

## ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

KICKSHAWS by David Morice

### The Serf's English

The stupid person showed off on the gaudy race horse, but the unreliable, undependable group of people didn't have the money to be influential. The newly-promoted corporal with excessive pride in his military rank and decorations complained, "I've seen Air Force officers who don't like to fly become adept fighter pilots with false bravery inspired by intoxication - until they crash."

"That's all stupid talk!" The pimp rapidly ate sweets with his elegant, smartly-dressed, sexually attractive woman parading on the street next to him.

"What's the commotion, male who doesn't take his girl friend to social engagements?" The U.S. Air Force pilot became excited for an uproarious argument with the dude on a drunken spree in Boston.

"Just some person who excels at the fast singing of jazz songs to an accordion under the moon."

"Idle talk! Who's your girl friend? She's a woman of superior quality."

"Extinguish the cigarette, and she'll dance till dawn for a penny."

The girl had a fit. "But if you're shirking about your money, silly blundering person, I'll grab your genuine tuxedo and thrash you with my feet. No easy money, no vulgar dancing!"

"My foolish old married woman has more money in her ready-made clothes than you have in your platform in front of a side-show tent," the well-dressed person passed the time in idle chatter, "but I don't pretend she's a girl known only for her sex appeal."

"[expletive responding to an obvious, unnecessary statement]!" the loud, garishly-dressed ladies' man jabbered, "my attractive woman has sexual intercourse with homely persons for money. I inspect very popular girls on Friday. If you've got the money for whiskey, let's hurry to a saloon. My beautiful girl has zest for diamonds."

"I understand the language, you darned itinerant pedlar. Anyhow, Red's head is champagne to my eyes. Her teeth, her head of long hair, her hat, her pair of hair puffs worn over her ears, her nose, even her glasses - how attractive!"

"With that flattery, you must be an actor given to overly-emotional performances. She's got more pep than an airplane, more sex appeal than a girl popularly acclaimed for her sex appeal," the rakish dude told the truth. "She's yours for any large sum of money."

The three hurried to a nightclub to get drunk. A drunk circus performer with too much whiskey made a noisy disturbance with bricks by the pinball machine. A youth with personal problems subdued him.

"What a saloon patronized by creeps!" the U.S. Air Force pilot complained. "Maybe we ought to leave quickly before some sideshow freak hits my ribbons representing military decorations."

"Leave, squeamish person?" the pimp gave a long reprimand. "Don't

strike the pilot's automatic ejection seat. Let's be a success! Let's dance to the saxophone! Isn't my sexually-attractive girl an excellent, pretty, attractive girl?"

"Sensational, but is she fooling me with falsies from her mail-order catalogue?"

"Go fly an airplane! My beautiful girl is no dog looking for food. She's got excellent female breasts."

"Excellent, eh? Bartender, more liquor. I'm an important person on a drunken spree with a snobbish, disagreeable girl. O.K., boss, how about a look at the woman's breasts from the sexually-attractive young woman?"

"You brag, wise guy, but where are the pornographic photographs? No, it's all babble."

After drinking in one gulp a glassful of the raw, inferior homemade alcoholic beverage, he snuck away.

**Cryptarithmic Calendar** A = 6, D = 2, E = -4, F = 0, H = 4, I = 1, M = -3, N = -1, O = -5, R = -6, S = -7, T = 5, U = -2, W = 7, Y = 3

**My!** Chinese wheat-flour noodles (as in CHOW MEIN)

**Perfection Test** PASS is the answer to all the blanks. Did you ....?

**Crossword Ways** 1. Jeff Grant (je + ff, G.R. + ant) 2. Leonard Gordon (reversal of Noel + a + rd, go + r + don) 3. Chris Cole (anagram of rich + s [cardinal point of compass], C + ole) 4. Ross Eckler (or = gold + S.S., end of the + anagram of clerk) 5. Darryl Francis (anagram of lady + R.R., franc + is)

**Historical Errors** A is letter 1 of the alphabet, H is letter 8, and AND, taken as & (ampersand = 'and per se and') always used to be appended to the alphabet like (or as) letter 27. So 1 = 1 to the third power, 8 = 2 to the third power, and 27 = 3 to the third power. Three cubes in succession.

**Double-Letter Abbreviations** Both are musical terms: FORTE (f) and FORTISSIMO (ff); PIANO (p) and PIANISSIMO (pp).

**ODC 2 RKDA** A a AL hale AYL awhile B be B4 before BD beady  
 BST beastie BUT beauty BUTS beauteous C see, she CLE silly  
 CN seeing CNRE scenery CT city CZ sees D the, do DL deal  
 DMN demon DR dear DVS devious E we, he, hee EVL evil F of,  
 have FN heaven G gee I l, eye IC icy IDA idea IDL ideal  
 IDLSM idealism IL I'll, isle IOA Iowa IV lvy JL jail KG cagey  
 KM came KN can KSL castle L all, hell LEN alien LO hello  
 LON alone LX Alex M am MN a man MNNC eminency MNS im-  
 mense MSRE emissary N an, and, in, on NCDS insidious NDD in-  
 deedy NME enemy NML animal NRE Henry NRG energy NVS envi-  
 ous O oh, ho OCN ocean ODS odious OK okay OM home ON own  
 PTS piteous QES curious R are, her RC horsie RE hurry REA  
 area REN hurrying RKDA Arcadia QT cutie RR horror RT hearty  
 S his, is, its, yes, has, that's SKPN escaping S N isn't SN9 asinine  
 S Q ask you SRE sorry TLZ tells the TR tear U you UL you'll  
 VL veal VU view VZ visit XQS excuse XLNC Excellency XPDNC  
 expediency Y why YL while 1 one 2 to, too 4 for 4N foreign

4NR foreigner 1 2 want to

**My Palabama** The two-state word is minnesotamissourinic which reduces to MNeMOnic, already answered in the text. Deciphered, the paragraph reads: tAKE my pAL, cARL: the crAZy CAT COuldn't aCT DEcent! he FLung the Garbage High, a trIAL bID to fILL IN sackS. the lucky LAd MANaged to seeM Doomed to Mlx a MNeMOnic. he crAMS them To buNChes aND NEver even Hates it wheN JaN Makes teN Very tiNY eggs. jOHn toOK them, OR my PAI dRlPS Crumbs Down that Nose, but Xavier pUT VAts where beV ThreW A Wlsh, noW Vast yet snowY.

#### UNFED ROCKS AND SCALY THINGS by Christopher McManus

Puzzle: appROVINGly, bankNOTes, carPENTry, centIMEter, childISHly, clUTTERing, colorATIOns, compASSes, corpOREal, coOPERates, courT-HOUse, curRENTly, deCAMEter, deFORMities, diVERSIONary, disCON-CERts, dispENSable, earNESTly, embOLDENed, emPATHetic, flaUNTING, imPROPERly, inSEMlnate, lumBERMen, martINETs, matTRESSes, misdeLIVERed, misNUMbers, monASTERies, peSTILEnce, piLASTers, pin-STRIPes, piROUetting, purCHASERs, readMITTING, reapPEARing, reLATEdness, resPONDents, ruDIMENTs, saFFLOWer, saLAMander, shRUBBERies, siDELights, skETCHier, surRENDER, thRUSTing, trAGE-Dies, unDIVERSified

Final Paragraph: apPEALing, apPALLing, seARCHers, porTENTous, forETASte, proLIFerate, commUNITies, famILIARly, unWARRANTed, comPLAINing

#### STRANGE CONNECTIONS, ODD ETYMOLOGIES by Leonard R. N. Ashley

1. Gutta percha is Malay getah pertjah (gum from Sumatra) says M'Nair in Perak and the Malays (no connection with Latin gutta (drop) of rubber)
2. Salve is related to Gothic salbōn, German Salben (mire, mud); presumably mud poultices were used in olden times (no connection with Latin salve)
3. Wedlock is just Anglo-Saxon wedlác (engagement + gift), no relation to a bond
4. Sepoy is from Hindi sipahi (soldier armed with a bow and arrow) but those used by the British during the raj in India were armed with more modern weapons
5. Alley comes from alabaster, though kids who play marbles don't notice that and, in fact, marbles are generally now not made of marble
6. Fleur de lys is said to have been the badge of France's King Louis (Loÿs) VII
7. Gooseberry goes back not to geese but middle High German krús (curling, hairy)
8. Purée is not pure (clear) soup but either French porée (made of beets or herbs) or Italian porrata (leek soup)
9. Menial has no suggestion of "mean" but is related to Anglo-Saxon meyneal (a servant who lived in the master's house)
10. Shuttlecock was a cork, not a "bird" (cock), and the battledore (by the way) is Spanish batidor, while the name Badminton was that of a country estate where the game was played

11. Lanyard now is of rope but was once French *lanière* (narrow strap, perhaps of wool, because of Latin *lana*)
12. Tarragon was Latin *dranunculus*, which Philemon Holland (the "Translator-Generall of His Age") described thus in his 1614 translation of Pliny: "somewhat red, and the same wrythed and folded round in the manner of a Dragon, whereupon it took its name."
13. Nickname was an eke name, just an added one, not one assumed to trick Old Nick (a name we gave the devil because of memories of a sea monster)
14. Windlass was Icelandic *vinda* (wind) + *áss* (pole; cf. Gothic *ans* = beam)
15. Instep contains the idea of *stoop* (bend); it's where the foot bends, and is not related to *step* (sit on your stoop (or steps) and ponder that)