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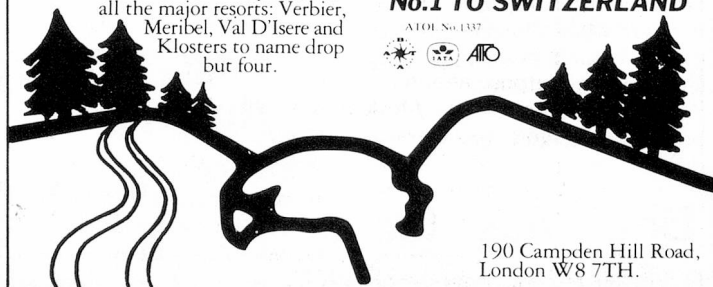
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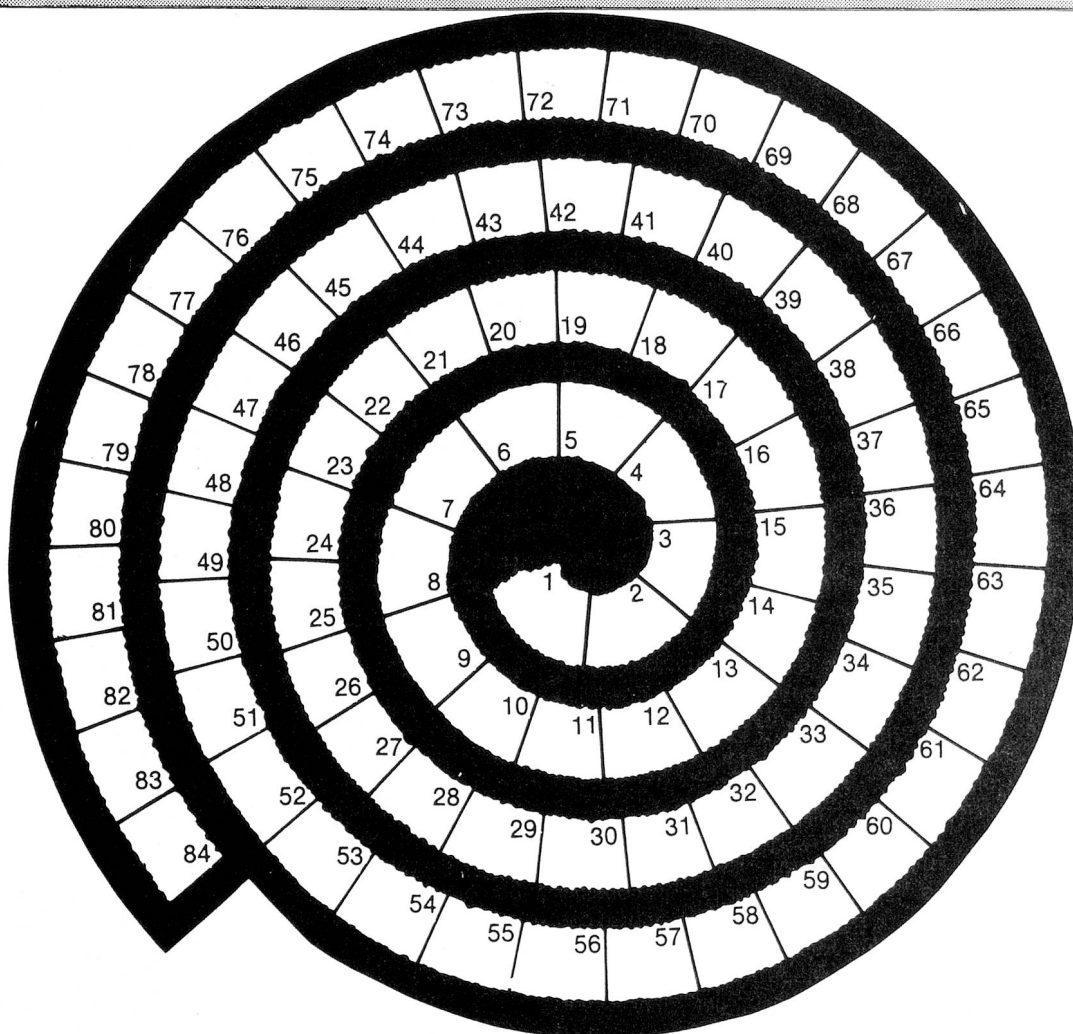
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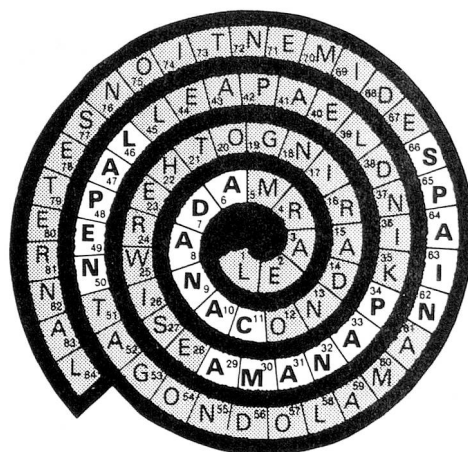


ANSWERS to the clues should be entered with the first letter in the numbered space indicated by the clue number and then proceeding outwards.

Words overlap by one or more letters so that the final letter or letters of one word is the beginning of the next word. Hidden in the **REVERSE** reading are the names of four things which may be among the presents on the Christmas tree.

CLUES

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. An effervescent drink – or the powder for making one | 42. Wasted away |
| 5. Christ's birthplace | 48. Boring |
| 11. A poisonous spotted plant | 54. One whose language is Slavonic |
| 17. Small species of falcon | 57. Empty |
| 20. A structure of lattice work | 60. Arrow |
| 26. Greek wood-god with tail and long ears | 61. One skilled in a manual craft |
| 30. Surprise attacker | 65. Soundness of mind |
| 33. Member of a Moslem fraternity professing poverty and leading an austere life | 69. Covering for a wheel rim |
| 39. Women's quarters in the sultan's palace | 71. Chain of rocks at or near the water's surface |
| | 74. Prophecy |
| | 81. Sort of fine linen – or a smooth grassy area |



The four countries hidden in the reverse reading of the last puzzle were: Canada, from 11 back to 6; Panama, from 34 back to 29; Nepal, from 50 back to 46; Spain, from 66 back to 62.

Devised by Norman Firth

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH