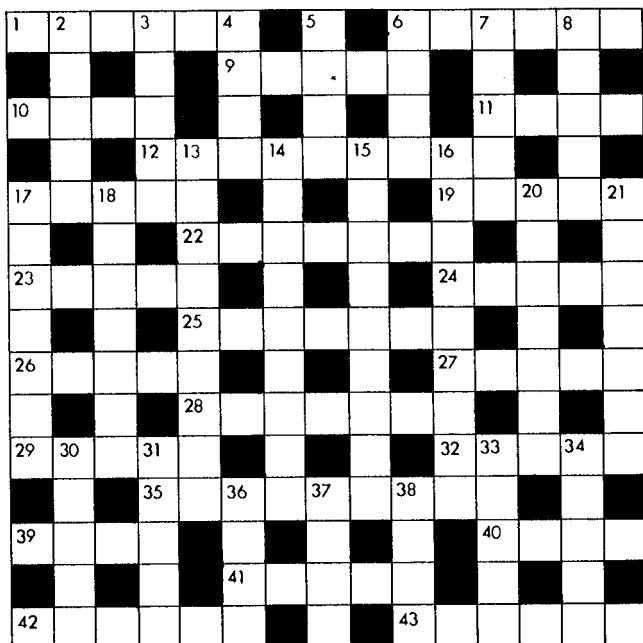


The Political Puzzle

by John Barclay



Across

1. These are armed with a hundred in links' cries. (6)
6. Familiar with the West Indies. (6)
9. Turnover results in coup ending one day later. (5)
10. Magazine costs more than a mite. (4)
11. In the same place as my bridge action. (4)
12. John, Dick, and Harry are three of the last five to be this. (9)
17. Use pen in France a little. (2, 3)
19. Travelers see a hero in Chicago. (5)
22. Nobody likes manna to eat these days. (3, 1, 3)
23. Kinds of right in danger. (5)
24. Weariness shows in nineteen nuisances. (5)
25. Destroyer of slang caught in act. (1, 3, 3)
26. It's no use to eye lava. (5)
27. Sample at set times. (5)
28. Axe into smallest possible cab force. (3, 4)
29. This is not, or should not be, an aim in life. (2, 3)
32. Sounds like more than one letter would vex. (5)
35. Martin's family. (9)
37. He wasn't caught short by Teddy. (4)
40. This can be Scotch or red. (4)
41. A look in Nixon's mirror finds him ageless. (5)
42. Consolidated, then what? (6)
43. The sight of these too often repels. (6)

Down

2. Tear-jerker goes on and on with me in the middle. (5)
3. Delicacy served by Nez Percé indians. (5)
4. Tries a ruse to make certain. (4)
5. Partly found in wise mixture. (4)
6. He lied, but it's useless to complain. (4)
7. Muskie's senior. (5)
8. This rider stays out of 36 down. (5)
13. Ellen nags our mother and leaves. (4, 5)
14. Newcomer got things going at trio's fete. (3, 4, 2)
15. They produce endless star comedy upside down. (9)
16. Dull newcomer hangs on ten tiny fingers. (9)
17. Brash newcomer put rats in desk drawer. (7)
18. Maybe newcomer can shape P.R. program. (7)
20. Forgetting you have the same in a tan shade. (7)
21. Sexless film from good direction following epic. (7)
30. Double zero lays an egg. (5)
31. Villains go as I did. (5)
33. Poets may legally block the way. (5)
34. Kind of bowl or highway. (5)
36. It should not be so dry in Iran. (4)
37. How a ten-whisky man likes his. (4)
38. Ship bottom down is 2 down up. (4)

The numbers indicate the number of letters and words, e.g., (2, 3) means a two-letter word followed by a three-letter word. Groups of letters, e.g., USA, are treated as one word. Answers to last month's puzzle are on page 16.

*"Poets are the
unacknowledged
legislators
of the world."
—Shelley*

A Congressional Garden of Verse

by Paul Dickson

As a literary magazine, the *Congressional Record* is a much more experimental, avant-garde journal than its famous competitors like the *Transatlantic* or *Partisan Reviews*. While many poetry magazines claim they are devoted to freedom and openness and then turn around and feed their readers the same kind of verse month after month, the *Record* accepts everything from epic works to medieval thulas and even Haiku-like exercises. Every copy of the *Record* contains three or four poems of varying styles introduced by admiring Congressmen. (Since the House inserts more poetry

than the Senate, it brings into doubt the contention that the Senate is the higher-minded body.)

The *Record* School of Poetry tends to attract people who write because they are impassioned rather than because they might get paid or invited to a George Plimpton party, and this purity of motive gives their collective work a diversity and intensity that eludes other anthologies. And while poets of the *Record* School may not be well-recognized like Robert Lowell, their behind-the-scenes spiritual lobbying power is unsurpassed. *Record* poet laureate E. Merrill Root, for instance, bends the ear of Hon. John Rarick and other important Congressmen on many occasions. What he loses in notoriety he gains in influ-

Paul Dickson, a frequent contributor to The Washington Monthly, is author of a book on think-tanks, to be published this year by Atheneum.