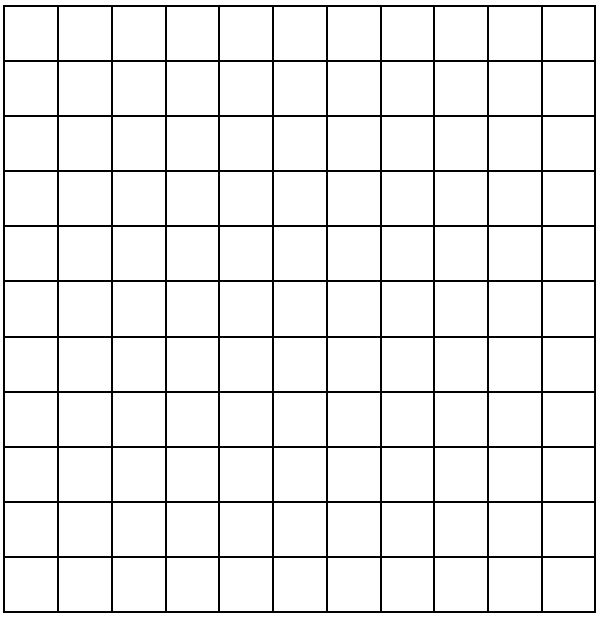
Puzzle # 110 — July 2010 "Topless"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine 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. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Fifteen across words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those fifteen letters, taken in order, spell a six-word phrase that suggests how three down words must be altered before they will fit in the grid. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. The name of a lady with a right to plunder
2. Chair maker has time for a run
3. A very small amount of extra cement
4. Shale processed in semi-arid desert region
5. Chess champion playing the undealt cards
6. A book Sullivan returned is in back
7. Tiny bits of mold and ergot
8. Started to tear and run
9. Soon to get one particle with a charge
10. Crazy group's leader and Muslim official
11. Ground meat is insipid
12. Impulse not to start to clean
13. Reportedly hollow part of feather
14. Papa is back for a little drink
15. Row about it going back
16. North is in harmony for a change
17. New topics in science
18. Lean on Sonny
19. Impulse not to start to throw
20. Sound of dissonant note
21. Spring flowers turned into magic orchids
22. Hardness stops being uniform throughout sandbar
23. Student Charles stupidly makes error only at the beginning
24. Fouled net up with a goober
25. Athens undefended in times gone by
26. Breathless state of an ape in a frenzy
27. Turner's heptagrammatic palindrome

Down

1. Fellow that mixed an alcoholic drink
2. Crown-like part of cracked acorn with core of rot
3. Island's carbon network
4. Reversed single chemical compound
5. Take pride in writing about note
6. Nora's picnic includes jelly
7. Manuscript's opening
8. Chuck made it without English grant
9. Wear out in retirement
10. Pop art
11. Notable pictures about legendary events
12. One hundred in spare change for divider
13. So? Cover a bird
14. Official dwelling in peripheral district
15. Erin's endless rainbow
16. Often one covers part of a joint
17. Eat long, julienned fruit
18. Remove top of pipe instrument
19. Pregnant with rising emotion
20. Stud stage of an insect's development
21. The French farewell is "Go!"
22. Coaster mended with a missing part
23. Argon blown into pipe instrument
24. Margaret Truman's first egg cracker