

The Postman Cometh

By Josh Benaloh

This is a logic puzzle masquerading as a cryptogram.

The postal creed etched onto the James Farley Post Office in New York City reads, *"Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."*

"GLOOM OF NIGHT" is the hook here and when matched against "AABDE AJ DKLMN" quickly forces "A" to map to "O", "J" to map to "F", and "D" to map to "G". This allows the obstacle "FOG" to be completely determined and serves as initial confirmation. There is now only one remaining possible match for "SNOW" — namely "AHIL" which forces "L" to map to "N" and "H/I" to map to "S/W" (although not necessarily in that order).

Continuing in this Way, one can generate the following deciphering map.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
O	L	E	G	M	A	R	W	S	F	T	N	H	I

The first seven obstacles are now seen to be FOG, SNOW, HAIL, HEAT, RAIN, SLEET, and GLOOM OF NIGHT.

The answer is the eighth and final obstacle which is **ROTTWEILERS**.