

2. There & Back Again

by Ucaimhu

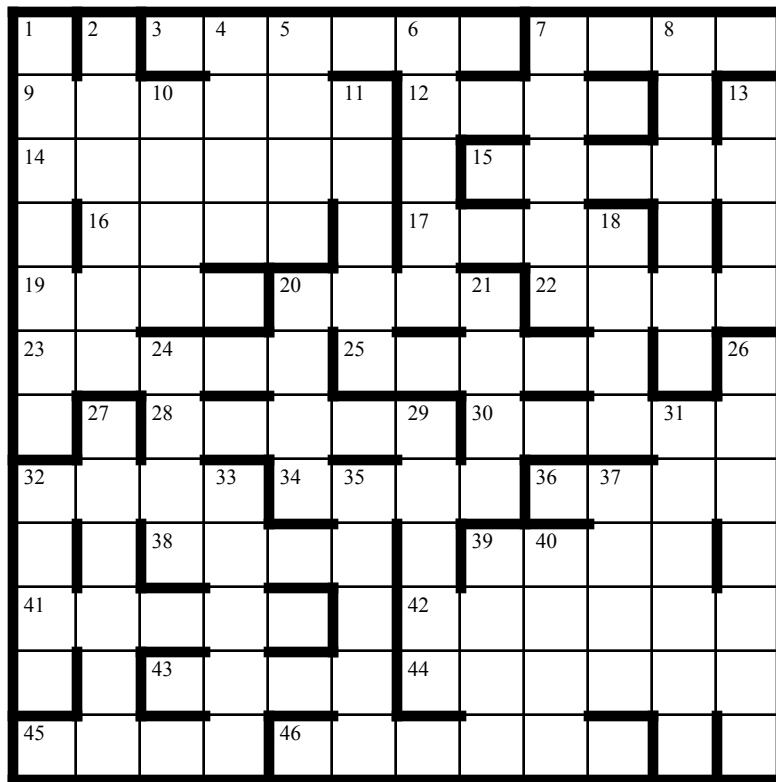
A six-person trip to Canada before 2002, in the pre-cell-phone era, ran into some issues: Alice was **left behind**, Bill was **turned back at the border**, Carla was confused when **switching sides**, Don had to **become bilingual**, Erma had to . . . no, wait, **we did that one already** . . . and Fred became an **acute Anglophile**. Reflecting this, four answers in this puzzle must be altered before entry in each of the following ways: (a) moving left back three places, (b) Caesar-shifting the border letters back by one, (c) swapping word-halves, (d) making the second word French, (e) deleting any letter that has appeared before, and (f) rearranging every group of joined horizontal and vertical lines to form a connected sequence of acute angles. (Altered entries include a two-word phrase.)

Twelve of the remaining clues each contain an extraneous word, which must be removed before solving. In clue order, these words will form six two-word (noncryptic) clues, each cluing an entry that was produced by (a different) one of the above alterations. In that same order, these entries will form a wordplay-only cryptic clue, followed by extra words whose total length gives the enumeration; the clue's answer is a piece of equipment that existed back then that would have made this trip much easier.

The wordplay part in each of the fourteen remaining clues yields a letter sequence with one extraneous letter, which precedes a different, nonextraneous letter; add the former before the latter in the latter's grid square, and circle the latter if the clue is a Down clue. You can connect these squares to show two possible routes for the trip, both starting in the "same" familiar US city; this city, altered as per (a) through (f) in order, will become the Canadian destination of both routes. Finally, read the circled letters along both *return* routes to see another piece of equipment from back then that would also have made things easier.

ACROSS

3. One in star-like, hot rooms
7. Has law-enforcement groups taking sheriff's lead
9. Leaders from Tacoma risk swallowing large pill
12. Remake hit *ET* to get money for the Church
14. Eastern Europeans adore G-man Eliot, bottom to top
15. Leave spelling contest after getting half of "goniff"
16. Cover cup with grain
17. Future attorney on public transit (2 wds.)
19. Drink 40% of Coors before first half of sketch
20. Cries least after losing blue-pointed tools
22. Tool appends lousy sounds
23. Dogs not surrounding 1000 young sheep
25. Actress Field's foray
28. In 501, chant a phrase that isn't taken literally
30. Sneak discarding imaginary white artistic prop
32. Reporter Huntley resembles a biblical character
34. Fellow eating two pieces of Navajo Indian bread
36. Quick person notes error in *RUR*
38. Piggish one seizing fifty-one chances to sing alone
39. Last two to condemn mockery of thy legend



41. Front parts of ERs will be remodeled
42. Having fewer scruples, again go through the wrong way
43. Actress West's spinning clothesline?
44. Headless hammers knocked back character from *Needing A Streetcar Named Desire*
45. Nobleman of olden days discards club
46. Conclusion starts to feel irksome now, I'd say

DOWN

1. Hoss beheaded before 1 BCE to obtain little tiny bone
2. Kabbala boasts about the title character in *Rocky*
4. Cleaning lady assumes "Gardner" to be Thomas Edison's middle name
5. Roman's to be in Wessex
6. Essentially, nonempty corally ring!
7. A way power is redirected to be used for punishment
8. Cuff Sy damaged with scrape marks, say [NI2+]
10. Bill's partner initially looked hip
11. Audibly says "Scat!" to loafers and their ilk
13. Check drops of water using your tongue
18. Ice cream brand found in every other part of veldt spaces? Yes
20. Eat Ian's bizarre words used when spelling (2 wds.)
21. Reindeer in *Frozen* ultimately lives five billion years
24. Imitates a character from *Rent Empty Castles*
26. Place "E" inside wall painting of lung membranes
27. In fancy hat, being hugged by unnamed women (2 wds.)
29. Sends manuscript around Lima, to the north
31. Put headgear on nude Kenny & Thelma [NI2]
32. Sea eagle raised fish eggs on half of nest
33. Socks a Biblical prophet
35. Boxer Muhammad gets into Jovian moon-mayonnaise made with garlic
37. UV light, in the past, upset electric co., maybe (abbr.)
39. Norse reportedly encounter Dole
40. Saint Laurent mentioned symbol the night before