

As I was coming from the sticks  
I met a man with only *six*  
Of these, where each had *six* of those  
And so on. (Thrifty, I suppose.)

As you fill the grid, you will be removing items in quantities equal to the difference between the entourages of the St. Ives and New York guys, as follows:

(1) From some answers (the correct quantity) you must remove, before entry, one letter that constitutes a picture of one kind of item.

(2) Some other answers have different single letters removed before entry, which represent different items, in order of increasing value; find the total value in terms of the lowest-valued item (the only one that is actually of concern here).

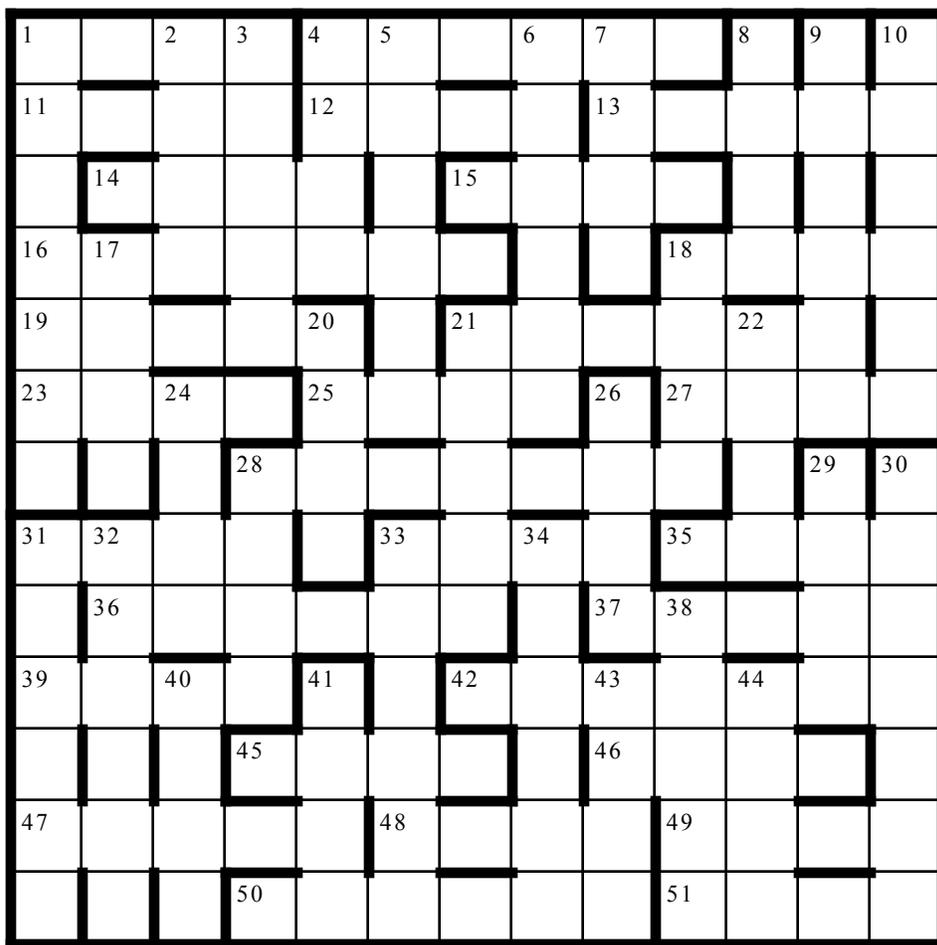
To let you determine what the items in (2) are, and their values, there are other clues in which an "exchange" is made: an extraneous word, denoting one item, appears in the clue, and multiple copies of a different word, denoting a set of other items with the same total value, will be removed from the answer before entry.

(3) Finally, some Across and Down answers (not involved in any of the above) conflict in certain squares; put a new letter into each such square to form words in both directions. Replacing what is spelled by the letters from the Across words, and by those from the Down words, with what is spelled by the new letters, will constitute the removal of the last two items.

(When reading these phrases, you may think that you have been shortchanged by one letter. However, this letter appears in the appropriate place in the grid, and is also clued by the phrase spelled out in the corresponding letters of the twenty clues that do not participate in any of the above.)

ACROSS

1. Excuses leaderless oafs
4. Conveyance used to transport Charlie and Jason's ship, and Carrie Fisher's back room (2 wds.) [NI2]
11. West half of wood at Virginia State
12. More outrageous city in Utah
13. Are swerving in the direction of a muse
14. Left orange drink for little pest
15. Mixed Ali up with physicist Wolfgang
16. Sexy man doffing cap, not clothes, finally loosens up
18. Heard "cereal" as a description of high-class cuisine
19. Waken naughty roues
21. Gol-dang — no lunatic uttered "C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>14</sub>"
23. For instance, the origins of grouse and snipe!
25. Thus regret returning Old-World money
27. Dotty sent a bird home
28. Satchel contains cloned item resembling the limb of a nocturnal creature [NI3]



31. Thought of first half of record, ignoring second
33. For each entralling old city is less besmirched
35. Drop in the manner of a marsupial
36. Save Edward the First from entering into a dreaming state
37. First-generation immigrant from Japan is due before 44 Down?
39. Ate up salad that's brownish-gray
42. I, with help, will get a bunch of cetaceans to become crustaceans
45. Automobile shed where chickens are audible
46. Steal first of flasks carried by drunk
47. In front of church organ, I will be giving hints
48. A tag eschewed at first by an assistant
49. Cooked T-bone is considered likely (2 wds.)
50. Ms. Blanchett's victory west of approximately 60% of those 51 ecclesiastical jurisdictions
51. Ultimately, well, single!
7. Senses lady is overwhelmed by charges
8. Badly need a B-and-B skillet in a German resort city (*hyph.*)
9. Immediately colors headless sculptures
10. Drunk on Mumm, grand Muppet produces inertia-based device to deliver water (2 wds.) [NI2]
17. Selections from vehicle *White Christmas* essentially describing hotel in debt
18. Cthulhu angrily engulfs a Chinese river
20. Mr. Kilmer eats English meat
21. Heard farm equipment arrive? Nonsense
22. Upon reaching the cochlea, was familiar with line of nerves in front? (*prefix*)
24. Old-style glowing ember damaged ledge
26. Paladin righteously displays letters from the Cross (*abbr.*)
28. Emblem of evil appliance company
29. Lupe'd unfortunately whined
30. Egyptian god and goddess eating normal dried fruit
31. Unhewn tin must be recycled, by law
32. Bar duly gets bent in a permanent way
33. Page hidden inside of prison, say, by correspondent (2 wds.)
34. Remainder of notes I expected
38. Nitrogen extracted from red gemstone and pitch
40. Um . . . rip off the Feast of Esther
41. Referee no GOP-Pagan struggles in the capital of American Samoa [NI2 var.]
43. Discussed embers and cabbages
44. Von Bismarck loves sport shirts

DOWN

1. Gets older horses to bite you, in France
2. Later part of a clock's sound is stereotypical, but not the first part
3. Waterbirds without clothing start to weep
4. Leave for Togo, mistakenly (2 wds.)
5. One talking about a marsupial eating salt
6. One enchanting person's pictures