

LETTER THEORY — by Tinhorn, Los Angeles CA

Fifteen clues are normal, but their solutions require removal of a block of one or more letters before entry into the grid. All of these blocks are different, and all of the transformations result in words.

Another 15 clues require removal of a block of one or more letters from one of the words in the clue before solving. All of these blocks are different, and some (but not all) also appear within the other set of blocks. All of the transformations result in words, but do not necessarily preserve the surface reading of the clues. The solutions to these clues are entered normally.

The remaining 15 clues and entries are normal.

All of the removed blocks relate to 20-Across in an appropriate way.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8		9
	10			11				12		13	
14							15				
16					17						
18						19					
	20	21	22			23	24			25	
26	27			28	29	30		31			
32							33		34		35
36								37			
38					39						
40					41						

Across

- 1 Column edge turned almost toward the back
- 7 Animal-powered vehicle in distance beyond fancy lodges
- 10 Shake cane to fuel ranting
- 12 Carbon copy initially reveals theft
- 14 Distinctive part of exterior area
- 15 Crown one average subject
- 16 Teen in a subway catches violence happening
- 17 Ultimately pay one senior person stepping aside
- 18 Teas percolate with fine infusion from the East
- 19 Electron tube emissions primarily do it around confining radius
- 20 *See instructions*
- 26 Choosing and using ditches, period
- 30 Aliens appearing after alien song starts
- 32 Turbulent retrial incomplete, nothing gets to you and me
- 33 Terminal subset is one with a symbol at the end
- 36 Tree resembling a snake?
- 37 Overload essentially new muscle
- 38 Loses weight eating good stuff
- 39 Stone consuming oxygen is carried back into hollow alcove
- 40 Withdraw from Superior Court
- 41 Roy Rogers, in part, is somehow endearing

Down

- 1 Center piece of hamburger in bag for dog
- 2 Desires sandwiches at first, anticipating lots of bread
- 3 Expert maintains right amount of land
- 4 Second very attractive person starting to offer shorthand
- 5 Section of agency struggles to produce a wren
- 6 Once again, tender trees sheltering us on the way back
- 7 Poor artist offspring with empty boxes for heads of guild house [NI3]
- 8 Sycophant move is rejected after coups in Southern California
- 9 States get angry about retaining leader of Congress
- 11 Strums required to play an upcoming group of songs
- 12 Mint harbors large quail [NI3]
- 13 Saw moved quickly around middle of barricade
- 18 Prone to chatter about odd sort
- 21 Auto ping almost reveals perfect location
- 22 More than one snack evaluation ends early after bistro loses zip
- 23 Dismissal follows restricted dock worker
- 24 Unauthorized user in front of fleeing impostor
- 25 Trite ads broadcast with many small channels
- 27 Half of pigsty receives extremely sheepish expression of disdain
- 28 Nine invoices and no clear profit
- 29 Not quite main woman around prison camp
- 31 Gallery events in a small town
- 34 Instrument neighbor set up
- 35 They'll ultimately and with difficulty get money in Albania