Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 15, 1927.

A CHANCE TO JOIN THE COAST GUARD

Hon. J. Mitchell Chase, Member of Congress from this district, invites attention to the fact that the United States coast guard will hold a competitive examination for appointment of cadets, June 20 to 25, 1927.

An exceptional opportunity is offered young men of the right caliber to complete their education at government expense and to become commissioned officers in the United States coast guard, one of the military services of the United States, which includes service afloat and ashore.

The age limits for appointment of cadets are 18 and 22 years. An applicant who has passed his twenty-second birthday is ineligible for appointment.

Cadets are trained and educated at the coast guard academy, at New London, Conn., and each summer are taken on an extended practice cruise. Cadets receive the same pay and allowances as midshipmen in the navy $780 per annum and one ration per day—80 cents.

Upon graduation, after three years at the academy, a cadet is eligible to be commissioned an ensign. Commissioned officers in the coast guard rank with officers in the army, navy and marine corps, and receive corresponding pay and allowances, grade for grade.

Educational examination for cadets precedes the physical and takes two days. Applicants for cadetships of the required moral character who present satisfactory certificates that they have completed the equivalent of a four year High school course and have received fourteen credits in subjects prescribed by coast guard headquarters are required to take a written examination in mathematics, (algebra and Geometry), History and English. A High school graduate should be able to pass the examination.

The examination is strictly competitive and is open to all young men who possess the qualifications with respect to age, education and character. Examinations will be held June 20 to 25, 1917, at such places throughout the United States where it is found practicable to have the examining boards and the number of candidates warrant.

The successful candidates who are tendered appointments will be ordered to report to the superintendent of the coast guard academy on or about September 1, 1927. They will be allowed five cents per mile to cover travel expenses from the place of appointment to the academy. Upon arrival at the academy a cadet will be quired to deposit the sum of $200.00 to be applied to the purchase of necessary uniforms and equipment, pay and allowances recevied are adequate to cover all expenses while at the academy.

For further particulars write to the commandant, U. S. coast guard, Washington, D. C.

RATS ARE SPREADING TO EVERY STATE

The brown rat, probably brought to the United States from England in 1775, spread until it now infests every State in the union, say the biological survey of the United States Department of Agriculture. The last State to become infested with this pest is Montana.

Economic mammalogists in 1924 failed to find a single occurrence of house rats in Montana, and on June 1, 1926, O. E. Stahl, leader of rodent control in that State, stated that he had received no such records, but on August 28 he reported finding a few rats at Lewistown and Fort Benton. It was learned, however, that the initial infestation at Lewistown took place about three years ago.

Rats were first reported from Denver, Colo., in 1886 and by 1907 had entrenched themselves in most of the large cities of that State. No rats were known in Utah prior to 1888, but in that year they were reported abundant at Albuquerque, N. Mex., and were known to occur in Arizona. It has been only in more recent years that the rat has visited Idaho. With the exception of Montana and Wyoming has been the last States invaded, the first rats there apparently crossing the border from Nebraska about seven years ago.

The spread of rats has been more rapid in temperate climates, although they are abundant in most northern States and are reported common in Alaska, Canada and Newfoundland.

Strange Signs of Ships.

Strange signs which frequently hang from ships puzzle even dwellers in seaport towns. A basket slung from the mainmast head is a sailors' sign to notify that the cargo has been loaded or discharged, as the case may be, and that the ship is ready to start on her next trip. A generally mysterious emblem is a broom lashed to a mainmast or bridge railing. This is to signify that the vessel is for sale.

Occasionally a dark blue stripe may be seen running fore and aft on a vessel. As a matter of fact, this is a sign of recent bereavement. Blue is the sailors' mourning, and the stripe of this color takes the place of the margin or band used by the landsman as a notification of death.—Exchange.

Politeness for Children.

Courtesy is as "catching" as profanity. Say "Excuse me," "Thank you" and "If you please" to your child every time there is occasion for it, and you will have no trouble teaching him good manners. The same is true of good grammar. We are creatures of environment, and the easiest way to teach a child is by example, to fill the atmosphere with the kind of things we want him to take on.

WORLD'S CHAMPION TRAMP

Leon Livingston, "A-No. 1, The Rambler," is known from one end of the United States to the other as the most skilled vagabond traveler in all the world. He traveled 600,000 miles at a total cost for legal fares of $7.61.

In a way the man was a real artist. He was in a class by himself. A specialist of vagabondage! While stealing rides he wore, over a clean, but well worn business suit, a suit of overalls, with canvas gloves on his hands and a heavy derby hat to protect his head from flying sparks, cinders and small stones caused by the flying train. Arrived at his destination he looked, for all the world, like an ordinary trainman, and it was thus that he often escaped the arrest so frequently the portion of his fellow tramps.

Once away from the railroad yards he made a lightning change. The overalls were taken off and hidden. He shined his shoes, took a bath in the nearest stream, cleaned his teeth, shaved and washed his rubber collar. He then walked back into town—a shabby but clean individual, and when he started "panhandling" for food he told always the same story: He was a railroad man out of work. Because he was clean, polite, and because he looked what he professed to be, he seldom had trouble in securing food. He never used alcohol in any form and he does not yet know the taste of tobacco.

Wherever he went he carved on buildings, bridges, posts, his "moniker" or tramp nomenclature: "A-No. 1, The Rambler" with the date and an arrow pointing the direction in which he was going at the time. Hundreds of thousands of these signs may be seen today on water-tanks, fences, switch shanties, cattle chutes and all sorts of walls in every part of the United States. He has experienced a thousand thrills. More than once some enterprising officer of the law has chased him. Not infrequently he was caught and forced to serve an unhappy period in jail or workhouse as a vagrant, but still he kept on.

He tramped from Coast to Coast with such characters as Jack London. This was in the days when London was a boy, a wild, irrepressible youth cursed with a love of alcohol and troubled with dreams of greatness. They had interesting trips together and more than once the two vagabonds faced death.—From Everybody's Magazine.

HOUDINI'S SECRETS REVEALED BY AID

New York.—The late Harry Houdini's spectacular "telepathy" was disclosed as a telephone system, for which his whole house was wired, the New York World says.

Houdini employed the ideas of Thomas A. Edison in developing a contraption which would fake the semblance of thought transference.

The secret was that Houdini wore an electric belt which established an invisible connection, by electro magnetic induction, with loops of wire concealed under a carpet. When these loops were energized, by the current of a telephone circuit, invisible lines of magnetism, cutting across the turns of wire in the electric belt, generated a minute electric current. This current was the exact counterpart of the one which energized the wires beneath the carpet.

It was the sum total of this induced electrical energy which vibrated the diaphragm of a miniature telephone receiver and reproduced speech.

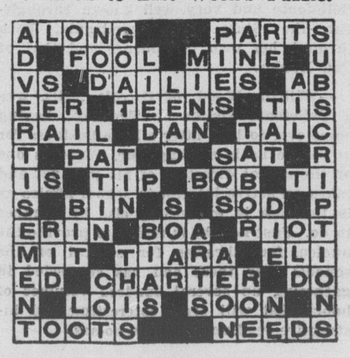
The trick was to pick up utterances of "thought transmitters" by means of "planted" dictaphones and then repeat these utterances on a strong telephone circuit terminating in the loops under the carpet where Houdini stood.

Louis C. Kraus, who worked with Houdini in developing the telepathy idea, said Houdini's whole house was wired. Two years ago, when experiments in telepathy in London were reported, Houdini said that there was nothing supernatural about them and that he could do as well himself by "natural means."

John Wilkes Booth a Confederate Spy?

Gen. Phil Sheridan always believed that at one time in the Civil war he had in his employment as a spy John Wilkes Booth. He had employed a man named Lomas as a spy, but suspected he was dealing with each of the opposing armies. One day Lomas brought a man to Sheridan and introduced him as Mr. Renfrew, who also wished to serve as a spy. Just then Sheridan wished to have some bridges destroyed and sent the two men out on this mission. He secretly assigned a scout to watch them. Their attempt failed, but they had plausible explanations. They were sent out again after Sheridan had taken pains to let them know there was to be a big fox chase on a certain date in which many of the officers were to take part. It was a ruse to throw the Confederates off their guard when the spies should carry the report to them. At the time mentioned Sheridan had planned to strike hard. The men were shadowed and found to have gone to Confederate headquarters. They were arrested on their way back but escaped. When Sheridan saw pictures of Booth after Lincoln's death, he recognized him as the spy Renfrew.—Kansas City Times.

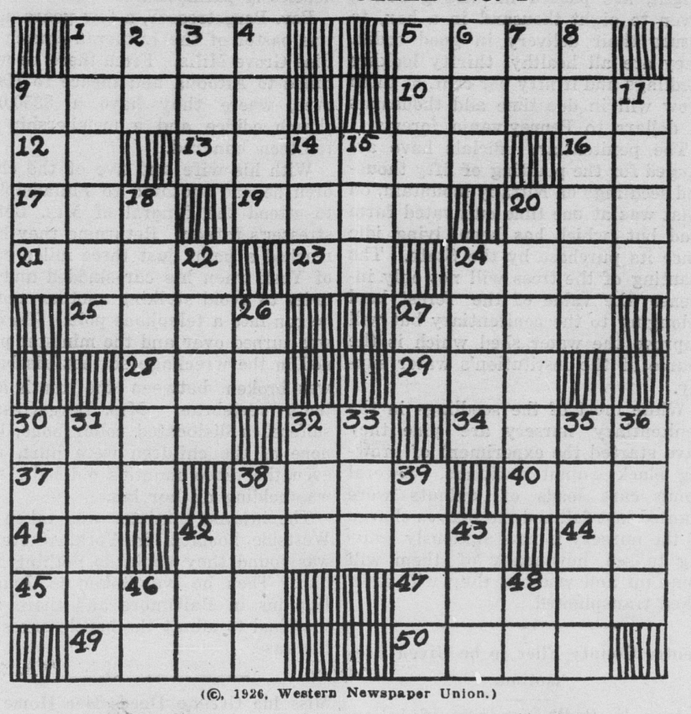
Solution to Last Week's Puzzle.



HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.

CROSS-WORD PUZZLE No. 1.



(©, 1926, Western Newspaper Union.)

Horizontal.

1—Publish
5—Transport
9—Unattended
10—Lariat
12—Western city (abbr.)
13—City in Texas
16—Suffix meaning more
17—Consumed
19—To come together
20—An old vessel
21—Forwarded
23—Infantile name for father
24—Invites
25—Stop
27—Voice between tenor and soprano
28—Before
29—Sun
30—Neither hot nor cold
32—Exist
34—Beverage (pl.)
37—Possessive pronoun
38—Reared
40—Implement for cutting patterns
41—Lieutenant (abbr.)
42—Decorated, as leather
44—Personal pronoun
45—Ancient language
47—An individual infected with an incurable disease
49—Rain spout (Scot.)
50—Sustenance

Vertical.

1—Causes high spirits
2—Perform
3—A state (abbr.)
4—Pair of horses
5—Strip of wood
6—Possesses
7—Form of the verb "to be"
8—False
9—Exclamation of regret
11—Spherical bodies
14—Guided
15—Meadow
18—Comes in
20—Noble
22—Period of time
24—A stain
26—Personal pronoun
27—Like
30—To bequeath
31—Essential oil of a flower
32—A relative (abbr.)
33—Elongated fish
35—Strived
36—A fortune teller
38—Part of a body
39—A kind of pottery (var.)
42—A metal
43—Supreme being (Latin)
46—Preposition
48—Post office (abbr.)

Solution will appear in next issue.

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