

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.

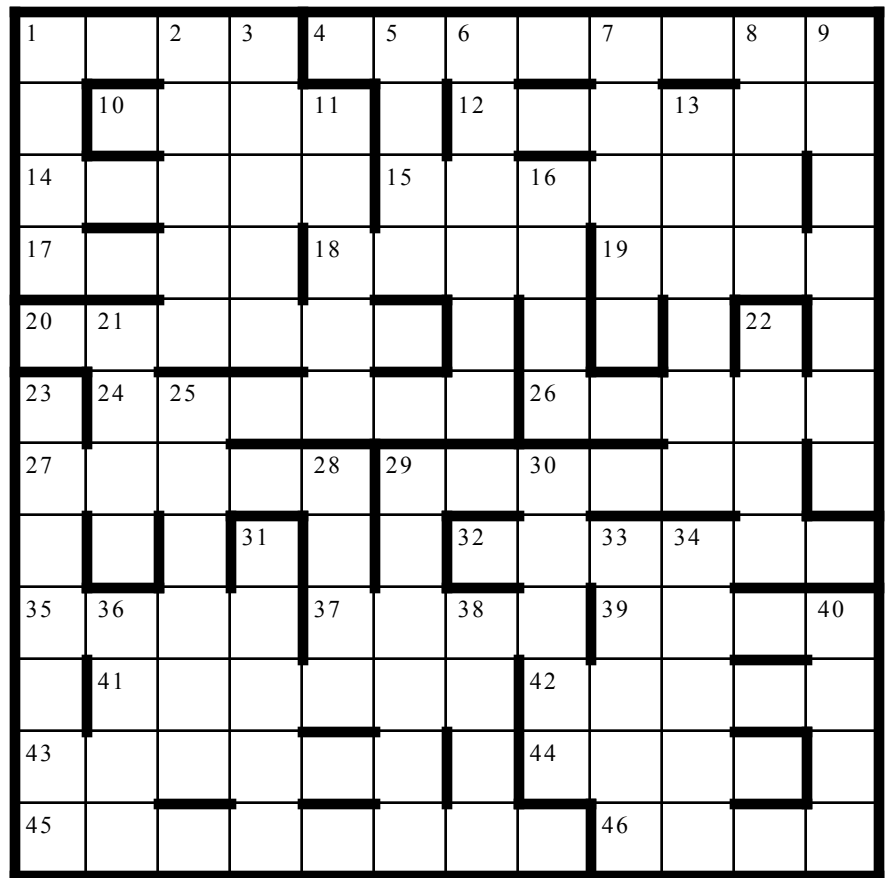
(2) For extra practice, the *answers* to five other Across clues must also be deciphered in the same way before being entered in the grid.

(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 debts 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 coat'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)

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)