CRYPTO CROSSWORD   Boris Randolph

Horticultural brainbuster: Have you a green thumb for words? There are flowers and other plants all around the border of this puzzle, with some inside.

IBERIS CROCUS  
VERONA RUGOSA  
YEA S T P A L I E R  
S E L S H RE  
I A S I N US SO  
R US L IM T U L I P  
I R O N ED C H I L L I  
SAL I X TR I Y E N  
IX P R E S S S K  
R FD RHEA TN  
H I L I LY HEA TH  
U LT I MO B A M B O O  
SM I L AX H Y S S O P

ETYMOLOGY RIDDLES   Barbara Hunt Lazerson

1. They both "ripen" early.
   Etymology: Precocious is from Latin praecox, "ripening before its time"; and apricot is from Latin (prunum)praecocum, "early ripening (plum)". Both of these are in turn derived from Latin praecogere, "to cook or ripen before"; prae- "before" + co­ quere "to ripen, cook". Latin coquere can be traced back to the Indo-European root *pekw- "to cook, ripen". Cognates: cook, cuisine, kiln, kitchen, biscuit, concoct, peptic

2. They are both stiff.
   Etymology: Both starch and stork are derived from the Indo-European root *ster- meaning "stiff". A collar is made stiff by adding starch or "stiffening" to it; the stork was probably named after the stiff movements that it makes.
   Cognates: stare, stark, stern, stereotype, stereophonic, cholesterol, starve

3. They are all "great" !
   Etymology: The Indo-European root *meg- has produced a plethora of words. Seven of the words in the riddle are from Latin. Omega is from Greek o mega, meaning "large o". Maharajah is derived from Sanskrit maha, "great".
   Cognates: mickle, magnanimous, magnitude, majesty, maxim, maximum, majuscule
4. When they travel on foot.

   Etymology: Both pioneer and pedestrian are derived from the Indo-European root *ped- "foot". Originally the Old French word pionier meant "a foot soldier sent out to clear the way".
   Cognates: fetter, pedigree, sesquipedalian, trivet, impeach, impeccable, pejoration, impair

5. They are both "heavy," man, "heavy"!

   Etymology: Both gravid and guru are derived from the Indo-European root *gwer- "heavy". A pregnant woman is heavy in the physical sense; a guru is heavy in a non-physical sense.
   Cognates: gravity, grieve, aggravate, brigade, blitzkrieg, quern

6. Our linguistic forefathers thought that both were milky.

   Etymology: Galaxy comes from Greek gala, "milk"; and lettuce comes from Latin lac, "milk". Both are in turn derived from the Indo-European root *melg- "to rub off; to milk".
   Cognates: emulsion, milk, lactate

KICKSHAWS  Will Shortz

Three Questions: 1) All letters in the words are symmetrical around a vertical axis; write the words vertically, hold a mirror at their side, and their reflection will appear the same as the printing on the page 2) HIAWATHA 3) MOUTH-TO-MOUTH

Lipograms: 1) Crimson, canary, and shamrock 2) Jimmy and Fritz 3) A good British crossword (others have suggested "con-nubial bliss") 4) Fifth digit, twixt D and F

Curious Puzzle: The shutters were divided vertically just to the left of the T in the top line; cover up the left side of the legend and read the message I SHALL DANCE DAILY AND UTTER LOUD SCREAMS IN THIS WINDOW LISTEN AFTER 8 P.M.

And Literally So:  c) Sun (Galileo's Universe) d) Transit (trains + T) e) Imam (I'm + a + M) f) Prague (a purge) g) Nero (insane Roman) h) Train (two meanings) i) China (cha + in) j) Mirage (image + r) k) Doldrums (do + Id + rums) l) Breasts (bra sets)

Pig Latin Refresher Course:  a) winnow, Inouye  b) phallus, Alice Faye (both courtesy of Doug Heller)

NICKNAMES IN THESE UNITED STATES  L. R. N. Ashley

for awhile "Brother Jonathan" was interchangeable with "Yankee" to
describe a subject of Uncle Sam 11. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft 12. James Naismith is supposed to have invented the game in Spring-
field (Mass.) in 1892, but did not design it for players seven feet tall 13. General Nathanael Green of the Revolutionary "Continental" Army 14. Texas has been under the flags of Spain, France, Mexico, The Re-
public of Texas, The Confederate States of America, and The United
States; The Texas Republic's flag was "The Lone Star" and the Con-
federacy's "The Stars and Bars" 15. That of President Lyndon Baines
Johnson 16. Virginia was the Mother of Presidents Washington, Jeffer-
25. John Tyler 26. Alben Barkley, vice-president under Harry S Tru-
man 27. King George's War (the US had also a King Philip's War and many others) 28. The Mugwumps (from an Indian word, it is said, for chief) 29. Tammany Hall, a term eventually synonymous with dis-
honest politics 30. When the lights went out, Captain Wadsworth
snatched up the charter, ran from the room, and hid the paper in a
nearby tree, Charter Oak 31. When the lights went out (the minority
was trying to stop the meeting), the Democrats at the national conven-
tion in New York (1835) lit matches to provide light 32. The Know-
Nothing Party 33. John Eliot of Massachusetts Colony 34. Oklahoma,
the name indicating haste to get there 35. The Straight-Outs 36. Zachary Taylor 37. John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK) 38. Thomas
Jefferson, Monticello being the name of his Virginia estate 39. Franklin Delano Roosevelt 40. Vermont

LOGOLOGICAL CROSSWORDS    Ralph G. Beaman

The two words are the all-vowel EUOUAE and the all-consonant CRWTHS.