

3. Every Which Way

by Ucaoimhu

(Recommendation: Do this puzzle only after solving Puzzles 1 and 2.)

Now that you have taken a trip down memory lane with Puzzles 1 and 2, here's a puzzle that (like one I brought in 2002) is decorated with cuneiform writing. This one, however, requires you to know a few varied pieces of info (it's 2015, so feel free to use a smart phone to look them up if you want). Specifically:

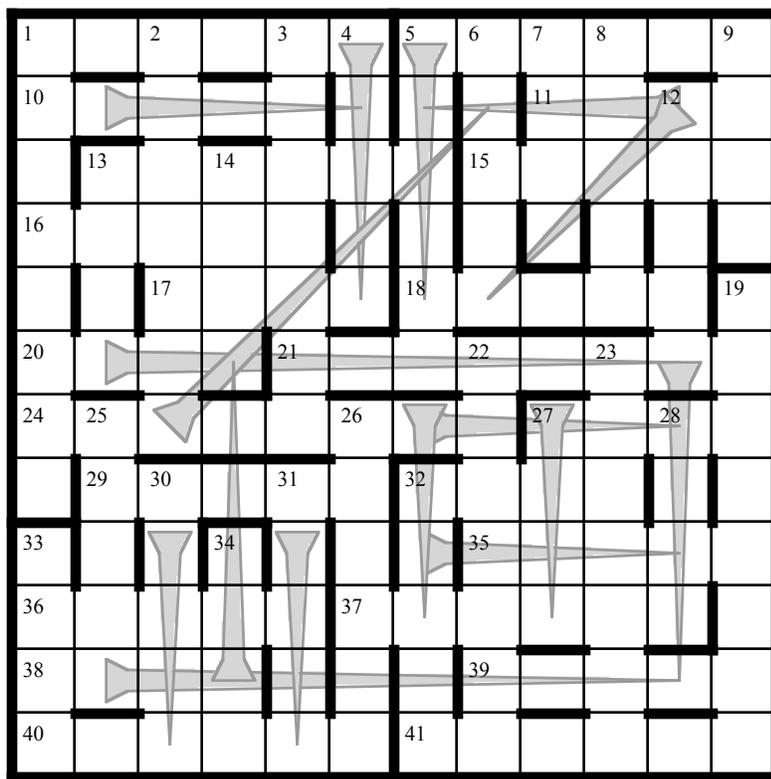
(A) Each of eight Across clues has swapped a word with a Down clue; you must undo these swaps before solving. Once the swaps are undone, the restored words in the Across clues, and those in the Down clues, will each give a noncryptic clue. Answer these clues (in the context of Puzzles 1 and 2 respectively) to get answers A1 and A2.

(B) Each of eight more Across clues and eight more Down clues has one incorrect letter, which you must correct before solving. Answer A1, plus the *incorrect* letters from Across clues, plus the *correct* letters from *all* clues, will give a noncryptic clue; answer it in the context of Puzzle 1 to get Answer B1. Repeat this with answer A2, the Down clues, and Puzzle 2 to get answer B2.

(C) Now write answers B1 and B2 in cuneiform. The result will match some wedges in the grid; the rest are "spurious." (Or, if your cuneiform is rusty, just note that the spurious wedges also have something in common that will turn out to be appropriate.) In every clue not used in (A) or (B), the wordplay yields a letter sequence with one incorrect letter, and the grid square corresponding to the error overlaps exactly one nonspurious wedge; take the letter at the tip of this wedge. Order all the wedge-tip letters by the *incorrect* letters that led to them to see what old-time, originally Canadian activity all the answers are relevant to.

ACROSS

1. Modify drama that lacks drive in *Trek* after the premiere (6)
5. For example, grilled and skewered foul instructor's helper, interrupting remarks (6)
10. Hospital and facility will bounce back in time for match (5)
11. Items that resemble spheres or bins when you drop that (4)
13. Infantile comment from goon endlessly upset pig (3-3)
15. Alto sits next to father that ignores Showtime, taking little note (1 4)
16. Seventh letter from gay quartet of industrialists and Vishnu worshipper, say (5)
17. A thousand and one titers, or only 0.1183 of one? (4)
18. Competitor filmed Coca-Cola breaking pipes (5)
20. Outspoken person who might appear in every movie-star magazine and daily (4)
21. A second identical lair of serpents from one Indian state (8)
24. Young goats biting grey, decrepit movie technicians (3 5)
27. Rags musician Shankar in Moravia (4)
29. Part of focused nerdy actor on *Lou Grant* (5)
32. One who decorates cakes around this province, stuck in Rhode Island (4) [NI3]
35. Actress Charlotte is director/screenwriter/actor Harold (5)
36. Person mentioned in a will, beginning in the middle (5)
37. Jamaican music about Uri going over cold trail (3 3)
38. Hound hotel faked data (4)
39. Cruet from alert and fab west UK group that gives movie awards (5, *abbr.*)
40. Was duo surrounded by vapor and cheesy Dutch items? (6)
41. Render incapable of hearing telegrapher's – and 2 there next to center of sweaty swamp (6)



A1:

A2:

B1:

B2:

B1 and B2 written in cuneiform:

Canadian activity:

DOWN

1. Crass, nude tramp cowering inside of elm with rough, red patches, maybe (8) [NI2]
2. With Mr. Howard, who is directorial and English, making a pound in an improper way (7)
3. Ahmed at the Squamish River Adult Sled Range, as usual (7)
4. Christmas drink drunk by king near large hill (5)
5. Cheeks on what should be hidden silverware from the US (6)
6. Conscious of rime near Washington being reversed (5)
7. Footless tub holds about 2/7 of Luna's Asian chef's stuff (4)
8. Her emptied and gutted locker next to a north French city (5)
9. Speedy planes in Word backgrounds make excellent distractors, ultimately (4, *abbr.*)
12. Bottom or top of boat's net improved (5)
13. Make aureate leaders of Gdansk take the Italian poisoner (4)
14. Assent to including Diana the Dog in *Garfield* (4)
19. Nurse that has turned in is semi-smarmy, and no horse rider (8)
22. Assign Abe to maintain Section 901 (7)
23. Garment that warms real men is burned by water, as described by Pierre very loudly (7)
25. Devoured each flick that revolutionary made with Bo Derek (5)
26. For works are made using devices with these current surges (6)
27. Rabbi can stand up (4)
28. Bern's weather predictor on the radio becomes conceited (4)
30. Disaster arising from sketchy show on NBC curtailed fun (5)
31. Ex-wife in Germany dismissing uranium as "superfluous" (5)
32. After the start, touched with a tongue covered in pigment (5)
33. "Zachary Taylor," say, is worth inscribing if none of the internal characters are periods (4)
34. Yankee known for batting & crushing resistance (1-3)