The following is not a treatise on the fine points of billiards, but instead a quiz based on the fact that many words in English can be read either backwards or forwards. Each definition below calls for a two-word phrase -- for example, a "buddy on your knee" is obviously a LAP PAL. The number following the definition indicates the number of letters in the word(s) sought. Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. a crazy female animal (3)
2. manufactured a Dutch cheese (4)
3. a gadid veterinarian (3)
4. reimbursed for a baby's fanny cover (6)
5. a stag that feeds on bamboo-like grass (4)
6. spoil a male sheep (3)
7. exceptional guy in Nevada city (4)
8. hero of California town (4)
9. in the style of Esau or his descendants (4)
10. summary description of a certain horse (5)
11. criticize a golf score (3)
12. rework a German river (4)
13. a grain of the Chinese "way" (3)
14. Pythias's wandering friend (5)
15. blue jeans material taken from the earth (5)
16. bite from a small point (3)
17. love, Italian style (4)
18. a moray on the sheltered side (3)
19. hoarfrost on an Arab prince (4)
20. a platelike creature (6)
21. repulse the victim of a dread disease (5)
22. Long Island Railroad publicity man (4)
23. short sleep for wood god (3)
24. an augury from a Jules Verne character (4)
25. bow of the head from a Spanish grandee (3)