

# Canton Junction

by Ucaoimhu

Yes, Inspector, from your local beat in Boston, you have tracked your quarry as far as Canton Junction. But now the track forks; where to go?

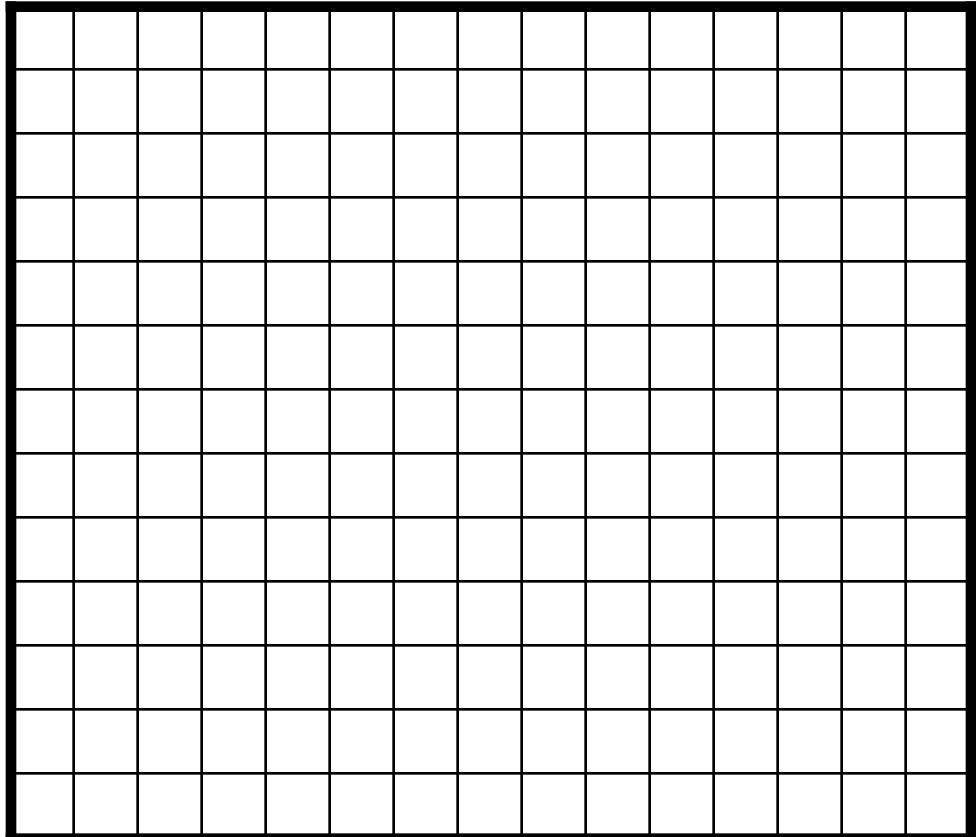
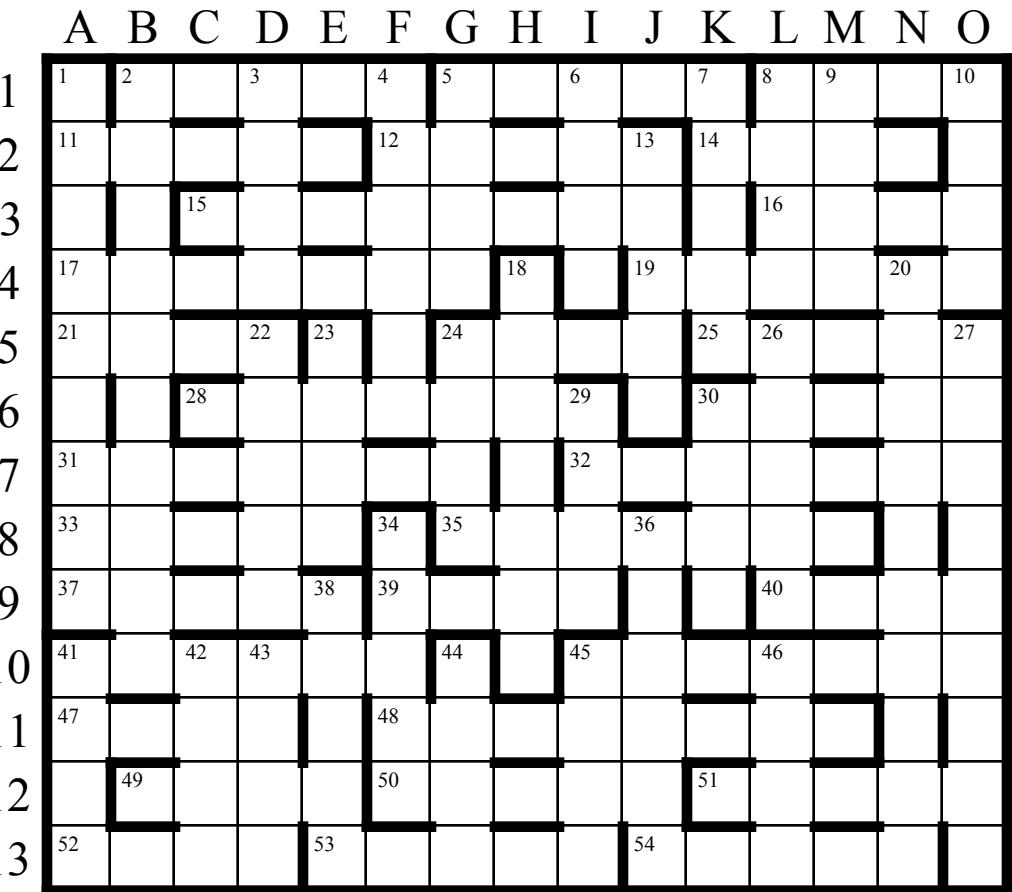
(1) Maybe to the homeland of writer C[hekhov], Anton! In a few Down entries, he has mirror-reversed one letter so that (for him) it matches a crossing Across entry, which puts multiple letters in that same square. In each such Across entry, find the crossing square and take the letter in that position in the *clue*; then do the same for the Downs. The result will be a (non-cryptic) clue to something you may find refreshing.

(2) Maybe to the country of Dante, who wrote Canto N (for all N from 1 to 100) of the Divine Comedy! He has (in a few entries) squeezed one of three words in his language into one square. For each corresponding clue, take the number of letters the word tells you to, at the indicated position (start, middle, or end) in the clue; the resulting letter sequences, in the order given by the alphabetical order of the *clues*, will spell out something else that's refreshing.

(3) Maybe elsewhere! In some clues, the wordplay yields a single extra letter; use this letter and its position as coordinates indicating a grid square to be shaded in. The shaded squares will form a word (in a certain language) for something refreshing; the letters in those squares will provide additional explanation.

(4) But as refreshing as (1), (2), and (3) were, none of those locations is the one you want. For each clue not mentioned above, either (a) the wordplay drops one letter of the answer, or (b) when entering the word in the grid, you will “drop” one letter onto a line segment rather than in a square. (For (a), many different letters are used; for (b), only one. But both are appropriate to the title of the puzzle.)

(Continued on next page.)



For each letter dropped as per (a) or (b), take the letter at the same position in the corresponding clue; these letters, in clue order, will spell out a cryptic clue (with enumeration) for a much more promising location. Also, in each column, find the lowest-down of the special squares from (1), (2), or (3), and fill in the entire corresponding column in the lower grid with the appropriate refreshment (or, at least, some visual facsimile thereof); this will more generally indicate where the location you have found is.

(5) As a surprise twist, however, that's not the right place either. Mark each of the line segments containing letters dropped as per (4b), and draw the shortest path that starts at one edge of the grid, goes through all those segments, and ends at another edge of the grid. Then the letters that were dropped as per (4a) will tell you how to read those segments to get a sequence of letters; inserting this into the location from (4) will give you the location you really want. Finally, in each row of the main grid, locate *all* the special squares from (1), (2), and (3), and fill in the row with the appropriate refreshment(s), dividing at the path you have drawn if there is a conflict; this, again, will more generally indicate the final location.

#### ACROSS

2. Aberdeen girl group
5. Imitator keeping or returning copy
8. A flutter at thy hotel's name
11. A garment worn by a judge to court an oak tree
12. Talent's first external promoter
14. Curb Bud use when in a rage
15. He inhales air scoundrel originally reserved for blow-drying, perhaps (2 wds.)
16. Weird Ali gets near African land
17. Part of esc—(ahem)—escape plans
19. Dances in semi-saline oceans
21. Bill, at court, displays diplomacy
24. Pharaoh's tie is askew (2 wds.)
25. Uneasily eye sap from an island with giant stone coins
28. Mosslike aquatic invertebrates and mineral deposit at borders of Ephesus (2 wds.) [NI2]
30. Wackily bait flora and fauna
31. Bold individual immersed in an underworld river
32. Asian bovine, grabbed by evil rakes and people who enjoy a row?
33. Body part barely aches by the end of June
35. Made excuses for Ali and Ed pinching group of G-men
37. Center of fireplace
39. Understand about producing sheep
40. The end of every Broadway musical not finished by a Greek new age musician
41. One who constructs ewer, e.g., that contains no odd items

45. Villainous little beings atop Homer, say
47. Entirely revolutionary singer Fitzgerald
48. Tonal, airy dances expressing opposition to the monarchy [NI2]
49. Range of voices confused Lot
50. Very last bit in *Zelig* let Rae run amok? As if (2 wds.)
51. Thomas Carlyle's outside with one actress named Marisa from *My Cousin Vinny*
52. Effective quantity of a drug obtained from Buck's girlfriend?
53. Weep about one's left pectoral region
54. Davenport imports clothing from icy city in Bulgaria

#### DOWN

1. Worked with carts after initially wrecking time machine?
2. Clew superficially about fancy chert frame on the front of a locomotive
3. A leg encircling one's wings
4. Gas flow
5. Greek character gutted Chloe's huge mythical birds
6. Poultry magnate Frank heard sound from a feline fête or gala
7. Composer Levant loves Lincoln, for instance
8. Embrace ladies outside
9. "Ribs cracked" is an important baseball statistic (*abbr.*)
10. Decapitated lead performers and chorus members in *HMS Pinafore*
13. What remains undone after evacuating to the south of Communist-held center of Asia
18. Litter Ed mistakenly called something else
20. Like film that features Jeff Bridges (or me, unfortunately) portraying Carl Sagan, say
22. Exhibit instability of ball-holder Terry's bisected
23. Rat even emptied box found by Indiana Jones
24. A right jolly old elf destroyed Satan
26. Say "Tart! Coward! Cheapskate!"
27. At home, get food to help north part of Asia (2 wds.)
29. Downhill racers wear these? Heavens
30. Front of bottom edge or top edge
34. Vans of the really expert experts that are gluing a label on a tall plant (2 wds.) [NI2]
36. Plead with tax-collecting agency to employ fifty female tavern workers (*hyph.*)
38. Actor Lowe gets into the beat
41. We had to get chlorine to bond
42. Is concealing half of Leland's problems
43. An item used for shooting a door
44. To all appearances is ignoring Mark and taking in fishing nets
45. Short foot used by poets in Thailand, formerly
46. Ads, etc., pertaining to someone like Indiana Jones