Newport Renews by Ucaoimhu

While you’re in Rhode Island, you might want to take a trip into Newport; this puzzle is about three people who were profoundly changed by such a trip. Specifically, in a fourth of the Down clues, a series of 3–5 letters forming a word must be removed before solving; arranged in clue order, these words will identify these people as they were before the trip. The remaining three fourths of the Down clues work normally, but each of their answers must be altered before entry in one of three ways:

(1) Some, being short of letters, will have another letter generously donated.

(2) Some will have a certain trio of letters rearranged.

(3) Some will drop a certain fashionable word.

If you (separately) take the donated letters from the (1) entries, the letters in the indicated grid row in the (2) entries, and the final letters of the (3) entries (each in clue order) you will find out what these people changed to.

Also, for each (1), (2), or (3) clue, put the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd letter (respectively) of the clue on the appropriate line, below the grid entry; this will give you a possible description of how the trip was taken, with the shaded squares giving the two transfer points.

Finally, in half of the Across clues you must delete a letter before solving, and in half (one per grid row) you must replace one letter with another. The letters that “depart” (are deleted or replaced) will say where these people started; those that “arrive” will say where they ended up.

ACROSS
1. At last, poets may have the right metier (4)
4. Now an object travels when thrown at the leader of one oil company (4)
7. Primarily, toilers just offend some Spaniards’ eyes (4)
10. Mistake heater's skin, ultimately, for gold (5)
13. Canterbury pilgrim who told a tale about the Old Lady of Caen (5)
14. Repressing actress named Charlotte that finally presents Rent (4)
15. No one with silly chap will form a civil rights org. (5, abbr.)
17. Join the evangelist’s forerunner’s topless Hawaiian music-makers (4)
18. Entirely engrossed in a song, added decorative paper to clover (4)
20. Lea eats just over 2.7 thousand pungent vegetables (5)
23. Following actor Holm around, spot a nymph associated with a driver (5)
26. Clothes from “fashionable” Teri mostly stink (5)
27. Lot . . . er, ripped front of page (5)
29. Pace to the right of Roosevelt’s whirling Cuban lass, e.g. (4, abbr.)
30. Name filling the blank in “The ___ Reader” in Ventura is incorrectly “Ahmed” (4)
35. Fact about maid grasping couple from Utrecht (5)
36. Dan’s not showing low snobbishness (4)
37. Tins telling you to be cautious with wild bream (5)
38. Miller from Kiss Met Kate meets an ex-Secretary-General named Kofi (5)
39. So mispronunciation is bad slip (4)
40. Following rule, vacuous ladies shout (4)
41. Cyan center of Danza’s trifles (4)

DOWN
2. A color commentator’s understood (4)
3. Twisted male discussing NPL alias (4)
4. A guy named Palmer who tees off Roland’s dog, ranting badly (4)
5. Sites selling hot dogs, say, having excellent French menus (4)
6. Amazing car electronics co. (abbr.)
8. Garment worn over a doublet by 50% of Jerry’s relatives (4)
9. Klingons, Vulcans, and the like initially eschewed shirts (abbr.)
11. Detective imprisoned by doxy in hard-to-escape area (2 wds.)
12. The way a Spaniard and a German would say “What, no doggy?” (4)
14. Attempts, perhaps, to get stronger, iodine-free kind of fatty acid (5)
16. Zest ewe displayed on rocks upset someone insignificant (5)
17. Employs Marty and your group, and Earl’s (5)
19. Clip of Bonnie, who sings out loud (5)
21. Are the principal actors from the cast of Usin’ Yer Peepers? (2 wds.)
22. Protective sheets finally went over some Dadaist artworks (5)
24. Shouted, “A playing card is something you put under a plate” (5)
25. Start to show Candy the hay-cutter (5)
26. For principal consuming liquid preservative agent (5)
28. Wander around looking at half of the pouchy runners, at first (5)
30. Unfortunately ruin aluminum or porcelain fixture (5)
31. Mentioned wildebeests in letters from Athens (5)
32. Running up, untrained for combat (5)
33. German philosopher-king, not being gutless, wins the heart of Rayburn (5)
34. Say, able to solve complicated cryptic crosswords by drinking water (5)