1. Semolina Pilchard

as told to Ucaoimhu

Well, I obviously didn't kick him — I'm just a breaded herring. But while you're here in his home town, why not look on that plot of land to the right for pirate treasure? Here's how:

- (1) First, to give you practice with ciphers, five Across clues each contain a single word that has been enciphered using the cipher provided by the title; decipher these before solving.
- (2) For extra practice, the *answers* to five other Across clues must also be deciphered in the same way before being entered in the grid.
- (3) With this training, you can now tackle the Down clues; for ten of these, the answer must be deciphered before entry, using a *completely different cipher* you yourself must figure out.
- (4) Each of the remaining clues in the puzzle contains, as buried treasure, a single extraneous letter that must be removed before solving.
- (5) When the grid is filled, the main NW-SE diagonal will tell you what that plot of land (conveniently near the victim's house) is.
- (6) Finally, following the directions given by the letters from (4) in clue order will give you the last step for obtaining pirate treasure, and show you the treasure itself.

ACROSS

- 1. Outspoken sandwich wrapper did beard offspring (4)
- 4. Wheat falls from the sky to be consumed by creatures Tolkien described as "drags" (8)
- 10. Front of cool, trendy microprocessor, say (4)
- 12. Cousin's Mac decapitated Herb? False (6)
- 14. Lapp, after the premiere, turning into old, excellent actor Davis (5)
- 15. Swapping halves, author and actress char paint (6)
- 17. Badger acted like Dracula consuming lard, in the end (4)
- 18. Opal vacuous debs unveiled for commoner (4)
- 19. Type of blood Hari Seldon secondarily describes with skill (4)
- 20. Dads, e.g., touching the heart of men that hunt (4 2)
- 24. Poorly written song Bey doctors (2-4)
- 26. Rant about ring-, cross-, cup- or wand-bearing card (5)
- 27. I see scoundrel overturning Russian villa (5)
- 29. On stage in Connecticut with Lara, essentially covered with silver (6)
- 32. For instance, pinup model grabbing coati's tail (6)
- 35. Zone not having aught but tailless breed of cattle (4)
- 37. Eat the top of Italian flower held by a Belgian (4)
- 39. USN officer involved in talc-drying (4, *abbr*.)
- 41. Many fool around, describing atolls superficially (4 2)
- 42. Choose to have men heading west with speed (5)
- 43. Be unsure who ultimately approves written works read by people with powder? (1-5)
- 44. Fashionable salutation adopted by hundreds (4)
- 45. Twits into wart-causing deity beheaded judge again (8)
- 46. Fur from lagomorph on your tongue (4)

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45								46			

DOWN

- 1. Title comes from editors putting their heads together (4)
- 2. Lee is Will, bovine mascot of a milk company (5)
- 3. Pane, say, is damaged? Dye it (5)
- 5. 17th-century French cardinal's chunk of pretzel (4)
- 6. Roosevelt's accepting none of Quebec's radio dials (6)
- 7. Tone treasury agent's soul, as per Hindu doctrine (5)
- 8. Jeer at sun god worshipped by Egyptians and Zulus (4)
- 9. Something that happens to filly in left half of shed a week before Valentine's Day, perhaps (7)
- 11. Indict soldier with atrocious poesy (5)
- 13. Rhonda's top and upsetting new gown, as created, hover again (6)
- 16. Fancy video equipment had Steve dropping every other item (4, *abbr*.)
- 21. A bit of roughhousing with frat causes stir (4)
- 22. Greek character almost ingests second citrus peel (4)
- 23. Valley surrounding ZZ Top in Erebus is something impressive (7)
- 25. Date with quadrupled energy embraces Penny Myers in the Clinton White House (3 3)
- 28. Are oblique and thin (4)
- 29. Shilling wrapped by feather turned up on the victim put nearby (6)
- 30. Mostly, very very English elan (5)
- 31. Keep navy in harbor (5)
- 33. Sense singular male with Della isn't finished (5)
- 34. Reference work Io will give Marisa in *The Wrestler* (5)
- 36. Mewl, before showing off a German river (4)
- 38. Ices feet of heron Prof. Smirnoff likes (4)
- 40. Raise back (4)