

**Solution to Guest Puzzle #68 – December, 2017 "Lightning"**  
 (by Arthur Schless)

<b>T</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>E</b>	B	L	E	F	I	N
H	E	A	R	S	A	Y	C	E	N	S
U	S	R	A	I	C	O	A	T	G	E
N	I	U	S	S	T	U	D	Y	A	R
D	A	G	E	B	I	T	I	N	G	S
E	T	U	P	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	C	A	R	P
R	E	L	A	Y	E	G	O	F	E	A
T	B	A	L	M	P	E	R	S	E	N
O	R	E	P	E	E	A	P	E	R	I
R	I	S	T	R	A	C	S	A	S	S
M	A	T	H	E	R	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>

The mystery entries are **THREE - ON A - MATCH**, and  
 the omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell  
**UNLUCKY STRIKE**

**Across**

1. **THREE**
2. BL(U)EFIN
3. HEARSAY
4. CENSUS
5. RAI(N)COAT
6. GENIUS
7. STUD
8. YARDAGE
9. BITING
10. SETUP
11. **ON A**
12. CARP
13. RELAY
14. (L)EGO
15. FEAT
16. BALM
17. PER(U)
18. SENOR
19. EPEE
20. (C)APER
21. IRIS
22. TRAC(K)
23. SASS(Y)
24. MATHER
25. **MATCH**

**Down**

1. THUNDER(S)TORM
2. HESI(T)ATE
3. BRIAR
4. ARUGULA
5. ESTERASE
6. PALP
7. THESIS
8. BOY
9. MERE
10. BACTINE
11. PEARLY
12. OUT(R)AGE
13. ACME
14. CADI
15. CORP
16. SAFETY
17. NA(I)F
18. SEAT
19. (K)ING
20. AGREERS
21. C(E)NSER
22. SPANISH