Happy an Thanksgiving!

by Ucaomhu, 2015

It’s true that as Thanksgiving approaches, we still haven’t had any time traveler from the past show up in a DeLorean. But it remains clear that timelines are fragile, and (for example) whether or not a 1985 teenager travels from 1955 to 1885 can affect whether or not a huge solving extravaganza starts on Columbus Day weekend in 2015, delaying the appearance of a cryptic by a month and a half.

As you solve, watch out for temporally unstable squares (shaded in the grid), which are all different in the other main timeline than in this one, and for 25 and 32 Across, which are unstable despite having no unstable letters. The 30 entirely stable clues nonetheless pay tribute to there-and-gone timelines other than the main two (A and B); 15 (the “there” clues) are normal, with an answer in some non-A-or-B “line” (row or column), while in 15 (the “gone” clues) the wordplay yields a letter sequence omitting some non-A-or-B letter.

When the grid is complete, scan the answer to 8 Down letter by letter; if the nth letter is not A or B, read the nth letter from the start of the corresponding “there” clue. Then repeat that scan, with “start” changed to “end” and “there” to “gone”. The result will be something that, in our timeline, as predicted by the amazingly prescient [2 Down] [8 Down], we hardcore solvers do.

ACROSS
1. Hazy atmosphere of Thanksgiving, essentially, besetting orb (4)
5. Bounce back orange that’s been bisected within cup beside (primarily) “mockolate” (5)
10. Use water to replace liquid used by reptile expert (6)
11. Director DeMille, changing “Author” to “Author of Part of the Gut” (5)
12. Is e-chat abhorrent, or more a pain than anything else? (7)
14. Ruddy pigment around Anne Hathaway’s face (5)
15. Ndroq’s capital, invested in less incomplete piece of kinematograph (4)
16. Lead on Joe and bug Sally (5)
18. Train has a lionish sound (4)
20. Libertine breaking ark (4)
22. Penultimate character from Togo’s obstructing victories for those attached to some Thunderbird, perhaps (5)
24. Seaweed ruined a gal (4)
25. Trio from Hawaii illustrates the subset of a [2 Down] series that shows the events leading to our timeline ([25 Across])
27. Imparts info about einsteiniumless fans’ reactions? (4)
28. Black stone beginning to encourage balletic leap (4)
29. House that shelters mammal begotten by Paradise-ending pair that evacuated (4)
30. Vague blues, often south of college, gyrating (4, [39 Down])
32. Semi-vile indigo letters giving the enumeration for 43 Across ([25 Across])
33. Insult about 3 being “twisted” fades (4)
34. Eastern Greek place I circle before the return of Cain, after dispatching the first letter (5)
36. Sexpot may duff clothing, to be fair (4)
37. Grant’s middle, hugged by Sal, changed unfortunately (4)
38. Spinning, tin-plated semicircle one at Antium (at last) seldom is disregarding (5)
39. Mennen product bought for shavers Ace thanks (4)
40. Gotti: “Oddly, that idea’s now cerebrally penetrated” (3 2)
43. Put together dead decomposition & artificial transuranic element — described, chiefly, the other way round ([32 Across])
44. Wrappers from barrel near Indiana and item near front of window (5)
45. Novelly treat UC’er ere Strange has Earl withdraw (6)

46. Damage “cow–woman”’s name in Italy (5)
47. Vocalization of greetings is maintaining a bit of speed (4)

DOWN
1. Street is to shake (4)
2. Chill Jeff, Max, & Mo made dreadful pic (7 1 3 4)
3. Get north-east half of zinnia (4)
4. Dads or mothers, except for superficial ones, don’t exist (4’1)
6. Is not going to answer regressive come-on from admen (3 3)
7. Colorful rock standing erect uncovered Gonzo’s foot (5)
8. Bracket, in a shambles, hiding offbeat, initially tutu-clad male, and failing [2 Down] ([24 and 63 reversed, summed, and broken into individual digits . . . no, wait, not [43 Across]])
9. Car maker loves claiming Hegel’s right (4)
13. Frail, spotty style (5)
16. Sweetheart in Paris who hugs leader from arid Phoenix who could play a part (7)
17. Take tip from doctor who operates prod (4 2)
18. Absurd fee Siri treats as an actual thing (7)
19. Is helping topless guitar players (7)
21. That is Victor’s city in Ukraine (4)
23. USA, for example, is not in a stew (6)
26. Nine embracing half-size engine with lined-up cylinders (1-3)
31. Aye, the Florentine head of state is Mr. Marner (5)
35. Am enclosing originally-imaginary sporting item put out by a soda company, perhaps showing the title’s missing part-word (6)
37. Song parts that Things That Go Lub-Dub will include (5)
38. Lodge heavy hydrogen within Missouri train type (5)
39. BU or MIT or UCLA’s final shot (4, [39 Down])
41. Train lacking excellent automotive gizmo, perhaps (4)
42. Simians swapping one penny for the other fruit drinks (4)