

Ann Arbor

by Ucaimhu

In honor of one particular Ann, I have planted a tree in the grid. Specifically, some of the Down answers must be altered before entry by changing a sequence of 1–4 letters into some new letter. These new letters represent the branching points and fruit of the tree; you must (appropriately) add limbs to connect these.

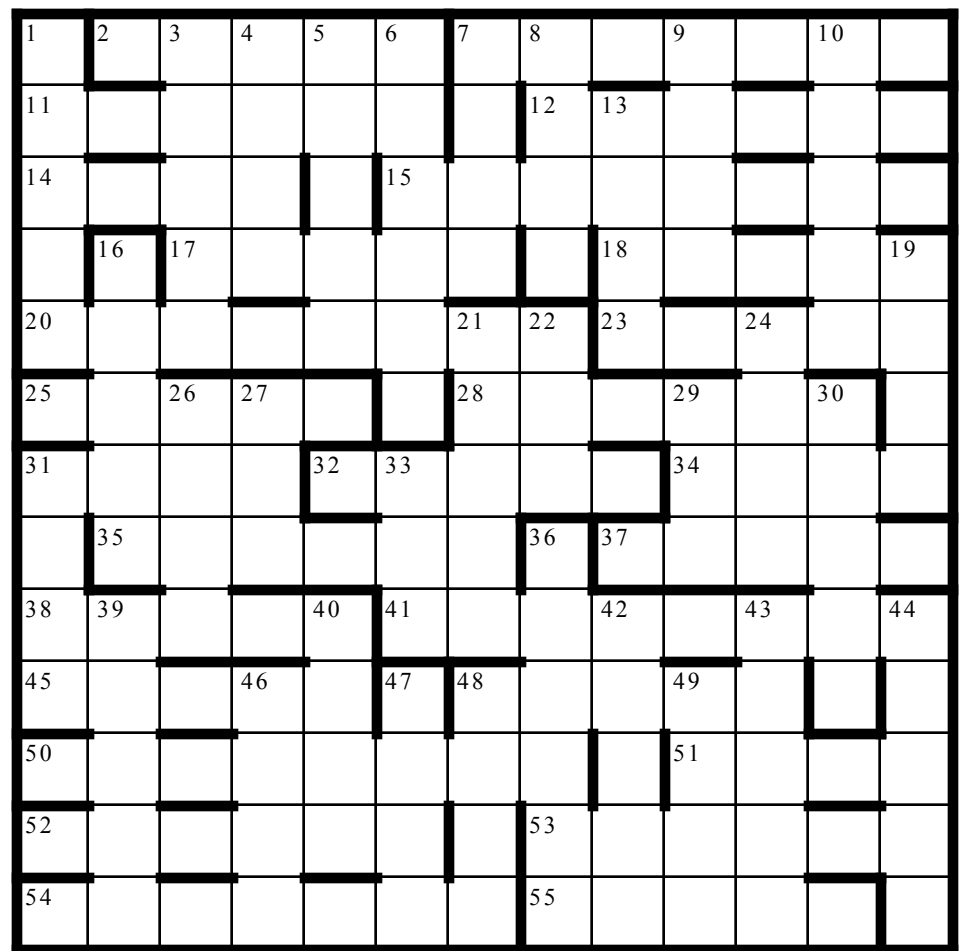
To identify Ann more specifically, you could jump all around the grid; there are a number of clues whose answers are all examples of what she is known for. These clues have no straight definition part, just the cryptic part. Taking (in clue order) the first letters, middle letters, and last letters of these clues will give you the name she was born with in Texas (she wasn't always a MI woman).

Or you could climb the tree. If you climb from its root to any of its fruit, the old letter sequences that were replaced by the new letters you encounter will form a word (one of these is a non-MW compound). These words, in order from lowest-hanging fruit to highest, form a cryptic clue for Ann's last name – except for the last, which is the last name itself.

But you may not want to do even that at convention time. If you take the middle letters of the clues for the altered Down answers, in clue order, these will form a notable utterance Ann once made that explains why.

ACROSS

2. Resort and halfway deal part of a deck of cards (5)
7. Henry, wearing a shirt, fled a city in the Mideast (7)
11. King surrounds train with empty armored structure (6)
12. Combat is obstructing peace (6)
14. Huge downloadable movie? (4)
15. Jack, in one old nursery rhyme, almost eats something terrific (8)
17. Guy's suppressing old complaints (5)
18. One night in Quebec with a native of the north (5)
20. Nonsense about cheerful, vacuous Peggy being young and frisky (8)
23. Offer insult to gutless contralto (5)
25. Counting everything at last, except for the wings (2 3)
28. Rot has destroyed sacred scrolls (6)
31. Formerly working with Dee's neighbors (4)
32. Turn bovine (5)
34. Hock of creature (4)
35. Petty officer from the old country (6)
37. Start to be an Israeli leader (5)



38. Theme is revolutionary as spelled out in speech (5)
41. Illegal way to get game cooking (8)
45. Hooch starts to become arsenobenzol (5)
48. Such might make Sy red! (5)
50. It upset actor Richard, yet mostly it's just an ornamental stone (8)
51. Parts of hip war story will be left unfinished (4)
52. Stayed weirdly sober (6)
53. Rule P. I. breaks, causing anger (4 2)
54. Bring back English knight with a pop song to sing again (7)
55. Not as fit as Sal (5)

DOWN

1. Make tea expensive
3. "Love broker" snares bride's second groom
4. Awful, racy ad for idyllic location
5. Misguidedly added something to picture that sticks with you?
6. Name held by moral code of a people
7. Criminal alters Austrian coins
8. Makes mistakes every second in Ferraris
9. Channel showing games played in poorly constructed pens (*abbr.*)
10. A not-quite-piquant gelatin dish
13. Turn up to eat in Oklahoma City
16. In North America, put up with non-Shiites

19. Proclaimed revolution in flier
21. Horrid smell from moldiest enchiladas
22. He's written about Siddhartha, to start with!
24. No utterances please naked Magi
26. Guns, but not real ones
27. Woman pinches rear end of Jane Grey
29. Do behead Ness
30. Initially sells part of plane
31. Small object to illuminate the German individual heading downhill
33. Elevated piece of butter
36. Mentioned folks making one of Twain's kitchen tools
39. Musical work is *dolce* in sound
40. Put grease on the Italian road
42. Name of a girl Alice replaced
43. More than one key passage is recited
44. Plot by reported racketeer Steffi
46. Carry a carnivorous mammal
47. Odd mesh clotheslines?
48. Scandinavian tribe with Egyptian leadership
49. Potassium extracted from plankton in brook

Utterance: