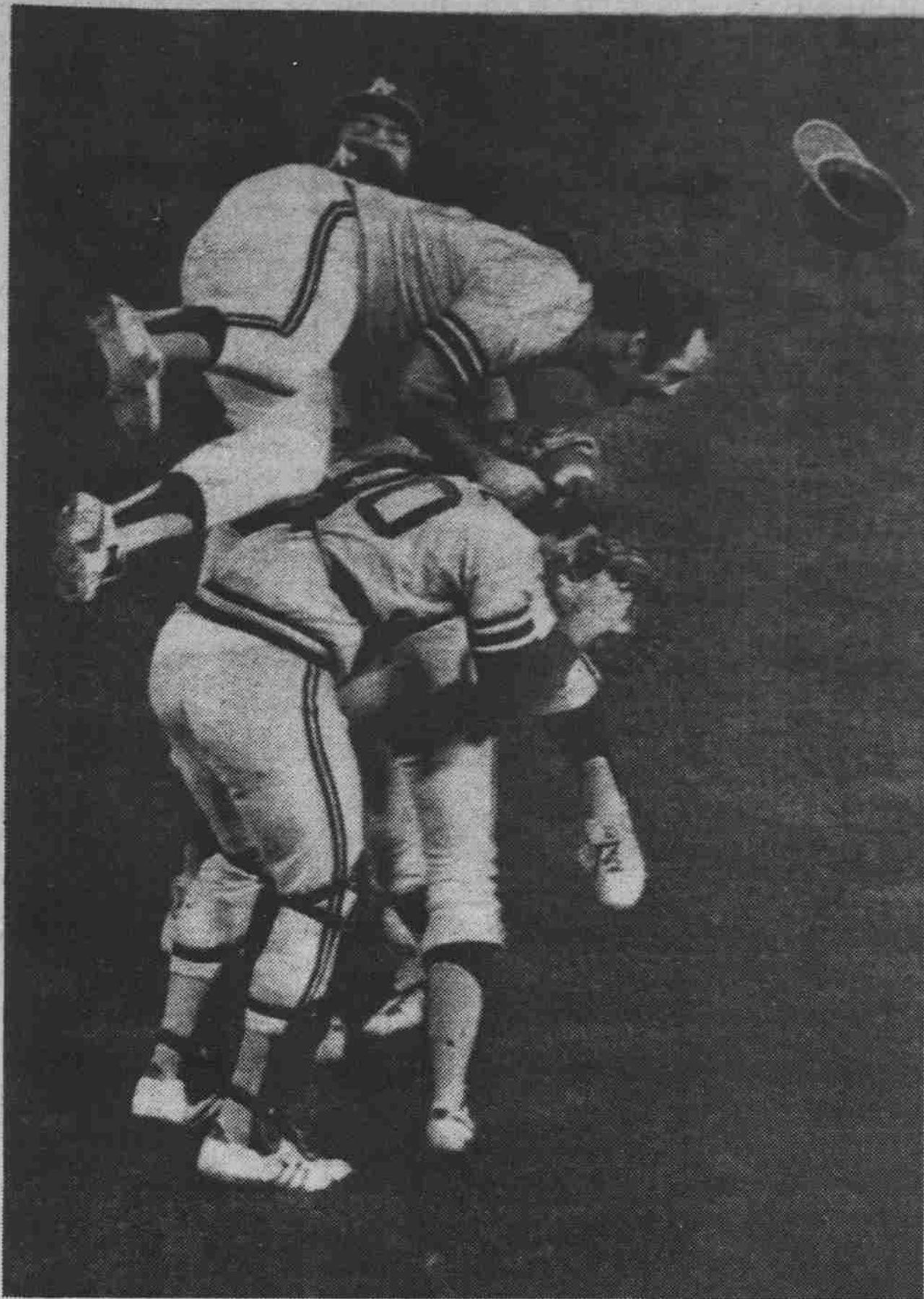


# Oakland captures the sweet taste of victory



A's go wild after series win

*"So don't you shed a tear for me, I'm not the love you thought I'd be . . . That's what you get for lovin' me."*

*"For Lovin' Me" by Gordon Lightfoot*

It's all over. Where did it go? All that time spent worrying day in and day out. Wondering why things went wrong, rejoicing when they went right. And now it's all over.

Oh, sure, it will be back in the spring, it always is. That's nice to know—new-found hope and all that.

This past Thursday night in Oakland, baseball bid a fond farewell for 1974. It was, indeed, just the way baseball should say adieu, with the World Championship being won for the home-team A's.

So now, for the third straight year, this band of rowdy, bodacious, long-haired, bearded men have proven they are the best in baseball. And to be quite honest, I am very glad they are.

It would be easy to say the A's lucked their way into it, that Dodgers gave it away. Just like it would be easy to say that Boston's Red Sox gave their division to Baltimore.

But it just isn't so. Oakland is a very smart, as well as talented team. All year long they taunted and then bullied the

rest of their division.

The sign of a great baseball team is that it has so much talent that when one man fails, someone else is there to pick up the slack. Oakland is baseball's best in this category.

Reggie Jackson was purely and simply the best player in baseball during the first half of the season. But when he slipped, the A's didn't panic. Joe Rudi, who is finally receiving the attention he deserves, was consistently getting the big hit to knock in the important runs, as was Sal Bando.

When Jim "Catfish" Hunter was going through the doldrums, Ken Holtzman, Vida Blue, and Rollie Fingers were blowing away opposing batters.

So we see the talent and the consistency. But like the guy who says, "I've got some good news and some bad news," here is the bad news. His name is Charlie Finley.

During the Series, Gene Tenace expressed his discouragement with the A's management—i.e., Finley. Tenace felt "degraded and de-humanized" by Finley. A World Series MVP two years ago, Tenace said he wants out of Oakland. Who can blame him?

The A's as a team stand for everything opposite of what most people like in baseball. They are fighters among

themselves, full of dissent and loud opinions. They dress and groom the way they want. But really, this is normal. Don't we fight with each other, tugging and pulling to get whatever we, as individuals, can get out of our society?

Well, so do the A's. We would be ignorant to deny them the right to be outspoken simply because many of us don't have the chance to be that way ourselves.

The Oakland A's, despite their bawdy green and gold uniforms, their dissension, and their bickering, are the best team in baseball. No Dodger, Oriole, or Pirate fan can say otherwise.

For three straight years, folks have been trying to put the A's down. It just can't be done anymore. Reggie Jackson said it best: "Now, finally, I hope we will get the credit we deserve as a great team. All we heard going into this Series was how good the Dodgers were and how inferior the American League was. I

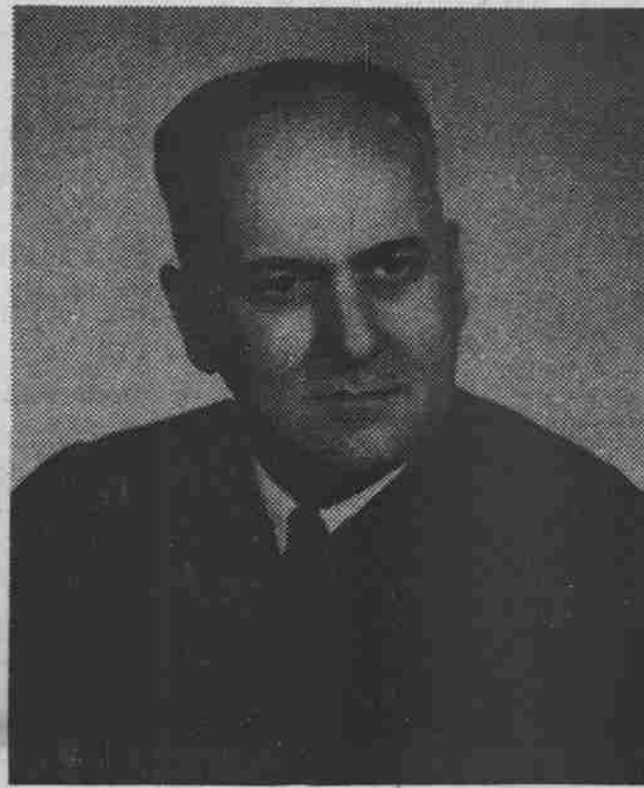
think beating them in five instead of seven proved something . . . that the Oakland A's are one of the greatest teams in baseball history."

Catfish Hunter is the best pitcher in baseball, Reggie Jackson the best hitter, Bert Campaneris the best shortstop, Sal Bando the best third baseman, Dick Green the best second baseman, Joe Rudi, etc., etc.

Now I have to face facts. Reality can sometimes be hard. My Boston team choked, and the A's are World Champions again. Baseball season is over. The anticipation of March and April, the grudge of July and August, the wild nerves of September—all are finished.

It was fun while it lasted, but now I am drained. I'm beat. I don't even want to talk about baseball anymore until next year.

Long live the Oakland A's. Champions of the World. So, there.



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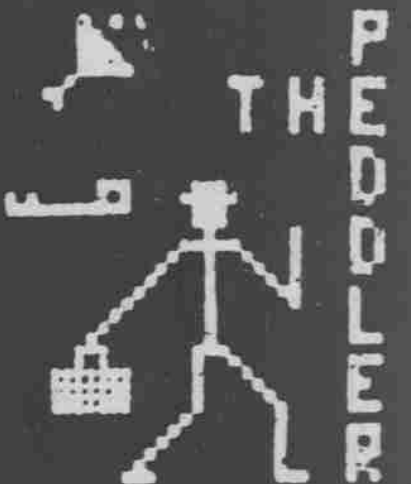
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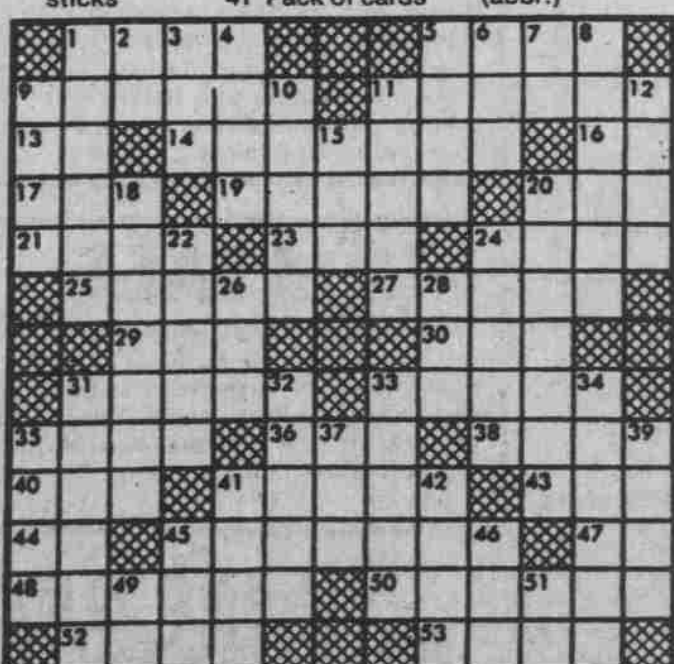


### Crossword Puzzler

- ACROSS
- 1 Walk wearily
  - 5 Cooling devices
  - 9 Bartended
  - 11 Boundaries
  - 13 Faroe Islands whirlwind
  - 14 Weirdest
  - 16 Sun god
  - 17 Away!
  - 19 French revolutionist
  - 20 Mountain pass
  - 21 Dregs
  - 23 Males
  - 24 Fuel
  - 25 Nerve networks
  - 27 Extra
  - 29 Permit
  - 30 Fuss
  - 31 Initial
  - 33 Part of play
  - 35 Path
  - 36 Tear
  - 38 Fixed period of time
  - 40 Urge on
  - 41 Eats
  - 43 Chinese pagoda
  - 44 King of Bashan
  - 45 Propriety
  - 47 Spanish for "yes"
  - 48 Warning
  - 50 Sounded a horn
  - 52 Large cistern
  - 53 Bucketlike vessels
- DOWN
- 1 Like better
  - 2 Note of scale
  - 3 Poem

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

APOD PAR SHAD  
LEDA ARE TIDE  
PROMOTED ARAL  
STREW SUPREME  
SEW NIT  
ATE DANDELION  
SORE LEA ERIE  
PREVALENT ALT  
IMP THE  
SPECIAL ANTIS  
CANT PENITENT  
ANTE EVA ELIA  
REED RIB REAR



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## fresh fall advents

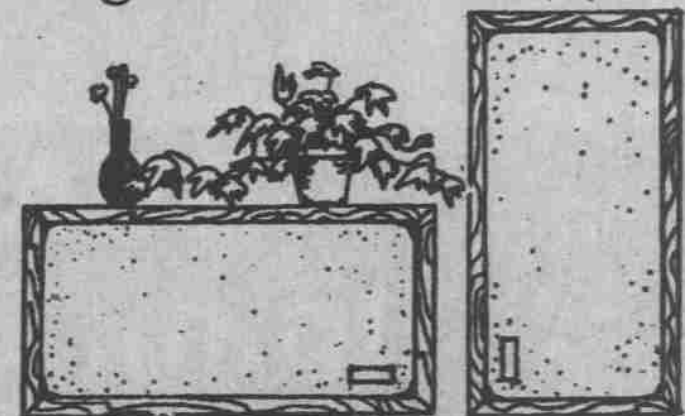
"With each fall there comes a wave of price increases as startling as the first hard freeze; but there are some nice surprises, too . . ."

In many ways the new year begins in October. Theatre, sports, cinema, music—all revive in fall. We begin doing a lot of good things for ourselves.



And it's more complex than mere climatic changes. With fall there comes a wave of price increases as startling as the first hard freeze, but there are some nice surprises, too. Discovering a really good value can be as satisfying as observing a forest's vivid changes.

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