In Poe's awesome tale of vengeance, the narrator Montresor reveals to the reader the circumstances which prompted him to commit a perfect crime 50 years before: "The thousand injuries of Fortunato I had borne as I best could, but when he ventured upon insult I vowed revenge." On the pretext of having Fortunato sample some newly acquired Amontillado, Montresor had enticed him into the vaults beneath his castle. There the inebriated Fortunato was taken by surprise, chained into a crypt, and walled up alive with mortar and stone. Poe, a clever punster, scattered many puns throughout his tales. Following Poe's lead, we have created 25 puns based on "The Cask of Amontillado." Can you solve them by "trowel and error"?

1. Why do Freudians see phallic symbolism in this tale?
2. Why is Montresor like Shakespeare's Hamlet?
3. Describe F's condition at the beginning and the end of the tale.
4. Why does M murder F at Carnival time?
5. Why did M chain F in the crypt?
6. Why did M want F to sample the Amontillado so urgently?
7. Why did the psychotic M select Amontillado for his plan?
8. Why was the drunken F a man who never complained?
9. What was M's philosophy concerning berries?
10. Why was M's wine cellar like a bank vault?
11. What effect did M's trowel have on F?
12. Why was F silent during the walling up?
13. What soft drink is suggested by F's presence in the crypt?
14. Why is F like a wine cask?
15. Why may have F actually died by drowning during the walling up?
16. Describe F's death in terms of alcohol.
17. What was F's immediate reaction to the walling up?
18. Why was F doomed to die in M's subterranean chamber?
19. After murdering F, what song did M sing?
20. Why has M's secret been safe for 50 years?
21. Where in Ireland is this tale most popular?
22. How could the police have found F's remains?
23. What famous Irish ballad inspired Poe to write this tale?
24. What is the favorite beverage of M's descendants?
25. Why was F murdered below M's castle?

Answers can be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.