CROSSWORD
No. 15,853 Set by JULIUS

ACROSS
1 Conservative cult around, bizarrely, a bloke never featured in The Mirror (5,7)
8 Herb, going past Ohio, turned his ass around (7)
9 "Back up, bub" clutching good recipe for chicken in a basket (3,4)
11 One featured in president Hoover's first victory (7)
12 Totally rejected ruthenium, hydrogen + another element (7)
13 Breastfeeds regularly, yet is criticised! (5)
14 With which Charlie's blowing head off game bird? (9)
16 I resolved to transform characters like the 25s (9)
19 One refusing to accept meat in transit, say? (5,3,4)
21 Somewhat revolting, Margaret spayed dog (7)
23 Stop silly aunt visiting school (7)
24 The King and I actor invites dance ensemble round for a song (7)
25 A peripheral figure to unmask reputedly dishonest character (7)
26 Honest, intense work by Shelley (12)

DOWN
1 I've served up stuffing for cold and hot lamb (7)
2 Lacking a piece (like Milos's Aphrodite) (7)
3 Honk horn, at first long-suffering (9)
4 Experts know these guys (5)
5 Sole trader in fruity drink (7)
6 Having suddenly changed direction, enticed to take in Switzerland (7)
7 Lab engineer of histamidé prescribed orally by Spooner (6,6)
10 Massage upset involved naked seraglio getting bottom pinched; such wicked men! (5,3,4)
15 Engineer on route sees northbound services (4,5)
17 See 19
18 Evacuate carriage, finding alien in tube (7)
19, 17 He introduced fifty to grisly primeval death (4,3,7)
20 For information, Italian turned over an alpine flower (7)
22 Frost Report seen at 9? (5)

Solution 15,852

Answer grid:

JOTTER PAD