

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).

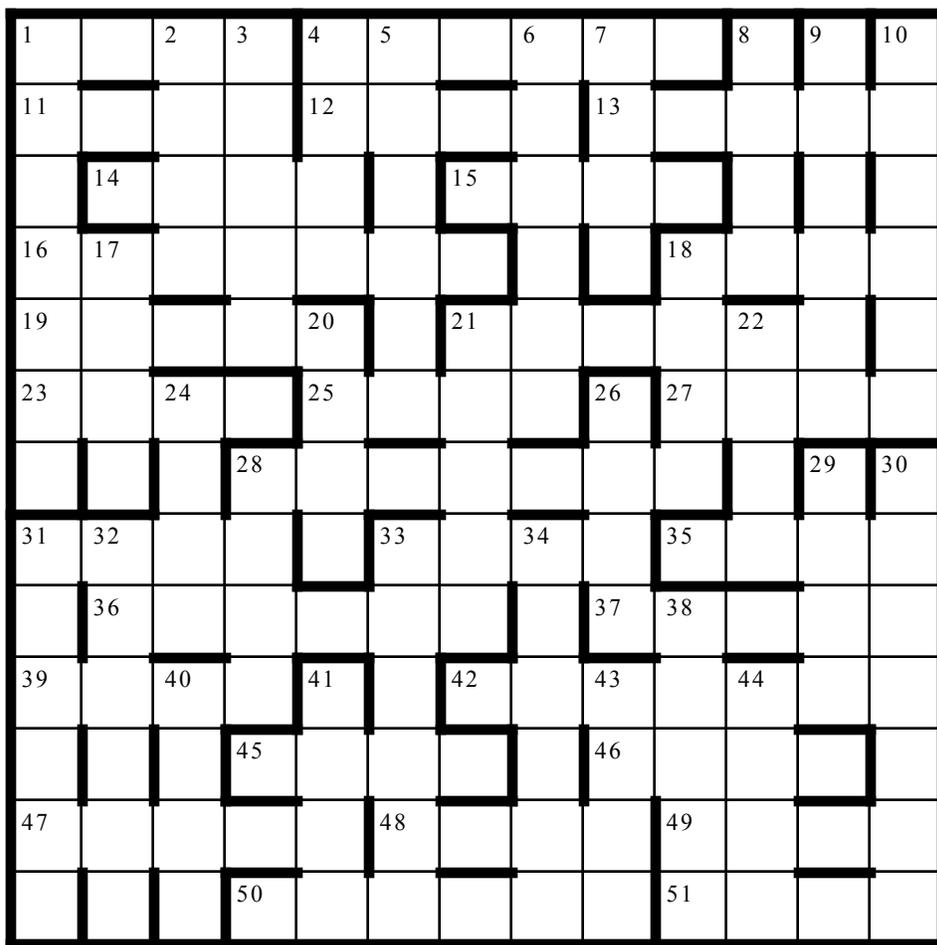
To let you determine what the items in (2) are, and their values, there are other clues in which an “exchange” is made: an extraneous word, denoting one item, appears in the clue, and multiple copies of a different word, denoting a set of other items with the same total value, will be removed from the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