

Mystery Guests

Eight guests appear in the grid as portions of longer entries. Each guest is disguised by being omitted from the clue's wordplay. For example, if "aunt" were a guest, the entry HAUNTED would be clued with a normal definition but wordplay that yields only HED. Each guest could be considered a 42-Across. *Constructed in 2019. Not sure why it didn't get any traction. Not sure why the construction file disappeared either – hence a 2-page puzzle.*

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Across

- 1 Perfect clip pen for a clerk doing drudge work (6,6)
- 10 A bit of protection for a castle, say (4)
- 12 Mrs. Dubya dismisses Liberal atmosphere (4)
- 13 Somewhat disputatious web-access firm (3)
- 14 Former spouse #1 is living (8)
- 15 Bet sauna's out of order (6)
- 16 Tip from Giada: using a spoon, swirl around hominy (5)
- 18 Cincy's sports critics who are captious (6)
- 20 Professor receives nothing for testimony (5)
- 22 Small silver sink (3)
- 23 Plane reservations counter employing Venus's sister (6)

- 24 Concession finally won by *Time* employees' bargaining group with single-issue focus (6,6)
- 27 Striped fabric is unwise, almost reckless (6)
- 29 Marge Simpson's sister trimmed tree (3)
- 31 Crossing points in Sedona backed up endlessly (5)
- 32 A wretch of a person that is covering someone's backside (6)
- 34 Company issuing recordings of ballet, mostly remastered (5)
- 37 Finally, a map collection that's right (2,4)
- 38 Give the thumbs-down to a Tournament of Roses site (8)
- 39 A court proceeding (3)
- 40 Declare ingredients of aftershave radioactive (4)
- 41 Japanese board game's beyond excellent for individuals (4)
- 42 *See instructions* (6,6)

Down

- 1 An Ivy League school not on the rise (9)
- 2 Unwelcome assignments students sorta blithely dismiss, ultimately! (6)
- 3 For safekeeping, hand over guard involved in prisoner wrongdoing (7)
- 4 Place the French Cross on American luxury car (5)
- 5 Poor dress for a stuffed shirt (4)
- 6 Our group cleaned out superpower country that dissolved in 1991 (4)
- 7 Comic tries a biting type of humor (6)
- 8 Sea eagles with pronounced merits (4)
- 9 Fad from the end of flapper era (4)
- 11 Faculty golfers need these, reportedly (8)
- 17 A sampling of tattoos on the midsection of Jim Morrison (4)
- 19 Clergy with guns (4)
- 20 Gap gets a little ridiculous over product cost card (5,3)
- 21 Re-flatten crumpled missive from an admirer (3,6)
- 23 Salad server's first rule (4)
- 25 Nothing bothered Dana (4)
- 26 Ten at night, and this animal barks (3,4)
- 28 Get off the boat or be capsized, swallowed by night (6)
- 30 A screwup: cesium exploded (6)
- 32 Odd names for thick heads of hair (5)
- 33 Junk mail from resort west of Milwaukee (4)
- 34 Two states with volcanic rock (4)
- 35 Education: General Electric's advantage (4)
- 36 Metal wire connected to a battery (4)