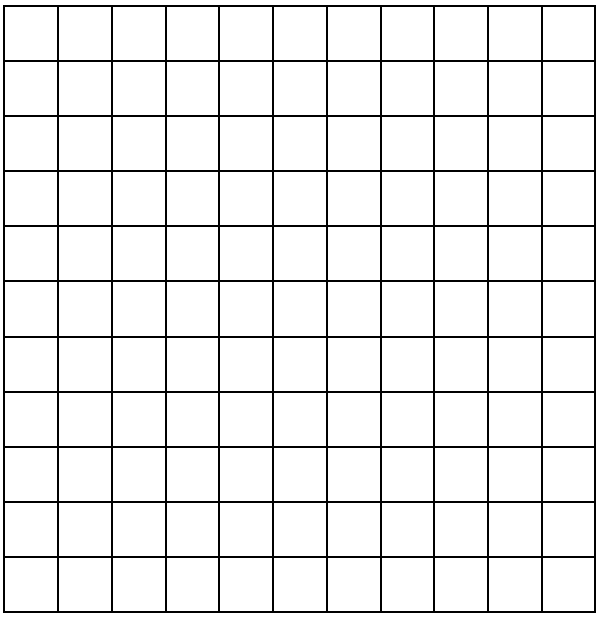
Puzzle #96 — May 2009 "Child's Play"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to eight letters; eight are capitalized, and one is a two-word phrase) 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. Four across words and four down words won't mesh with the words they cross but will either split them or lie between the end of one and the beginning of another, leaving an unmeshed letter to occupy a cell all by itself. The eight unmeshed letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a word related to the puzzle's title. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. Tell about Clark's having no outside compensation
2. Expense covers small English pet
3. Dad joins tennis star in discussion
4. Rent recorded in state archives
5. Join retinue back inside
6. Obscenity must hurt
7. Three notes define a town in Texas
8. Climax of concert started with an interval of silence
9. Decedent embraces heaven
10. King of Israel, in spirit, getting one for nothing
11. Real embattled Saxon noblemen
12. Broadcast from Ballina, Ireland
13. Denies turning and getting caught in a net
14. I leave with a villain
15. Slav radical wearing a chesterfield, perhaps
16. Author of *Gold and Gun*
17. Prince crushed lobster claw
18. Getting excited about a trace of color
19. Van run in well
20. Iron man and woman
21. Gathered with labor leader in bishop's place and had a meal
22. Even aces, when played, fade away

Down

1. Start off with first of active layers
2. Aretha's swinging predecessor
3. Less polluted, north-facing part of crater erupted
4. French firm in contest for coarse fabric
5. Another new day started as well
6. Made an inventory of random details leaving out what's essential
7. Helpers starting after May 15, perhaps
8. Age of sentiment
9. No sailor comes back to turn in
10. Get old silver spindle finally
11. Victor's in denial and kind of blue
12. New revision loses one in translation
13. Frosted tip of gelatinous ribbon
14. Beginning to cackle in fright is uncommon
15. Huge eastern sun room remodeled
16. Aggravate with loud firearm
17. Sawbones taking time to get fish
18. True confusion about ship's color
19. Celia loses her head for an English author
20. Formerly in California? Keep it secret
21. Remanded from here without husband as a form of punishment