

Official Publication of the National Lum and Abner® Society



OCTOBER 2004

VISIT

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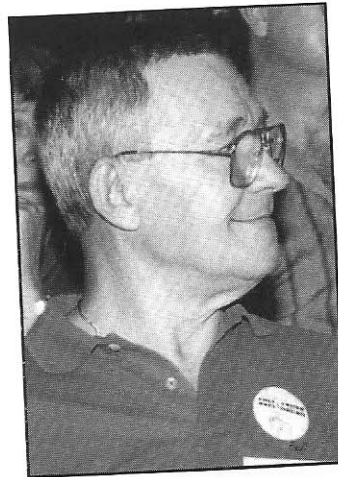
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Farewell to a Pair of Our Friends

On pages 10-11 of this issue you will see our sad acknowledgement of the passing of our NLAS friend Sam Edwards. However, we should also mention the recent loss of a couple of our members who might not have had the prominent radio, movie & TV careers of Sam, but they occupied their own important corners in L&A history.

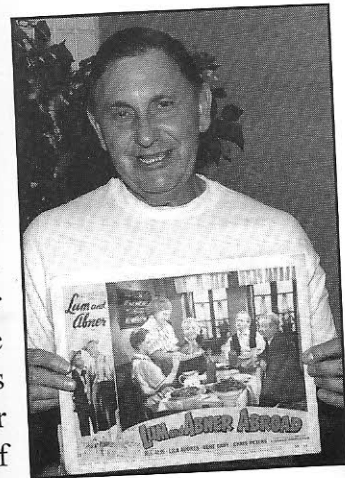


DARL MILLER

We received word that **Darl Miller** passed away on May 29. Before his retirement, Darl was a docent at the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park near Las Vegas, Nevada, which we have pointed out many times before was the former Chet Lauck ranch. Darl visited the NLAS Convention in Mena in 1997 to share the information

he had been able to gather about the years when the Lauck family lived on the property. Darl retired to Ohio a few years later, but remained an NLAS member up until his death.

We were also informed that **Cliff Caplinger** had passed away recently, but we have no further information. Cliff was the son of Warren "Cap" Caplinger, the leader of the Pine Ridge String Band on the 1932-34 L&A shows. (On one of the existing recordings, Lum can be heard to introduce one of their numbers by exclaiming, "All right, Cap, turn the boys loose, let 'em go!") Cliff had visited the NLAS Convention several times, and was always looking for more information about his dad's career as an early country music pioneer. We will miss Cliff's and Darl's further contributions to the work of the NLAS.



CLIFF CAPLINGER

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 Executive Secretary, Tim
 Hollis, #81 Sharon
 Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062,
 e-mail Hollis1963@aol.com.

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 LUM AND ABNER
 SOCIETY**

Zekatif Ossifers
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*Front Cover: Lum & Abner are
 spooked by the Pine Ridge ceme-
 tery in this illustration from the
 1937 L&A Almanac.*

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 istered trademark. Used by
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 Jr.

THE JOT 'EM DOWN

JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2004

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Only 86 Shoppin' Days Til Christmas!



When you cut down the old pine tree and haul it away to your living room this Christmas, how about hanging a Pine Ridge ornament on one of the branches? The illustration above shows the front and back of a commemorative ornament being sold as a fundraiser for the Heritage House Museum in Mt. Idy, Arkansas. It is being offered in recognition of 2004 being the 100th anniversary of the construction of the McKinzie Store in Pine Ridge, which today serves as the Lum & Abner Museum. The artwork is by L&A Museum co-curator Kathy Stucker. You can order the ornament for \$10 + \$3.85 postage by sending a check (payable to "Lum & Abner Store") to General Delivery, Pine Ridge, AR 71966. Or, you can order with a credit card by calling (870) 326-4442. Do yer Christmas shoppin' early this year!

PINE RIDGE NEWS



PINE RIDGE IN SMOULDERING RUINS?

PEABODY'S PINE RIDGE PICK-UPS

Or Pine Ridge Through a Knot-Hole.

by Abner Peabody

John Gilmore's new wife he ordered from the matrimonial bureau arrived in Pine Ridge last week to make her home here. We all hope she is as good a woman as they advertised her to be.

* * *

Andy Maxwell and his whole family is took down with the measles. All their friends ought to be shure and visit them while they are quarantined.

* * *

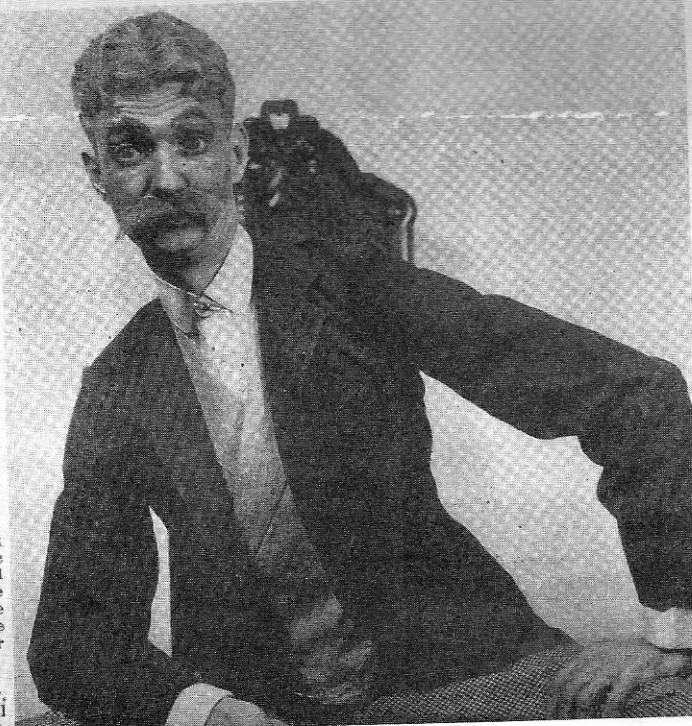
The Widow Abernathy took her children and two pigs to market at the county seat last week. The widow says pigs is bringing a good price this spring.

* * *

Amzi Gardner and his wife tried to start a fire with a gallon of gasoline last week and it exploded and blowed both of them clean up through the roof of the house and fifty foot in the air. Some say this is the first time the two of them has been out together in over two years.

* * *

Dick Huddleston, our postmaster, says if we don't get a rain soon it'll be so dry we will have to start put



BIG FIRE SWEEPS CITY?

Hundreds Homeless After Fiery Dragon Stalks Through City?

This is what might have happened if the Volunteer Fire Department hadn't of put out the fire that started in the barn belongin' to Lum Edwards, Justice of the Peace and President of the School Board, two weeks ago.

Owin to the quick work of the fire boys, lead by Mose Moots, barber, chief of the Volunteers, the blaze was distinguished before it had did much damage. The loss bein jist a few shingles burnt off the roof.

Ezra Seestrunk who generally uses his team to pull the hose cart for the fire boys, was in the field plowing with his mules at the time the fire broke out so Kalup Weehunt and Uncle Henry Lunsford got in the shalves and started to pull the hose cart and done fine till they started accross the culbert over Ward Creek and a areoplane flew over 'em. Hit was the first one Uncle Henry had ever saw and they had a runaway with the hose cart and run off the culbert and turned it over. The boys had to beat the fire out with wet gunney sacks.

Mose Moots was serious hurt when he got up in the loft of the barn and couldn't get down on account of the fire so somebody throwed him a rope and when he tied it around his waist, they jerked him out but he hit his head against the watering trough and

At the peak of their success in the 1940s, the men behind *Lum and Abner* needed no introduction. Celebrity reporters tracked Chet Lauck and Norris Goff, giving eager fans reports of holiday parties at Lauck's ranch or letting readers know that Goff and his wife had attended a particular supper club.

In the early 1930s, however, the program and its creators required repeated introductions to the radio public. Their career had several ups and downs between 1931 and 1934, as they gained or lost various network or station-specific contracts. Each time the program changed outlets, new listeners had to be carefully introduced to the two old fellows—and the two young ones who gave the program life—but at the same time, loyal listeners who had followed the program faithfully could not be bored or alienated by repetitious material.

When they moved to broadcast from Fort Worth in August 1932, their booklet *Lum and Abner and Their*

Friends from Pine Ridge brought much-needed income, but it also introduced them to new fans. In Cleveland, they published the first issue of the *Pine Ridge News*, their premium newspaper, for much the same purpose in November 1933, only a few months after Ford helped them return to an NBC network (via Cleveland's WTAM) after a long hiatus. The lead story heralded "'Chet' Lauck and 'Tuffy' Goff: Who Lum and Abner Really Are."

The spring of 1934 found Lauck and Goff again literally in a new climate, heading to Minneapolis to begin broadcasting for Horlick's Malted Milk on WCCO. Predictably, they soon found a new way to keep in touch with old fans while introducing the program to new listeners. They released the second issue of the *Pine Ridge News*, now one of the rarest of the *Lum and Abner* premiums. Because this issue is so difficult to find, let's take a look at it together.

As with the previous issue, Lum Edwards is

Managing Editor and Radio Editor, L. Edwards is Business Manager, Mr. Edwards serves as Advertising Manager and Financial Editor, and Pres. Edwards works the City Editor desk. A. Peabody is circulation manager, while Abner Peabody is Society Editor and takes care of "Little Local items." Suspiciously, though, all communications are to be mailed to Horlick's Malted Milk Corp., Racine, Wisc.

The front page is dominated by a "Biography of Lum and Abner," subtitled "The Life of the Owners and Publishers of the Pine Ridge News." Two columns can barely contain the details of Lum's life. It begins promisingly and takes off from there: "Jedge Edards, who has recently retired from the Supreme bench was borned in a little village not far from London, England." He ran away from his English peasant parents, sailed the seas, captured Shanghai, explored Australia and Africa, and got rich. "About this time he heard the call of arms over the radio and so I sailed to my native country the dear old U. S. A. the land of the brave and the free where he fit in the Revolutionary army but had a hard time crossing Delaware to let the people know the British was coming on the Ice chasing Uncle Tom and little Eva." Blazing a trail across America he discovered the Ouachitas and settled down in Pine Ridge to serve as Justice of the Peace and edit the paper. Abner is dispensed with in short order: "Abner Peabody is constable and helps git out the paper. He lives in Pine Ridge too."

One of the principal stories on the inside pages gave readers some information that was a bit more verifiable. The story introduced Lauck and Goff and told the tale of the rise of *Lum and Abner* from Hot Spring's KTHS through NBC to its present success with Horlick's. Unfamiliar listeners had a primer about the show: "The program itself consists of a dialogue in rural dialect. Lum, a farmer, is a philosopher and wit. He holds the office of Justice of the Peace. Abner, also a farmer, is overflowing with public spirit and is especially interested in fulfilling the duties of Town Constable. Grandpa Spears, one of the town's 'ancients,' Dick Huddleston, operator of the village store, and Oscar Fields, the local 'bad man' are included in the skit. Through the medium of these various characters a bit of philosophy, humor, pathos and wisdom are introduced into the broadcast. A certain amount of love interest is afforded by Lum, who is a

widower, and at present 'sparking the school-marm.'

Though the depiction of Lum as a widower disappeared in later years, the basic character traits of Lum, Abner, Grandpap, and Dick were already in place (and apparently Oscar Fields would evolve into Snake Hogan). The write-up emphasizes their civic duties, but the Jot 'Em Down Store already occupied a major part of their lives as well. The back page of the paper is dominated by a spread of five photos. Four of the five also appeared on the back page of the first issue of the *Pine Ridge News*, proof that Lauck and Goff believed they were introducing themselves to many new listeners. They pose proudly on the porch of the store as well as in the doorway of the building housing the Justice of the Peace and the Constable desks. Two other shots show them taking a grocery order by phone and filling it, with a pile of goods on the store counter. These four pictures are from their photo shoot in Peninsula, Ohio, while they were broadcasting from WTAM in Cleveland. The centerpiece of the back page, however, is the shot of the two old fellows whittling, the image taken by Oscar Plaster of Mena



We have jokingly referred to this moody shot as "Lum & Abner Meet Frankenstein," but it is actually an illustration from the Spring 1934 PINE RIDGE NEWS.

JUNIOR GETS EVEN WITH BUSTER



He's strong to the finish 'coz he drinks his Horlick's! This comic strip advertisement from the Spring 1934 PINE RIDGE NEWS may well have been drawn by Chet Lauck himself. Notice that panels #1 and #2 are out of order... well, blow me down!

and used in their booklet from nearly two years earlier, *Lum and Abner and Their Friends from Pine Ridge*.

Another story on page three captures a bit of the real-life drama Lauck and Goff faced in moving to Minneapolis. It is a legitimate news story, reprinted from the *Minneapolis Star*. As they made their drive north from Cleveland at the end of March 1934, Lauck and Goff shared the open roads of the Midwest with the recently escaped badman John Dillinger. Soon after Tuffy and his wife arrived in Minneapolis, "six city detectives armed with machine guns, riot and tear gas guns and wearing bullet-proof vests surrounded and raided a studio apartment at 3210 Girard avenue S. today—and came out laughing." Suspicious locals had called the police when Goff arrived in the company of an attractive woman and plunked down several months rent in advance. "Goff . . . and his red-haired wife found themselves the object of sharp scrutiny and gruff questioning but after they had convinced detectives Goff was not Dillinger and that his red-haired wife was no gunman's 'moll,' the humor of the situation suddenly burst on everybody."

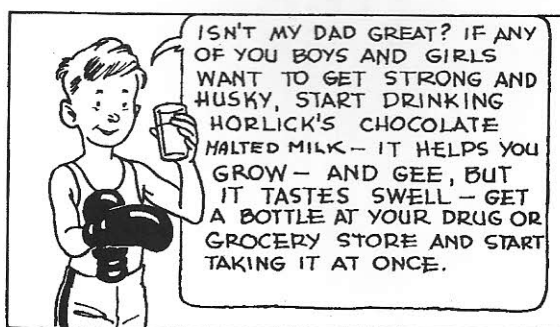
Letters, advertisements, and short local news items fill the remainder of the newspaper's column space. The main headline "Pine Ridge in Smouldering Ruin?" tells what might have happened had the volunteer firemen not used wet gunnysacks to put out a fire on the roof of Lum's barn. The hose cart did not get there in time because Ezra Seestrunk was plowing with his mules, which he usually used to pull the cart. As a result, Kalup Weehunt and Uncle Henry Lunsford became a human team pulling the load. They "done fine till they started accross the culbert over Ward Creek and a areoplane flew over 'em. Hit was the first one Uncle Henry had ever saw and they

had a runaway with the hose cart and run off the culbert and turned it over."

Another news item links the newspaper to a plotline of the series at the time: "Counterfit ten dollar bills have been passed on nearly every business firm in the city. Everybody is warned to be on the look out for these bogus bills because of the merchants are anxious to get rid of them. It is believed that the printing press that was stole from Edwards and Peabody a short time ago and delayed the printing of the *Pine Ridge News*, was used to print the counterfit money with. The counterfitters have not been caught but the press has been got back. Secret Service men was supposed to come here and try to round up the kidnappers. There is a lot of strangers here alright."

In a surviving script from May 23, 1934, Lum and Abner discuss the problems posed by the theft of the printing press. They desperately need to get the newspaper printed because, as Lum says, "Don't fergit we've got another payment on that office furniture we bought fer the newspaper, comin due the first of the month. And they're holdin a mortgage on my farm fer security." They've "got all the articles wrote and the type all set up but we caint do nuthin without a press." Abner recognizes that the theft of the press is related to the counterfeit money being passed in Pine Ridge: "Well I still believe if we can find out whos makin this countyfit money round here we'll find they're usin our press to print it with." Unfortunately, neither the script nor the *Pine Ridge News* can satisfy our curiosity about who the counterfeiters were or how they were finally caught, but you can read the script for yourself in our volume *The Lum & Abner Scripts: 1934*, available for \$7.00.

As editor, Lum even includes a critical letter on the opinion page. Miss Fanny Fuller writes, "If we are



going to have a newspaper in Pine Ridge why couldn't it be run by a man who has got more publick spirit than Lum Edwards. He is a great man to brag about what he is going to do but he don't never do nuthin'. He promised when he run for the office of President of the School Board to give us the best schools we ever had but all he wanted with the office was so he could hire Evalener Schultz to teach. We all know why he done that. Him and her keeps company and us tax payers is payin' for his courtship. If he would spend more time looking after school matters than he does that purty face of the teacher's our children would get a heap better education." She signed, "Yours in disgust." Naturally Lum included an editor's note: "The editor don't agree with the above letter. She's jist mad cause Evalener beat her time."

Sports news by Lum Edwards, "Ex-Baseball Star," deserved some space. "The Cherry Hill Wild Cats won a close game from the Pine Ridge n'ine here last Saturday. It was a pitcher's battle from start to finish, the final score being 26 to 25 in favor of the Wild Cats." And Society Doins included a lot about Lum as well. "A box supper was heldt at the school house last Saturday night after the ball game to raise funds for the new hymnials ordered for the meetin' house. Eight dollars was took in. Lum Edards auctioned off the boxes and ett with Miss Evalener Schultz." Furthermore, "Lum Edwards and Miss Evalener Schultz attended the all day singin' and dinner on the grounds at Happy Holler last week. The circuit rider was present and spoke on the need of a Camp meetin' for this summer."

Like any newspaper except *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Pine Ridge News* even contained its own comic strip. The style of the art indicates a strong possibility that it could have been drawn by Chet Lauck himself, as it does bear a resemblance to his known earlier work. It bears a resem-

blance to other sources too, as it concerns a young boy who tearfully relates to his father how the school bully always beats him up. Dad prescribes not spinach, as Popeye would have, but Horlick's Malted Milk. Liberal ingestion of this substance enables the formerly puny youngster to whup the livin' daylights out of his tormentor. (It is somewhat surprising when the kid does not go "toot toot" on his pipe in the final scene.) Due to someone's booboo in the printing department, the first two panels of the five-panel strip have switched positions, giving this action-packed drama a rather confusing opening act.

The local ads were far more interesting than the push for Horlick's Malted Steroids. The "Jot-Em-Down Store" allowed "Strictly credit—No cash." It was operated by Lum Ed'ards, Pres., Left Vice Pres., Right Vice Pres., Secretary and Treasurer. Abner Peabody, Pardner." Aunt Charity Spears offered "Crowshaying, Tatting and Hymstitching. Sewing did at Nominal Prices." Luke Spears and his wife advertised the Palace Lunch Counter with the snappy slogan "Come in and Eat or We'll Both Starve." Kalup Weehunt at the O K Blacksmith Shop took care of blacksmith work and shoe repair: "Shoes for Man and Beast," he proclaimed.

With that, you have some sense of the civic, commercial, social, and sporting life of Pine Ridge—a snapshot of the little community as it stood in the spring of 1934. Not a bad place to be some seventy years ago.

- Randal Hall & Tim Hollis

(In our next installment, we will examine the issue of *The Pine Ridge News* that followed this one, appearing sometime in the late fall of 1934.)

THE VOICE OF EVALENA: MILDRED FUNNELL



Mildred Funnell near the beginning of her broadcasting career, 1930.

In the annals of broadcasting history there are almost two Mildred Funnells.

To *Lum & Abner* fans the world over, she's known as the actress who was Evalena, Lum's long-suffering girlfriend, in 1933. But to Cleveland-area television watchers and radio listeners, she's one half of the long-standing female radio and TV team "Mildred & Gloria."

Regardless of which Mildred you know, both were

great broadcasters.

Born in 1901 in Honeyoye Falls, NY to a pastor father and housewife mother, Mildred Clarice Funnell would live in both Michigan and New York before her family finally settled in Norwalk, Ohio when she was nine years-old. After graduation from Norwalk High School, Funnell took some business courses and attended Syracuse University majoring in speech. After that, Funnell attended the Schuster Martin School of Drama in Cincinnati, where her teacher was Patia Power, mother of matinee idol Tyrone Power. Besides her son, one of Mrs. Power's other students was Virginia Payne, later, of course, better known as radio's *Ma Perkins*.

After doing summer stock with the Roberson-Smith Players in Elyria, Ohio, and work with the Shake Players in Shaker Heights, Ohio, Funnell co-founded the Harlequins Little Theatre Group in Sandusky, Ohio, in 1928. There she took on leading roles in such plays as *Mr. Pim Passes By*, *You and I*, *Dover Road*, and *Smilin' Through*. Two years later, Funnell would begin her broadcasting career by going to work as a secretary for WTAM station manager John F. Royal. Funnell related in 1956, "I started working at WTAM as a temporary employee. I planned to stay only three months, but I got interested in radio and before I knew it, the months started rolling by."

Her interest in radio further heightened when she returned to her dramatic roots and became one of the WTAM Players.

The six-member WTAM Players was headed by Warren Wade, a former Broadway producer and performed various programs for WTAM. The troupe presented, on the air, such productions as *Dulcy*, *Captain Applejack*, and *Beggar on Horseback*. Each production of the WTAM Dramatic Department was one hour in

length and were often presented twice in the same day, once in the afternoon and then again in the evening, so that the widest number of listeners could tune in.

But it was in the fall months of 1933 that Funnell got her most prestigious radio role—that of Evalena, the school marm of Pine Ridge and girlfriend of Lum on radio's *Lum and Abner*.

Her role on that show allowed her to be at the opening of Radio City in New York City; and later to broadcast from Constitution Hall in Washington, DC (in front of a live audience of over 7,000), where the on-air wedding of Evalena and Lum took place.

While the nuptials didn't quite come off without a hitch, the "couple" nevertheless received a wide-range of wedding gifts from devoted listeners—everything from utensils to rolling pins to, as one newsletter put it in 1933, "unmentionables."

Funnell's next big on-air role would be as herself when she joined WTAM's all-female *Women's Club of the Air* radio program in 1940.

Women's Club was to radio what *The View* is to ABC-TV today: a collection of various female voices discussing various topics. The most consistently heard of these voices were Funnell's and Jean Colberts'. Later, one of them belonged to Gloria Brown.

In 1945, the station named Funnell their Director of Women's Activities. In September of that same year, *Women's Club* morphed into the show *Mildred and Gloria*.

Funnell and Brown would broadcast daily over the WTAM airwaves and be a team for 11 years. Their show consisted of a lively mix of interviews, helpful hints and, sometimes, even disagreements. Said Funnell once, "We disagree frequently, as will sisters, mothers, daughters, husbands and wives. But, by pre-arrangement, we discuss out loud and settle our differences as they come up."



The party of the ill-fated "wedding" of Lum & Evalena, held in Washington DC on September 13, 1933.

In 1950, Mildred and Gloria brought their conversation to local TV with their program titled *The Idea Shop*. For the entire five year run of the TV program, the ladies did both the radio and television versions concurrently. *The Idea Shop* was described as a daily half-hour of "interviews and ideas" on all sorts of topics. The station also published a periodic newsletter filled with some of the show's best helpful hints and tips.



Mildred Funnell as host of the "Women's Club of the Air."

One happy viewer wrote that after learning to make angora jewelry from the show, she was able to go into business and pay for her gall bladder operation. (Another interesting letter from a listener told Mildred to "please talk louder when I'm in the kitchen!")

The Idea Shop left the air in March 1954 when NBC debuted its *Home* show starring Arlene Francis. After the demise of *The Idea Shop*, WNBK received over 12,000 letters asking for it back. But, unfortunately, to no avail. So it was back to radio full-time for the team of Funnell and Brown.

In the middle of the following year, Funnell announced her amicable parting with the station after 26 years of service. After so long a tenure she said she was ready to spend more time gardening, cooking and playing golf.

During Funnell's on-air career it was estimated that she had interviewed over 5,000 guests. And Funnell boasted about her longevity at the station, "I've survived 7 managers, [and] three ownerships." According to legend she also missed only one broadcast during all her years at WTAM.

But the lure of radio proved too great and in 1958, Funnell joined Cleveland's WJW radio station as their Director of Community Club Awards.

Later, she once again took to the airwaves herself, this time in a program titled *Take Five*. *Take Five* was a series of five-minute interviews, played every half-hour every Saturday.

At the end of 1959, *Take Five* was cancelled by WJW station manager Paul Mills, but it was not a decision that Ms. Funnell took lying down. On September 14, 1959, she typed up a three-page memo to Mills outlining what an audience-building, sponsor-



Promotional postcard from WTAM featuring Mildred and her long-time, on-air partner Gloria Brown



Mildred, Gloria and one of their sponsors as seen on TV's "The Idea Shop"

loving program it really was. She began:

Ever since our meeting in your office last Wednesday, I have done a great deal of "soul" searching to try and find where I had failed to make "Take Five" important enough to retain on the WJW schedule.

Here are some thoughts, facts really, that occurred to me worthy of consideration and, perhaps, re-evaluation.

Mills reconsidered and *Take Five* endured for another year. After that, it was retirement for good for Mildred Funnell. (There is some evidence, however, that she worked for a time as a travel agent.) Funnell had been married to Clyde Grey Goodman, a Cleveland sales rep, since 1936; the couple had no children. He preceded her in death. She died in 1977.

At her death, she bequeathed an impressive cachet of correspondence, clippings, station publications, photos, press releases and scrapbooks to her sister, Mrs. L.F. Ohliger, who, in turn, bequeathed the items to the Library of American Broadcasting at the University of Maryland.

The Mildred Funnell Collection is available for study today to anyone interested in radio drama, TV talk, Cleveland broadcasting, women in broadcasting, *Lum and Abner*, or, of course, to those interested in her.

Both of her.

- Cary O'Dell

Library of American Broadcasting



Mildred concluded her broadcasting career by hosting "Take Five," a series of 5-minute, on-the-street interviews heard over WJW/Cleveland.

In Memory Of Sam Edwards

1915 - 2004

Most of the old-time radio community has already heard about the passing of our friend and 2001 NLAS Convention guest **Sam Edwards**. Because it has not been that long since we profiled Sam after his Mena appearance with us, we were somewhat puzzled as to how to present a proper tribute to him here. Fortunately, Sam's son Bill did a great job of summarizing his career on his own web site, and we hereby present that writeup as a capsule glimpse of Sam's many facets:

It is my very sad honor to have to announce that my stepfather, Sam Edwards, who played the role of father in my household from the time I was seven, raised me, and whose name I took in that honor, is now gone at the age of 89. He died the morning of Wednesday, July 28, 2004. He and my mother Beverly were near Pueblo, Colorado, on Friday when he told her that he needed to be in a hospital. After a long night when it was determined that he had had a mild MI or heart attack, the doctors discovered a hole in his heart. After long deliberation on Saturday and consulting with members of the family, he and Beverly decided that bringing him home to Durango and familiar/comfortable environs would be better than the possibility of a unsuccessful surgery, or one that might lower quality of life.

The trip in the air ambulance was hard, but he made it. My wife and I flew from D.C. to Durango Saturday afternoon to be with him. He was lucid Sunday morning and

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parts of Monday, but slipped away shortly after midnight. However, he held on for my sisters and his brother, fellow actor Jack Edwards, to come and have their time with him.

Sam Edwards was born in 1915 during the ragtime era

to a family that was active in vaudeville and also in early silent films. In the mid-1930s, he and his younger brother Jack starred in a radio serial broadcast from San Antonio. They soon moved to southern California, where RCA Victor picked up the show for syndicated broadcast. From that time on he was involved deeply in radio, film, and eventually television.

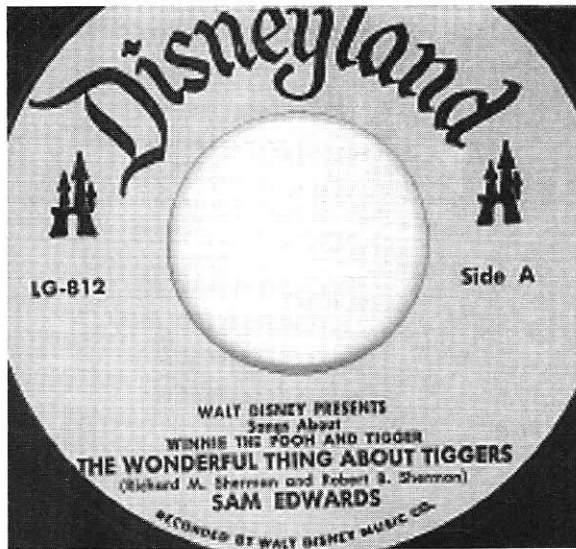
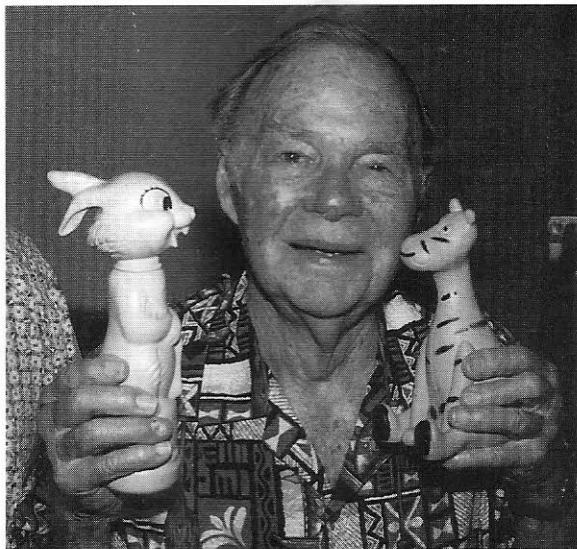
As a character actor on screen, those of you my age or older would likely recognize from DRAGNET, GUNSMOKE, LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE, or other series. The older set will know him possibly from ONE MAN'S FAMILY, any number

of mystery/suspense or Western dramas, and as the voice of perennial teenager Dexter for a decade on the long-running MEET CORLISS ARCHER. His most famous catchphrase was "Holy Cow!"

For the Disneyland Records label, he filled in as the voice of Tigger, Owl, and Heffalumps and Woozles on the WINNIE-THE-POOH productions, and was featured for close to two decades as the voice of the owl opposite Burl Ives's eagle in the AMERICA SINGS attraction. He often



Sam Edwards and the ever-lovely Janet Waldo in a 1947 publicity photo for the MEET CORLISS ARCHER series.



from the medium in which he got his start. They can be found at www.repsonline.org for more information.

Thank you again for the support and understanding of all of you out there during this difficult yet celebratory time for my family.

- Bill Edwards

For the Walt Disney Studios, Sam was the voice of the grown-up Thumper the rabbit in *BAMBI* (1942) and made countless records for the Disneyland label, most notably as Tigger in the *WINNIE-THE-POOH* productions.

rubbed shoulders and worked with John Wayne, Red Skelton, Sterling Holloway, Gregory Peck, Jimmy Stewart, Michael Landon, Jack Webb, Jim Backus, Al Jolson, Bing Crosby, Mel Blanc, Hal Smith, Ernest Borgnine, and countless other radio/film/television stars. I even remember many of these people in our house for parties that my parents threw as we were growing up.

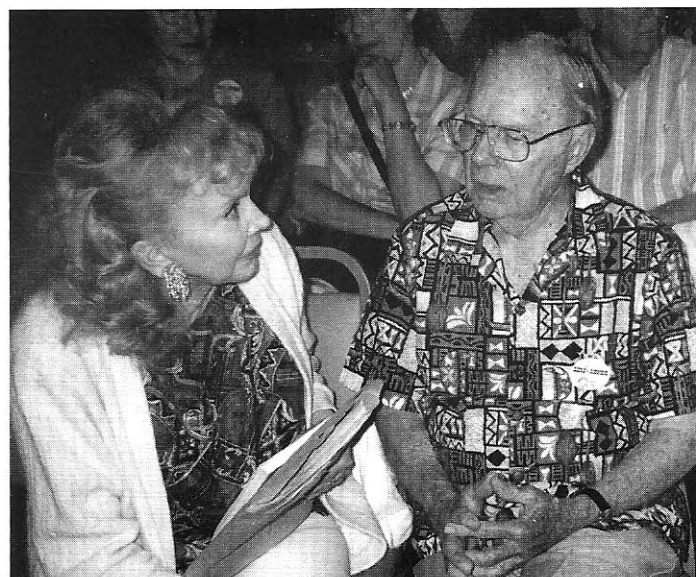
Although Sam has been long since retired, for nearly two decades (a near miss since his last audition was for the cook in *CITY SLICKERS*, for which he was second choice), he has been active in many old-time radio recreation events, notably those in Seattle, Washington. Over his lifetime he managed to entertain, whether it was in the foreground or background, millions of people, and left nothing but good memories and friends behind. He was incapable of anything else, even with three children acquired through marriage in his fifties (interrupting confirmed bachelorhood) who often gave him fits. My mother is strong and doing well, largely because of how he lived his life, and largely because he has accomplished all he was put here to do.

We will all miss him terribly, but when we do, we can pull out a DVD of *OPERATION PACIFIC*, *TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH*, or even the old tape of his *HAPPY DAYS* appearance as a country doctor, and remember the "stories behind these stories."

If anyone is interested in honoring Sam's legacy and the cause that he and my mother most supported over the past decade, it would be the Radio Enthusiasts of Puget Sound in Seattle (REPS), who have done so much to support restoration and maintenance of old recordings and scripts

And we thank Bill for that heartfelt tribute to our friend Sam. One thing Bill did not mention is that Sam's brush with the world of L&A came when he was cast in the unsold 1962 TV pilot that starred Arthur Hunnicutt as Lum and Edgar Buchanan as Abner. Sam played a down-on-his luck citizen of Pine Ridge, and from the memories he had of working on that pilot, we really do not think he ever realized that he was not working with the actors who played Lum & Abner on the radio! In any event, a film print of the pilot has still not been located, but when and if we ever find one, we will be able to enjoy one more of his performances.

- Tim Hollis

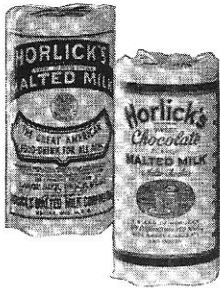


Sam visits with his longtime Disneyland Records co-star Robie Lester during the 2001 NLAS Convention in Mena.

Third Volume of Horlick's Episodes Restored!



**This is Carlton Brickert,
Speaking for Lum and
Abner and Horlick's**



Yessir, folks, October 1 is the official release date for the NEWEST set of CD's continuing the restored Horlick's Malted Milk L&A episodes! Our good friends at the First Generation Radio Archives (FGRA) must be

drinking lots of that stuff themselves to get all of this done on time... In fact, because of the fact that the Journal has to go to the printer so far in advance of its mailing date, the new *Early Years: Volume 3* set has not even been completed as of this writing. However, we do know this much about it: The shows pick up where *The Early Years: Volume 2* left off, with Lum's high hopes for the ceremony at which he plans to present the should-be-grateful people of Pine Ridge with a "statuary" of himself... Lum Eddards, King of the Hogs. The unveiling of this monument indirectly leads to L&A's newest business scheme, operating a movie theater in Pine Ridge. However, our old fiend Squire Skimp has a plan to become a third partner in the show business, and as you know, what Squire wants he usually gets, by hook or by crook (and they don't come any more crooked than Squire).

(Astute listeners will notice that L&A did a "remake" of this storyline in 1943, with wartime references replacing the Depression-era theme of these 1935 episodes. Don't miss the duo's educated analysis of Charlie Chaplin's movies and the Mickey Mouse cartoons!)

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The episodes in *Early Years: Volume 3* cover the dates from May 24 to July 18, 1935, on ten CD's. As usual, the price is \$60.00 plus \$2.50 for postage. The two earlier sets, *Early Years: Volume 1* and *Early Years: Volume 2* are also still available for the same price. Even if you have heard these Horlick's shows from their longstanding appearance in the NLAS Tape Library, when you hear them in their restored form on CD you will think you have never truly experienced them before.

As always, send orders to the NLAS Executive Secretary at 81 Sharon Blvd, Dora, AL 35062.

