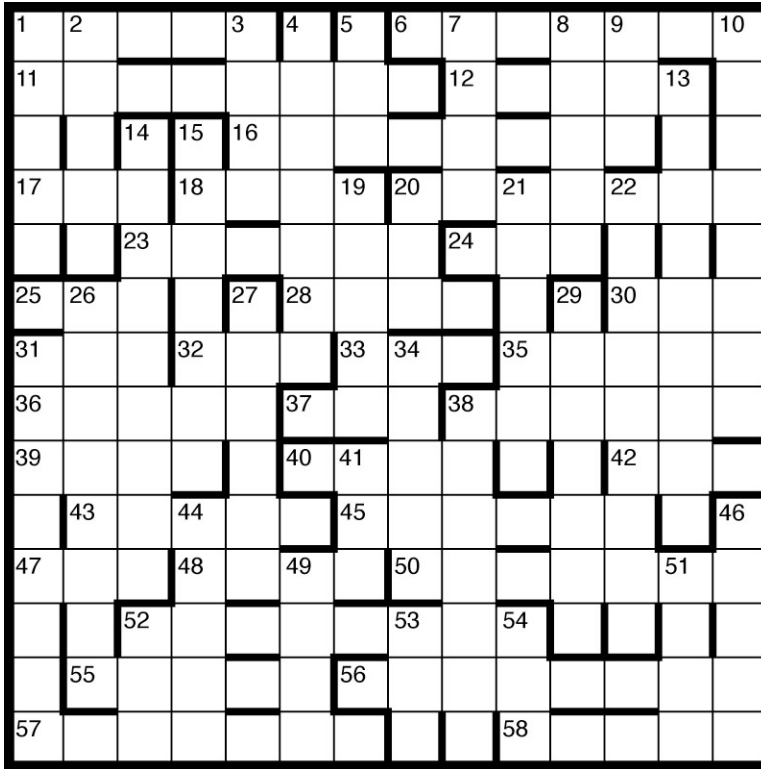


ZEBRA CROSSING — by zebra-boy, Cold Springs KY

For my first solo cryptic, I've invited to the grid a quartet of other zebra-guys for moral support. All four are NI3-findable, and "zebra-guy" will do as a definition; they are otherwise clued only with wordplay. Zebra-folk tend to see things in a particular way, which is spelled out in two 14-letter phrases forming a crossing in the completed grid. This worldview should be taken into account when considering eight answers, which must be significantly altered before being entered. Half are altered in each of two ways, and none of the final results are words. Answers include 15 capitalized words, and solvers will find NI3 particularly helpful as a ref for this cryptic.



ACROSS:

1. Marsh in northern state having onions in the middle (5)
6. Jack Shea loses head, goes wild for cornbread (7) (NI3)
11. Trace of valor in crazy old hero to endure (8, 2 wds.)
12. Intros to television news are rarely good, on reflection (5)
16. Chariot run over by 201 battlewagons (8) (NI3)
17. Some years are recollected (3)
18. Kitchen staff includes fussy old ladies (4)
20. Captivate befuddled Lutheran, doffing undies early on (7)
23. Sheepishly muttering report about artificial insemination (6)
24. New Englander tending sheep (3)
25. Like low, unspoken communication (3, abbr.)
28. Traverse Golden Gate (4)
30. Hastily choose amongst yourselves (3, abbr.)
31. Oddly driven to become extinct (3)
32. West of Hollywood, leaderless crew turns back (3)
33. Hindmost in race running a long time (3)
35. Cry of derision at poorest of performers (5)
36. World religion is largely crippled (5)
37. Bookstore stocks rubber stamps (3)
38. Soy crop primarily is regressive type of herbaceous plant (6) (NI3)
39. Fire-dog loses direction after awhile (4)

40. Canadian monsieur loves going around European lake (4)
42. Tin fork to curve upward (3) (NI3)
43. Computer company rebuffed noted logician (5)
45. Lean in, run on fatuously (6)
47. It's essential to allow Kirk a week in Scotland . . . (3) (NI3)
48. . . . not so much in Wales, say (4)
50. Girl accepting Republican company's generosity (7)
52. Cherub, flying about, leads to love and laughter (8)
55. Knotty pine: a tree with medicinal bark (5) (NI3)
56. Mad Arabs kidnap boy, produce tableau (8, two wds.)
57. Cigarette fiends kiss more unpleasantly (myself not included) (7)
58. Evil giant decapitated and disemboweled villagery (5)

DOWN:

1. Super athlete, brutal with opposition, ends up a professional skater (5)
2. Deity rings ancient city in fruit (5)
3. Desires spoken of in the past (4)
4. Toxic chemical compound horribly in decay (7)
5. Former Russian premier is man with great will power (3, abbr.) (NI3)
7. Painter Shiele, for example, being aired (4)
8. Hidden assets, almost a mark of prestige (5)
9. Cuckoo, boundless mania (3)
10. Nutty inventors nullifying time in adjacent regions (8)
13. Article goes into starlet desperate to figure out script (9)
14. Firearm once used around the world confiscated by army (9)
15. Miserly fellow, lacking energy (7)
19. Voracious predator knows about nothing uplifting (5) (NI3)
20. Gregory is full of self-esteem (3)
21. Small-time fool holds job, but not initially (6, hyph.)
22. One who repeals legal points charged at first in Communist uprising (9)
26. Playwright Neil describes lion and buck (8)
27. Some vampires are amiable, giddy, and without a bit of bloodthirstiness (6) (NI3)
29. Harbor fees from dwarf: \$1000, period (7)
31. Princess, with letter from Greece, brings trouble for Macedonian generals (8) (NI2)
34. Amount of pressure looms ominously (5)
38. Junior associate making some noise (7) (NI3)
41. Old, new school switch positions (3)
44. Ulcer afflicted me while doing this (5)
46. Objectively, we don't begin to cover over Shylocking (5)
49. Damage wrecked cars (4)
51. Indo-European endlessly held in servitude (4)
52. Fabiola's penning life story (3)
53. Pearl undressed, hearing organ (3)
54. Miss uphill trail (3)