

## Cryptic Corners

**HERE'S ANOTHER PUZZLE** constructed by one of my test solvers, Jerry Miccolis. Jerry is a retired actuary. He is a serious crossword constructor and lately, an author. Look for his book *The Boys of Late Summer*, which is about his senior softball team.

I leave you with Jerry's introduction.

"Welcome to Cryptic Corners, a fun little gathering place for creative solvers! Here you'll find a standard cryptic puzzle, at least as far as the clues are concerned. Within both grids below, there are (arguably) two proper names and one alternate (though quite common) spelling among the answers—even so, all entries, including each of the three words contained in the long central entry at 17 Across, are playable in Scrabble.

When you have completely filled in the irregularly shaped grid, you may wish to (at least mentally) cut it out along its outside edge. The next step is hinted at in that long central entry. Thereupon you will find eight aptly placed letter triplets, each of which provides three of the four letters needed to answer one of the eight "cornerstone" clues below. The letters you will need to add to complete those eight answers—letters whose squares you may wish to heavily outline in the supplemental grid provided for your convenience—will spell out, from top to bottom, what you will have compiled from all your creative work. Get there, and you will have displayed quite a gift!

Many thanks to my fellow crypticians, Bob Fink, Eric Klis, and regular columnist Tom Toce, for their excellent advice and suggestions during the development of this puzzle. Hope you enjoy it! As always, be wary of punctuation, which has been known to deceive."

### Across

1. Commerce or State, e.g., have for starters many great players (5)
4. Overstuffs cases, lacking time (5)
5. Terminal A dedicated passage (5)
7. WHO's parent sounds altogether awful (6)
10. Sun is exploding. Kind of a headache (5)
12. Los Angeles rookie gamely executes suicide squeeze in the first—a huge contribution (7)
17. Needing more structure, boys squirmed, seem real agitated (4,8,8)
18. Sailor achieves objectives (7)
19. Drive off retreating pariah (5)
22. Gasp "Hooray" before ref loses support (6)
23. Confidential statement rattled aides (5)
24. His and her true beneficiary (5)
25. Slow movement is key in Florida (5)

### Down

1. Unnerve and insult Spider-Man's aunt (6)
2. NY/NJ rapid transit operating system produces deep sadness (6)
3. Hustle takes in Hamilton (6)
6. Around 2001, communist arose as regulator of resistance (6)
7. Disturbed little green man dogs big brown truck (5)
8. Epic poet is a big hit (5)
9. Add yeast before the last drop (5)
11. Genres for singer/actor Harry (6)
12. Look sideways and stumble over (4)
13. Harsh sound from a dog, say (5)
14. Ghostly, empty, lake town (5)
15. Small, useless edge (5)
16. Demands duties, taking 20% off the top (4)
20. Soft-hued petals strewn about (6)
21. First-degree metal in earth's core (6)
22. Eccentric female deer identifying themselves to anyone who'll listen (6)

1			2			3																				
			4																							
			5						6																	
7			8			9			10			11			12			13			14			15		
									16																	
17																										
18									19			20			21			22								

**HINTS**

1. What common three-dimensional shape can the cut-out grid be folded into?

2. What structural features does this three-dimensional shape have eight of?

**Cornerstone Clues**

				Sing lustily for supporting band (4)
				Detroit's "Mr. Hockey" found in what state by error? (4)
				Gorilla crossing point (4)
				Discussed parties' membership fees (4)
				Woman and boy in front of health club (4)
				Piggies regularly seen out back (4)
				Pick up mad hare (4)
				Jessica Rabbit could carry one—and sounds like one? (4)

**TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame. Solutions may be emailed to him at [Thomas.Toce@ey.com](mailto:Thomas.Toce@ey.com). In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Sept. 30, 2020.**

**Previous Issue's Puzzle—Triply Cryptic**

**Across**

- 1 PONCHO—*Pancho* hom.
- 6 EARDRUM—heard RUMblings (hid.)
- 13 ENEMY—ENEM(Y) (A→Y)
- 14 OBOE—hOBO Elusively (hid.)
- 15 SEWN—*sown* hom.
- 16 SEE SPECIAL CLUES
- 17 SPED—S&P + ED
- 18 RAIN—*reign* hom.
- 20 JERKING—JER + KING
- 22 CORNED—CO(RN)ED
- 23 SPEWED—SPE(W)ED
- 26 SLOPED—S + LOPED
- 27 ERGO—hER GOat's (hid.)
- 28 ASPEN—grASP + bENT (hid. + hid.)
- 30 SEE SPECIAL CLUES
- 31 RISKS—(skiers - e) ana.
- 33 CART—CA + RT
- 34 HARPED—HARP + ED (oPRAH - o) rev.
- 37 TALENT—latent ana.
- 38 UNEVEN—fUN EVENts (hid.)
- 39 ORIOLES—OuR tlvO bLeEpS (hid.)
- 42 PROP—(PORPoise - oise) rev.
- 44 MARK—double defn.
- 45 SEE SPECIAL CLUES
- 46 TWIN—TW + IN
- 47 REEK—cREEks (hid.)
- 48 AGENT—A + GENT
- 49 THEATRE—baTHE AT RESt (hid.)
- 50 SLEDGE—SLED + G.E.

**Down**

- 1 PEST—*step* ana.
- 2 ONEROUS—ONER (*Reno* rev.) + iOUS (*i* del.)
- 3 NEWARK—NEW + ARK
- 4 HYMN—N(MY)H rev.
- 5 OVERDO—O(V)ERDO (*rodeo* ana.)
- 6 EON—*one* ana.
- 7 ABLE—fABLE
- 8 ROARED—*adorer* ana.
- 9 DESK—D + E + S + K (last letters)
- 10 RAPIERS—*repairs* ana.
- 11 UPEND—sUsPEND (SS del.)
- 12 SEE SPECIAL CLUES
- 19 INSET—(I *sent*) ana.
- 21 GOOSE—double defn.
- 23 SEE SPECIAL CLUES

- 24 PER—*rep* rev.
- 25 MACHO—M + A + C + H + O (first letters)
- 27 EIDER—(*deer I*) ana.
- 29 PRAIRIE—PR + AIR + I.E.
- 30 FAN—(NA+ F) rev.
- 32 KEEPING—(*geek pin*) ana.
- 34 HELMET—HE + L + ME + T
- 35 PURSES—PURSuES (*u* del.)
- 36 AVOWED—A + V + OWED
- 37 TRASH—TR(A)SH (I → A)
- 40 OKRA—OK + R + A
- 41 EVER—sEVER (*s* del.)
- 42 PEAL—PEA + L (*ape* ana.)
- 43 ANTE—Auntie hom.
- 44 SEE SPECIAL CLUES

- 45 UKE—fLUKE (FL del.)

**Special Clues**

- A PORTS—double defn.
- B INMATES—INtiMATES (T.I. del.)
- C DAM—eDAM (hid.)
- D EWES—fEWESt (*ft* del.)
- E IMMENSE—(*meme's* in) ana.
- F FORE—FOREman (*man* del.)

**Modified Grid Entry**

- A SPORT—*ports* ana.
- B MAT—inMATes (hid.)
- C MAD—*mad* rev.
- D USE—*ewes* hom.
- E MEN—imMENse (hid.)
- F FOR—*fore* hom.

**Final Clue**

Mad men use mat for sport (9)

**Final Answer**

AMUSEMENT—(*men use mat*) ana.

**Solvers**

Team AALO (Kristen Bischoff, Danny Clark, Kristen Detwiler, Alec Pirritano), Steve Alpert, Anthony Amodeo, Dean Apps, Jack Brauner, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Mick Diede, Sean Donohoe, Deb Edwards, Mendy Friedman, Bruce Fuller, Phil Gollance, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Ruth Johnson, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Mike Kosciuk, Ken Kudrak, Ben Lynch, Michael Manos, Dave McGarry, Jon Michelson, Jim Muza, David and Corinne Promislow, Bill Scott, Sally Smith, Zig Swistunowicz, Team KT (Katie Anderson & Megan Taylor), T. O. C. E. (Josh DenHartog and Sean Donohoe), Betsy and James Uzzell, Joshua Wallace, Jim Wickwire

1	P	2	O	3	N	4	C	5	H	6	O	7	E	8	A	9	R	10	D	11	R	12	U	M
13	E	N	14	E	M	15	Y	16	V	17	O	18	B	19	O	20	E	21	A	22	P	23	A	
15	S	16	E	17	W	18	N	19	M	20	E	21	N	22	L	23	A	24	S	25	P	26	E	D
18	T	19	R	20	A	21	I	22	N	23	R	24	J	25	E	26	R	27	K	28	I	29	N	G
22	C	23	O	24	R	25	N	26	E	27	D	28	S	29	P	30	E	31	W	32	E	33	D	O
25	M	26	U	27	K	28	S	29	L	30	O	31	P	32	E	33	D	34	E	35	R	36	G	O
28	A	29	S	30	P	31	E	32	N	33	F	34	O	35	R	36	R	37	I	38	S	39	K	S
33	C	34	A	35	R	36	T	37	H	38	A	39	R	40	P	41	E	42	D	43	A	44	E	E
37	H	38	T	39	A	40	L	41	E	42	N	43	T	44	U	45	N	46	E	47	V	48	E	N
39	O	40	R	41	I	42	O	43	L	44	E	45	S	46	R	47	P	48	R	49	O	50	P	A
44	M	45	A	46	R	47	K	48	M	49	V	50	U	51	S	52	E	53	T	54	W	55	I	N
47	A	48	S	49	I	50	R	51	E	52	E	53	K	54	E	55	A	56	G	57	E	58	N	T
49	T	50	H	51	E	52	A	53	T	54	R	55	E	56	S	57	L	58	E	59	D	60	G	E