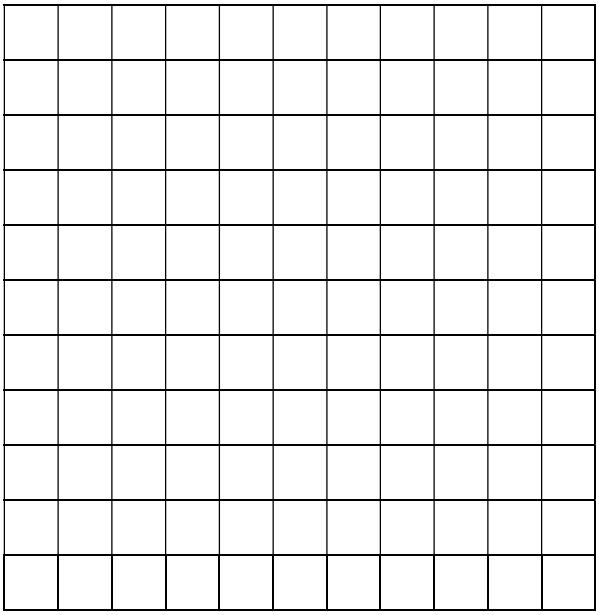
Puzzle #32 – January 2004 "Retrospective"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters and include four proper names), 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. Five across words and five down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those ten letters, taken in order, spell a phrase related to the three mystery entries, which in turn are related to a word that appears nowhere in the puzzle. What is that word? As ever, I am grateful to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. *Mystery word*
2. Battle with sea in Le Havre getting hotter
3. Pound; demolish; raze
4. Of skin in older males
5. Attempt to hold a salver
6. Weapon hidden in tree by those who serve spirits
7. Pierce fabric with tip of needle
8. Twists less erratically catching up
9. Furniture from bride's kitchen
10. Opening pace announced
11. Micro invaders lacking right stones
12. Before meals begin, eat card
13. *Mystery phrase*
14. Policeman with slingshot gets ape
15. Speak of grains, one after another
16. Love embraces rook for protection
17. Meryl is Peter's undoing
18. Unlimited bagel time
19. Cue giver's advocate keeps quiet after losing ring
20. Long speech without one in exchange
21. One mate catching ultimately all the fish
22. Ponders wretchedly about ending all in grandeur
23. *Mystery word*

Down

1. Upset by exploding grenade
2. Badly need car to carry zebra's head and sideboard
3. Collision of vehicle with river
4. Losing head out of anger after writer reveals destitution
5. Lassitude produced by cooking sprout
6. Moving abroad, the French become charming
7. Petty romance engulfs beginner
8. God is, in return, endlessly funny
9. To the Parisian, wind is awe-inspiring
10. Hammer gently, holding fuse
11. One who rolls a joint
12. Stick with two numbers
13. Weapons of Mars at war
14. No more than a pond
15. Spoiled because of mark found in document
16. Less aggressive pitcher
17. Mame; otherwise Miss Woodhouse
18. New feed for old steer, say
19. Suitable digs
20. Perfume promotion wins woman's heart
21. Student of the sun gets check
22. Share bit of egg taken from ruffled parakeet
23. Language on label on a trunk

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