

**LES
TREMAYNE**

1913-2003

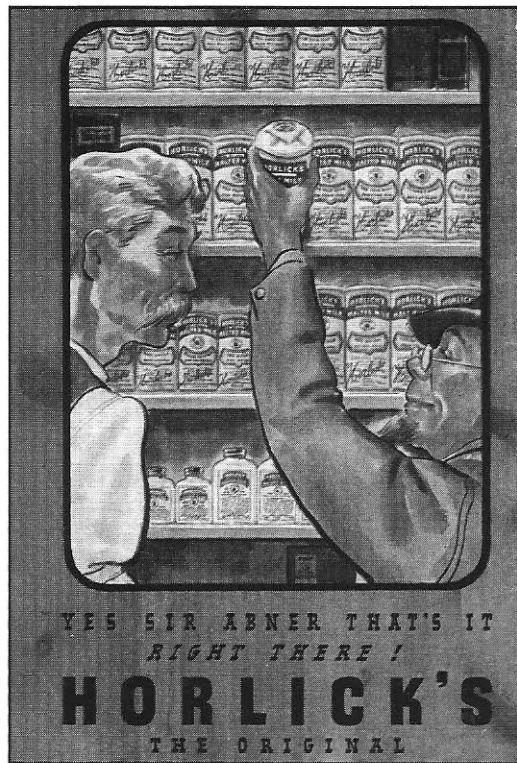
February 2004

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1935 (with a few gaps between shows within that time frame, due to missing disks). If you cannot imagine how good radio shows from 1935 can sound, try these out and they will make a believer of you.

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VISIT

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*Front Cover: Les Tremayne nar-
 rates "The Wonderful World of
 Lum and Abner" during the 1991
 NLAS Convention. (Photo by
 Uncle Donnie Pitchford)*

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN

JOURNAL

February 2004

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What's goin' on here? Is Abner "jinin' th' Marines"? No, it's Norris (Abner) Goff as Gomer Pyle's grandfather in the famous January 1, 1965 episode of GOMER PYLE, U.S.M.C. For some recent discoveries concerning this program, see our article on page 7!

LES TREMAYNE

1913 - 2003

We were extremely saddened to learn that longtime NLAS booster and 1991 Convention guest Les Tremayne had passed away on December 19, 2003, at age 90. Most of the article below was originally published in the August 1991 issue of THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL, but we are updating and reprinting it here as our tribute to our good friend.

During the late 1930s and early 1940s, various polls were taken to determine the "Three Most Recognizable Voices in Radio." Contrary to what one might think, the winning voices did NOT belong to Lum, Abner and Squire Skimp, but to another trio: Franklin Roosevelt, Bing Crosby and Les Tremayne.

We can't speak for Roosevelt and Crosby, but we have it on good authority that Tremayne did not obtain this type of success overnight. He was born in London, England, on April 16, 1913 to parents of... shall we say... different persuasions when it came to their opinions of show business. His mother, Dolly Tremayne, was an actress in British silent movies, while his father hated, loathed and despised anything to do with performing.

The Tremayne family left England for America in 1917, and after some initial migrating around, finally settled in Chicago. It didn't take young Les long to lose his dignified British accent after having it "beaten out of him" by his tough schoolmates on Chicago's west side. Eventually our friend found himself gravitating more and more toward his mother's way of thinking about show biz. (Incidentally, mother Dolly lived to the ripe old age of 99, passing away in 1987!) Against his father's wishes, Les went on the stage; later he said, "In 75 years in show business, I have played everything from burlesque and slapstick to Noel Coward's high comedy and serious drama."

After finishing high school, Tremayne decided his best bet for a secure future would be in radio. In his initial job, he worked for eight months with no pay, just to learn the ins and outs of the business... something he says today's aspiring young performers are too unwilling to do. Some of these early jobs of his involved promoting a product of amazing versatility, Horlick's Malted Milk, in commercials on the Mutual Network's *Lum and Abner* series!

After knocking about in the local Chicago radio shows,
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he landed his first regular series, *Fu Manchu Mysteries*. He soon discovered that by some weird twist of fate, his career was destined to be tied directly to that of romantic leading man Don Ameche.

Ameche had already originated roles in and left three other network shows, *Jack Armstrong*, *Betty and Bob*, and *Grand Hotel*, and each time he had been replaced by young Les Tremayne, whose manner and delivery were judged to be most similar to Ameche's. Now, Ameche's latest series, *The First Nighter*, was facing its own crisis. Don had decided to move to the West Coast to try for a movie career, and the *First Nighter* producers were ready to bite nails... either their own or Ameche's! Frantically auditioning actors to replace Ameche, it never occurred to them to try the one fellow who had replaced Don three times before...

Meanwhile, Tremayne, determined to land the lead in this most prestigious of radio drama series, borrowed every



Les Tremayne and leading lady Barbara Luddy on the "First Nighter" series, 1937.

recording of Ameche he could get his hands on, and practiced sounding like the fellow... even down to Ameche's laugh. When he finally did get to audition for *The First Nighter*, the producers were ecstatic, because as far as they were concerned, this was not just someone who sounded similar to Ameche... here WAS Ameche! (After getting the job, Les concentrated on developing his own performing style, rather than continuing to imitate Ameche.)

By now it was the mid-1930s, and Tremayne had become one of the busiest actors in radio. There were times when he would appear in three different live radio broadcasts during a 15-minute period, by dint of some frantic rushing from one studio to another! "I would come rushing into a studio," he says, "the doorman would hand me a script, and he'd whisper, 'You're the leading man, the truck driver, and the Japanese gardener.' From there on, I was on my own!"

While *The First Nighter* continued to be his main source of income and fame (from having his name announced at the beginning of each episode), the show's producers did participate in a bit of skullduggery... about which Les did not find out until some 40 years later. It seems that Don Ameche had done so well for himself in motion pictures that 20th Century-Fox became interested in grooming Tremayne as a movie star too. Studio chief Darryl F. Zanuck contacted the producers of *The First Nighter* to find out how to set up a screen test for Tremayne, only to receive a short, curt reply that "Les Tremayne is not interested in a movie career." Tremayne continued to wonder

why he was never contacted by a movie studio, until, in the early 1970s, a friend of his discovered the two pieces of correspondence in a forgotten filing cabinet in 20th Century-Fox's archives. And so, THAT mystery was cleared up.

Tremayne left *The First Nighter* in 1943, going on to play the lead in other shows such as *The Thin Man* (as Nick Charles). In the late 1940s he went back to the Broadway stage, and also appeared on some early TV shows, including the video version of *One Man's Family*. It was in 1951 that he made his belated debut in motion pictures, appearing in *The Racket* for RKO. Movies accounted for a large percentage of his activity through the 1950s, including *The Blue Veil* (1951), *Francis Goes to West Point* (1951), *The War of the Worlds* (1954), *A Man Called Peter* (1955), *North by Northwest* (1958), and *The Perfect Furlough* (1958) among many, many others.

In 1966, Les was one of the founding members of the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters, an organization made up of the individuals who participated in radio's glory days. Also in the 1960s, he became connected with legendary cartoonist Chuck Jones, who began casting Tremayne's voice in many of his animated TV specials and series, such as *The Pogo Special Birthday Special* (1969); *Curiosity Shop* (1971); *The Cricket in Times Square* (1973) and its two sequels; *The Great Santa Claus Caper* (1978) and *The Pumpkin Who Couldn't Smile* (1979), both based upon the Raggedy Ann stories, and many more. Jones also featured Les prominently in his 1969 feature film *The Phantom*



Even Westerns were home on the range to the ever-versatile Les Tremayne.



Les in a TV commercial for an unidentified product in the 1960s.



Alexander Graham Wolf (who sure looked a lot like Wile E. Coyote) was one of Les's most cherished cartoon roles for Chuck Jones.

character of Uncle Dudley was revamped into a "Mentor" style chaperone for Billy Batson, Captain Marvel's teenaged alter-ego.) This series was very successful and ran for several years.

When actor David Lewis, of the TV soap opera *General Hospital*, became ill in 1987, Tremayne stepped in and performed Lewis' role of cranky old multimillionaire Edward Quartermaine off and on for the next two years. Tremayne thoroughly enjoyed playing the old fussy budget.

Les was rather surprised by the invitation to appear at the 1991 NLAS Convention, because of his admittedly minuscule participation in L&A's history, but he made the trip anyway and gave his usual flawless performance in narrating the multimedia presentation *The Wonderful World of Lum and Abner*. He was presented with the Lum and Abner Memorial Award for his efforts. In the following years, like other former guests, Les participated in conventions via "long distance." In 1993 he and wife Joan gave a hilarious performance in the bogus Horlick's commercial that accompanied our "Lum & Abner Meet the Great Gildersleeve" skit, and for the 1995 convention he provided suitably hammed-up narration for a recreated theatrical trailer for the L&A film *Partners in Time*, which was to have its 50th anniversary screening the following year. (Inasmuch as the featured film for 1995 was *Lum & Abner Abroad*, the comment was heard that the coming attractions trailer was more entertaining than that year's main feature.)

When Les's longtime co-star Barbara Fuller was booked for the 2000 NLAS Convention, we contacted him for a possible recorded greeting for the occasion. To our dismay,

Tollbooth.

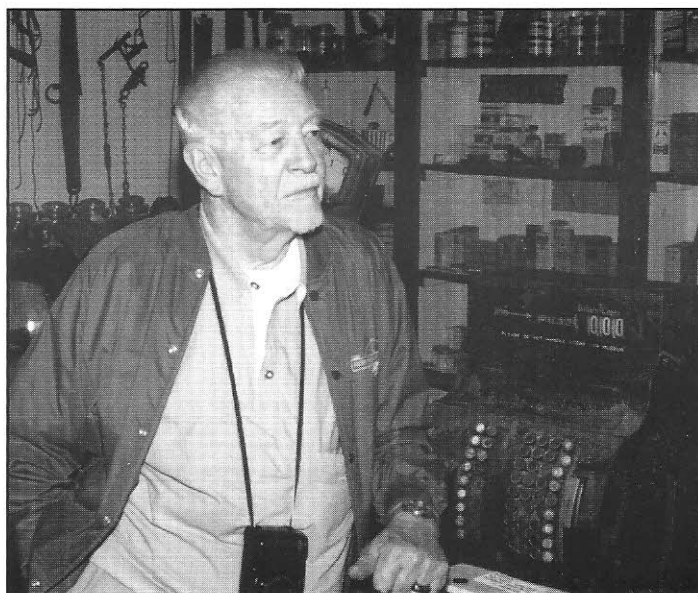
In 1975, Les accepted a live-action role in the Saturday morning children's TV series *Shazam*, which was based upon the long-running comic book adventures of Captain Marvel. Les played the part of a wise old character known as "Mr. Mentor," who did not appear in the comic books. (As a result of the TV series, the original comic book

we found that Les had recently suffered a stroke and had lost his marvelous, distinctive speaking voice. Fortunately, by later that year he had recovered, and the next three years were occupied with trying to write his memoirs. At last report, he and Joan had completed some 800 pages and had reached age five in Les's life. Hopefully Joan will someday be able to complete the story. He also wrote the foreword for Chuck Schaeden's new book *Speaking of Radio*, which is currently available for \$33.00 (includes shipping) through Nostalgia Digest Press, P.O. Box 421, Morton Grove, IL 60053.

Perhaps it is best to let Les Tremayne speak for himself to close this discussion of his career. In 1980, for inclusion in *Who's Who in the World*, he reflected:

"How I was able to attain whatever status I enjoy, with meager education and no powerful or influential friends to assist me, remains a mystery to me. Stubborn perseverance, I guess. However, I must state that the climate has changed so in show business, that even this no longer seems to apply... at least for me. The 'public' remembers; the 'powers that be,' whoever they are, do not. It is comforting, confusing, and sad to be a 'legend in one's own time.' I am grateful for the good things I have been given in my lifetime. Were it possible to live it over, I would change very little. I've been privileged to work in radio in the 'Golden Days.' Nothing can top that. I've had a good time in my work; I have simply not attained what I feel I should have. There are few redeeming features to growing old in our society."

- Tim Hollis and Uncle Donnie Pitchford



Les ponders L&A history in the Lum & Abner Museum during the 1991 NLAS Convention.

Of Gomers & Grandpas or, a Pyle of Coincidences

In the past, the NLAS has examined numerous crossovers between the worlds of *Lum and Abner* and other characters, and we somewhat deranged “ossifers” have even been guilty of creating a few for the sake of our conventions. Anyone who witnessed the meetings of L&A and the Great Gildersleeve, the Lone Ranger, Chester Proudfoot, Gumby and the characters from Oz know we’re willing to do almost anything to keep our favorite radio characters alive! Recently, thanks to a screening of a classic silent film by the excellent Turner Classic Movies channel, another connection came to light.

Way back in the October 1987 issue of *The Jot ‘Em Down Journal*, we took a look at an episode of *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* which featured a wonderful guest-starring performance by Norris Goff, the one and only “Abner” of *Lum and Abner*. “Tuffy,” as he was more often known, portrayed Gomer’s grandfather, the feisty “Sgt. Otis T. Pyle, U.S. Cavalry, re-tarred,” as he called himself. Pyle or not, this was a bravura 1964 performance of Abner, proving Mr. Goff was still in fine form as an actor. What is interesting in light of the TCM offering is the similarity in the plot of the *Gomer* episode to that of the Harold Lloyd film, *Grandma’s Boy*.

For anyone unfamiliar with Harold Lloyd, he was a film comedian often best remembered for his daredevil stunts. One image from the silent motion picture era remains an icon rivaling that of Charlie Chaplin’s familiar “tramp” characterization: bespectacled Harold Lloyd, clinging to the hands of a huge clock on the side of a tall building. The TCM showing of many of his films revealed much more about the actor’s work, but for our purposes, let’s compare *Grandma’s Boy* (released in 1922) with the



Tuffy Goff mugs as Grandpa Pyle in the January 1, 1965 episode of GOMER PYLE, U.S.M.C.

“Grandpa Pyle’s Good Luck Charm” episode of *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.* (first broadcast January 1, 1965 on CBS).

Both lead characters, Harold and Gomer, have a fear of a task they are compelled to perform. For Harold, it is the terror he feels when being deputized to participate in a manhunt for a killer. 43 years later, Gomer Pyle is frightened to be placed in charge of Marine drill practice. Both characters are depicted in embarrassing situations, and both find a confidant. For Harold, it is his doting grandmother; for Gomer, his live-wire grandfather!



Harold Lloyd’s best friend and confidant is his sweet old grandma, while Gomer Pyle gets advice from the grandpa formerly known as Abner.



Grandpa Pyle regales Gomer with the heroics of Harold Lloyd's grandfather... er sompin' like that.

Lloyd's nemesis is a hulking brute, a tramp accused of murdering a man. This is certainly far more dramatic and life-threatening than Gomer's problem (and Sgt. Carter, for all his barked commands, is not the same type of threat), but the similarities in the two stories continue! Harold's dear little grandmother hits upon an idea to give the shaky lad some inspiration. She presents him with a "magic talisman" - a good luck charm - informing her grandson that the ornate metal marvel had actually made his cowardly grandfather invincible as a soldier in the Civil War! Was his name Phinus? NAH, probably not... but wait a minute, Abner... or rather, Otis Pyle... ALSO presents HIS grandson with a charm! It's a metallic emblem, forming the word "Excelsior." Otis tells Gomer the emblem traveled with his great-grandpa right up San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt!

Many of you recall the *Gomer* episode, and know that Private Pyle was given a second chance to lead the drill practice, and succeeded, thanks to the "magic" of the charm! "Grandma's Boy" Harold was likewise charmed, and engages in a terrific battle with the murdering bum, emerging the hero, and retaining the

courage to defeat his romantic rival and propose to his lady love. Similar concept? You bet! Especially when BOTH characters DROP their respective talisman during their critical test of courage, and falter briefly before recovering their charms and completing their arduous tasks! Both Gomer and Harold scramble about, looking for their lucky charms on the ground, while their nervous grandparents look on. The talismans recovered, both heroes complete their tasks with success.

Late in both productions, each grandparent informs the grandson that the lucky charm is a FAKE! Harold's is nothing more than the fancy handle from an old umbrella, Gomer's is a brand name plate from the door of Otis' refrigerator! Their courage was summoned from within. Harold continues as a new man (at least as far as *Grandma's Boy* is concerned), but we all know lovable Gomer will continue to be a goof in several additional seasons of his hit television program.

No doubt there are precedents to this story in literature, and I will leave that to our more scholarly readers versed in that subject to educate us. Send your comments to the NLAS and we will



Harold Lloyd and Gomer Pyle both summon hidden reserves of strength and courage via a "magic talisman" given to them by their respective grandparents.



Harold Lloyd makes mincemeat out of the rival for his girlfriend's hand (and the rest of her, too!), while Grandpa Pyle observes grandson Gomer putting the troops through drill practice.

update this comparison at a later date. The more interesting question right now: What connections, if any, were there between the creators of *Grandma's Boy* and *Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.*? What of the writers? Credited for the script of *Grandma's Boy* are Hal Roach, Sam Taylor and Jean Havez. Could one or more of those have participated in writing the *Gomer* episode? Let's see... it looks as if James Allardice and Tim Adair scripted the episode of *Gomer*, so we've run into a seemingly dead end. We could find no other crossovers in checking the remaining credits of both productions.

An interesting connection can be made between Harold Lloyd and L&A, in that one of Lloyd's directors, Malcolm St. Clair, also commanded a few of the Lum and Abner films! (Additionally, he directed comedic greats Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy.) St. Clair helmed Lloyd's *Welcome Danger* (1929) which featured the sneering Charles Middleton (best remembered today as "Ming the Merciless" from the *Flash Gordon* serial trilogy), who also grimaced his way into Lum and

Abner's St. Clair-directed *Two Weeks to Live* (1943)... which, interestingly, contains some "thrill comedy" with L&A atop a skyscraper! The latter is more reminiscent of the Three Stooges than Harold Lloyd, with studio sets and process photography substituting for Lloyd's amazing athletic stunts performed at dizzying altitudes. St. Clair, though, had connections with neither *Grandma's Boy* nor *Gomer Pyle* (he passed away in 1952). Still living when the *Pyle* show was broadcast was none other than Harold Lloyd himself, and one wonders if he caught the episode and noted the similarities to his own film.

Many plots have been recycled over the years, and often have their roots in fables or other forms of literature. A common thread must exist between the Harold Lloyd film and the Tuffy Goff episode of *Gomer Pyle*, since the similarities are too numerous for them to be mere coincidence. Each production is sure to provide great entertainment, however, and this writer heartily recommends them both!

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford



At the close of each story, the "magic talisman" is put back into its proper place... as part of a sundry household object.

Lum & Abner® In The News

REPRINTS OF PAST LUM & ABNER ARTICLES

This article appeared in an unidentified newspaper on January 14, 1934. It was preserved by Ethel Huddleston Ball, Dick's daughter, and today is on display in the Lum & Abner Museum in Pine Ridge. It gives an interesting look at how the community of Waters capitalized on its L&A fame more than two years before officially changing its name to Pine Ridge, and also hints at the plots of a couple of L&A scripts from the era, which are otherwise undocumented.

"Lum and Abner of Pine Ridge, Ark."

*NBC Radio Entertainers Brought Attention To Little Town Near Mena
The Real Dick Huddleston Chuckles Over "His" Lines
Started As Stunt At Credit Men's Meeting, Now Nation Applauds*

BY PAUL WAYLAND

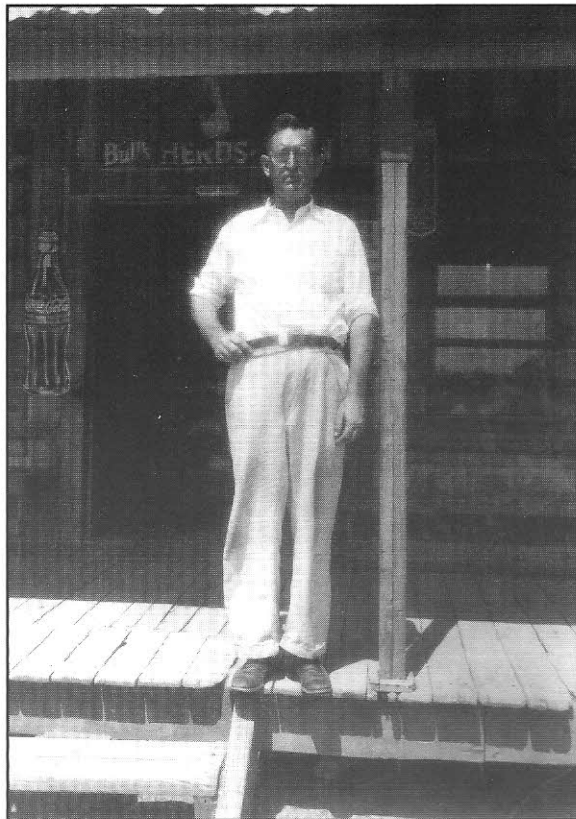
"Howdy, everybody! Here we are, all ready to take you down to Pine Ridge for another visit with Lum and Abner."

With that familiar greeting from the National Broadcasting Company announcer, two young men who hail from Mena, Ark., and who are known to thousands of radio listeners as Lum and Abner, come on the air for a 15-minute skit, depicting life around the little rural settlement of what they call "Pine Ridge."

In reality "Pine Ridge" is a little village in the hills of Montgomery County, Ark., and is known on Uncle Sam's post office list as Waters. Because of the popularity of the nightly skits played by Lum and Abner, they are speedily making of Waters what Harold Bell Wright made of that section in Southwest Missouri where he gathered the material for his book, "The Shepherd of the Hills." The fame of the Lum and Abner country is growing fast.

Montgomery County, aside from being the setting of the Lum and Abner dramas, is the home county of some mighty big men, and it is the home of one of America's outstanding baseball pitchers — Lonnie Wernke.

"Dick" Huddleston, a character in many of the skits of Lum and Abner, said to me: "Pine Ridge is similar to the Pine Ridge communities all over Arkansas and all other states."



* * *

Waters is one of those rural communities which, until the great road building program of a few years ago got underway, was somewhat cut off from the larger places of the state. It is about 80 miles south of Fort Smith, and several miles from the county seat so often spoken of in the Lum and Abner plays.

"Dick" Huddleston is a tall, smooth-shaven, good-natured man of 50. As may be supposed, the boys

do a splendid job of impersonating him when they show him as the jovial storekeeper of "Pine Ridge." He really does own and operate a store in the little village where he lives. He was born not many miles from where he now resides and says himself, "I have spent all my life in and around this community. My store is my chief occupation. However, I have a farm on the Ouachita River and a small ranch up in the hills."

"Dick's" store is the center of all the trade and "gatherings on Saturdays." People from up in the hills come down to Waters to do the most of their trading, and it is around "Dick's" store that some of the sayings heard from Lum and Abner were born. When Abner told Lum about his wife, Elizabeth, seeing him catch a falling woman in his arms and that now, "Lizbeth's so plum mad at me she's purely dang'rus t' be around, I doggies!"

he only gave to radio fans a sample of some of the language Huddleston hears around his country store.

Besides Huddleston's store, which is a small frame building with a long wooden porch and a bench in front for the "customers" to rest, there is another small business operated by Dan Davis. This is a grocery store and service station. Then there's the post office and a small mill which, quoting Dick, "about completes the 'business district.'"

Tourists passing through the little

village of Waters often see the sign "J. R. Huddleston" on the front end of "Dick's" store and, wondering if he is the same "Dick Huddleston" as used by Lum and Abner, stop to inquire. Some of them, when told that their guess was true, then want to know more about him and the others characterized.

Mr. Huddleston told me that "All the characters, like myself, are real," and I'm sure after listening to one of Lum and Abner's programs, you could recognize any one of them if you were to meet them on the street.

"Personally, I think Grandpappy Spears is the most 'true to life' character they have. He and his 'spouse' live about two miles up in the hills from my store. He comes to the store and post office once a week on an old gray mule that is probably half as old as he is. I have known him for years, and I've never seen him without his old black pipe which occupies most of his time, trying to keep it 'fogged up.'"

* * *

In real life Lum is Chester Lauck, 30 years old, and Abner is Norris Goff, about 28. They were born at Mena, a little city nestling among the pine-clad hills and mountains of the Ouachitas, in central western Arkansas, in a county adjoining the setting of their skits. The two young men are known at home as "Chet" and "Tuffy."

Both are married. Lum has two little girls, Shirley May, about four years old, and Nancy, about a year and a half old. Abner's baby boy, Gary, is just a few months old. Lum's wife was Harriet Wood of Hot Springs; Abner's wife is a Mena girl, Elizabeth Bullion. Both are beautiful and charming young women.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lauck, Lum's parents, and Mr. and Mrs. Rome Goff, Abner's parents, live in Mena. Mr. Lauck is a lumberman and president of the Union Bank. Mr. Goff is owner and manager of the Goff Wholesale Grocery Company.

At the time the boys began broadcasting, Lum was a director of the Chamber of Commerce of Mena, and president of the Credit Bureau. Lum and Abner were chums all their

Henry Ford
Dearborn, Mich.

January
22
1934

Mr Dick Huddleston
Waters
Arkansas

Dear Sir:

On behalf of Mr Ford, we wish to thank you for the copy of "Lum and Abner and Their Friends From Pine Ridge" which you so kindly sent to him.

Mr Ford has asked that we also thank you for the Christmas greetings and extend his very best wishes to you for this new year.

Very truly yours

A. R. Macdell
Secretary's Office

HRW-MG

*Letter sent to Dick Huddleston from
Henry Ford, January 1934.*

lives. It is not often that a pair of entertainers grow up together as these two did.

Both boys attended the University of Arkansas and the University of Oklahoma. They then came back to Mena, where "Chet" established the Citizens Finance Company, and "Tuffy" became associated with his father in the wholesale grocery business. Such was their work when they started broadcasting.

Their first "broadcast" was put on as a special number for a Credit Bureau meeting. They gave a little "Amos and Andy and Credit" skit, which they broadcast from another room in the building over a radio outfit rigged up earlier in the day by "Chet." The little stunt made a big hit with the Credit Bureau members and they later put on another "broadcasting" stunt at the Lions' Club. The second broadcast made such a hit that their friends insisted that they be given an audition at KTHS, the Hot Springs station.

Mr. Arnoux, manager and

announcer of KTHS, was so impressed with the skit given by the boys that for a time they gave regular programs through that station and then, through the efforts of Mr. Arnoux, they secured an audition with a station in Chicago. There they made a hit as instantly as in other places, and were employed to fill in time for two famous stars on a program while those regulars were on their vacation. From that time on, they have been regularly employed.

* * *

As a result, thousands of radio listeners have chuckled as they listened to Lum and Abner acting the characters they know so well. On one occasion it may be a scene where Lum is trying to impress Abner with his knowledge of "po-liticks," and making every effort to get all the personal publicity possible by posing in a picture with "Able Abner Peabody, th' people's peerless protector." Then, when the picture comes out in the county seat paper calling Lum a desperate criminal or something who has been caught by "Able Abner," Lum throws a fit of rage. Again the scene may be one in which Abner, anxious to get a good flashlight picture of "Grandpappy Spears," who is "sick abed," pours on two pounds of powder and sticks a match to it, resulting in a mighty explosion which renders Abner unconscious for several hours and sends "Grandpap" sprawling onto the middle of the floor.

In answer to my question as to whether the home town folks are enthusiastic about "Chet" and "Tuffy," and whether they are eager to hear them each night, Mr. Huddleston said: "Yes, indeed! Their popularity has never waned. Local folks are not surprised at their success."

They are anxiously received in Montgomery County, too. Even down in the hills around Waters folks who have radios get a lot of fun from listening to the pair imitate the persons they know so well. Even "Dick" Huddleston laughs when he hears himself talking about the "doin's in Pine Ridge."

The Lum & Abner® Scripts

If it's February, it must be time for a new volume in our ongoing series of books reprinting the unrecorded L&A scripts of the 1930s. We now have available *August 1937: Wedding Bell Blues*. (Yes, we know we usually show you what the cover is going to look like, but it jes' plain weren't ready when we hadda go to press with this issue... but take it from us, hit'll be a jim dandy.)



As those of you know who have been following the series, we last left Lum crying in his Horlick's because his longtime sweetheart Evalena Schultz had become engaged to new man with the company Spud Gandel. In this volume, find out what happens as the projected wedding day (Friday the 13th!) approaches. Will Lum's brain be able to stand the strain? Does Spud say potato or potahto? Will Spud and Evalena really tie the knot, and will Spud father a batch of little tater tots? Find out by reading this drama-packed volume!

As always, copies of *August 1937: Wedding Bell Blues* are \$7.00. We also have some remaining copies of the previous two volumes, *June 1937: Courtin' Disaster* and *July 1937: The Courtship of Spud Gandel*, for \$7.00 each as well.

And now, here's something we hope you'll REALLY like!

Many people have inquired about the availability of the early volumes in our reprint series, which commenced way back yonder in 1993. Occasionally they turn up for sale on eBay, but generally those who have them don't want to let them go. Inasmuch as the first volume we published consisted of assorted individual scripts from the year of 1934... and inasmuch as 2004 marks these scripts' 70th anniversary... we have made special arrangements with our printer to produce a VERY LIMITED reprint of this original volume. For this reason, *The Lum and Abner Scripts: 1934* will now be \$10.00 per copy. Quantities are limited, so be sure to get your order in right away... and see what was going on down in Pine Ridge!



All orders should be sent to the NLAS executive secretary at 81 Sharon Blvd, Dora, AL 35062.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES OVER WHICH WE AIN'T
GOT NO CONTROL,

THE ANNUAL NLAS
CONVENTION
WILL NOT

BE HELD THIS YEAR.

We appreciate all of you who have attended in the past.