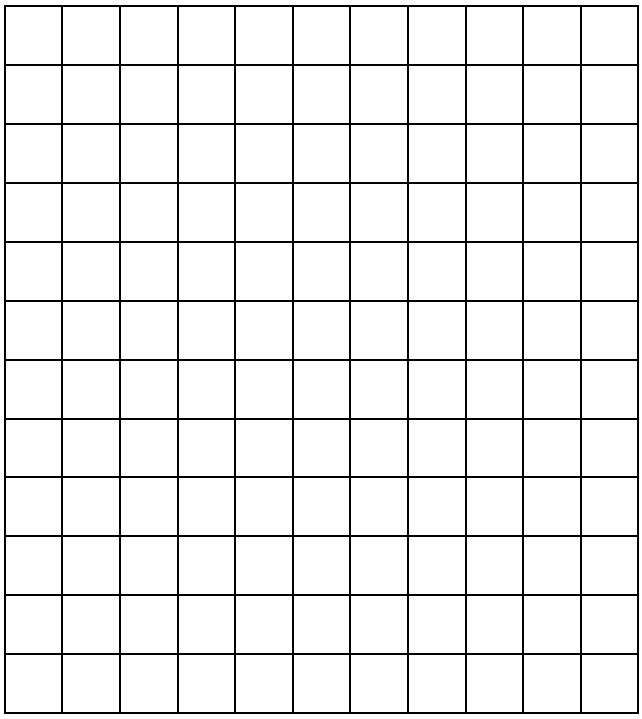
Back & Forth

Guess the words defined by the following clues. The answers vary in length from 3 to 11 letters long and of these, 1 is capitalized, 1 is archaic, and 2 are multi-word phrases. The punctuation in the clues may or may not help the solver.

Enter the answers in the grid in one continuous string that runs in both directions. For example, Down answers will start in the top left corner and proceed down column 1. At the bottom of column 1, go to the last square of column 2 and proceed up column 2 to row 1 and then proceed down column 3, etc. Similarly for the Across entries.

For 8 across words and 7 down answer words you will need to remove 1 letter from them before entering them in the grid. These 15 letters taken in order as they appear in the across and then the down clues will spell out a common phrase that, in combination with the 2 unclued entries, will thoroughly explain the nature of this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery Entry* (4,2,5)
2. Wash grit away from, parting! (3)
3. Snow patterns from air gusts! (8)
4. Land maybe from in Europe (4)
5. Every other one enlisted instead (4)
6. Drops seamen on volcanic isle (7)
7. Old time waitress is parochial, Al and myself go missing in action (6)
8. Measure the bird and score it (7)
9. Explores endeavors in the press, enter or return again (6)
10. Milk dispenser's pitch for teetotaler to become "*Designated Driver*" (5)
11. Hidden, a wanderer returns somewhat tired (5)
12. Seer will allow metal ring (6)
13. Changed document that's about it being changed (6)
14. Point to remains of uniform part (4)
15. Departed from the Taliban revolution (4)
16. Ball game participators initially setting it down externally (4)
17. Craved, yes to the ear with crazy end (7)
18. A tribute to all mostly (4)
19. Steer course to the point (5)
20. Renal failure finally broke her (6)
21. Cruel and as cruelly materialistic (7)
22. Begun, eventually somewhat odd (6)
23. Observe first rule in being dry (4)
24. *Mystery Entry* (5,2,4)

Down

1. Fifty plus one thousand and one top the stop (5)
2. Plain nurse will take it in (5)
3. Crafty seaman mostly full! (6)
4. Pangolin loses insect for (5)
5. Shade part not in gear (5)
6. Diverting stuff you abandon finally (3)
7. Prune extremities, vote yes inside collector (5)
8. Centrally odd, our minds press for payment (3)
9. Returning cadet celebrating some officialdom (7)
10. The number over there (5)
11. Turner maybe ate the animal and stumbled (8)
12. Unproductive instinctive force lets Eliot go (4)
13. Five go to Spain for tickets (5)
14. Faithful animal, are tilting backwards somewhat (7)
15. Bird is therefore with hawk headed man (4)
16. Pictures of rescue went less centrally (6)
17. Home for hassium parts of one (6)
18. Want to make bread so we hear (4)
19. Like hard valued thing (5)
20. Flag men maybe sing about brew for Serbia (9)
21. Second prime is right into you in olden times (5)
22. Gnarled grizzlies without sleep that is for daughters (5)
23. Doctor of Divinity from Los Angeles that is a younger Scot (6)
24. Say humbug to leading currency (5)
25. Also due, return for pretentious one (5)
26. She has a right to go to hospital area to be trimmer (7)