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LeXman's Cryptic Crossword Page											

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WORST CHRISTMAS EVER by LeXman

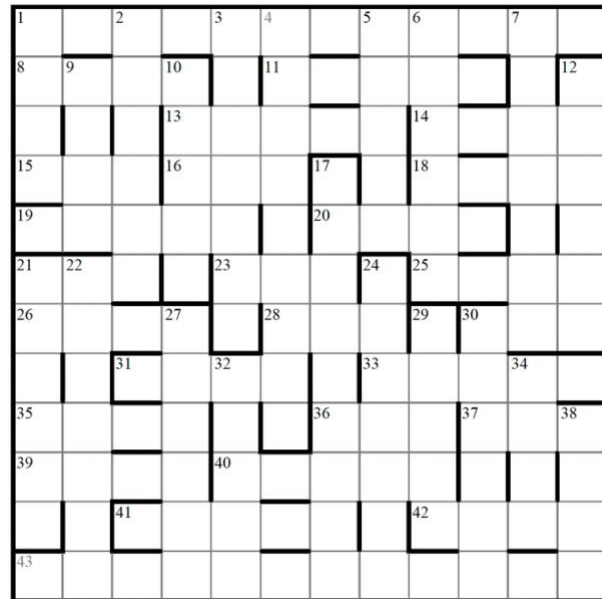
It's amazing how one tiny mix-up can ruin a perfectly good holiday....

Across

1. Father's an expert, taking time with a piece of furniture (12, 2 wds.)
8. Cursed heartless mind (4)
11. Santa was returning (5)
13. Closing oven, I snarled (5)
14. Two states make isinglass (4)
15. Eat broth with nothing left out (3)
16. Cruel, losing head over Scot's rejection (3) [NI3]
18. Give up first, not finishing Russian crepe (4)
19. Pole, like in Santa's home (5) [NI3]
20. Discussed shopping plaza bash (4)
21. Landslide covers cable (3, abbr.)
23. Famous suicide method: a small pipe (3)
25. A type of butter filling promotes health (4)
26. Alternately, Santa has expressions of delight (4)
28. No head on pale beer (3)
30. Run bats for pitcher (3)
31. Complain about Santa, for example (4)
33. Snobbish, I try to break up about snoring (5)
35. Santa: a media-embracing celebrity (4)
36. Copy a letter in Hebrew (3)
37. Authorization to take a beech tree (3)
39. Finishes ship, front to back (4)
40. Act like Santa and dance around bag (5)
41. Chair has too little stuffing (5)
42. Talk of the town: head of department is high (4)
43. Unreliable person — the gutless, portly knight — while heading west on the road to New Mexico (12, 3 wds.)

Down

1. Degrees of acidity down South (4, abbr.)
2. No part in ring for correspondent (6, 2 wds.)
3. Then Santa brought up instrumental music (7)
4. Santa raves, drunk, restrained by a prohibitionist (9)



5. Left out of a mansion, Teresa's home (5)
6. Bit of fun: I'm busting a cloud (6)
7. I hear Lucy van Pelt has no truck with Santa (7)
9. Case in perpetuity (4)
10. Packed in goldenseal (5)
12. God's promise in California: the end to Santa Ana winds (6)
17. Santa's little helper: responsible and steadfast (9) [NI3]
21. Returned home, angry to be on Santa's naughty list (6)
22. Carlos' band, like, flipped over new beat, Ace (7)
24. Santa shaking present (7)
27. Busiest attorney takes midday break (6)
29. Santa has left for new career (5)
30. Leading Iowa university comes first — a place you'll never see Santa (6)
32. Discussed Ireland with priest (5)
34. The end beginning with an afterthought: shocks (4)
38. I've heard charred wood is a form of eyeliner (4)