

Seventeen-Year Trip

by Ucaimhu

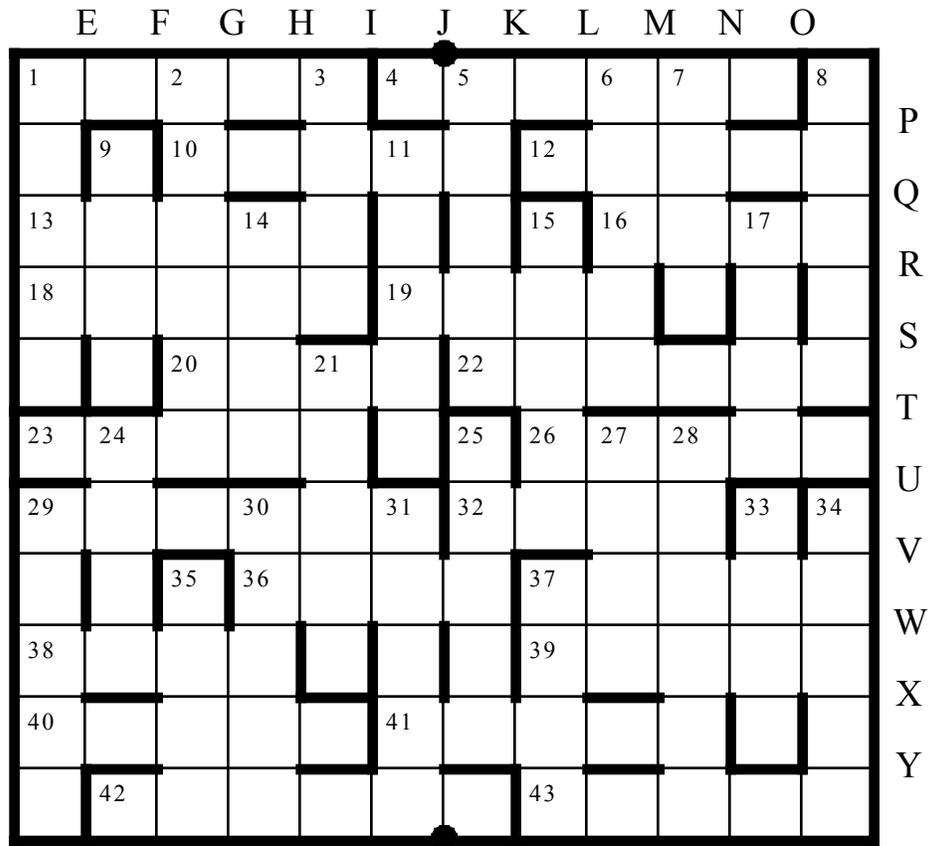
I moved back to the northeast 17 years ago. In tribute, this puzzle portrays a possible (approximately) 17-year round trip between the two northeastern sites given by 4 Across and 42 Across. Ten Down clues each have an extra word that must be deleted before solving; in clue order, these words form an ambiguous cryptic clue that can clue 4 Across (with enumeration 3 3) or 42 Across (enumeration 6).

For four other Down clues, the wordplay will yield a sequence of letters where one letter has been replaced by a pair of letters; put a dot on the intersection of the lines indicated by the pair, and label it with the replaced letter. Connect the dots (Top - A - B - C - D - Bottom) with straight lines, and highlight all the squares these lines pass through, to see a sequence of four items that gets you from 4 Across to 42 Across (after quite a time).

The ten remaining Down clues all work normally, but have answers that are too long, so that a sequence of letters must be written on a *line segment* (thick or thin) instead of in a box; each segment will be part of a different lettered horizontal line. These will present a sequence of ten items that will be traversed in going back from 42 Across to 4 Across. Each Across clue contains an extra letter that must be deleted before solving; in clue order, these will spell out what you would be returning in time for, if you left now.

ACROSS

1. Understand Steven, for example (3 2)
10. Hares seizing 1001-grand computer (5)
12. Doe follower, prisoner, and observer's job (5)
13. Economically regressive, partly Athenian statesman and heron (5)
16. A fool's state (4, *abbr.*)
18. Next to hold Romeo after Juliet's predecessor becomes unresponsive (5)
19. Mitre befuddled Prime Minister Golda (4)
20. Small food item is a hint, upsettingly (4)
22. Gibson Girl Evelyn improperly made Ben spit (6)
23. Do very well on the Liberian train (5)
26. Prolix orator's portrayed Sandra in *The Crestless Years* (5)
29. When Oscar replaces excellent, foully clothed museum guide (6)
32. Like those that surround Tajiki arena with grapes (4)
36. Attack on the driver side has leaders confused (4)
37. Rifle-jiggling person who spends time behind bears (5)
38. Org. that defends rights with 1,150 nukes, chiefly (4, *abbr.*)
39. Adults possessing dog and cart (5)
40. Hammier part left near small Scot's root vegetables (5)



41. Shortened, oddly-shaped indigo oranges, say (5, *abbr.*)
43. Party not outwardly led by Seth's man (5)

DOWN

1. Actor Leonardo turned caustic before getting cut off
2. Hollow green French bean containing minute egg, say
3. Something can start to turn color
5. Retreat's own musician played, at last
6. Listens to wild rheas endlessly
7. Scud-damaged college gets near the Pacific (*abbr.*)
8. One empowered lunatic makes suggestions outside
9. Family that psychotherapist Carl keeps rejecting
11. High-frequency beam displays what the Rockettes present to the audience? (2 *wds.*)
14. Of a city official with ethics, carrying a club
15. Of more than one opinion that is held by Bugs, maybe
17. One AC/DC record spinner near one Ivorian city
21. Horrible Pennsylvania chap brought up defunct airline (2 *wds.*)
24. Make up Ms. Chanel, employing new, unfilled compact
25. Bottom 60% of naive Wisconsin tyros, essentially
27. Beef about revolutionary git is ear-related
28. Fine Brie mixed with date-free fudge is a temperature-reducing agent
29. Footballer Art and family make no minibuses
30. Initially, hot tweeters utter "About to explode!"
31. Quixote's aunt has provided unicorn's front leg bone
33. Ought to start zapping every random Urban Outfitter
34. Troy bewitched round poles near empty part of church
35. Circles area around the Belgian's spread
37. Led Cera astray, say