

Puzzle #173 — October 2015 "Steerage"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eight letters, six 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. Three across words and three down words won't fit in the grid unless two of their letters are compacted into one cell. In addition, six across words and seven down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a three-word phrase related to the title and the compacted letters. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.

Across

1. Friend returned with one new game bird
2. Group includes rabbi for a period of time
3. A stream is given life with uracil
4. Pearls covering nobleman
5. Grab hornet with dislike in the extreme
6. Afrikaner corrals unknown dog
7. Island of Brother Muhammad
8. Newspaper lady mistakenly takes one
9. Fabric center in state is large
10. Nanny runs off with me at last
11. Collected nothing in pass
12. Mark made by rubber in strip
13. Saturate small tree
14. Courage of Christian replacing Victor in film
15. Seaman and mates get propeller
16. Base inundated by raging tide is a minus
17. Dodge or deviate like crazy to lose it
18. Papa, for example, will get a degree
19. Fine, chemical rot
20. Charlie takes the blame for a losing throw
21. Drive erratically going around slue
22. Bleaching agent, expired, getting trashed around 1st of October
23. Met Green sloshed on the way out
24. Strike youth with end of rail
25. Rob managed with wine
26. Bill gets nothing for one seed pod

Down

1. Slow-moving primate of Alor Island
2. Grassland walk announced
3. A bulb exploding with energy is a pretty useless thing
4. Breaking her vow about Earth nevertheless
5. Agent of petite women's clothing company
6. Get penny in container
7. West going around in state
8. Call to mind the day before getting approval
9. Flowerless plant beginning to rot in bog
10. Roman emperor turns up in Florence
11. Head of Boeing more worried about British aircraft
12. Stifle a lunatic
13. Twice smoked fish I found in MS city
14. Loose plaster covering child is ghostly
15. Stung bird without a bit of remorse
16. Author Helen's assassin wasting one for England
17. One of tennis's greats is always true
18. Beginning of bad weather for control center
19. Chase anchovy around in the ocean
20. Dandy palm tree containing ten megabytes
21. Mound of sand covers head of calcified dodo
22. Doctor's unhealthy practice
23. Pig is partly aboard
24. Fad ruled outlandish and very bad