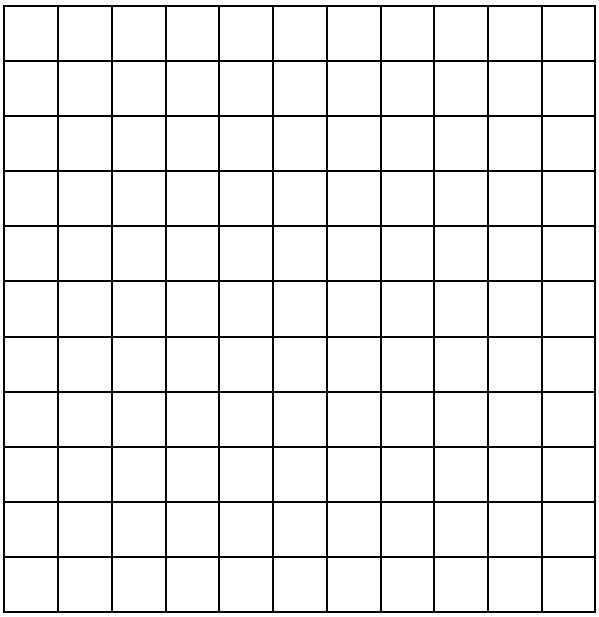
Puzzle #140 January — 2013 "Boundary"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine letters, five are capitalized, and one is hyphenated) 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. Five across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those eleven letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a three-word phrase related to the mystery entries. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Holding device left in military base
3. Heathen Penny and yours truly quitting another time
4. Endlessly polish bone
5. Boxer has energy for a brew
6. Don't start to suffer in heat; wallow in mud
7. Kowalski's wife really started like a star
8. Doctrine of shelter having ecumenical origin
9. One leaves excitement for a slave
10. Squeeze matters into postscript
11. Puerto Rican person is lying
12. Karen Anderson's sphere of action
13. Smother a serpent with rubber
14. Priest keeps me humble
15. Turn buddy around
16. Face-off in bar
17. Incite men to riot after fighting begins
18. A bit of sour malt figures in exchange
19. Thank-you, thank-you and bye-bye
20. Alcoholic poet getting drunk with rabbi
21. Able cop destroyed inactive substance
22. Improve cake mixture using essence of ephedra instead of caramel
23. Easy job: extract first of values from graph of mathematical function
24. *Mystery entry*

Down

1. Molière's invalid covers arm in preserve
2. Sculpt a garnet into a bird
3. Introduce a free PC innovation
4. Earthy quip sacrifices length for tempo
5. Distant meteor is disintegrating
6. Study limits of the novella
7. Foe loses yen for a douche
8. Crazy Bunnie's abandoning author for chemist
9. Sean affected having mental health
10. Urban leader, being out of contact, is replaced by Republican firebrand
11. Look back around storefront before starting later to trade again
12. Be on revised list for prize winner
13. Rear end of headless herring
14. Bookish fellow's beginning to peruse a translation of Dante
15. Gad! One caught in snare with selenium
16. River carrying metal and wood
17. Mark is after ring award
18. Drive out and peel off about ten
19. In every year uncle's made Earl get stronger
20. Driver is right going around end of dike and taking two lefts
21. Feeling endlessly restless, like a cat