

Fall 2005

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Some of our members who are smarter than the NLAS Ossifers (which just about practical includes might nigh ALL of 'em) have pointed out that when we ran this announcement in the Summer issue of the JEDJ, we neglected to reiterate that the price is \$50 for each 10-CD set, plus \$3.50 for the postage. Okay, we've said it now, so you ain't got to EX-cuse not ta order 'em!

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***LUM & ABNER: THE EARLY YEARS
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VOLUME 4***
JULY 19, 1935 - SEPTEMBER 12, 1935

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Front Cover: Lum and Abner try to comfort a discouraged Frances Langford in their RKO movie DREAMING OUT LOUD (1940). See page 4 for a discussion of the late Ms. Langford's association with L&A.

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN

JOURNAL

Fall 2005

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Since we are saluting L&A's late co-star Frances Langford in this issue, we thought this would be a good time to present this rare RKO publicity still of the trio posing offstage during the filming of DREAMING OUT LOUD. Doesn't it always look strange to see Tuffy Goff smiling in his Abner makeup?!

Remembering Frances Langford (1913-2005)

There was a decent, but not overwhelming, amount of media coverage when Frances Langford passed away at the age of 92 on July 11, 2005. When she was eulogized at all, it was primarily because of her many overseas USO tours with Bob Hope during World War II; needless to say, her on again-off again connections with Lum and Abner were not a part of the story. We thought we would remedy that here, rather than rehashing what has already been sufficiently reported by the Associated Press and elsewhere.

Langford's first proven meeting with the Pine Ridge duo came during a June 1933 broadcast of their "Friday Night Sociable" program; however, frequent L&A co-performer Jerry Hausner remembered her as also being part of the audition for that format in late 1932. Although lovestruck Lum referred to her as a movie star in the 1933 program, Langford had hardly reached that pinnacle yet. In fact, her first starring role in a motion picture would not be until 1936's *Palm Springs*, with David Niven. During the production of that film, reporter Leo Townsend from *RADIO STARS* magazine visited Langford and related his following conversation with her as to how she developed her trademark low, husky singing voice:

"How come," we asked, "a pint-sized Garbo like you is gifted with such a low, compelling voice, when everyone knows you were meant for a soprano? Tell our readers a broken heart is responsible for those overtones of tragedy in your singing. Tell them you lost someone very dear to you, and woke up the next morning a baritone."

"I'd like to tell them that," said Frances, "because what really happened isn't nearly so romantic. I haven't a broken heart, and all I ever lost were my tonsils. You can blame them for everything."

"You mean you really were once a soprano?"

"When I was 16 I was the sopranoest girl in the Baptist Church choir in Lakeland, Florida. I had operatic ambitions then, too. I would eventually land at the Met, I told myself, riding on a streamlined high C."

"And then came the tonsils?"

"And then WENT the tonsils. And with them went my poor lit-



Frances Langford and Robert Wilcox provided the love interest in Lum & Abner's first film, DREAMING OUT LOUD (1940).

tle soprano, for when I could finally speak after the operation, I discovered I was a contralto with no voice at all. I cried for days until my mother took me in hand. She was once a concert pianist and she practiced with me for weeks until I could sing again. You can imagine my surprise when I turned out to be a torch singer."

Her brush with L&A during the 1933 Friday Night Sociable (singing "Young and Healthy" and other songs) was apparently their only association until 1940, when Langford was cast as the leading lady in the first L&A movie for RKO,

Dreaming Out Loud. Apparently Langford was not the original choice for the role, as in the scripts leading up to the making of the film, L&A refer to the female lead as being a blonde. With Langford eventually added to the cast, co-producer Sam Coslow felt obliged to compose at least one song for her to perform, and that is how the title ballad came to be. (Some sources have stated that the pre-*DOL* title of the film was *Money Isn't Everything*, which wouldn't exactly have made L&A fans stampede to the box office.)

Langford delivered a capable performance in *Dreaming Out Loud*, although her character was primarily there for sympathy purposes (prevented from marrying the man she loves, dealing with her crabby Aunt Jessica, taking care of her deathly ill kid brother, and all the while serving as Pine Ridge's postmistress). Some years back, NLAS member John "Grandpappy" Knuppel sent us an episode of the radio detective series *The Falcon* which included a radio in the background announcing Langford singing "Dreaming Out Loud," but the music that followed was not the song itself. Sounds like another mystery for the Falcon to solve after he gets through with that one!

It was not long after *DOL*'s release that she joined Bob Hope's radio troupe and spent the war years far from Hollywood, touring any far-flung military base where an audience of soldiers could be gathered. In later years, Langford often reminisced about those visits as being the most emotional experiences of her life, especially when she would be asked to sing her trademark torch song "I'm in the Mood for Love" to a serviceman who had lost an arm, a leg, or multiples of both.

The announcer for the Bob Hope show in those years was



In DREAMING OUT LOUD, Langford had to help L&A care for kindly old Doc Walt (Frank Craven) after he suffered a stroke. This movie was not your typical L&A comedy!

Wendell Niles, who of course would end up with L&A during their 1948-50 half-hour sitcom days. During his appearance at the 1989 NLAS Convention, Niles recalled one instance when Hope had a head cold and was unable to travel with the rest of the gang to their show at a base in Mobile, Alabama. Niles, Langford and the rest of the cast performed for the soldiers while Hope appeared via cut-ins from NBC in Hollywood. (Either forgotten or unknown to Niles was the fact that back in California, Hope's in-studio guests were none other than Lum & Abner!) Niles did recall that, as part of the entertainment that was NOT broadcast over the network, the cast in Mobile sold a considerable number of War Bonds by auctioning Frances Langford's bra.



In this behind-the-scenes snapshot, Langford confers with Bobs Watson, who played her kid brother Jimmy in DREAMING OUT LOUD.

With the war over and everyone back home, Langford was one of the many celebrities who invaded Lum & Abner's broadcasting studio on April 26, 1947, as part of a surprise party celebrating the anniversary of their first show. When Clarence "Ben Withers" Hartzell presented her by shouting "Here's Frances Langford, Lum," Chet Lauck responded in character that she was a neighbor of his "over in Cherry Hill." Whether this is to be taken that Langford and her husband Jon Hall actually did live next door to the Laucks is uncertain.

Interestingly, Langford left show business at around the same time as L&A. Her final screen appearance was as herself in 1954's *The Glenn Miller Story*. Around the same time, she and Jon Hall were divorced and she married Ralph Evinrude of outboard motor fame. This pair became prominent residents of Jensen Beach, Florida, where Langford owned a restaurant known as the Outrigger. Evinrude died in 1986, the same year Langford was made an honorary member of the NLAS. We had little direct communication with her over the years, although for the past few Christmases we had begun receiving holiday greet-

ing cards from her and her new husband Harold Stuart. She graciously declined the opportunity to appear at the 1990 NLAS Convention, which saluted the 50th anniversary of *Dreaming Out Loud*, and in fact it seems that she did very little traveling outside her home state during her later years. With no children or other family members, husband Stuart is her only survivor... unless we count her numerous records, films, and radio appearances (both with L&A and others), which will continue to be around in some form or another for a long, long time to come.



At their 16th anniversary party in April 1947, Chet Lauck and Tuffy Goff share a laugh with Frances Langford and Andy Devine.

70 YEARS OF LUM AND ABNER[®]

Continuing our ongoing look at how the media covered *Lum and Abner* as the show's history was unfolding, this time we find ourselves in the autumn of 1935, where for some reason there was less press attention in their home town newspaper than during the previous few months. Quantity is more than compensated by quality, however, as evidenced by our first report.

We had long ago been told about L&A's triumphant appearance at the 1935 Indiana State Fair. Actually, the person who first related the story was our old buddy, the late character actor Jerry Hausner, who was with Lauck & Goff for that gig and had a photo to prove it (as seen here). Jerry had little to say about the actual content of the show L&A put on at the fair, so it is a lucky thing for us that a former Mena resident was in Indianapolis at the time, and

sent the newspaper a full report on the goings-on. It was on September 5, 1935, that the *Mena Star* published the following account:

Lum and Abner at Indiana State Fair

Local Radio Stars Made Hit With Hoosier Audience Last Saturday

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Star is indebted to Mrs. Goldie Ratliff Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Ratliff of Mena, and a former Mena girl, for the writeup of "Lum and Abner" opening the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, where Mrs. Carroll makes her home.



Jerry Hausner (far right) long ago gave the NLAS this photo from L&A's 1935 appearance at the Indiana State Fair. Tuffy "Abner" Goff is second from right, and Chet "Lum" Lauck is fourth from right. The bespectacled gent between them is unidentified, but was probably one of the fair officials.

Saturday, August 3, was the beginning of the Indiana State Fair and was also quite a gala night for two boys from Mena.

The Indianapolis Star and the State Board of Agriculture sponsored an amateur contest to be held in the Coliseum at the Fair Grounds. And out of the world of headline radio stars, Lum and Abner were the unanimous choice to act as masters of ceremony. And there they were — keeping the audience laughing and applauding from beginning to end.

Lum said he felt just like Major Bowes. And Major Bowes, with all of his experience, couldn't have carried an amateur contest off with more poise or ease or have conducted a more successful one.

They had all of the "hand slapping," as the Pine Ridge two express it, that a most exacting favorite could have desired, from the time they were drawn up to the stage in a little covered wagon pulled by two big black oxen. They were then Lum and Abner in all their regalia, at the last of the show they finally came out on the stage as Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, two nice looking young fellows from Arkansas.

All during the show, Abner was trying to enter the contest and sing "Just a Bird in a Gilded Cage." Lum would keep stopping him. He would leave the mike but each time come back in a new and funnier disguise. Once he was a little old lady in a big red plaid dress and sun bonnet. The audience cheered wildly as he sang almost through "The Bird in a Gilded Cage" before Lum got a chance to take off the poke-bonnet and prove to himself it was really Abner. Next he came back as an Admiral of the Navy with a Durante nose, funny blue uniform, big plumed hat, saber and all. He kept Lum at his distance with drawn sword until he sang most of his song again. The winner of the amateur contest was to be the one who received the most applause. Abner the "song bird" got that — but since he wasn't a contestant, the cheering had to signify a very successful master of ceremony.

It is a wonder the boys do not get writer's cramp from doing so much autographing. The show was to have been over at 10, but it was after 12 before we left. Chet and Tuffy both said they were awfully tired but they looked extremely happy, too. One of our papers here has this to say of them:

"In the space of four short years, Lum and Abner have emerged from the practical obscurity of a small Arkansas town to join the ranks of the highest salaried stars in the radio world today. They are rated one of the best backwoods philosophy bets on the air."

Not bad for the Mena lads — not bad at all! (And they

are also putting that small Arkansas town on the map.)

You will notice that Mrs. Carroll did not mention Jerry Hausner's participation in the program, but from what he said he can safely assume that he served to introduce L&A and fill time on stage while they were getting ready for the next part of the program.

Closer to home, the "personals" column of the same issue of the Star had yet another brief mention of local storekeeper Dick Huddleston, but the amazing thing for such a cryptic reference is that Dick was referred to as living at Pine Ridge. This takes on added significance when we realize that the community containing the Huddleston store was still known as Waters at that time, but apparently it was already being thought of as the Pine Ridge of the radio scripts. Although it would be April 1936 before the name of the post office would be officially changed, it appears that thinking along those lines was already occurring.

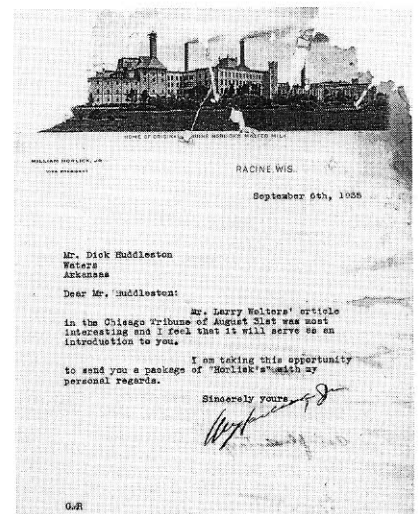
Unlike his radio portrayal, by all accounts the real-life Dick Huddleston was a self-promoter of the first degree, although he was also happy to do anything that would focus more attention on his beloved region of his home state. On September 26, the Star had a short account of Dick's latest activities designed to promote his store as a tourist destination:

"Dick" Reaps Benefits from "L&A"

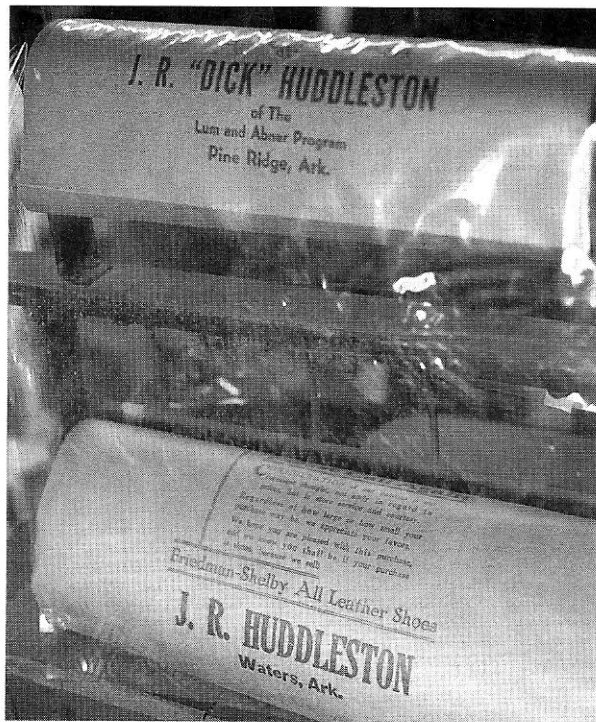
Company Sends Present When Learn "Pine Ridge" Storekeeper Is Real

J. R. "Dick" Huddleston of Waters was in Mena on Thursday looking after business matters. Mr. Huddleston is the "Dick Huddleston" in the well-known Lum and Abner sketches, and is receiving much publicity from the broadcasts of the two Mena radio stars. Recently parties visited at the Huddleston home and got facts about the "store," which were used in a special article carried in a Chicago paper.

Mr. Huddleston also received a case of the product of the



Horlick's Malted Milk company, sponsors for the Lum and Abner program. The company learned that the Dick Huddleston character being used in the broadcast was a real one, and not fictitious, so sent a case of the milk with their compliments. In writing his thanks, Mr. Huddleston sent the company a photograph of the "Pine Ridge Store."



Dick Huddleston used the brown wrapping paper in his store to remind shoppers of his L&A connection.

Jus to prove that we here at the NLAS can shamelessly self-promote as well as Dick could, here we might mention our series of restored Lum and Abner episodes from 1935 that are available on CD through the help of our friends at the First Generation Radio Archives. Four sets of 10 CD's each are currently available, at a total of \$53.50 (including postage) for each set. Why should we interrupt our discussion to plug these CD's? Weeelllllll.... Those who have heard the third and fourth volumes in this set will be familiar with the contest to name L&A's new "rolling grocery store," a conveyance that temporarily replaced the faithful old Jot 'Em Down Store. We know that "naming contests" were among the most popular publicity stunts held on the show — they had been done before, and would be done many times thereafter — but rarely do we get to find out how such contests ended up. Thanks to the same September 26, 1935 issue of the Mena Star, we at least know the outcome of the "Name the Rolling Store" contest:

"Couz" Brown a Winner

In Lum and Abner's recent nationwide radio contest for a name for their grocery store on wheels, one Polk County man was fortunate enough to win one of the lesser prizes. "Couz" Brown of Vandervoort, wholesale grocery and produce salesman, was the lucky recipient of one of the 50 two-dollar prizes offered, he being the only person in Arkansas to win one of the \$2 prizes. The name sent in by Brown was "Lum and Abner's Victual Bus."

The first prize of \$100 that was offered in the name contest went to Mrs. Margaret Starke of Westmont, Ill. The winning name was "Rolling Vittle Vender." Second prize went to Mrs. Victor Hollis of Sautee, Ga., who submitted

the name "Lum and Abner's Victual Vender." There were ten prizes of \$5 each and besides the \$2 prizes there were 100 prizes of one dollar each. Four winners from Arkansas were listed in the one dollar class, Mrs. J. F. Broyles, Farmington; Mrs. Margaret W. Henry, Newport; Mrs. R. B. Reynolds, Little Rock; and D. A. Welsh, Huntington.

NLAS Executive Secretary Tim Hollis reports that to his knowledge there is no connection between his family and that of second prize winner Mrs. Victor Hollis, whose hometown of Sautee, Georgia is located near the famed Rock City Gardens of SEE ROCK CITY roadside tourism fame... and what does Rock City have to do with Lum

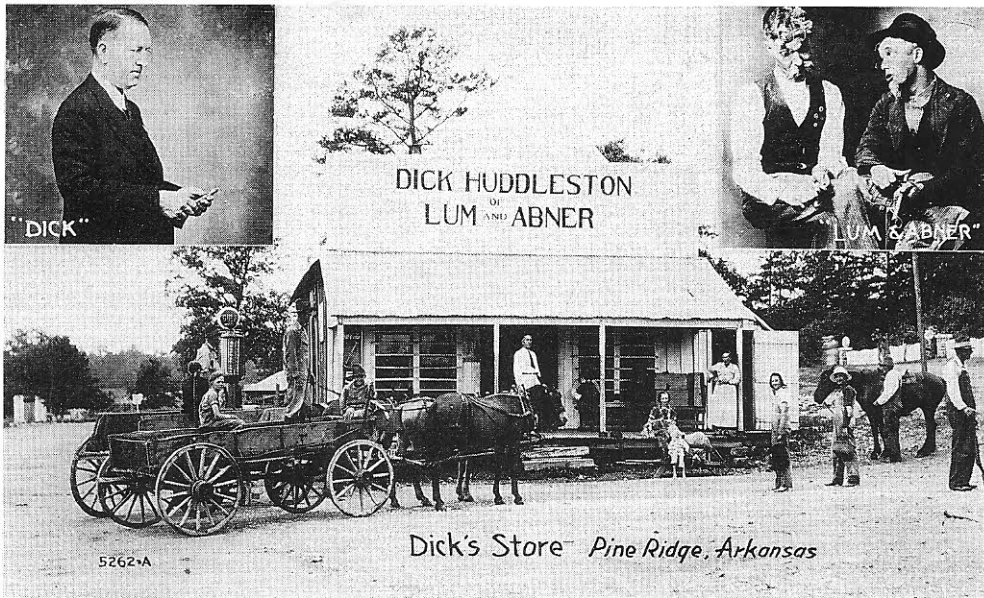
and Abner anyway? Let's move ahead to the next article and leave all these huskin' shuckin's behind...

As we saw in the Summer issue, it had already been announced that in September, Lum and Abner would be leaving its limited-coverage Mutual Network home and moving back to the larger facilities of NBC. Obviously this had an effect on the number of people who were able to hear and enjoy the show, not to mention the geographic area it could cover. This was proven by a small item in the October 17 Mena paper, which demonstrated that the appeal of Lum and Abner was not limited to the eastern half of the USA: "Mrs. Charlie Copelin received a letter from her brother, John Sehorn of Klamath Falls, Ore., wanting to know more about Lum and Abner. Mr. Sehorn reports that Lum and Abner are very popular there and that the Oregon people are getting more kick out of the Lum and Abner program than any other on the air."

The final article in our coverage for this time demonstrates that more and more residents and officials of western Arkansas were beginning to see the value of using Lum and Abner in promoting their region to tourists and potential residents. On October 31, the Star gave this update:

Lum and Abner Sponsors Show Interest in Mena

The Mena Chamber of Commerce has recently had pub-



One of the many, many postcards sold by Dick Huddleston in his store both before and after the name of the community was officially changed to Pine Ridge.

lished several thousand descriptive booklets showing scenes and giving information about Mena and Polk County. A graphic description is given in the booklet of the conditions existing in the county which would make this section of the state a desirable place to live or spend a vacation.

The location of the county is given, together with its elevation, population, climate, highways, healthful conditions, recreational advantages, industries, farm data, topography, school conditions, timber information and other information to answer practically any question the outsider may ask about the county and Mena, generally.

The booklet also contains a map of the Mena Recreational Area of the Ouachita National Forest and a sketch of the famous radio stars, Lum and Abner, as sketched by Lum.

Recently booklets were sent to the two exponents of Pine Ridge happenings and "Chet" and "Tuffy" apparently passed them along to their sponsors, because only a few days ago a request came to the Chamber of Commerce from the Horlick's Malted Milk Corporation for a quantity of the folders. The request was promptly complied with, and the large malted milk concern doubtless now has more information regarding Lum and Abner's home territory than before.

Horlick's in return is going to supply the Mena Chamber of Commerce with leaflets containing information of Lum and Abner's activities, together with a picture of the two. These leaflets will be distributed along with the local booklets.

The attractive folders have been sent out to many differ-

ent points in response to requests, and as an advertising medium, and still many more will be distributed in the future.

The NLAS's files on the *Mena Star* become a bit more spotty after this point, but fortunately, once L&A got back on NBC, they began to receive a lot more coverage in other areas besides their old hometown. Join us next time when we take a brief look at what was happening during the 1935 Christmas season and beyond!



This publicity photo had been offered as a premium by Horlick's Malted Milk earlier in 1935, but the city of Mena used it on postcards for years thereafter.

LUM and ABNER's® "DEAD SEA SCROLLS"

Part Two of a Series

In the Summer issue of the *Journal*, we explained the origin of the synopses that appear below, but in case anyone missed it, here is a condensed version:

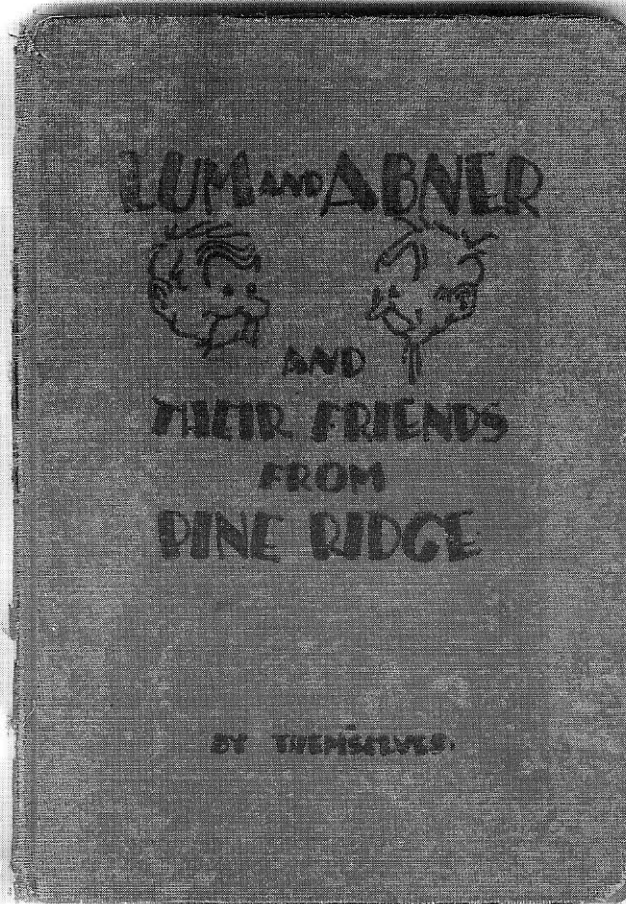
You will recall that some dozen or so years ago, a set of Lum and Abner's scripts from the 1930s turned up. The NLAS was unable to purchase the collection outright, but we were able to borrow the scripts in order to publish our series of books reprinting them. The scripts in that collection began in 1934.

Within the past year, a second set of scripts has been unearthed. This in itself should not be surprising, as there were obviously two copies of every script Lauck and Goff typed. This most recently-discovered set begins, incredibly enough, in January 1932, only six months after Lum and Abner first moved from local radio to the NBC network. The NLAS has been unable to obtain the scripts themselves for our purposes. However, one of our members, who must remain as anonymous as the scripts' current location, was able to access them and take a series of notes. While this is not as good as being able to read the complete scripts, at least the notes give us a grand idea of what a sometimes drastically different program Lum and Abner was during its early stages.

Our last installment left off with L&A's program being cancelled for lack of sponsorship, and the summer of 1932 was not the best time to be trying to drum up business. In August, Lauck & Goff managed to get back on the air via WBAP in Dallas/Ft. Worth, in effect sponsoring themselves by using the show to promote sales of their self-written booklet, *Lum and Abner and Their Friends From Pine Ridge*. As our anonymous reader's summaries resume this time, we are apparently near the beginning of that new series of WBAP programs:

August 5, 1932

Talking about the book Lum is writing, Abner was taking pictures, but put too much powder in the flash and blew up the room:



Lum & Abner got back on the air in August 1932, sponsoring themselves through the sale of these books.

Lum: *Yea, the worst part about it was, here we air tryin to raise means fer Abner's campaign fund by writin this book and hit'll cost round a hunderd dollars to pay fer the damage he done yistidy in jist takin one pitcher fer it.*

August 9, 1932

Abner drops out of sheriff's race after Snake Hogan reveals that Lum mortgaged his place to help Abner pay for advertising. Lum is upset that Abner dropped out.

Abner: *Well Snake come out here yistiddy and told me bout it and he offered me three thousand dollars jist twiset as much as me and Lum both put in the campaign funds if I'd withdraw.*

Dick: *So you jist seen wher you could make a little money and you sold out huh? I'm sorry to hear that Abner. Sellin out is worse'n quittin.*

Abner: *No I never done that Dick. I wouldn't take his three thousand dollars fer I knowed that'd be wrong. I never even takend enough to pay me back fer what I put in, but as bad as I wanted the sheriff's office I couldn't let Lum take them chanches on losin his place, so I takend five hunderd dollars and went straight to the bank and paid off that mortgage Lum give*

em and right chere hit is. I was aimin to give it to him but I'm jist afeard I've lost the best friend I ever had.

August 11, 1932

Grandpap comes into Dick's store. Lum and Abner have been at outs because Abner withdrew from the election, so he's glad to see Grandpap.

Abner: *Yea, we'll jist see bout that. Come on back here. Wherebouts is the sody pop bottle caps at we been usin fer checkers.*

Dick: *Why they're settin right ther on top of that barrell in that seegar box.*

Grpap: *Right chere they air Abner.*

Abner: *Well whichins you want Grandpap, the strawberry or the lemons.*

LUM AND ABNER

WBAP, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Howdy Everybody:

Listen: Lum and Abner have "Writ" a book.

We want to thank you for the letter of encouragement you wrote us some time ago. We have taken a brief absence from the Radio for the past few weeks for the purpose of writing a book on Lum and Abner and their friends from Pine Ridge. In this book we have published actual photographs accompanied by a character sketch of each character portrayed and referred to in our programs, in addition to pictures of ourselves as we look in everyday life.

The book contains pictures of Lum and Abner's law and constable office, Dick Huddleston's store, the school house where Evalena holds sway, and fifteen actual photographs of such characters as Dick Huddleston, Sister Simpson, Grandpeppy Spears, Evalena, Ezra Seestrunk, Elizabeth, Sedic Weehunt and all the others with whom you are more or less familiar.

Beginning Monday, August 1 we renewed our broadcasts from WBAP at Fort Worth, Tex. We will be on at 9:45 p. m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and at 7:15 p. m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. We trust that we may again have you as one of our listeners.

If you have enjoyed our past programs we know that you will be delighted with our book, and we want you to have one. It has been especially prepared for our Radio listeners for their enjoyment and that they might better be able to follow and understand the daily episodes of Lum and Abner. It will make a splendid gift but you will certainly want to keep one for your own library table, as we have spared no expense in our efforts to bring you a true word and photographic picture of Pine Ridge community.

We have published only a limited number of these books and we would suggest that you fill in the attached form and mail to us at once to insure prompt delivery.

Thanking you in advance and trusting that you will be even a greater friend and enthusiast after reading our book and seeing all our pictures, we are

Your radio friends,

Lum and Abner

Lum and Abner,
WBAP, Fort Worth, Texas

Inclosed find my \$1.00 for which please send me prepaid your book, "Lum and Abner and Their Friends From Pine Ridge".

Name _____
Street _____
Town or City _____
State _____

(Write Name and Address Plainly)

This letter promoting the Lum & Abner book was presumably mailed to anyone who had sent fan mail to Lauck & Goff.

They reconcile:

Abner: I shore am glad to be friends with you agin Lum.

Lum: Well I am too Abner. Hits been awful lonesome over ther at the office thout youns..

Abner: Oh, I was jist like a stray dog Lum..

Lum: Well now we can go head and git that book finished up—

August 12, 1932

Finishing up the book:

Lum: No not special that but if Evalener finds out Bular Skimp is in the book too, she's goin higher 'n a kite. And Bular is the same way, if she had the least idy Evalener was in it, she'd set her foot right down.

Abner: Yea, wimin fokes is funny thataway.

Lum: Well you see they're sorter jelious of one another. Both of em is so struck on me..Thats what I figger hit is.

August 15, 1932

They have finished the book and Lum is writing an outlandish press release with his biography. Episode closes:

Abner: Alright sir...Yesir I'll tell him.... Alright... (click) That was that printin company in ther at Menar and they said that our books is all ready.

Lum: They got em all done have they? I grannies git yer hat Abner we're goin to hitch up the surry and go in ther and git em.... Jist think of it we're both arthurs— Edards Shakespeare, Peabody Kiplin, Mark Twain. Charles Dickens—

August 16, 1932

Dick: Well how'd you know what to charge fer em?

Lum: Well might nigh all the books I ever seen sold fer a dollar. That book I orderd a while back on How to Improve Your Personality was a dollar.

August 17, 1932

Not everyone likes what Lum said in the book:

Dick: Yea, well you can count on having some of em down on you over it Lum but they'll cool down and git over it.

Lum: I hope so. I dont keer special bout Sister Simpson and Oscar Fields fer me and them never had no use fer one another nohow but, Bular and Evalener is both mad at me on account of we havin the othern in the book. I'm afeard I'm goin to have a awful terrible time ever straightenin that out.

Oscar is hunting Lum:

Abner: Why he come in the office ther packin a gun and said he was lookin fer you. Oh he was mad a nuff to bite. Kept talkin bout what all you said about him in that book.

August 19, 1932

Abner tells Dick that he is thinking of running for president with Lum as his campaign manager. Dick shows him a postcard of the White House that one of the MackMillan boys sent him while in Washington with the Bonus Marchers.

Abner decides they should clear some of the trees around the White House and imagines what a good time Old Lead would have with the squirrels.

Lum has promised both Bular and Evalenar the school teacher's job for the fall without consulting the board.

August 26, 1932

Lum skipped the school board meeting, claiming to be sick, but the board split two to two on Evalenar and Bular. Lum has to cast the deciding vote.

August 30, 1932

Lum picked Evalenar for the school teaching job.

Lum: Well I got to studyin it over and figgerd that Bular would be here in Pine Ridge anyhow wher she got the job of teachin or not, and I knowed if Evalener never got it she'd more'n likely stay over ther at Belleville. See this away they'll both be here and I can keep company with both of em.

Sends Abner over to try to patch things up with Bular for him.

September 6, 1932

Elizabeth and Pearl are gone and everyone is looking for them.

Abner: Elizabeth allus said if she ever did leave me she never aimed to come back.

Lum: Oh, she'll be back. Jist give us time we'll locate em. Trouble with you is you've jist give up.

Abner: She never even give me a chanch to explain. If she jist knowed how I miss her and Pearl, Whv I'm plum lost without em.

September 8, 1932

Lum: Well course I aint been no help you might say. I'd love to find her for you if you want her back but since I learnt that her and Jake Means left the same time, I jist bleave you'd be a heap better off if she never did show up again. Thats jist the way I feel about it.

Abner: Well them leaving at the same time thataway dont mean nuthin. They could of went in differnt directions.

Lum: Yea, they could of, but I bound you when you find Jake Means you'll fine Elizabeth. Look how hard he tried to come twixt me and Evalener. All last winter he kept tryin to keep company with her and I reckon he would of suckseeded if I hadn't been sich a turible hand with wimmen fokes mysef.

Lum tells Abner that he should do more to make Elizabeth stay in love with him.

Lum: Well I reckon the best thing is, to use mysef as a example. You might say I owe my sucksess to the advertisements in the magazines.

Abner: Well I do know. I dont see how they could hep you

none.

Lum: Well you've heard bout fellers thats often a bride groom but never a bride aint you?

Abner: No, no, I dont know as I ever did.

Lum: Well thats on account of you not readin the advertisements. They'll show you all sorts of things wrong with you. Did you ever see a feller git up to do out-loud talkin and agin he get up everbody get to whisperin to one another and sayin that he'd die on his feet and one thang another and then agin he lit out on a batch of talk hit come out of his mouth as smooth as pourin wheat out of a hopper. They was stonished over it.

Abner: Well I do know. I never could do outloud talkin to do no good.

Lum: Well if you jist had one of their home study courses, you could do it.

Abner: I want to borrey that book of yours in how to develop yer person—what ever you call it.

Lum: Personality. Yea, you ort to have it. When a feller gits to havin trouble holdin his woman chanches are its his own fault.

Abner: Well if hits my fault I want to know it and improve mysef, if I can.

Lum: Yea, abody ort to sorter throw his eyes over hissef ever oncet and awhile. See if he's lookin his best. Now whilst hit aint none of my bizness, that hair cut you're wearin dont become you at tall.

Abner: Well Elizabeth orten to have no complaints to make, she cut it herself.

Lum: She never done a very good job of it neither.

Abner: Why she done it like she allus did. Takend a string and tied it round my head and then took and cut all the hair off below it.

Lum: Well theys lots of little thangs like that you got to watch. Abody ort to keep his clothes breshed off right good.

Abner: Well Lum I'm proud to git you to pint out them little things fer me. I dont know what I would do if I never had you to sorter lean agin through the dark hours.

Lum: Oh taint nuthin. Taint nuthin. If I can hep you by givin you the benefit of my knowledge on how to keep wimmen fokes in love with you, I'm jist only proud to do it. I keep on them things mighty cloest mysef. I cut out a advertisement jist yistiddy, showed a pitcher of a feller that had trouble gittin the wimmen fokes to dance with him and he never knoed jist what the trouble was, till his Uncle called him off and jist told him what was wrong. Hit was some sort of soap he wasn't usein was causin the biggest part of his troubles. Well he went and got some of it and anyway the last pitcher showed him and some purty gurl jist dancin rings round othersn.

Abner: Well I reckon I dont need none of that soap fer my rhu-matiz has botherd me so much here of late I dont dance none to speak of noway.

Dick enters with an announcement from the newspaper that a party had been given in the honor of Jake Means and Evalena Schultz at Luther Phillips's house.



According to the 1932 scripts, Sister Simpson was NOT amused by the writeup about her in L&A's book.

September 13, 1932

Lum and Abner talking about school:

Abner: Yea, I'm right with you on that Lum. I've allus said any-time they wernt nuthin fer Pearl to do bout the place hit would be alright fer er to go off down to the school with the rest of the childerns. Course now agin they git to lettin it come ahead of their chores hits a differnt matter.

Lum: Oh yes.

Abner: Well thats what I mean when I say some of em runs it in the ground. You take Ezra Seestrunks, I've knowed him to let his youngins go trapesin off down to school when they was work to do in his field and he had to harr outside hep to do it.

Lum: Well course Ezra caint do nuthin moderate, he's got to over do might night anything he turns his hand to.

Abner: School startin a Monday week, I reckon Evalener'll be movin over here right away wont she?

Lum: Yea, I aint as excited over it as I was though. When she went right straight and told your woman everything I said bout you

and Bular havin up a case, I stopped bein in love with her right then. I wish now we'da give Bular the school fer this term.

Lum and Abner are planning to go to Texas and Dick will come along.

Lum: Why thats jist fine. Jist fine. That'll give me and Abner time a nuff to git up some good speeches fer him to make in his campaign.

Abner: Well that speech makin is alright but I'll tell you right now the mainest reason I'm goin is to find Elizabeth and Pearl. I'm goin to find them if I have to go through ever cotton field in Texas to do it—

September 14, 1932

They end up inviting Squire, Grandpap, and Cedric to come along to Texas with them in Dick's car.

September 22, 1932

They are taking a rest stop near Greenville, Texas. To fit every-one, Grandpap is ridin in a trailer they're pulling.

The next script is for November 24, 1932, the start of their run at WTAM in Cleveland, and we will take up with that one in our next installment. Apparently the saga of Abner's presidential campaign was never completed, because the fragmentary evidence we have suggests that shortly after this September 22 script, the show was again taken off the air. At least by October 13, the *Mena Star* was speculating that it "might be heard again soon." Obviously by the time L&A secured their spot on WTAM during Thanksgiving week, the elections were long over and they would have to wait four more years before reviving the plot with Lum as the candidate in 1936.

Join us next time for more delving into this previously-undocumented era of L&A storylines!