	B 75	V 76	D 77	M 78	F 79	G 80	L 81	
	S	T	A	R	I	N	G	
L 82	S 83		A 84	B 85	N 86	J 87	A 88	V 89
A	T		S	Q	U	A	R	E
R 90		D 91	R 92	N 93		T 94	I 95	
S		B	U	T		M	Y	
O 96	S 97	A 98	H 99		F 100	P 101	M 102	I 103
E	Y	E	S		N	E	V	E
A 104		J 105	T 106	H 107	Q 108	C 109		N 110
R		F	O	C	U	S		A
O 111	U 112		Q 113	H 114		M 115	P 116	E 117
N	D		M	Y		M	I	N
O 118	C 119		J 120	G 121	R 122	D 123	A 124	L 125
D	S		F	E	E	L	I	N
P 126		B 127	F 128	Q 129	A 130	J 131	F 132	O 133
G		S	T	R	A	N	G	E
U 134	D 135		A 136	B 137	L 138	F 139		
L	Y		N	U	M	B		

- L. SWINGMAN—Anagram of “Wingman’s”
 M. WHOMEVER—W (“at first would”) + HOVER over ME (“around me”)
 N. OUTMAN—Anagram of “amount”
 O. RENTED—Anagram of “red ten”
 P. DESIGN—Pun on de-sign (“take down placards”)
 Q. PREMIUM—Outside of “prescient medium”
 R. USAGE—GE (“Fortune 100 company”) following USA (“its country”)
 S. ZYGOTE—Hidden in “Dizzy Got Ella”
 T. ZOOMS—M (“Mendelssohn’s First”) inside ZOOS (“madhouses”)
 U. LEWD—Anagram of “Weld”
 V. ETHICS—Anagram of “Is Tech”