

TEMPLE PRIESTESSES SOLUTION – CLEANING LADIES / DRIVEN SNOW

The cryptic grid may be filled as shown. Clue explanations are divided into the phoneme addition clues and the bigram deletion clues.

U	S	N	E	W	S	S	N	A	K	E	S
P	E	E	L	H	M	E	L	I	N	D	A
F	O	G	B	O	U	N	D	D	E	I	B
R	E	L	O	S	E	H	S	E	E	T	O
O	L	E	W	N	L	O	T	S	A	A	T
N	A	C	R	E	S	R	O	U	S	T	G
T	S	T	Y	X	N	A	M	E	C	H	E
S	T	S	A	T	O	N	A	H	E	O	N
T	O	W	I	T	C	W	H	I	N	N	Y
E	M	A	L	Y	O	U	A	N	D	M	E
A	E	G	E	A	N	S	W	D	E	A	R
D	R	E	D	G	E	S	K	I	R	T	S

Phonetic Additions

(* = anagram; “ = homophone)

ACROSS: 5. rise = wri[th]es / NEBRASKANS* - BARN; 10. M = [e]mma / “peal”; 12. Morse = mor[a]ss; “bog found” Spoonerism; 15. Ted = te[n]d / EMOTES* - M; 21. display = displa[c]e / religiOUS Text 23. odd bull = aud[i]ble / “sticks”; 24. camp = c[r]amp / A[ME]CHE; role = Roll[s] / TOW IT = TO WIT, double definition; 31. any whine = an e[q]uine / WH[INN]Y; 34. of = [l]ove / “deer”; 36. lewd = [e]lude / SKI[R]TS

DOWN: 1. play dealing = plai[n]-dealing / UP + FRONT; 3. tense = tenn[i]s / WOB[-B]LE reversed; 4. saw = so[ng] / HOW* + S[N]EXT; 7. egg = [l]eg / K + NEE[-d]; 18. low works = lower c[a]se / AS + C + ENDER; 20. raw backs = [d]rawbacks / CONS rev. + ONE; 25. cough = coff[ee] / S + TEA + D; 27. raid = rai[s]ed / A + DELI rev.

[th][e][a][n][c][i][r][s][q][i][e][n][i][ng][i][a][d][ee][s] = THE ANSWER’S CLEANING LADIES

Bigram Deletions

ACROSS: 1. [KO] a la / U[-nscrupulou]S N[-oisom]E W[-omnat]S; 11. lea[NE]d / M + DANIEL*; 13. so[FT] / REL[-y] + SO rev. + E; 16. s[WO]on / ALTO* holding S; 19. ne[CT]ars / NEARS* holding C; 26. t[HR]one / aS A TONe; 32. s[EE]ing / DYNAMO* holding U + E; 33. ru[BB]le / SEA [-ch]ANGE*; 35. novel[LA] / DEGR [-a]DE*

DOWN: 2. do[CK] / N + E.G. + LE[C]TS; 5. [BR]ash / ASH ONE* holding R; 6. top[AZ] / ASIDE moving S to bottom; 8. part[IE]s / EDIT[AT]H + ON; 9. boa[RS] / S + BOA* + T; 14. tal[LI]es / TALES MORE*; 17. [TA]male / TO + MA[-le] + HAWK; 22. cru[SA]der / ENERGY* + S; 28. [KA]yak / wabash INDIVIDually; 30. [RI]bald / W + AGE

Deleted bigrams, in order, should be parsed as K ONE, F TWO, C THREE, B BLACK; BRAZIERS LIT AS AKARI.

Treating the indicated letters in the grid as clue numbers and solid blocks transforms the grid into an Akari logic puzzle, as shown and solved below:

U	S	N	E	W	S	S	N	A	1	E	S
P	E	E	L	H	M	E	L	I	N	D	A
2	O	G		O	U	N	D	D	E	I	
R	E	L	O	S	E	H	S	E	E	T	O
O	L	E	W	N	L	O	T	S	A	A	T
N	A	3	R	E	S	R	O	U	S	T	G
T	S	T	Y	X	N	A	M	E	3	H	E
S	T	S	A	T	O	N	A	H	E	O	N
T	O	W	I	T	3	W	H	I	N	N	Y
E	M	A	L	Y	O	U	A	N	D	M	E
A	E	G	E	A	N	S	W	D	E	A	R
D	R	E	D	G	E	S	1	I	R	T	S

U	S	N	E	W	S	S	N	A	1	E	S
P	E	E	L	H	M	E	L	I	N	D	A
2	O	G		O	U	N	D	D	E	I	
R	E	L	O	S	E	H	S	E	E	T	O
O	L	E	W	N	L	O	T	S	A	A	T
N	A	3	R	E	S	R	O	U	S	T	G
T	S	T	Y	X	N	A	M	E	3	H	E
S	T	S	A	T	O	N	A	H	E	O	N
T	O	W	I	T	3	W	H	I	N	N	Y
E	M	A	L	Y	O	U	A	N	D	M	E
A	E	G	E	A	N	S	W	D	E	A	R
D	R	E	D	G	E	S	1	I	R	T	S

Letters in “brazier” spaces spell “As pure as the two wds.”, leading to the answer DRIVEN SNOW.