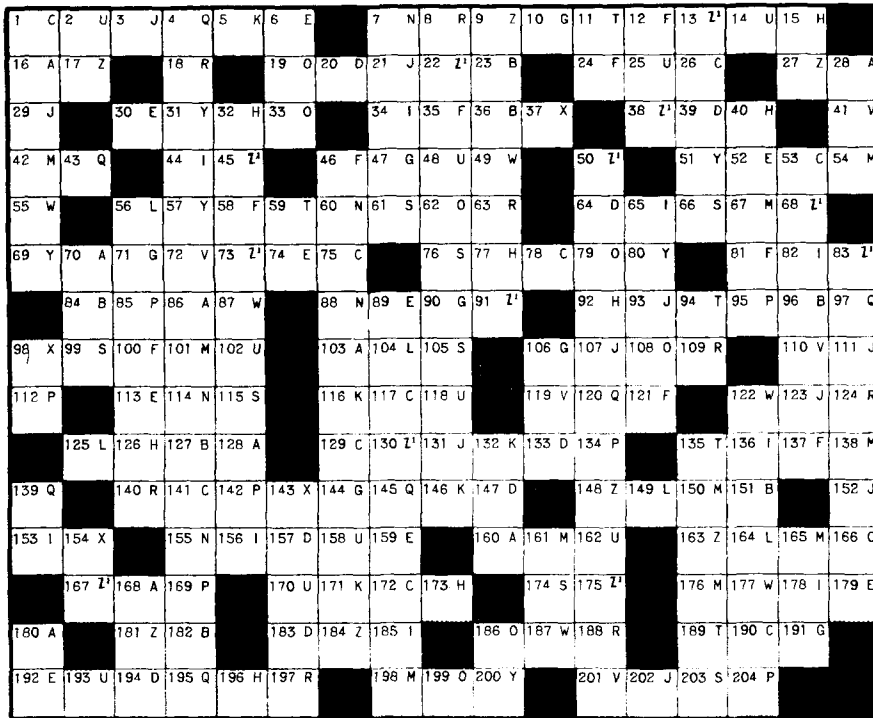


# DOUBLE-CROSTIC

Number 158

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-Croctic* 157 appears on page 4.

CLUES	WORDS	CLUES	WORDS
A. Indifferent, cool	28 86 103 128 160 168 180 16 70	N. Disseminated	7 60 88 114 155
B. Instructive examples	84 96 127 151 182 23 36	D. Mosaic tiles	79 108 166 19 33 62 186 199
C. Shameful	53 78 129 172 26 75 117 141 190	P. Manifest	204 142 85 112 134 169 95
	1	Q. Light cannon of the 16th cent.	97 120 145 195 43 139 4
D. Ford, perhaps	133 147 157 183 194 20 39 64	R. Forest of France, Belgium, and Luxembourg	18 124 188 8 140 109 197 63
E. Ornament, adorn	74 113 192 6 30 52 89 159 179	S. Perverse; difficult; troublesome	66 115 76 61 99 174 203 105
F. Natural or practical intelligence or sense (2 wds.)	12 35 58 81 100 121 24 137 46	T. Looks after	94 11 135 59 189
G. Essay	47 71 90 106 144 191 10	U. In a jam; in a fix (3 wds.)	2 158 102 25 14 170 162 193 118
H. Scurrility	32 77 92 126 173 196 15 40		48
I. Shrew, fishwife	44 82 156 34 65 178 136 153 185	V. Contemporary operatic soprano, born in Penn.	41 72 119 201 110
J. Unchanging, constant	202 29 107 131 21 93 152 3 111	W. Whinnies	187 49 177 55 122 87
	123	X. Spreads for drying	37 143 154 98
K. Central point or middle	132 171 116 146 5	Y. Brownish-red	200 31 51 69 57 80
L. Wacky, daffy	125 149 56 104 164	Z. View closely	184 148 17 9 163 27 181
M. Impartial, equitable (comp.)	165 138 161 176 198 42 54 67 101	Z'. "____, that dost almost persuade/Justice to break her sword!" (3 wds., <i>Othello</i> )	45 13 38 130 167 68 73 83 22
	150		50 175 91

# THE BACK DOOR

Newspapers on the Ropes

THE FIRST REACTION of many New Yorkers to the great newspaper strike of 1978 was "relief" at not "having to" read the papers and gratefulness for the opportunity to catch up on book reading. Gradually, a less pleasing feeling began to take hold, an uneasy sense of isolation and loss, which was not mitigated by the three instant dailies that had sprung up in the struck papers' place.

It was not headlines we lacked: The electronic media, the new dailies, and the Wall Street Journal carried those. It was not the advertisements or listings, which quickly reappeared elsewhere. It was details—seemingly slight facts about who won an amateur golf tournament, and who a bride's grandfather was, and who accompanied Vance on his latest tilt, and who designed the sets for a new play that opened off-Broadway (and closed), and thousands of other brushstrokes that ordinarily would have filled in our image of events and given them texture.

But were these details "news"? Could one fault the substituting media for not including them in their accounts? After all, did it really matter what time high tide was or who lost in the first round of the USTA open (and if it really did matter, couldn't individuals who cared find out from other sources)? How was one to define "news"?

Not easily. For most of us, the "news" is what is reported in whatever

media we depend on for our news—a circular definition. The *Oxford English Dictionary's* assertion that news is "tidings" is equally unhelpful, because it does not delimit news from any other new information. That Aunt Polly's dog has contracted indigestion, while a fact, can hardly be considered news, except in the most extraordinary (and difficult-to-imagine) circumstances.

The more strenuously one attempts to define "news," the clearer it becomes that there exists no adequate *a priori* definition. News is a product of consensus: News is news if enough people think it's news. Every editor edits for a community of readers or listeners or viewers. The measure of an editor's success is his or her ability to determine and deliver what the audience considers news. In this respect, every newspaper, great or small, is a local newspaper that functions as the nexus, the *agora*, for its community of readers.

Shared information is the weft of a communal life. The more information, the richer the fabric. The more one knows about a person, the greater the likelihood of discovering a connection—a mutual hobby or acquaintance or address—between that person and another. The more one has to talk about—and newspapers in New York are the largest single bin of conversational fodder—the more likely one is to find out something new. An effective newspaper not only recounts news; it *generates* news.

Just as a tree that falls unheard in the forest seems not to make noise, so a book or film or play that appears unreviewed (or unreviewed by one's accustomed critic) seems never to have existed. Likewise, knowing less about what one's friends are reading at the breakfast table makes one feel more autonomous and alone.

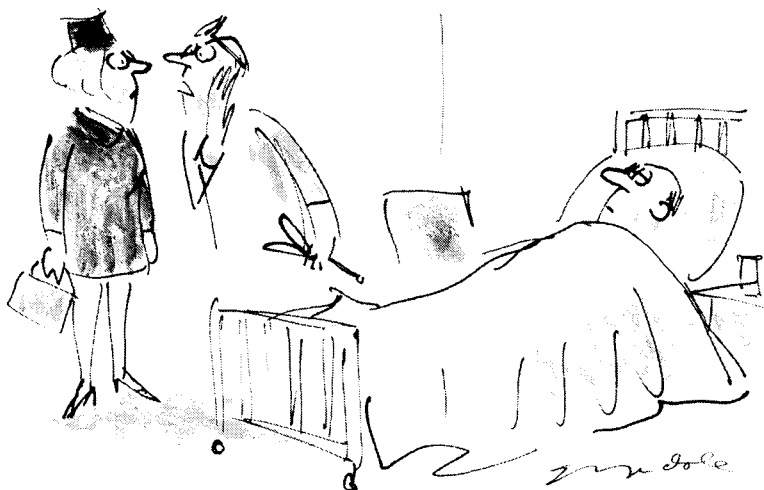
One invaluable lesson to be learned from New York's long newspaper strike is that quality newspapers like the *New York Times* and the *Daily News* are irreplaceable—and in serious danger of being replaced. Thanks to the increasing indolence of the American public, television news—an entire half-hour transcript of which fills less than a page of most newspapers—has crowded most newspapers out of existence, or reduced them to simply filling their pages with the "canned" news that arrives ready-made over the wires. In some communities, "shoppers"—giveaways composed entirely of ads—are siphoning advertising revenues away from the necessarily more costly local newspapers. The longer the New York strike lasts, the more alternative ways advertisers will find to sell their products, and the harder it will be to replenish the depleted tills and finance the detailed journalism that make our best newspapers so precious.

Strikes, television, and the proliferation of available advertising media have made enterprising newspapers an endangered species. Their extinction would prove a grievous blow to the already frayed ties that bind us citizen to citizen, person to person.

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Editorialists, no less than clowns, depend on timing for success. Alas, thanks to a month-long lead time, a curmudgeonly "Back Door" column about the President's domestic leadership appeared at precisely the moment when Carter was demonstrating impressive and precious talents as a peacemaker between Sadat and Begin. By the time this footnote of regret appears, the weather may have shifted yet again. But as of this writing, Carter deserves the highest respect, along with prayers that he will employ his newly revealed talents no less effectively on the domestic front.

—CARLL TUCKER



"I'm afraid he's losing his will to pay."