CRYPTIC CROSSWORD #8
by Trip Payne

ACROSS
1 Geologic study, out of debt, turning to Reverend Spooner (12)
7 Retro tavern gets couple of debutantes overly loaded, in a way (6,2)
13 Stages of development changed elf Cicely (4,5)
14 Virtuous man keeps small cauldron next to old vegetable (5,6)
15 Hang comic art (i.e., funny painting) (8,6)
16 Artist that woman pursues, and so forth (6)
18 Singer beginning to appreciate light opera's debut (4)
19 Certain financial backers of Nixon and Reagan linked to moderate-center positions (7,2,3,4)
21 Unfortunately close ten jobs, for example (6,6)
23 Sort of complex friend sits behind British dictionary author (7)
25 Media goes after those people divided over suggestion of enigmatic tarot card (3,7)
26 Take aim at Bill spreading $1000 before a professor (3,1,4,2)
29 Communists accepting Georgia Republican's best wishes (7)
31 Fee on a vehicle boarded by girl with economic conflict (5,7)
33 Group of abstainers in favor of greeting champ, mostly one over par outside of today (11,5)
35 Italian author holds head of his parrot (4)
37 Reporter's massaged -- it's necessary (6)
38 Summer resort's employees on a soccer slump, surprisingly (4,10)
40 Blistex, for example, is fired up about principal spokespersons (3,8)
41 Expert at wrongdoing has committed an assassination (7,2)
42 Tedium doctor good in subject of gerontology (8)
43 Mold, dirt, and rags surrounding third-rate collectibles (7,5)

DOWN
1 Skate around baseless old regulation for bed on wheels (8)
2 Living room furniture made from bottom parts of a chair surrounded by cord (6,5)
3 Frenzied jerk chases tailless rats (6)
4 Catch a "C.S.I." rerun -- it turns different than usual (16)
5 Mr. Scott upended regular digging machine (7)
6 Old method of execution brought about attack in direct confrontation (4,2,4)
8 Swear love at hospital (4)
9 Small amount of alcohol engulfing fine mind, game show host Edwards relaxed with a drink (4,3,4,3)
10 Recalled divided gathering at hot Christopher Reeve movie (9)
11 Moving stealthily around quiet form of sports entertainment (3,9)
12 Spoiled, centuries-old meat can be found at these places (4,8)
17 Wasn't at ease with wild tattoo on a dentist (5,5)
20 Making a stitched design on elaborate green border, I'm maintaining interest (14)
22 Each station's holding chat on each body of water near Asia (4,5,3)
24 Sailor's bit of anguish aboard simple vehicle covered in sparkly things (4-8)
27 I'd taken up musical instrument, assuming true command (6,5)
28 Early religious figure sent pirate off (5,5)
30 "Go bare," Poe ordered nut from the South (6,3)
32 Catholic leader's interminable indication of distress about no-good modern music (3,5)
34 Got excited and frolicked without a top (7)
36 In a turnaround, college finally chose follower of a British author (6)
39 Rock star takes time (4)

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