

Puzzle #23 – April 2003 "Minnie's Boys"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters), 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 margin continue on the next line below. Down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column to the right. Six across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those twelve letters, taken in order, spell a two-word phrase related to the five unclued mystery words. Answers, aside from mystery words, include three proper names. As ever, I am grateful to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.

Across

- Mystery word*
- Threatening zero in sum improperly divided by zero
- Beginning year at missile plant
- One in dream upset after initially meeting sea creature
- One who leaves with it gets inflammation
- Hesitate in speech as music begins in discordant stream
- Gets teary bishops to hug king
- Drug quietly injected into deer
- Declare everything, for instance, excellent
- Structure houses debut of popular instrumentalist
- Mystery word*
- Crazy crab holds steer in freight vehicle
- Equipment stored in large armory
- Dice thrown cold
- Indians hidden by screen
- Plant of regret
- Fish swallows eel's tail completely
- Meat for every basket
- Swell cloth reported
- Animals that run from naughty child, unfortunately
- Pellet containing rare food
- Copper trips, randomly nabbing fifty offenders
- Mystery word*

Down

- Mystery word*
- Father hit our lover
- His imperfectly masking smile
- Damaged maypole without a use
- Wash greeted in confusion
- Dad bearing up in New guinea territory
- Brush last of crumbling wreck
- What's left of rare lichen
- Dress covers top of large oak
- Distinctive quality of gold and radium
- Stir up most of the brook
- Urgency before Sunday school started
- True, excellent comfort
- Mixed pie preserve for food lover
- Inventor Elias caught in shower
- A game in the past
- Essence of carbon mineral
- Plans bringing sloth to Mississippi
- Insurgent's dance captivates bachelor
- Strange, fractured gemstones
- Initially pink, get peculiar in color when poked
- Occasional unsettling cop raids
- Mystery word*