

À la recherche du mot perdu

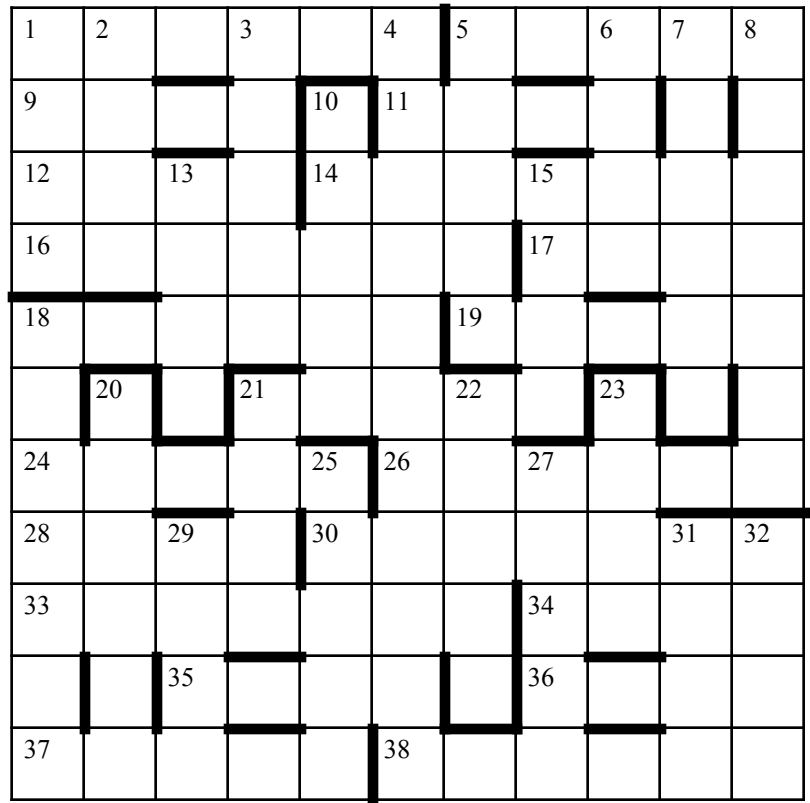
by Ucaoimhu

An event that happened recently has inspired me to recall an event that did *not* happen recently. In this puzzle, some answers must be entered with one letter on a thin line segment rather than in a square. When all these segments have been found, draw a diagonal line in each of six squares (through the letter in each square), so that all these segments (horizontal, vertical, and diagonal) form a single path connecting two opposite corners of the grid. The letters on the diagonal and *horizontal* segments, left to right, will spell out what the first event was; the letters on the diagonal and *vertical* segments, top to bottom, will spell out what the second event was — except for a single word, which has (appropriately) gone missing.

To find that word, look at those clues whose answers do *not* intersect any of those segments (exactly half of the clues are like this). Each of these has an extra letter that must be removed before solving. The extra letters will tell you which rows in the grid to look at; for each such row, you must figure out how to use what's there to extract a single letter. These letters, in turn, will spell out what went missing a while back.

ACROSS

1. Distance around Don's tallest daughter's waist
5. Revolutionary hoe found in pub where some addicts go
9. Where theatergoers can roam around and land in some water, reportedly
11. Spaniard who painted green nacre assumes I am dismayed by this
12. Pals left group in the morning
14. Hunter who steals cape hero modified
16. A red-uniformed cop touches that thing's axillae
17. Fought to follow one New Latin word with *Domini*
18. Instrument held by soldier with muscles
19. Last letters from Elizabeth II and gutless Richard III
21. Get money for, essentially, truncating part of the leg (2 wds.)
24. Verne'd spoiled a finale
26. Reverend Spooner's locked up metal camping equipment (2 wds.)
28. Scream "Eyes!" at a bird with large eyes
30. Fair cart becomes terrible plane, for instance
33. Strange things about a quote about a bovine animal
34. Ballantine, say, has sold plant
35. Quartet of Alaskan artifacts exhibiting marks from a Japanese peen
36. Lady with Ms. Gardner is hot stuff
37. Van agency in Russia offering news about 1000 jobs
38. Sung songs written by people like Schubert's boss



DOWN

1. In 2000, one meets a parent
2. Initial parts of irksome song that egregiously revives an old name for the Danube
3. Uncanny power held by Dorothy or the Wicked Witch, politically speaking?
4. Conceited jerk blocking, say, singers Redding and Jolson
5. Go to poet to get a small piece of meat
6. Solon from *Star Wars*, embracing hot physical chemist named Otto
7. Egyptian god and men right between Alberta's borders (*hyph.*)
8. Russian composer heading north to steal Thor's pan
10. I spear wild shrub
13. English tot raised flightless birds
15. Sammy, who wrote lyrics about drear part of French navy
18. Spanish kings will assume exterior of gate to be most colourless?
20. Lack of life-supporting gals damaged axon inside of vial
21. Welshman, for example, inked frame within a film, and note at the end
22. Chic jar from an empire in Peru
23. Oscar initially paves 1/3 of valleys with stone
25. Weather events that drench uncovered eels, perhaps
27. Like supporting Roosevelt with a bit of singing (*hyph.*)
29. Nice central part of nerd's pans
31. Part of the visual apparatus of Eva's bats
32. Essay describing each as "prone toward weeping"