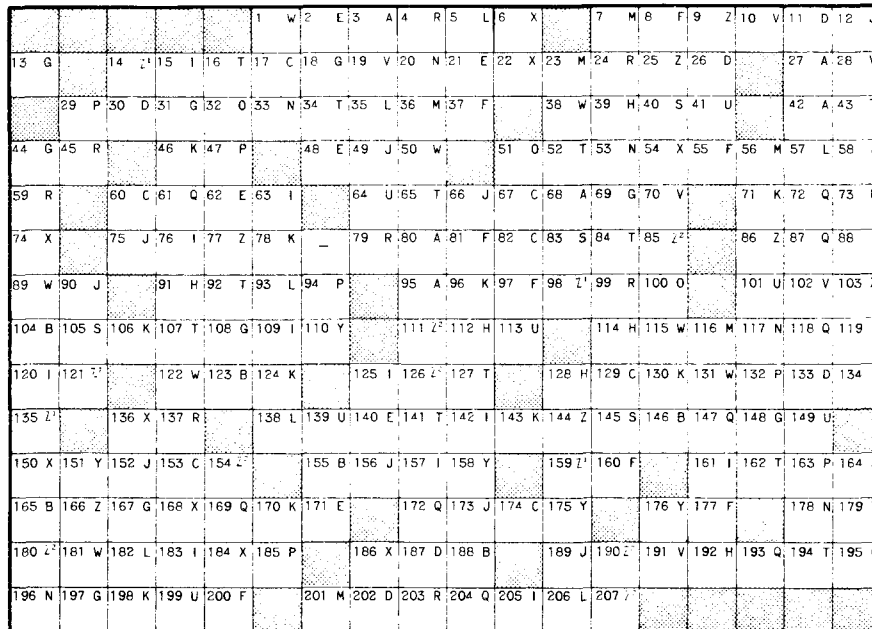


DOUBLE-CROSTIC

Number 153

by Thomas H. Middleton



Instructions:

If you've never solved one of these puzzles, it will probably look much more difficult than it actually is. If you can answer only a few of the WORDS correctly, you're on your way to solving the puzzle. Fill in the numbered blanks of all the WORDS you can guess and write the letter of each numbered blank in its correspondingly numbered square in the diagram. The letters printed in the upper-right-hand corners of the squares indicate from what WORD a particular square's letter comes.

The diagram, when filled in, should read as a quotation from a published work. The dark squares are the spaces between words. If there is no dark square at the end of a line, a word may carry over to the line below.

The first letter of each WORD, reading down, will spell the name of the author and the title of the work from which the quotation is taken.

You should find yourself seeing words and phrases taking form in the diagram; so you can work back and forth, from WORDS to diagram and from diagram to WORDS, until the diagram is filled in.

Answer to **Double-Crostic No. 152** appears on page 45.

CLUES	WORDS	CLUES	WORDS
A. Fought	3 27 42 58 68 80 95	O. Main or essential part of a matter	32 51 100 195
B. Was at ease	104 123 146 155 165 188	P. Ransacked and robbed; plundered; stripped bare	185 29 47 94 132 163
C. Weigh down, burden	17 60 67 82 129 153 174	Q. Genus of plants comprising the columbines	87 147 204 72 118 172 169 193 61
D. Great hunter	187 11 30 133 202 26	R. Magic drink of the ancients that banished sorrow, pain, and grief	45 59 203 4 137 24 79 99
E. Snappy, flashy	62 140 2 21 48 171	S. Was excessively or foolishly fond	105 40 83 145 164
F. Composite plant having flowers with white rays and a yellow disk (2 wds.)	177 97 134 200 8 55 81 119 160 37	T. The first man, in classical mythology	92 127 162 141 16 43 52 84 34 65 107 194
G. Papua (2 wds.)	18 69 44 108 148 167 197 13 31	U. 1936 Shirley Temple film	113 139 41 64 199 149 101
H. Crowds	73 91 128 39 112 114 192	V. Persons or agencies that sell	10 179 28 70 102 191 19
I. One of a superior strain of American trotting horses	109 125 161 183 205 15 63 76 120 142 157 88	W. Hugged; adopted; received readily	181 122 38 1 115 89 50 131
J. Device that records oceanic depths by sonic waves	90 12 49 66 75 152 173 189 156	X. "Thus the ____ of resolution / Is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought" (2 wds.; <i>Hamlet</i>)	168 186 6 136 150 184 74 22 54
K. "A train-band captain eke was he / Of famous" (2 wds.; Cowper, "John Gilpin")	170 46 124 78 96 130 198 106 71 143	Y. Irritably impatient, touchy	158 151 110 176 175
L. City in the west Netherlands	206 93 138 182 35 57 5	Z. Experience; sustain	103 166 86 25 9 144 77
M. Economize, be sparing or frugal	7 23 36 56 116 201	Z ¹ . Unbending, inflexible; stern, austere	14 98 121 159 135
N. Tone color	20 33 53 117 178 196	Z ² . Clear, deep green	190 180 154 207 111 126 85

THE BACK DOOR

Squeeze Play

THE MORE I READ about California's Proposition 13, the more I like it. A cranky, iconoclastic old codger, a classic American "voice in the wilderness," having preached without a congregation for 14 years, suddenly finds himself guru of hordes and hero of the hour. Politicians of all ideological shades find themselves hemming and hawing before party lines are drawn. A California governor demonstrates positively balletic political adroitness by reversing himself on the issue mid-debate, thus protecting his potentially presidential hide. And legislators all over the country are suddenly faced with the appalling prospect of *limited* bank accounts that will not be automatically replenished when overdrawn.

Americans, from grade school history classes on, pay customary homage to "the will of the people." But few Americans, including the framers of the Constitution, have ever felt comfortable with that will in an unadulterated state. And so it was decided that the people would select a small group of wise men who would, in turn, select presidents and senators to make the laws.

The danger of simple majority rule is also its great advantage: Voting passionately rather than cautiously, the electorate can effect radical changes in

our governmental habits almost instantly. No matter how vociferously they promise to toss the rascals out, winners of political office are inevitably stymied by the obstinacy and self-interest of other legislators, by custom, and above all, by the need to get things accomplished. Politics, as President Carter has had some difficulty learning, is an art of compromise. A citizen's vote, on the other hand, is a declaration of personal opinion and can be as extreme and uncircumspect as one's conscience will allow. There is no penalty for voting "the wrong way," at least in American democracy.

The adoption of Proposition 13 was a bold and uncircumspect act. A priori, it was an almost impossible measure for any politician or investor in the status quo to support because its effects were unpredictable and possibly disruptive. As the lawyers and lawmakers scurried to make sense of the chaos the proposition's adoption created, it became clear how much more disastrous consequences might have been. But revolutionaries tend not to concern themselves with consequences. Jerry Rubin, when asked where his revolution was heading, answered: "Join us and find out."

Americans may not find where California's and the country's tax revolt is heading for months, maybe years. The impulse behind it is nonetheless worth celebrating. Ever since Franklin Roosevelt introduced Keynesian economics to our federal budget, Americans have not had a clear idea of where their tax dollar was going or what it was purchasing. The government has had to employ those whom the private sector would or could not, not because the government needed more employees but because that invisible beast, the "economy," needed that sort of "stimulation." My maternal grandfather wanted to die without one unpaid bill on his desk. (He succeeded.) Roosevelt and all his successors argued that indebtedness, far from being undesirable, was useful and necessary.

For almost half a century, Americans put up with economics they could not fathom because (a) the economics seemed to work; (b) there were other, larger tasks at hand (such as wars); and (c) they more or less trusted their government. Then Vietnam, Watergate, and above all, bureaucratic inefficiency

and callousness corroded Americans' affection for and confidence in their governors.

Proposition 13 is a declaration—not of war but of supremacy. Though attempts have been made to characterize supporters of Proposition 13 as bigots who oppose subsidizing the poor, the evidence shows that most voters were not voting *against* the programs that their property taxes would have funded. They were voting *for* control over the government's purse strings. They were not seeking to *understand* the complexities of debt and contractual obligations and revenue sharing; they were simply saying, This is all the money we are willing to pay for government; now it is up to politicians to deliver the most for our dollars.

As any businessperson knows, having to operate within a tight, inflexible budget can be a healthful, invigorating challenge. Waste and inefficiency become doubly expensive when the squandered dollars could serve better purposes. Lacking funds to purchase something, one either improvises or does without.

It may be true that Proposition 13 will turn some local governments of California into Robinson Crusoes, scrounging for the necessities for survival. But whatever its effect on California, nationwide it has already changed attitudes. Henceforth, instead of simply approving new taxes to fund new programs, voters will require government to limit its activities to the available funds. Increased pressure on restricted budgets will increase scrutiny of proposed programs. The definition of "necessary" will necessarily contract. Initially, those hardest hit by Proposition 13 and similar measures elsewhere in the country will be the people who most depend on government for sustenance: the poor. The fear is that taxpayers will be reluctant to contribute any of their rescued tax dollars to restoring the valuable services eliminated by the tax cut. The challenge is how to make it attractive to the private sector to provide the goods and services that government can no longer afford. In the memorable past, the only incentive our Croesans government has made use of has been the stick. Now, deprived of funds (and power), our governors may be forced to discover uses for the carrot as well.

—CARLL TUCKER

