

***Of This 'n That***

***By Mel Lavine***

*Special to the Times*

***Manna from Allstate***

A couple of days ago I got a Thanksgiving card from Allstate with a note thanking me for being a loyal customer for more than 20 years. When I showed the card to the Lady Friend she rolled her eyes and said, "You should thank them in return."

"Thank them?" I said. "What for?"

“For the check you got in a class action suit against them.”

I'd forgotten. There was a settlement check in the mail a few weeks ago. It was for \$11 and change.

### ***Letter of the Year***

In a response to an article in the New York Times, “When the Patient is Noncompliant,” a reader wrote: “I would like for my doctor, when prescribing medication, to go a step further and explain why it has been chosen for me, what the side effects are, and whether I have any other choices. There is that frightening statement on the handout that is provided with the prescription that reads, ‘your doctor has decided that the benefits outweigh the risks.’ Where am I in this decision?”

### ***Footnote to the Big Blow***

A scornful Rupert Murdoch, the media magnate, said in a posting on Twitter three days before the election that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's embrace of the president after Hurricane Sandy shredded the Jersey shores might have tilted the election in Obama's favor.

Post-election experts tells a different story: Obama would have won without Christie's extravagant praise.

### ***When Thanksgiving Was No Holiday***

As a young boy, I spent Thanksgiving with my family at my uncle's house. A businessman with a reputation for probity and wisdom, he took pleasure in conducting inquisitions of the nephews gathered 'round my aunt's copious table.

To the glee of family members, he grilled us on our progress in studies at school. A painful hour for me and my young cousins, but uncle had the time of his life.

It's a different story today around the Lady Friend's copious table, and we both see to it.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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