

1. Washington, IN by Ucaimhu

Washington, IN, is of course named after a very early AI (as we all know, Franklin's electrical rod smote the earth and out sprang General Washington). In tribute, this puzzle about a different Indiana city has used AI to find out seven facts about that city, each affecting nine clues:

1. It is in an unexpected geographical location. Each of nine clues contains a geographical term; in a giant loop, the term from one must move to the next before solving.

2. Its name can be uttered. The answer to each of nine clues must be changed to a homophone before entry.

3. It is towards the outside. The answer to each of nine clues must be entered backwards, so that its end is further from the center of the grid than its start is.

4 & 5. It has items a bank contains, and items that get drunk and get smaller. Here, (4) one word in each of nine clues, and (5) the answer to each of nine other clues, must be reduced to a "letter bank" (a rearrangement of its letters with no repeats) before (4) solving or (5) entry.

6. In it, our emotions will change as per the pattern established by a group of inanimate metal objects. In the filled grid, an odd number of automata will each be symmetrically opposite (by crossword symmetry) an emotional adjective of the same length and cryptogram pattern; each automaton encodes strings by replacing each letter from the adjective with the corresponding letter from the automaton. Nine clues are *completely normal*; their answers, if encoded by various automata, would (in alphabetical order) be AGOREDY, CRMBY, MASC, NAHC, ONIEHC, OOIBLRT, ORRB, SIRN, TARNIDS.

7. It has items for the ordinals before 5th. One of the remaining nine clues is 54; the answers to the other eight must be altered before entry by adding, just before the [ordinal a] instance of each vowel, the [ordinal b] letter counting back in the alphabet from that vowel, where both ordinals are the one evoked by the president reading upward at 54.

(Altered entries from 2, 5, and 7 will include three phrases, an abbreviation, and a proper name; also, each altered entry is noncryptically clued by some sequence of one or more words within its clue.)

For each altered entry from 7, if its *n*th letter is an added letter, circle its clue's *n*th letter. In clue order, these letters will

form six ordinal *endings*; group the *ordinals before 5th with these endings* into three pairs. Clue 54 has an extra three-character string (to be deleted before solving); apply 7's alteration three times to it, each time using one pair as [ordinal a], [ordinal b]. This will give the city's name.

Finally, the AI supplying facts 1–7 was trained on one text about the city, which you can reconstruct from groups 1–7 of clues; where "glyph" means "non-space character":

1. Take the first and last glyphs of every clue around the loop, letting the non-letter glyph mark the start and end.

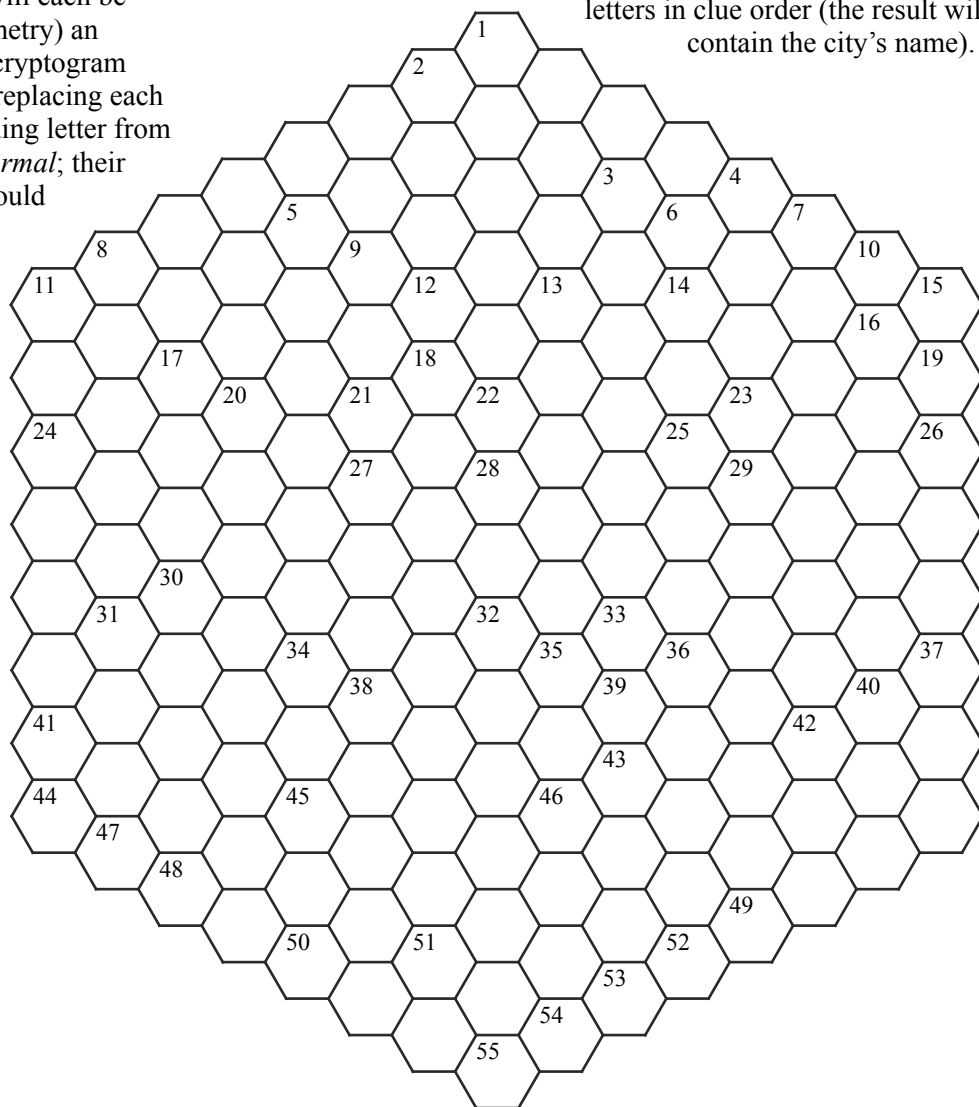
2. Take the second and third glyph of every clue in clue order; utter the resulting four words plus the city name.

3. Take the third, fourth, and fifth glyph of every clue, and replace each digit with a palindromic string of that length (which you must deduce from context).

4 & 5. In every clue in clue order, take either (4) the third- and second-from-last glyphs, or (5) the fifth-, fourth-, and third-from-last glyphs.

6. Take the clue's middle one or two words (depending on whether the clue has an odd or even number of words).

7. Redo the last full sentence in the left-hand column, with "*n*th" replaced with "*n*th-from-last"; then read the circled letters in clue order (the result will contain the city's name).



CLUES

- 1. OT book set in the Spanish realm of Ahasuerus and Seth Wilder (4, *abbr.*)
- ↓ 2. Like some computer links from Thoth's too worn-out housing east of abodes (4-2-4)
- ↓ 3. Spot, biting set of items that are ordered the wrong way, with "steels" spelled a smidge oddly (6, *var.*)
- 4. Form not listing a Tongan island that's largest (5)
- ↓ 5. Fiery lead-in mentioned upright sinlessness under a horizontal tier (4)
- ↓ 6. At the Brazilian/Bolivian border, where many a hippolike beast may be, or is, entwined (4)
- ↓ 7. Nervous tension results from what we'll be called by others one passes (3 4)
- 8. Paths of objects freely falling in ellipses Brit made eccentric (6)
- ↓ 8. Best orange Stetsons that are next to sis (5)
- 9. Superficially gonzo guide/thesaurist/editor is someone more energetic than thou (2-6)
- ↓ 10. Not having coats, Fred & Ace & Otis show abs (5)
- 11. Three from *Jumanji* book love Barnum's famously huge elephant (5)
- ↓ 11. Bizarrely, 'is PJs will depict the short-lived practicalities whose two-letter name is slashiest (1/4)
- 12. Shelter half of sorceresses and leader in tank (4)
- ↑ 13. It has knots people found near Bangkok (5)
- 14. Being recalled five components of Zenith GI has named in an outdated way (5)
- 15. Need to scratch chapter we attach to the end of a novel Stephen King has written (4)
- 16. Identify boxes Roxanne emptied after Tuesday, supported by wheels that are nonnaked (5)
- ↓ 17. Somewhat amenable actress Suvari in multiple films with the pattern *Scottish* ** (4)
- 18. Option for a trench coat purchaser Burt & Bert try, having completely ditched Troy (8)
- ↓ 19. Had rather too much and dozed, letting out a snore, which is not okay (4)
- 20. Ersatz rebus "hugs twines – wines" for "thugs" (6)
- ↑ 20. A slang term for the folks who film *Only Connect* in the Russian capital, live, forward and back (4)
- ↑ 21. Pelt Yankee to evince anger (4)
- 21. Leafless lobelia's surface temperature's exhibiting no upward or downward slope (4)
- 22. Herb Lugosi gets young man on left to Nicaea (10)
- 23. Doth encounter Maine rave's drug chompers making a central drop (7)
- 23. Cup in facility that puts out gold or silver dice (5)
- 24. Acts with protective motives or cool motives (7)
- 25. When somersaulting, boggle the minds of fans (4)
- 26. M5H 3Y2 or 47405, written with its halves swapped, illustrates a '20s/'30s art style (4)
- ↓ 27. Billion pounds from partner with rhythm will become 500 clubs' fees (4)
- 28. Old fare cooked for creator of a fettucine dish named after him (7)
- 29. Black pair of ursines and cardinal maybe spoke like Scots (6)
- 30. Thou with (therefore) earlier leguminous food (4)
- 31. In *45 eighths multiplied by 320 ninths*, shift 2, sweetie. Capiche? (5 2)
- 32. Suspect clamps internally split steel jacket attached to hose (7)
- 33. Iceland's premier and twisted jerk and I will bring forth criminal (7)
- 34. Ocarinist's negative outbursts, staged chiefly for Yoko et al. (4)
- 35. Order seines to get an aquatic monster a Greek loch is the home of (6)
- 36. Lacking ova or (e.g.) limbs of general shape that's multiply kinked (7) [NI3]
- 37. E.g., American tsars dash, by the way (4, *abbr.*)
- ↓ 38. Add intro to puzzle saying what a cesspool is (4)
- 39. Inebriate holds nose on observing some smoke (4)
- 40. Put $3y^3 - 3y = x$ graph next to gray belt (4)
- 41. In Welsh, "bulls roost" is incorrectly expressed (5)
- 42. Hear Pepsi's rival has to pay for (say) more than one Norwegian palm tree (5)
- 43. Sultan's fifth and sixth bit of countryside shelter Argentine revolutionary someone hurt (5)
- ↑ 44. Not changing antistatist and seller's disclaimer (6)
- 45. Surrounding a glyph similar to a kettle drum, band of prog rockers inverted word after "chop" (4)
- 45. Female Persian royal Joan's comical (5)
- 46. Enchants rings and then scuttles, initially, behind metal cover that's prone to tilting (7)
- 47. Unfrozen corn's evoking disdain (5)
- ↑ 47. Admit Jo into Don Novello's largest tower (6)
- 48. Unpenning Arthur's gold, podiumlike things (6)
- 49. Badger's home state, which a creature from seascapes is entering (4)
- 50. Does go after one spins the first couple's vases and samovars (4)
- ↑ 51. Redid one's costuming so as not to include so much as a teddy or bra Della altered (5 3)
- 52. What one gets when one seats sheep among Gym E's athletes, who are young (7)
- ↑ 53. Small, A-1 tributary of the Rhône (5)
- ↑ 54. Name in the title "Cleaning 2000000 Pounds" (10)
- 55. Most wasting mo. repeatedly grasping whirling sword like the most difficult path perhaps (8)
- ↑ 55. Unneeded, regressive Austen character having (for real!) fifty thousands (3-4) [NI2]