

2. Cinnabar (a “colorado boulder” puzzle by Ucaoimhu)

Long before Cinnabon, another (six-part) chain was very successful. In this puzzle, six Down entries must each be entered with one of three (collectively colorful) three-letter sequences on a line instead of in a square, forming a six-location “map.” All other Down answers must be altered before entry in one of three appropriate ways (four altered entries will be capitalized or two words or both):

A. Revolution! Revolution! One third must be anagrammed, *and* have a letter rotated 90°. Each Across clue has an extra letter in one word that must be removed before solving; where that is the *m*th word, find the *altered Down entry* that *doesn't* have that letter because it got rotated, and write the *m*th letter of that entry next to the Across clue. The letters from rotated \subset and \supset will give a description of the grid, and also the “before” and “after” of a major equipment change half-way through the chain’s history; those from rotated \swarrow and \searrow will say why such a change would be made. (In changing, the chain swapped booze for . . . something else, as seen in one of the anagram-rotations.)

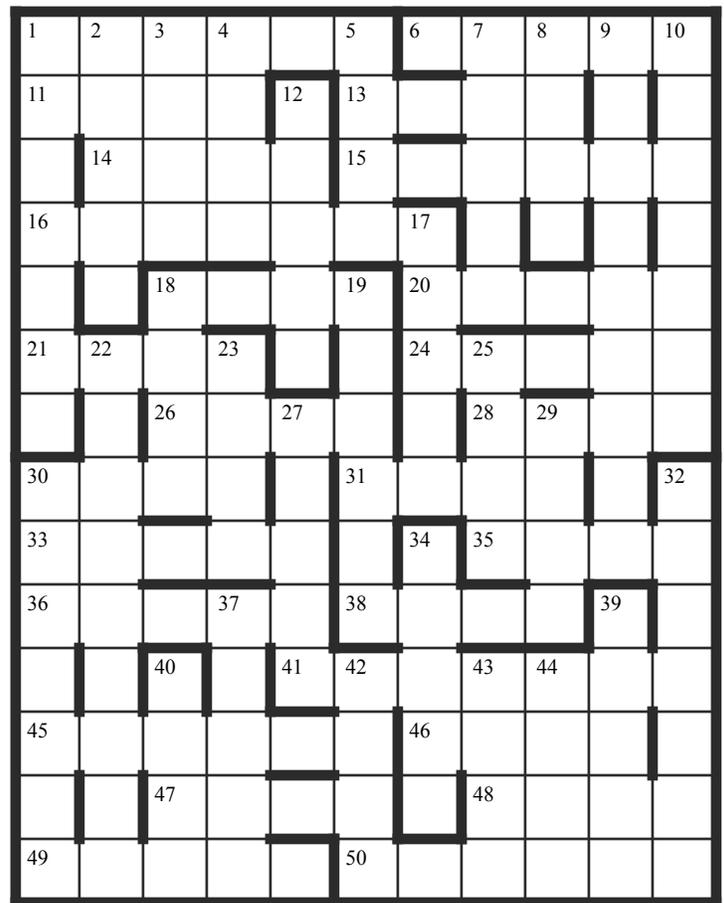
B. Just a skosh. One third will just have one letter changed to another; in clue order, the old-letter/new-letter pairs will say which manager’s part of the chain first introduced a later, smaller change to the edibles offered in this chain (as seen in one of these letter-changes).

C. Invisible to the eye. One third will have an unseen item removed, resulting in each case in a single new word. Where there are *n* letters after the item in the answer, circle the same item with *n* words after it in the clue; all the letters immediately *before* the circled items, and then all those *after*, each in clue order, will give the name of the chain (and one altered entry will give the chain’s starting location).

Also, the manager in B didn’t *originally* start out in the location in C. For each sequence on a grid line, if its first and last letter are the *p*th and *q*th from the start of the answer and the *r*th and *s*th from its end, circle the *p*th and *q*th letter from the start of the *clue* and the *r*th and *s*th from its end. Read all the *p*th letters, then all the *q*th, then *r*th, then *s*th, each in clue order; changing X in the result to the symbol formed by the map will give the manager’s original location near here (though he used only the first word and the symbol on his part of the chain).

ACROSS

1. Talked about croup for linen producers and press agents (6)
6. Mend piece of stuff filling left sock’s gaping holes (5)
11. Returning, Hal meets Egyptian deity/adventurer Croft (4)
13. Piscivore that lays eggs . . . er, beside eggless zone (4)
14. I fined that boring, smothering leader of some network (4)
15. Fact leaderless boy addresses by dozing something (4 2)
16. Cinnamon candies mothers chewed will get a poor grade (3 4)
18. Right of surrealist wand paintings, say “Pie!” (4)
20. Hare picking nose in Edinburgh, freaking out Celt (5)
21. French fashion designer Diana Gould (4)
24. Send out medical portion of disc, by request (5)
26. Comparing wages bears fruit (4)
28. Before pellets initially centered sinks (4)
30. Curtailed crayon and the like get thicker (4)
31. Cap of mink Ray twirled for a lunar month (4)
33. Made out of some three boas uncovered by Barbie’s guy (5)
35. Heedless of external spouts, perhaps (4)
36. Record most of zany number by singer Yankovic (5) [NI3]
38. Closed up faculty huts (4)
41. Wall of Paris in southeast can finally get sturdier (7)
45. Pair of zoologists circling S. or N. Chilean volcano (6)
46. Lounged on the inside to scatter 100 sawbucks (3 1)
47. Leaves with minute Cubes from Chicago, say (4)
48. Adorn retro Manhattanite’s train with hem (4)
49. Gal with love for raunch and rodeo equipment (5)
50. Ebro disheartened Nat, Earl, Charlotte, Emily, or Anne (6)



DOWN

1. Maker of rap music damaged frail do (2 wds.)
2. Escape earlier, empty Debussy work (2 wds.)
3. Java’s central duo blundered, as said
4. Framework supporting glass or cloth strip
5. Curve your lips to greet vacuous Sam, Kevin, Lea, and Troy (2 wds.)
7. Remove grease from two Italian articles [NI2]
8. Orders clothing Oscar initially selected, or cat
9. Doubts foe altered hollow aliment holders (2 wds.) [NI3]
10. Saint replies to praying pollen manufacturers
12. Quiet grain- and slop-eater of a young age
17. Amount of harshness or truth underlying letters covering sixpence
18. Way of ordering food also receives “good” (2 wds.)
19. Agency that is sent tax money from Taj, chiefly by legatees (2 wds., abbr.)
22. Like many a French vowel letter starting names like Ace, Elizabeth, and Edward
23. Battle, ultimately, against flaw
25. Fight with Pole
27. Four-ounce measures getting fashionable at Mike’s bars, saloons, joints, etc. (2 wds.)
29. Bee tore grain hulls
30. Everyone consuming salmon and liquor
32. Hope men deciphered invitation to call one up later (2 wds.)
34. Show that appears 75% copacetic reveals Peg’s curvy replacement? (2 wds.) [NI3]
37. A user misspelled a lead-in for “kraut” or “braten”
39. ’Til (e.g.) bananas travel without your car (2 wds.)
40. Rotate it, blocking spy or wizard’s shots?
42. To be confused with candidate O’Rourke
43. Court takes on term used before “on next page” (abbr.)
44. Shirt on northern adolescent