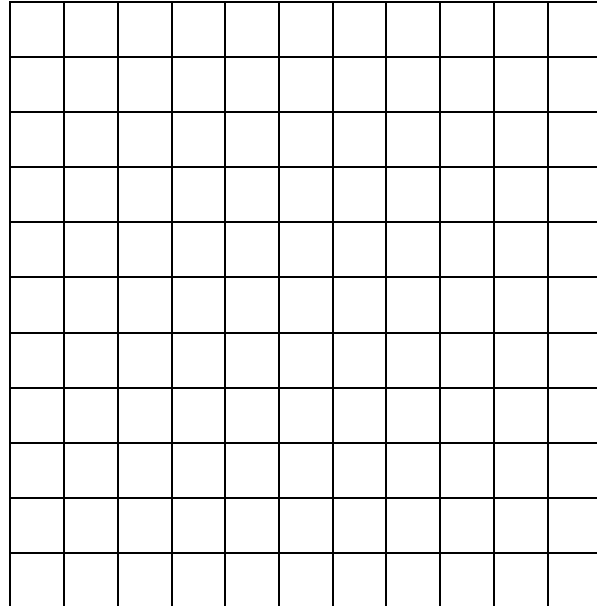


Puzzle #187 — December, 2016 "Nos Galan"

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



Across

1. Fine snow beginning to decline in force
2. Flaming fluorine in Yorkshire river
3. Hang around old dam
4. Car easily covering zone
5. Carrier and page around back
6. Say! Time to turn back
7. Wall or door confining ruler
8. Order in matrimony
9. Silent comedian talk show host makes comeback
10. Visionary holds true as guide
11. Pitch of initially tight ocean ship
12. Meeting by means of pager
13. *Mystery entry*
14. Call to break last glass
15. A toy at the acme
16. Mistakenly order about 100 for Mark
17. Former beloved's child becomes five
18. Strange urge to have zero cosmetic
19. Name for a man out of balance
20. Call Prince and whine
21. Gross offense has Rod in suspension
22. Dealer in common germicides
23. End of foul cheese thrown out for worms

Down

1. Stop Ted's whirling saw
2. Victorious blow includes Republican rump
3. Driver is more upset about victory
4. Update of route frees ailing husband
5. Partly modern flower
6. Henry in vibrant city gets restless
7. Singer collapsed once or retired
8. Frenzied morning, all right!
9. Western settler: very unique individual
10. A big pause at sea
11. Right to start to regret
12. More uncommon are crashes in railroad
13. Foolish adventures catching fish
14. Linksman, lineman seen in new forge
15. Strip or ring in your ear
16. Look around town for Willy
17. Nameless solitary plant genus
18. Finally reach one uncommon African city
19. The Post includes a poem
20. Bonehead has everything turned around
21. Crazy lector gets high for a laugh
22. Herb repaired a glove
23. The German in an airport is systematic
24. Broken spine withers