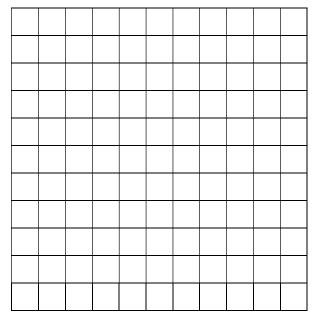
Guest Puzzle #20 – December 2009 "Hit or Miss" (by Arthur Schless)

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to twelve letters, and five are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Warning: The direction in which answers are to be entered alternates with every new row and column. Thus, across words that don't end at the right or left continue on the next row in the opposite direction, and down words that don't end at the bottom or top continue in the next column in the opposite direction. Eleven across words and eleven down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those omitted letter are to be placed outside the grid at the end of the row (right or left) or column (top or bottom) in which they occur. When properly placed, they spell an appropriate four-word phrase reading clockwise around the grid.

Across

- Pence indeed never initially wasted to obtain freedom
- 2. Combat is appropriate starting late
- 3. Upset wild deer circling hapless nag
- 4. Hope radio captures musical drama
- 5. Provoked unhappy incident when knight left
- 6. Red nag frolics in Eden, for one
- 7. Speak timeless stuff
- 8. Game company backing anti rat action within
- 9. A lush and the German touring arena
- 10. Counsel leader to keep plug
- 11. Closely examine founding colony of Manila Bay
- 12. Ravaged faces in saloons
- 13. Voice vote against equine cry
- 14. Coolidge took degree with intriguing group
- 15. Passover without initial summer fruit
- 16. Favored ones go back to dance
- 17. Athlete looks around first of links
- 18. Warn of disorder later
- 19. Give up having nothing and relax
- 20. Tape disfigured crown
- 21. Brad's a bluenose
- 22. Slim boy undressed for dance
- 23. Dawn gold in aspect
- 24. Boast about outfit
- 25. Bring back too much French wine



Down

- 1. Wrought iron plane has no equal
- 2. The urologist has currency
- 3. Mineral mixture of iron and agate
- 4. Unusual need for garden
- 5. Root is hard, gnarled
- 6. Gold in barn can be kept
- 7. Tips of cane added to actual grain
- 8. Impishly I fit pear into alcoholic drink
- 9. Poise handling lab mop
- 10. Desire returns with increase in intensity
- 11. Tree of urban Yankee
- 12. Result of Mendelism
- 13. Skid-free phonograph record
- 14. America's employees have a cause for legal action
- 15. Flower, or lose interest
- 16. Shove mischievous child onto railway
- 17. Insect meeting let out
- 18. Destitution of one editorial
- 19. More unusual apple variety
- 20. Damaged part gets covering
- 21. Choose to hide in helicopter
- 22. Astronaut and Spanish pilot start to race
- 23. Dude running around court gets channeled
- 24. Audacity of finally eating everything
- 25. Bureau of Rochester