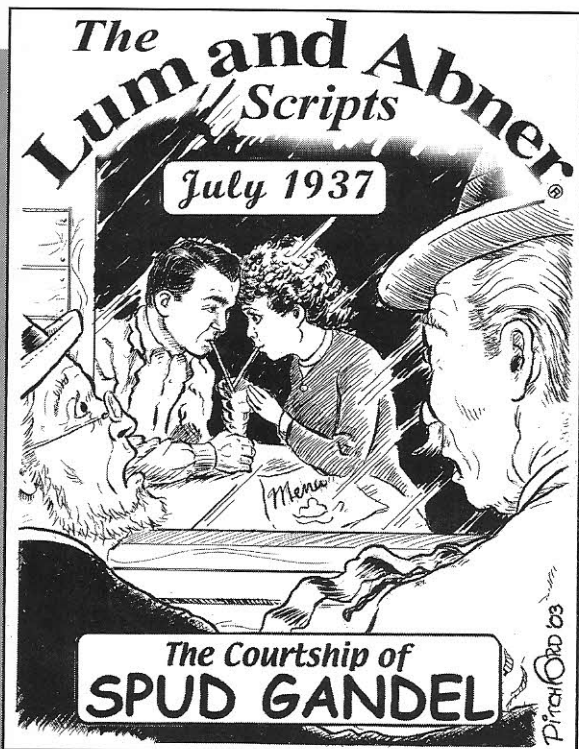


FEBRUARY 2003

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Because sales of our recent volumes in this series have been much slower than in the past, we are considering publishing only one volume per year instead of two. The sales of this new release will determine whether there is another one available at the convention in June and then advertised in the August issue of the *Journal*.

As usual, copies of *JULY 1937: THE COURTSHIP OF SPUD GANDEL* are \$7.00 each. We also have copies remaining of the previous volume, *JUNE 1937: COURTIN' DISASTER*, which are also \$7.00 each. Send orders to the Executive Secretary's office at 81 Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL 35062.

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Front Cover: *The beautiful nurse (Rosemary LaPlanche) makes sheep eyes at patient Abner, while the oblivious doctor (Edward Earle) tries to make a diagnosis in the 1943 RKO release TWO WEEKS TO LIVE. See page 7 for a special tribute to Miss LaPlanche and her career.*

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

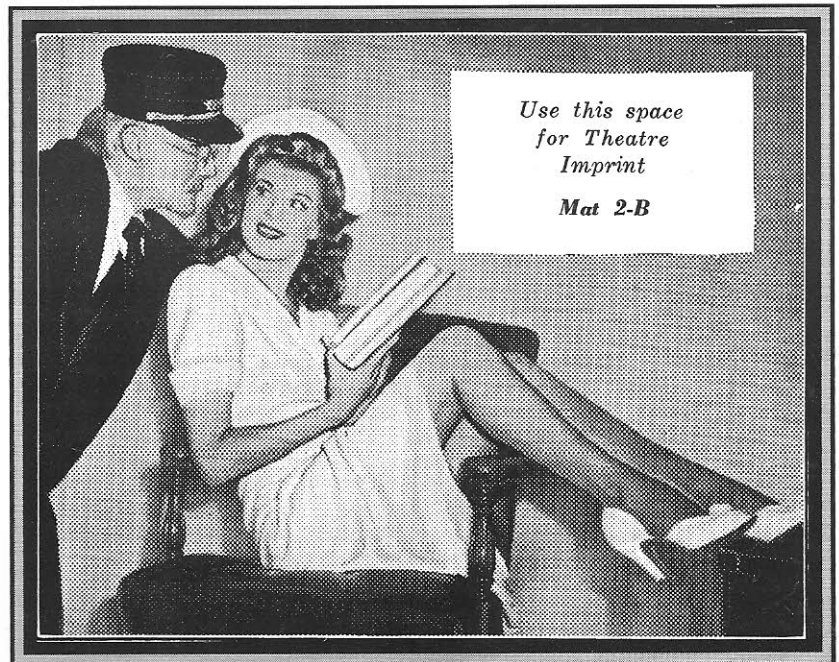
FEBRUARY 2003

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Even though Rosemary LaPlanche appeared in only one sequence of Lum & Abner's TWO WEEKS TO LIVE (1943), the RKO publicity department did not hesitate to play up her obvious attributes as Miss America 1941. In this illustration meant to be sent out to local newspapers, we see Abner and Miss LaPlanche enacting a scene that did not even remotely resemble anything in the movie!

PARLEY BAER

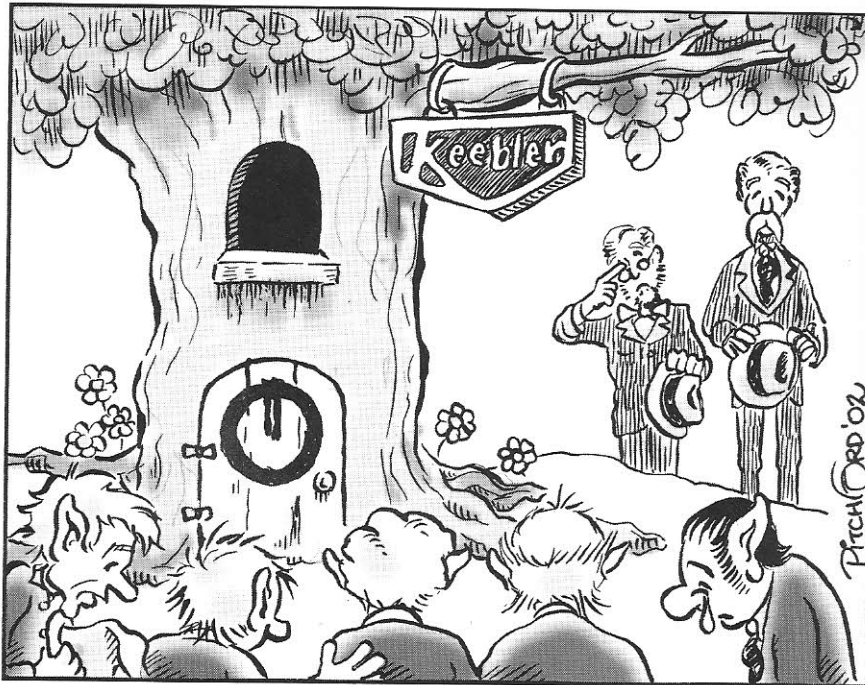
1914-2002

Like the rest of the old-time radio world, we were saddened to learn of the passing of our good friend Parley Baer on November 22. We always have a special bond with those who have served as guests at our annual convention, and Parley's 1995 appearance was one of our most memorable. For those of you who were not NLAS members eight years ago, we wanted to give you a quick recap of Parley's career and his NLAS work.

Parley was born in 1914 in Utah. Although he worked in radio as early as 1933 on KSI in his hometown of Salt Lake City, it was actually the circus that brought him into show business. Completely fascinated by the world of the big top, Parley became a circus press agent in 1936, continuing that work until the advent of World War II. During those years he did everything from acting as ringmaster to performing with a wild animal act. While stationed in Florida for officer training, he met his future wife, Ernestine, who was an aerialist and bareback rider with the Cole Brothers Circus. They were married in April 1946.

It was also after the war that Parley began his network radio career. It has been estimated that Parley appeared in over 15,000 radio broadcasts. A situation comedy called *Those Websters* was one of them; among its other cast members were Willard Waterman and Clarence Hartzell. Waterman would eventually play various roles on *Lum and Abner* and be a guest at the 1993 convention; 1985 guest Hartzell, of course, was halfway between his roles of Uncle Fletcher on *Vic and Sade* and Ben Withers of *Lum and Abner*. The cast of *Those Websters* moved to Hollywood late in 1946, opening up new opportunities for everyone.

It is known that *Lum and Abner* became one of the programs to utilize Parley's talents, but details are vague. Parley remembered the program well in its 15-minute daily format, but could not recall whether he worked with L&A during that period or if it was after the show had gone to its weekly 30-minute format in

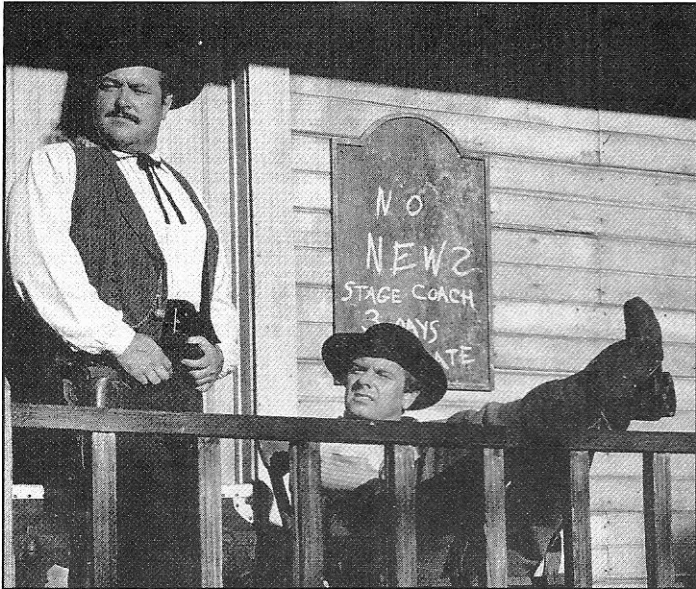


1948. Recently 1946-48 L&A producer Forrest Owen recalled that he cast Parley in some Alka-Seltzer commercials during his tenure with the show; perhaps we need to take a second listen to some of those spots in our own tape library. We do have in our archives a recording of an audition or "voice test" Parley recorded for *Lum and Abner* in late 1948: in this test, he voices three different characters. One is a somewhat shady preacher, another a senile old codger who strongly resembles Elmore Vincent's portrayal of

Phinus Peabody, and the third a slick horse trader. Any or all of these could have been prospective characters for the show.

It should be mentioned here that in 1950 Parley was cast in a short-lived summer replacement series called *Granby's Green Acres*. This series was created by former L&A writer Jay Sommers, used most of L&A's latter-day cast members and staff, and would eventually serve as the basis for the better-known *Green Acres* TV series. In the radio version, Parley played the role of handyman Eb... who, in the TV series, bore a striking resemblance to Cedric Weehunt. (A few episodes of *Granby's* circulate today, and it probably needs to be the basis for a future *Journal* study of its own.)

Parley's longest-lasting radio role began in 1952. On April 26 of that year (coincidentally, 21 years to the day since the first *Lum and Abner* broadcast), Parley became Chester Proudfoot of the new *Gunsmoke* radio series. Parley's portrayal of Chester differed somewhat from the character who would later be played by Dennis Weaver on the television series: "I would describe Chester as being a dependable non-thinker," said Parley. "Energetic, loyal, at times put upon by everybody but Matt Dillon. There was a pathetic tone written into Chester; he realized his shortcomings. He was simple, but not a simpleton." We might mention that Chester's surname was ad-libbed by Parley during one script, and stuck. However, when the TV *Gunsmoke* was in production, CBS felt that since Parley had "created" the name of Chester Proudfoot, they had better change it to protect



William Conrad and Parley Baer as Matt Dillon and Chester.

themselves. Therefore, on television the character became Chester Goode.

The other members of the *Gunsmoke* radio cast were among the best in the business. William Conrad, of course, gave voice to Marshal Dillon, while Georgia Ellis played dance-hall girl (and goodness knows what else) Miss Kitty. Doc Adams was hilariously portrayed by Parley's good friend Howard McNear, himself a *Lum and Abner* veteran (McNear had played such widely diverse roles on L&A as "Dr. Roller the Pest Controller," "Talbert" the store robber, and "Detective Wilson" in the Mtn. View Hotel storyline).

Gunsmoke was a unique radio series in many ways, but one of the most unique was the fact that it did not actually "move" from radio to TV; the television version premiered in 1955, but the radio version continued for seven more years after that. Therefore, from 1955 to 1962, audiences could hear one cast of actors performing *Gunsmoke* on the radio, while watching another cast of actors performing *Gunsmoke* on TV. The only time the radio cast ever had an opportunity to portray their characters visually was in a series of magnificent publicity photos that were made as "auditions" for the TV series; for those, the famous theme park Knott's Berry Farm stood in for Dodge City.

Even without making *Gunsmoke's* transition from audio to video, the advent of TV did not leave Parley Baer idle. In fact, in 1995 he estimated that he had appeared in approximately 1600 to 1700 TV episodes, both as a regular and as a guest performer. He made several hilarious appearances on *I Love Lucy* and *The Lucy Show*, was "Darby" of *Ozzie and Harriet* from 1955 to 1961, and was a semi-regular on *The Addams Family* from 1965-66. But it was as apoplectic "Mayor Stoner" of *The Andy Griffith Show* that he is best known to TV fans of today.

For the first two *Andy Griffith* seasons, Mayberry's chief official was Mayor Pike, played by Dick Elliott (who, coincidentally, had previously been Squire Skimp in the last two L&A movies for RKO). When Elliott passed away, Parley was cast as the new mayor, and made his debut on October 15, 1962. Mayor Stoner was a cranky soul who was continually infuriated by the easy-going way Sheriff Andy ran his jail. In his very first

GUNSMOKE DREAMS

by Bob Flood

At the 1995 NLAS Convention, Parley Bear read the following poem, written by NLAS member Bob Flood of Texas. We thought it was only appropriate to print the poem here as a tribute.

*I dream of the days when cowboys ruled the West
With a six gun song and a well colored vest.
With a horse and a hat and some Gunsmoke fire,
With a full day's work and gold coins for hire.*

*I see in my dream that the saloon was the place
To either meet your destiny or tempt your fate.
To drink with old Doc, Chester and Miss Kitty,
To view life fully without regret or pity.*

*Since most men need to prove what a sharpshooter can be
Their lives are filled with gun shots and nickel whiskey.
A Marshal must walk the streets of Dodge with a stride,
Feeling confident and comfortable with Chester by his side.*

*Marshal Dillon has been wounded, shot and abused,
But with old Doc Adams, most of us were amused.
Doc's humor was off-beat, even a little pixie.
He was a barber at heart, who one day would sing "Dixie."*

*The stories were legends of an outcast core,
And in the end our hero would even up the score.
Marshal Dillon's great gunplay would never cease or yield.
For that special quality we can thank Meston and Crutchfield.*

*There are few in this world that are "Gunsmoke" true,
But those that are, are through and through.
And when the job is done, and it is time to rest,
I noticed that God made the sun respectfully set in the West...*



episode, Stoner had a comical run-in with a wild bear; Parley remembered that show well: "A friend of mine named Frank Lamping was the one who had the bear, but when it came time to do the show, instead of a black bear he brought in a Himalayan sun bear! I asked him, 'What in the world is a Himalayan sun bear doing in the mountains of North Carolina?' He whispered, 'Shut up, you fool, the other bear is working!' So that was probably the only time a Himalayan sun bear was ever seen in the North Carolina hills."

Working on *The Andy Griffith Show* reunited Parley with his old buddy from *Gunsmoke*, Howard McNear (Floyd the Barber), but for some reason the two of them appeared together in only one episode... and even then, they just happened to be in the same scene, with no interaction between them. Griffith show historian Richard Kelly has pointed out that economics was the main thing that kept Parley/Mayor Stoner from becoming a regular continuing character. The producers could only afford to put a certain number of actors under contract, and the character of the mayor was one that was deemed expendable.

The rest of the 1960s were not exactly inactive ones for Parley. He continued appearing in every TV series imaginable, and even took time out for a few motion pictures, the most famous of which is probably *Gypsy* (1962), the biography of Gypsy Rose Lee. He also loaned his talents to several Disney features of the period, including *Those Calloways* (1965), *The Ugly Dachshund* (1966) and *The Gnome-Mobile* (1967, in which he voiced an owl; proving that everyone's work crosses over at some point, 2002 convention guest Nancy Wible was heard next to Parley as a bluejay).

In 1969, the Leo Burnett agency was creating a new advertising campaign for the Keebler cookie company. The new animated TV commercials would involve the lovable, kindhearted Ernie Keebler, leader of the elves who lovingly baked cookies in their hollow tree. Parley was called in to audition for the voice of Ernie, got the job, and spent the next 28 years pushing Keebler's "uncommonly good" crackers and cookies.

More TV shows and movies followed during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1993, he was cast in the daytime soap opera *The Young and the Restless* in a storyline that was supposed to have run for six months; it was so successful that it ended up running for eight months instead.

Parley was made an Honorary Member of the NLAS in 1988, but it took until 1995 for things to work out for him to appear in person at the annual convention. After performing in a newly-written script in which Lum dreams of being in Dodge City and helping Chester capture some bank robbers, Parley was presented with the 1995 Lum and Abner Memorial Award, not only for his work with L&A but for his countless other classic performances. He absolutely charmed everyone at the convention (as well as everyone else he ever met) with his good humor and jolly nature. Unlike the grouchy characters he frequently played, he never seemed to let anything upset him. One night during the convention, Uncle Donnie Pitchford, his wife Aunt Laura, and some others went to Mena's local Pizza Hut for a late-night snack, and Parley decided to go along. For some reason the meal took longer than normal for the staff to prepare, but Parley took it all in stride, keeping everyone entertained with what amounted to a floor show, and even trying his best to pay the tab for

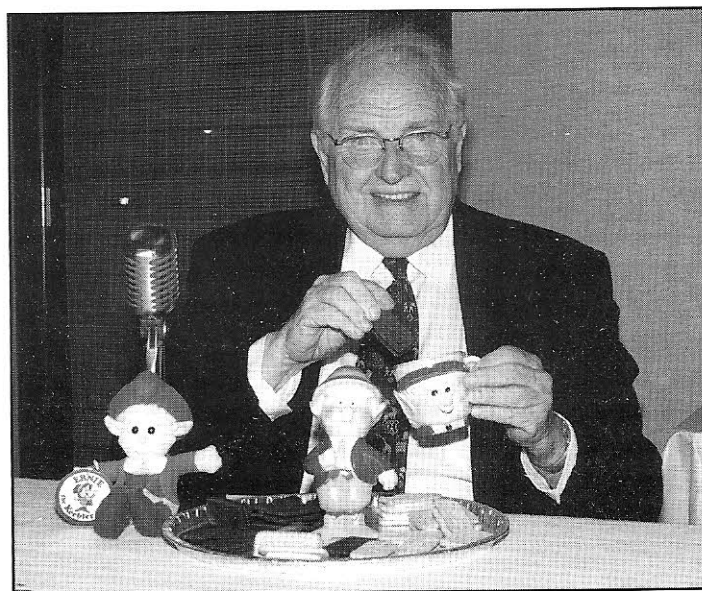
everyone. When Aunt Laura snatched the ticket away and instructed the waitress that the NLAS was picking up the tab, Parley snapped, "Aw, don't listen to her.. that's my retarded daughter and she doesn't even know what she's saying!"

Unfortunately, Parley's health went downhill during the two years following the convention. He kept putting off badly needed knee replacement surgery because of other problems, but continued to appear at most of the old-time radio events around the country. In July 1997, NLAS vice-president and co-founder Sam Brown was celebrating his 50th birthday, and we decided to surprise him with recorded phone greetings from some of our past guests. We got Parley on the phone and he recorded his best wishes for Sam, but sounded awfully tired in doing so. Within 48 hours, word got out that Parley had suffered a major stroke, was in the hospital, and was unable to speak. It is a sobering thought to realize that, unless he had a recording session within the two days following our phone call to him, the NLAS's birthday greeting for Sam is the final recording ever made of Parley's voice.

Although we continued to send *The Jot 'Em Down Journal* Parley's way, obviously he was no longer able to communicate with us. We had to get updates on his condition from those who regularly attended radio get-togethers and the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters meetings. Apparently, after a time, Parley recovered from his stroke enough to attend some of these meetings in his wheelchair, but he never did regain the ability to speak clearly, surely one of the greatest tragedies that can befall someone who has made his living with his voice for so many years, and one can only imagine his feelings when the Keebler commercials were recast with a new Ernie voice impersonating Parley's. (To be fair, in the months immediately following his debilitation, the Keebler commercials featured a "silent" Ernie, perhaps waiting to see if Parley would be able to return to the role later.)

Parley's beloved wife passed away during his ordeal, which certainly did not help his feelings. He was living at the Motion Picture Country Home and Hospital when another stroke (and heart attack) took him on November 22, 2002, at the age of 88.

- Tim Hollis



So long, Parley... You were "uncommonly good."

My Mom, Rosemary LaPlanche



Many of you remember Rosemary LaPlanche by her title, Miss America 1941, representing the state of California. Others may know her as RKO star and cast member of the Lum and Abner movie *Two Weeks To Live*. However, I knew her best because Rosemary was my mother.

Rosemary was born to Charles and Anna LaPlanche in Glendale, California on October 11, 1923. She had a big sister, Louise, who was four years older. It was a family in every sense of the word. Charles worked for the telephone company, and Anna took care of the girls while "Charlie" was at work. Both Rosemary and Louise loved to entertain and would go out in their backyard and put on dance shows for neighbors, or just for their own entertainment. On weekends, the LaPlanche family would walk for miles, each family member eating a gallon carton of ice cream while walking to the one movie theater in town. It was something they loved doing together and always looked forward to seeing the Hollywood movies.

Louise, Rosemary's sister, began acting at age three when she appeared as the child Esmerelda in the silent

film classic *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, starring Lon Chaney. Both girls showed both beauty and talent. It was just a fun day in the life of the LaPlanche girls to take dance lessons and perform in their backyard. They were not pushed into the entertainment field, they just loved performing and couldn't get enough of it.

Louise and Rosemary attended Marshall High School. Both entered beauty contests for fun. Rosemary's sister Louise was Miss Catalina 1939 and Miss North America. Rosemary started entering the local beauty contests in 1940 at the age of 16, while still in high school. Entering and winning all the contests leading up to the Miss America pageant in 1940, she became Miss California and represented California in the Miss America Pageant. Many people

do not know that in 1940 Rosemary and the contestant from Pennsylvania tied for the title. The judges were asked to vote several times to break the tie. They were still tied after many hours. The news headlines were printed in California saying that Miss California wins! Still, with no decision, another judge from Pennsylvania was brought in to break the tie. Of course, he placed his vote for Miss Pennsylvania and Rosemary became the first runner-up. It was quite a scandal and controversial.

Rosemary was told if she could win the American Legion Contests leading up to the Miss America Pageant for the following year, she could be included in the pageant again. Rosemary couldn't wait for the opportunity, and won every one of the pageants including Miss California 1941. She was proud to represent her native state a second time and went on to win Miss America 1941 at the age of 17. To this day, she is one of the most beautiful and popular Miss Americas of all time. After being in the pageant twice, pageant rules were changed to say that no contestant may appear in the Miss America pageant more than once.



Rosemary LaPlanche as Miss America 1941.

While in high school, Rosemary appeared in her first movie, *Mad About Music*, with Deanna Durbin. As I was growing up, I remember mom singing the song called "I Love to Whistle" from that movie to me.

After graduating high school and holding the Miss America title, Rosemary represented the United States as it went to war in December 1941. Naturally, Rosemary became a centerfold in many of our servicemen's lockers and she received fan mail and marriage proposals! During that time, mom went on a coast-to-coast train tour selling war bonds. The Hollywood War Bond Cavalcade included over 20 major celebrities, including Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, James Cagney, Greer Garson, Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland... and of course, Rosemary LaPlanche.



Rosemary's wartime Victory Garden contains lettuce, carrots, beets, and one swell tomato.

After spending time representing the United States as Miss America, she was invited to spend time with President and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on their private boat on the Potomac River. Shortly after that, Rosemary was signed to a contract with RKO Radio Pictures, while her sister Louise was signed at MGM.



Pine Ridge was never like this! Rosemary in STRANGLER OF THE SWAMP (1946). Coincidentally, another cast member in this horror flick was TWO WEEKS TO LIVE veteran Charles Middleton.

Some of Rosemary's most remembered movies are *Strangler of the Swamp*, with leading man Blake Edwards; *Devil Bat's Daughter*; *Two Weeks to Live* with Lum and Abner, *Federal Agents vs. the Underworld* (a serial), *Jack Armstrong*, *The All-American Boy* (another serial), *Prarie Chickens* with Noah Beery Jr., *Show Business* with Eddie Cantor and *Betty Co-Ed*. Mom told me she made over 50 movies during her RKO years.

In January 1947,



What's up down on the farm? Rosemary and her beloved husband Harry Koplan.

Rosemary married the love of her life, my dad, Harry Koplan, a television emcee and radio personality. My dad created and emceed a new television show called *You're Never Too Old*, then later both mom and dad emceed *The Koplan/LaPlanche Show*.

In October 1950, they became the proud parents of Carol Louise (that's me), and two years later (June 1953) Rosemary gave birth to Terry Michael. My brother and I couldn't have asked for a better set of parents. They both were the perfect role models for both of us. I am presently teaching kindergarten in Sherman Oaks, California and my brother Terry is in the insurance business also in Sherman Oaks. Terry is married to wife Claire and has two sons, Christopher and Michael.

Living in Sherman Oaks, California since 1955, Rosemary retired from show business, only occasionally filming a television show or a commercial. Rosemary was happy being a full time wife and mother. And may I add that my mom and dad were the best and loving parents!

During her retirement, Rosemary took up oil painting and became quite recognized for her paintings... especially her seascapes and desert scenes. She had several one-woman art shows and was awarded Best of Show in a special competition. She sold most of her framed paintings to people who loved her technique and appre-

ciated fine art. In 2000 her sister Louise, who now lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan, donated one of Rosemary's paintings, "Laguna Shores," to the Miss America Organization.

In May 1973 Rosemary became a widow when her husband Harry passed away while they were on a business trip to Gallup, New Mexico. They had been married 26 years, the most wonderful 26 years of mom's life. Then, in May 1979 after a year of suffering with kidney cancer, Rosemary passed away to join her beloved husband Harry.

I remember one day while mom was ill, I came home from school and mom told me she recognized herself on TV in Lum and Abner's *Two Weeks to Live*. Rosemary only wished she had been able to view the movie from its beginning. She had many fond memories of all her movies, but she spoke frequently of the time she worked with Lum and Abner on *Two Weeks to Live*. She even gave me a pressbook from the movie that she had kept, with black and white pictures of the lobby cards and posters, with information about the movie in it. Now that they sell video tapes of old movies, I am proud to own my own copy of the movie. Oh how I wish my mother could have seen it.

Rosemary LaPlanche was not only Miss America 1941, a beautiful, talented performer, artist, loving wife, and wonderful mother, but she was a gift to everyone's life she touched. I am so very proud of her and am thrilled to have been asked to share just a small part of her life with you.

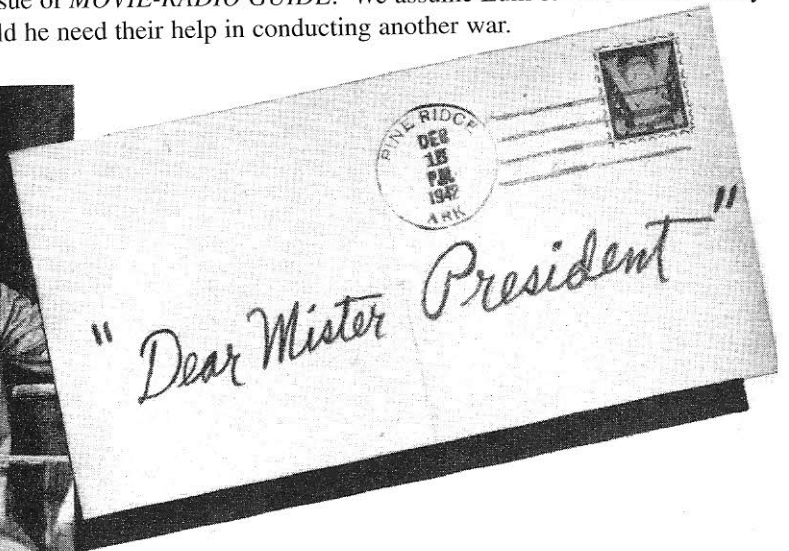
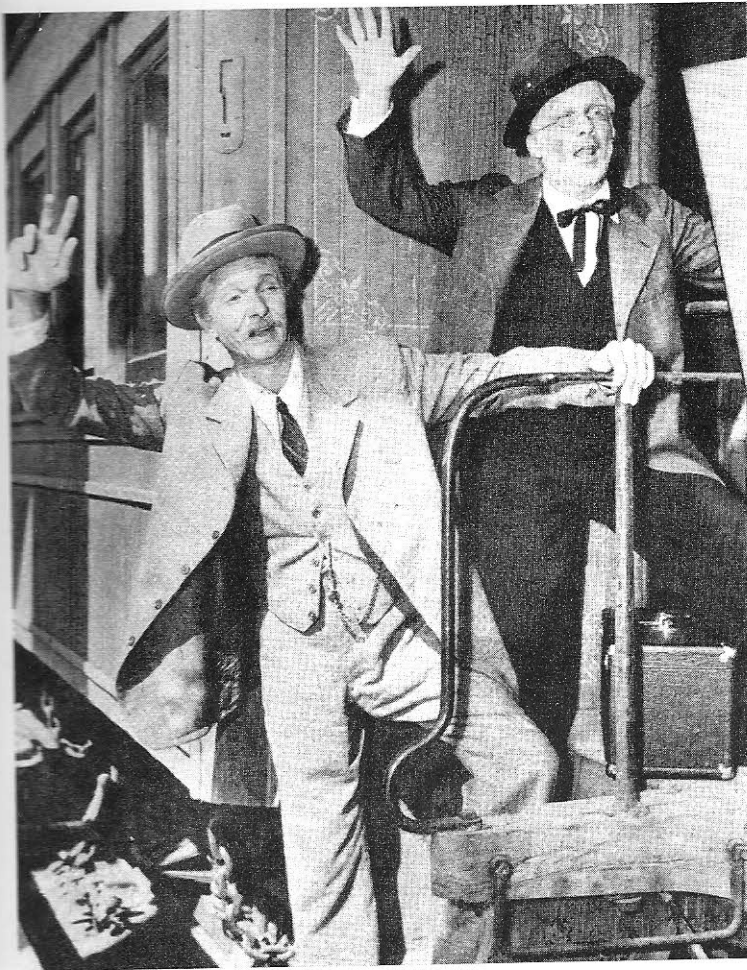
- Carol Koplan



Lum & Abner® In The News

REPRINTS OF PAST LUM & ABNER ARTICLES

This rather unique feature appeared in the January 2, 1943, issue of *MOVIE-RADIO GUIDE*. We assume Lum & Abner stand ready to give Prez Bush similar advice should he need their help in conducting another war.



THE PINE RIDGE BOYS GET A GREAT IDEA AND PROCEED TO TEAR LOOSE!

BY LUM AND ABNER

Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Washington. D.C.

Dear Mister President:

Us folks down here in Pine Ridge, Arkansas, thought you'd like to know that a buck-toothed guy and a feller with a funny mustache was rid out of town on a rail this week—and we got a brand-new use for them war bonds and stamps.

We (this is Lum talkin' now) was settin' in the Jot 'Em Down Store when this letter came from the county seat askin' us to git evrybody to buyin' more war bonds and stamps. Well, sir, the argyments this letter give us was pretty fine, so I got on the party line and I say, "Big mass meetin' at the schoolhouse tonight. Very important. The enemy is at our gates." That night

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we went to the schoolhouse early and here they come, luggin' guns and pitchforks and baseball bats, and Uncle Henry Lunsford bristles up and says, "Where air they, lemme at 'em, blast their hides." With that everybody starts yellin' and wavin' their pistols and I pound the table for order and say, "Wait a minit, folks! The war ain't over here yit. Put down your guns and lissen to me. They's other ways you can help fight this war—like buyin' war bonds and stamps. Which is why—"

"You mean there ain't no enemy hammerin' at the gates?" breaks in Gomer Bates, lookin' disappointed. Abner answers him: "You younguns can enlist. But us older folks has to do our part, too. Go down to the post office—" "Wait a minit, Abner," says I. "We got to build up to that gradual.

Lissen, everybody. This is maybe the most independent community in the whole United States. I reckon our forefathers come out here in the first place because we wanted lots of room to stretch ourselves and live the way we want, worship at any church, vote the way we felt without bein' told. Now all these things our fathers and grandfathers afore us fought for is bein' taken away acrosst the water. And when I say the war ain't over here yit, that don't mean it won't be if we don't do our part. The way we can do that is to buy bonds and stamps—all we can afford—at least ten percent of all the money we make. Now if you folks will jist step up here—"

Well, sir, us folks down in Pine Ridge is simple, practical people. Patriotic as all git-out. Show us an enemy tryin' to invade our homes and

we'll break the door down to git at him. But it's hard to impress on us at first that little pieces of paper like you stick on letters can be shot out of guns and dropped from airplanes. Sure, the folks bought bonds and stamps that evenin, but not enough. So we put our heads together and I come up with what seemed—at the time—like a dandy idy. We'd make 'em see it, all right...

Me bein' the jestic of the peace, I appointed Abner a deppity and sent him out all over town with a bunch of documents for the citizens, commandin' them to deliver their hawgs and chickens and calves to the jestic "for the good of the town" and iffen they didn't they'd be thrown in jail or penned up in Abner's cow-lot. You see, the idy was to show the folks of Pine Ridge what they was up against if they didn't buy war bonds and stamps, but we knew right off we hadn't gone at it in the right way. Abner's first stop was at the Widder Abernathy's and afore he could git out of the yard she was after him with a kittle of hot water.

"I paid my taxes," she yells, and gives Abner sich a scaldin' he has to rush home for arnica. By the time he's back to the store, word has been passed around and the citizens has got together and impeached me as jestic and Abner as deppity, and Grandpappy Spears, as the new jestic, has fined us both five dollars for disturbin' the peace...

Well, Mister President (this is Abner doin' the talkin' now), Lum spends most of the night broodin'. Lum is the best out-loud brooder in these parts, and by mornin' he has worked out another plan. "Abner," he says, "you and me is patriotic enough to suffer for our country, ain't we? The folks here in Pine Ridge has simply got to understand what they is up agin in them Germans and Japs... Come on, we're goin' visitin'."

Late that night Pine Ridge is woke up by an awful lot of yellin' and tearin' around and the first thing folks know there is a bunch of tough-

lookin' men bangin' at their doors and yankin' them outa bed. Some puts up a fight and gits a black eye or two, and pretty soon the whole caboodle is down at the schoolhouse and lined up around the wall. Settin' up on the stage is a feller who looks like the pictures of that there Hitler we see in the newspapers. His hair is down over one eye and he has a skimpy mustache under his nose and he glowers real mean at everybody.

Settin' next to him is a little guy with horn-rimmed glasses and big buck teeth and yellin' skin. He has his arms crossed and looks fierce as all git-out. You could hear the whispers goin' around: "That's that Mister Tokyo who runs them Japs." One of the strange fellers, who wears a band on his arm sayin' "Assistant Furore,"

but who looks a little like a feller we know over in Cherry Hill, steps up and after frownin' at the folks for a minit starts talkin'. "This here is a



peaceful occupation and anybody who don't think so is goin' to git hurt worse than he has already. You-all been persecutin' our minority long enough and the Furores here has decided to take Pine Ridge into the Axis. All your laws and customs is hereby canceled. Churches will be boarded up and this here school is gonna be a dormitory for us. Your kids will be scattered around where they'll be useful. We'll need food and warm clothes and a little spendin' money." Then he stopped. He could see the crowd was worried, but gittin' madder by the minit. So he says: "Of course they is a way we could all settle this peaceable. It's customary in cases like this fer the side that's licked to pay the cost of occupation. I reckon you can all see what it means now to be caught by a sneak attack when you ain't lookin'.

Don't like losin' your liberty, do you? It ain't fun to be yanked out of your house in the dead of night, is it? Gittin' stood up agin a wall and shot ain't pleasant, either. But it's happenin' every day." Then he turned to Mister Mustache and Honorable Buck Teeth.

"These is the guys whose orders cause all that. Come to think of it, I don't keer much for their looks myself. How would you folks like to ride 'em outa town on a rail?" Well, sir, you never heard sich a yell and the rush was startin' when the Assistant Furore held up his hand. "Jist a minit! We got to do this up right. It ain't ethical to ride a man on a rail without tar-rin' and featherin' him first. I got plenty of tar here, but there hain't any feathers. However, I got somethin' that'll do a heap better. Men! We'll feather these varmits with war stamps!"

Well, Mister President, that stampe was somethin' to see. Folks was fightin' to git to the cashier and in half a minit Old Mustache and his partner was smeared with warm tar and beginnin' to look like a couple of letters that had gone round the world. When things slowed down, the Assistant Furore

had a extry inducement. "Don't forgit the war bonds, men! For every war bond you can git in a good swift kick! Thank you, Junior, there's a bare spot for a stamp next to his right eye..."

So peace and liberty has come back to Pine Ridge and things has settled down the way they was. Well, not quite the same. Folks ain't forgot that Pine Ridge fit a battle in the war, too, and won, and they are still buyin' war bonds and stamps with every cent they can git their hands on.

Yrs for Victory, LUM AND
ABNER

P. S. Lum: What'll take tar out of a man's hair?

Abner: Do you reckon you could git us a priority for a mess of arnica?

BOOK 'EM, DON-O!

Lum and Abner are part of the cast in a new book from BearManor Media. Editor **Ben Ohmart** invited our own "**Uncle Donnie**" **Pitchford** to submit his 1987 short story, "A Pine Ridge Christmas Carol," to the 230-page volume which contains a total of 20 original stories based on programs from the Golden Age of Radio.

In addition to the prose of our "Prez," you may read stories inspired by the following (authors in parentheses): *Our Miss Brooks* (Clair Schulz), *Tom Mix* (Jim Harmon), *Candy Matson*, *YUkon 2-8209* (Jack French), *Clyde Beatty* (Roger Smith), *The Green Lama* (Bob Martin), *Sgt. Preston of the Yukon* (Jim Nixon), *Quiet Please* (Martin Grams Jr.), *The Halls of Ivy* (Carol Tiffany), *Captain Midnight* (Steven A. Kallis Jr.), *The Bickersons* (Ben Ohmart), *Ma Perkins* (John Leasure), *The Black Museum* (Michael Leannah), *Honest Harold* (Justin Felix), *Dimension X* (Joe Bevilacqua and Robert J. Cirasa), *Frontier Gentleman* (Michael Giorgio), *Pat Novack for Hire* (Stephen Jansen), *Yours Truly*, *Johnny Dollar* (Patrick W. Picciarelli), *Rogue's Gallery* (Brian Powell), and *Inner Sanctum Mysteries* (Christopher Conlon).

It's That Time Again - The New Stories of Old-Time Radio is available from **BearManor Media**, P. O. Box 750, Boalsburg, PA 16827. It may be purchased online at bearmanormedia.com. The cost is \$15 plus \$2 postage. Editor Ohmart hopes this one will be successful enough to warrant a sequel, and *Lum and Abner* already has a slot in the lineup! (No word yet if Horlick's, Alka-Seltzer or Postum will be sponsoring...)

SO THIS IS MENA? THE 19TH ANNUAL NLAS CONVENTION JUNE 20 & 21, 2003 Lime Tree Inn, MENA, ARKANSAS

Double Grand Prize 60th Anniversary Screenings!

