Farewell and Amend  
by Ucaoimhu

In this puzzle, all Across clues work normally. Some Down clues, however, contain an extra word that must be removed before solving. After filling the grid, you will be able to alter one letter in each of several Across entries so that (in order) the new entries are clued by those extra words; any Down entry that gets modified as a result of these alterations will still be a word after all of them are done.

The new letters in the altered squares, read column by column, left to right, will give the “before” condition of another change; also if, for each set of three or more altered squares in a straight line, you draw a line connecting them, then one of these lines will show the “after” condition, and the others will indicate the manner of the change. Finally, if you look at the Across clues whose entries do not change and the Down clues without an extra word, and take the nth letter of the nth such clue, then you will see another relevant change involving a couple of letter alterations.

ACROSS
1. Mimics surrounding small, projecting parts of churches (5)
5. Apparatus used when skiing with spoiled brat (1-3)
8. Gal entering society that, ultimately, owed money (4)
13. Saint Peter’s last sheep had scattered (7)
15. Even pieces of wallpaper will be winglike items (4)
17. Lastly, tell Xena to hit ersatz Hindu or Taoist philosopher (3-3)
18. Singer Orbison left $1000 in English city (4)
19. After the initial emergencies, gets out of bed (5)
20. Talk with French feline (4)
21. Tiny particles coating fifty travelers’ quarters (6)
22. First to soak before being dried (4)
23. Weird din Gail is getting on the phone (7)
24. Ones turning back Grandma (4)
25. To the left of Yolanda’s playthings (4)
26. Parts of ships heading west will be smooth (5)

DOWN
2. Oaf is sure to get emperor into Palo Alto (7)
3. Attached unadorned box Nat brought up (7)
4. Begin to claim Long Island plant is celestially illuminated (7)
5. Time for going about tasks topless is quarter of twelve, in Paris (5)
6. Awful, awful belt, say (7)
7. Thinks about a boy beginning to see ceremonies (7)
9. The tees arranged by one concerned with beauty (7)
10. “Toast Market” sounded strange (7)
11. Actor Danson gets out-promoted (6)
12. Non-cleric heard feeble actress Hathaway (6)
14. A hundred mushrooms eaten by two Spanish medics (4)
16. With difficulty, got English king Edward bargaining (4)
17. Pants, “The Belgian has six piggies” (5)