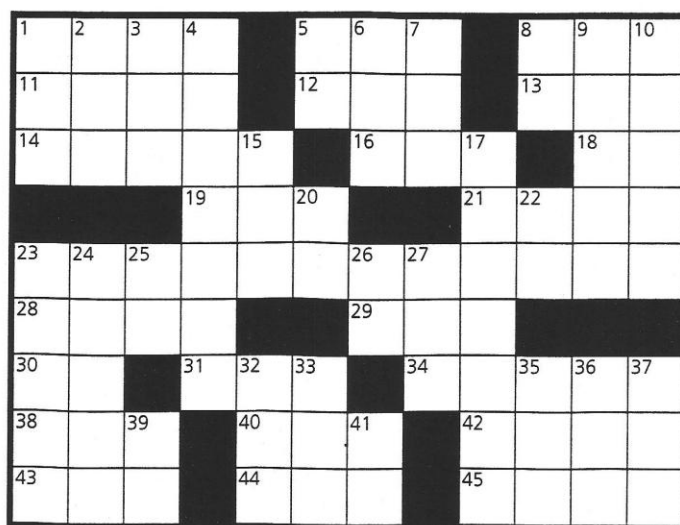# BACK AND FORTH TO THE FUTURE ★★

BY CHRISTOPHER MCCOLL

Well, we've closed out 2001 and now face a fresh new year: a palindromic year, as it happens. In honor of this rare event, all of the numbers that go into the grid below (with the exception of 23-Across) are palindromic—that is, they read the same forward and backward. Don't be put off by the complicated-looking clues: With a bit of care and logical thinking, you'll solve the puzzle handily, especially if you use a calculator.

When the grid's filled in, translate the numbers of 23-Across into letters (1=A, B=2, and so on). They'll spell what you'll get if you *don't* have a calculator handy.

ACROSS

1 Number that includes two consecutive digits
5 Sum of 43-Across and 32-Down
8 Difference between 12-Across and 15-Down
11 First palindromic year of the last millennium
12 Difference between 29-Across and 6-Down
13 Sum of 12-Across and 32-Down
14 Number made up of only two different digits, which are consecutive
16 Sum of 12-Across and 43-Across
18 Same number as 30-Across
19 Sum of 12-Across and 44-Across
21 Difference between 1-Across and the product of 12-Across and 39-Down
23 *See instructions*
28 Last palindromic year of the last millennium
29 Lowest three-digit difference of consecutive perfect squares
30 Number that's a multiple of 5-Down, 26-Down, and 41-Down
31 Product of a perfect square and a prime number
34 10 times 45-Across minus the sum of 10-Down's digits
38 Number that yields a twin-digit number when its digits are added together
40 Sum of 29-Across and 35-Down
42 Multiple of 20-Down
43 A perfect square
44 Number that ends with the same digit as both the sum of its digits and the product of its digits do
45 Product of twice 43-Across and a prime number

DOWN

1 Sum of two squared prime numbers
2 Multiple of 29-Across
3 Same number as 2-Down
4 Number with a fourth digit that divides evenly into the sum of the three-digit numbers formed by its first three and last three digits
5 Product of two prime numbers
6 Sum of 7-Down and a perfect square
7 See 6-Down
8 Difference between two consecutive perfect squares
9 Sum of two times 34-Across and five times 44-Across
10 Same as clue for 14-Across
15 Sum of a palindromic square and 32-Down
17 Number that yields 42-Across when the four-digit numbers formed by its first four and last four digits are added together
20 Same number as 8-Down
22 Same number as 5-Down
23 Number that yields the same sum when you add its digits as 5-Across does when you do likewise
24 Number whose first two digits form a number that is one more than the sum of all the number's digits
25 Multiple of 22-Down
26 Factor of 25-Down
27 Sum of two perfect squares, each with the same digit total
32 Number with a sum of its digits that's a factor of the number itself
33 Product of the first two digits of 12-Across and the first two digits of 44-Across
35 Same number as 36-Down
36 Product of two prime numbers
37 Number that yields 25-Down when you add the two-digit numbers formed by its first two and last two digits
39 Sum of the digits in 38-Across
41 Difference between 20-Down and 22-Down