

# In the Year 2175

by  
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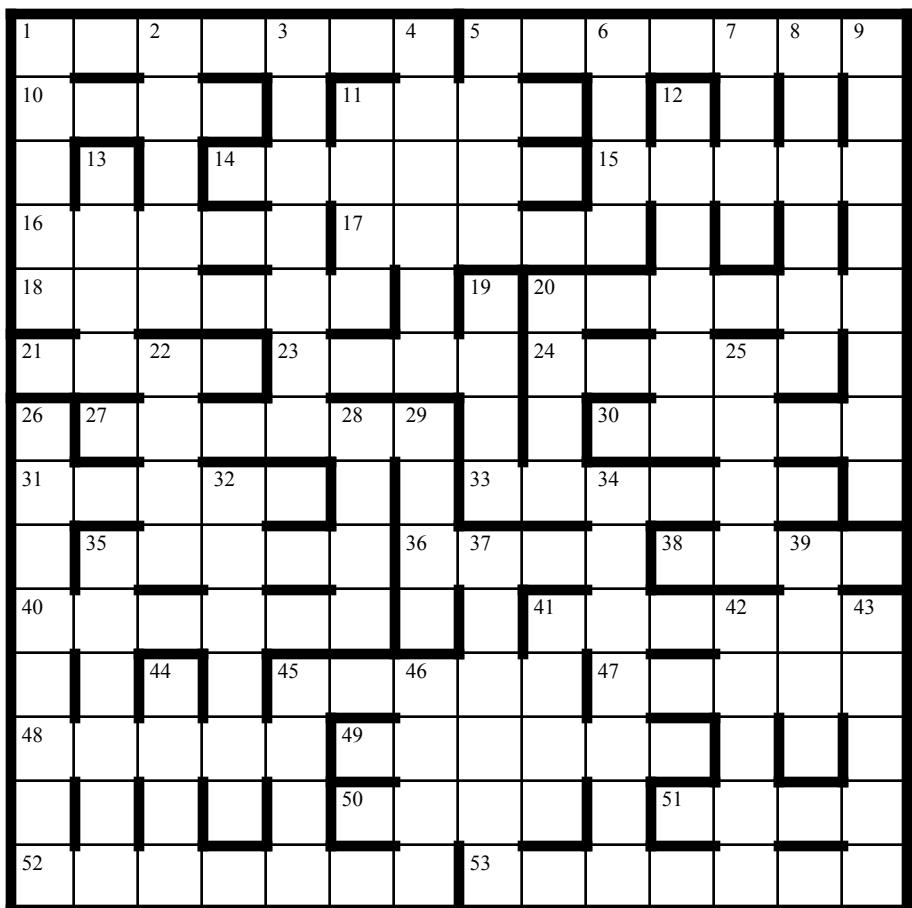
Happy 196th birthday, Tortoise! As you observed in your invitation, 196 is 14<sup>2</sup> and is also (as proved in 2112) a Lychrel number: if you add it to its reversal, and then do that again, over and over, you never reach a palindrome. Here, eight clue answers will be entered in reverse; their clues can be ordered in a chain, where the reversed entry for one is defined by some series of one or more words in the next. (This chain, however, does eventually end in a non-Lychrel manner.)

And sorry I didn't bring any cryptics in 2015. To fix that: In any clue *not* in the chain, the wordplay yields a letter sequence with one *extra* or *missing* letter. If *extra* letter [?] is in position n, replace "+[?]" below with the clue's *n*th word (a number, isolated letter, abbreviation, or term with a hyphen/apostrophe/slash is one word); if letter [?] is *missing*, replace "-[?]" with the clue's *answer*. The first characters of the clues in the chain, in chain order, will say what the resulting six clues clue. (Their last characters will not.)

1. +N -Y — +Z +W — +D +R -Z -K
2. -R +J “+T” -J +I -Q +E
3. -S -G -V +G +H ... +L -N -U ... +C
4. -H -C +K -D -E +P -I -F -M (+S -B)
5. +A +Y -O +Q (+U) +F +V +M
6. -X -T +O -L -P -W -A +B +X

## ACROSS

1. Require 2.54 cm field mouse (7)
5. Having half a dozen members convinced to embrace a Kipling poem (7)
10. An alternative to that cross salutation (4)
11. Unremarkable love is preceded by a song by ABBA (2-2)
14. Place where many things end up ultimately, like cup held by Henry (3 3)
15. A mountain range seen in *Shane's Wide-Lapelled Jackets* (5)
16. That guy reflected true strength (5)
17. Individual who creates about 500 sheets of paper (5)
18. Coming back, knight brings corruption to Connecticut college town (6)
20. Shelter! (6)
21. Lieutenant circling sea gives exam a future atty. takes (4, *abbr.*)
23. Essentially scram at night before dreaming of Marcel (4)
24. Deity of the bellicose regions (5)
27. Surrounded by a fog (6)
30. Devices used to untangle male swans (5)
31. Initially, Deep Roy is characterized by a monotonous hum (5)
33. One Iowan community he'd joined (6)
35. Eliminate Sue after Mesozoic, e.g. (5)
36. Basketball player O'Neal has reorganized Dairy Queen (4)
38. Ron's unrightfully small figures (4)
40. Spot nurse's ornaments (6)
41. Penny and Suzy uncovered the Belgian



## CROSSWORD, maybe (6)

45. Location of planet that, besides Mercury, is closest to the sun and earth (5)
47. Small Y/La constituents that begin faring around! (5)
48. Moral system etc. followed by most of army (5)
49. Stall gets rebuilt at the end (6)
50. Hive dwellers left bishopric (4)
51. I thereby evacuated Boston, perhaps (4)
52. After rearrangement, poseur comes after television performers' groups (7)
53. Word heard on January 1 seems superficially cunning (7)

## DOWN

1. Phrases that denote less real objects (5)
2. Empty, rotating ring obstructs energy pattern of stars (5)
3. Desire Romeo, in bed resembling a pearl in Canada (7)
4. Cease to be tied up! (6)
5. A habitual drunkard bisected some descending three-card run (4)
6. Chng. of ownership of blocks upset actor Harrison (4, *abbr.*)
7. Slobs barely touching orange-gray wild relative of beasts like Rover (4)
8. Slow musical passages, Number 1, doubled in size when taken by Les (6)
9. Insult a Hardy heroine, causing grief (8)
11. Units used for R in V = IR will be (ounds!) satisfactory (4)
12. Wiry music producer is tossing trees at Glinda's home (6)
13. Bro or sis lifted equestrian equipment (4)
19. Provided by Gypsy (4)
20. Curse-shrouded state possessing Cape Yakataga fish (4)
22. Quadrangle's center conceals old unit of money/capital near Napoli (4)
25. Hit a couple from England that agrees with my opinion (4)
26. Touching a semi-dark red coin (8)
28. Spots sons eating unendingly long aquatic creature (4)
29. Job is getting money from Kay (4)
32. Thin trio of arrivistes is in denial (6)
34. Exhibiting violent weather after the start, most of the time (7)
35. Héros' gold supports *Star Wars* knight and *Time* magazine worker (6)
37. Tubes that supply water for dwellings (6)
39. Origins of some wood hats (4)
41. 2000th of a mile from grassland, according to report (4)
42. Yowza! Rear of new soldier is pinched by actress Saldana (5)
43. Pair that finishes inwardly blocking telepathy finally wins athletic awards (5)
44. Remarks indicating surprise at first objections of Highlanders sting (4)
45. Gutless villain thus sticks to poor grade of brandy (4, *abbr.*)
46. Amuse Andalusian bears informally, Mr. Astin (4)