

Twenty-Second Puzzle

by Ucaimhu

In honor of December 22, here's a puzzle that might take only 1/180 of an hour. Here:

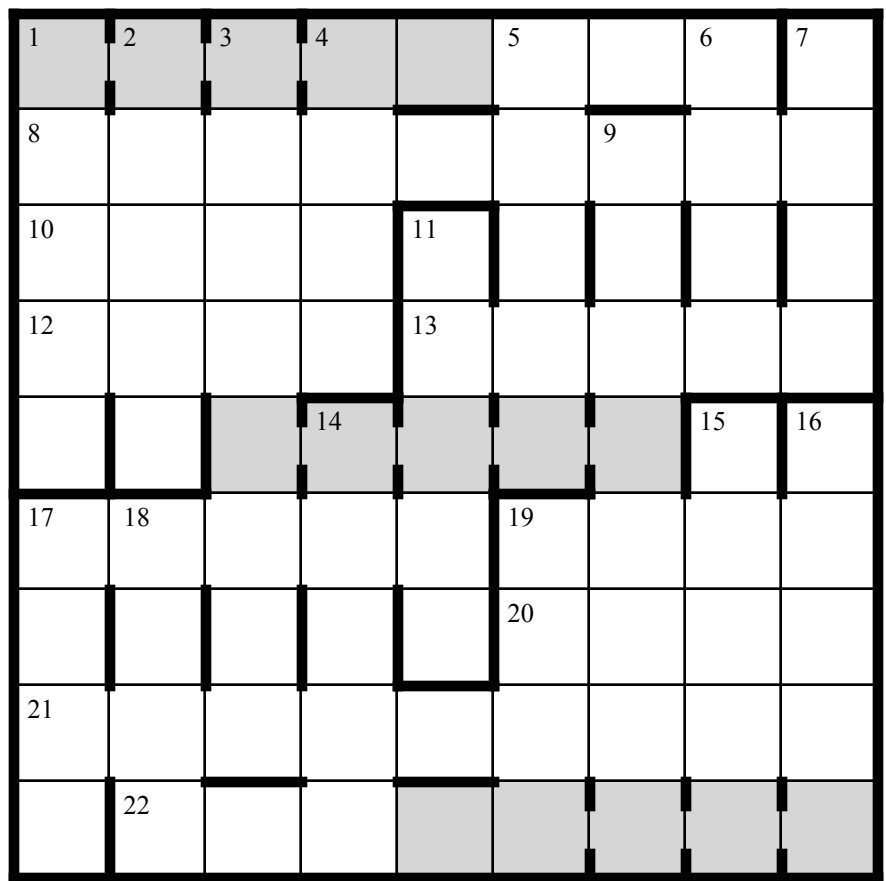
(1) For some clues, the answer must be entered with two letters in one square. For each such clue, where the *n*th square is "overfilled," take the *n*th word of the clue; these words, put in order in the blanks after all the clues, will form a single cryptic clue that might clue *any* of the three "bonus" words in the shaded grid areas.

(2) In other clues, the letter sequence produced by the cryptic part is missing one letter; where the *n*th letter is missing, find all "directional" (NSEW) letters in the clue's *n*th word. In the grid, the missing letter will abut an "overfilled" square from (1); from that overfilled square, go square by square as the directional letters direct, and from the square you end up on, draw a straight line back to the overfilled square.

(3) The overfilled squares from (1) will contain three distinct bigrams (letter pairs), which, taken in "thematic" order, can be matched up with the bonus words (ordered top to bottom). For each bigram, the lines drawn in (2) to the squares with that bigram will form some "figure"; interpret *both* the bigram and the figure numerically as indicated by the matching bonus word, and multiply the two numeric values together. The sum of those three products will indicate the near-at-hand item given by the last letters of all clues on the page not used in (1) or (2).

ACROSS

4. Like Halloween, one half of laundry's upsetting
8. Oddly keen clod in some dress
10. Legal document that's signed before marriage contains no real trap (2 wds.)
12. Brand of shoes Germans found in this nation
13. Opening of cheesy California B-movie starring Mr. T as a Washington hack (2 wds.)
17. Reflective prophet's elders, for example
19. Left office-seekers food fit for swine
20. Fairy with misdirected anger . . . and Peter's bow
21. Keeps out cold williwaw, secondarily, with new shingles
22. Round character, primarily, uses tea- and table-spoon best at the dinner table



DOWN

1. Right vocal reaction to osmic unpleasantness in the midst of Parisian summer results in prestige
2. Weird bong incorporating 1024 meg of memory (*hyph., abbr.*)
3. Weapon raised after host receives fried chicken at a fast food restaurant
4. Mountain range is aluminum, by the way
5. Guillotining once-captivating Duane barely exhibits subtlety
6. Singer Horne's wayward, naked Gaels
7. Quartet of kudu bash, in slangy terms, a school in the Evergreen State (*hyph.*)
9. Frank ultimately leads cult Keno nuts are dominated by (2 wds.)
11. Cretan's last wild duets will be most unornamented
14. Ump, essentially, would vacantly type *show* wrong
15. Song in *The Sound of Music* or in *Ms. Moore* (*hyph.*)
16. Anglican briefly displays pies unconvincingly (*abbr.*)
17. Repeated times beyond number at topless ceremony
18. Finally tour the nonunion site in Nevada
19. Fight short actor Morita
