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**Across**

- 1 Who is able, despite tangling, to descend by rope, dangling? (6)
- 4 Deleted arias perhaps not recognized. (6)
- 8 Compact knots on account before thousands reveal specialized ability. (5)
- 9 Abundant electrical overload security, after professional is contracted. (7)
- 10 She served Henry's wives (even the sixth, her sister) plus a later queen; — small fry, though. (4,4)
- 11 In terms, the third degree, maybe — and, maybe, die. (4)
- 13 Fire shot oddly (very oddly) for sunny side lyricist: a Kansas girl's tiny prairies. (7,6)
- 16 Nothing changed, from South America to Maine. (4)
- 17 Widen bed anyhow — for morning glory, perhaps. (8)
- 20 Strangely evil sun reveals ... (7)
- 21 ... man, probably Canadian, returning to sign up. (5)
- 22 Depraved portrait subject from ancient Greek tribe? (6)
- 23 Groom accommodated apostle riding in. (6)

**Down**

- 1,16 A short week, and confinement, for ungainly bunch not smart enough to go on parade. (7,5)
- 2,14 What marine strove frantically with to rid his uniform ... (5,7)
- 3 ... of pen splashes from thirties vocal quartet. (3,5)
- 5 It's all right — after denial — in this cosy corner. (4)
- 6 The world at one? America, a university, Alabama? ... odd! (7)
- 7 Inland water bird makes headless giant exist. (5)
- 9 Charcuterie? En croute? What a pack of ...! (5,4)
- 12 It's just stupid; don't care so much! (8)
- 14 see 2D.
- 15 Tack maker, melancholy, with 550 in front of the Queen. (7)
- 16 see 1D
- 18 Some swashbuckler rolls in (played by Flynn). (5)
- 19 Plastic entry permit? (4)