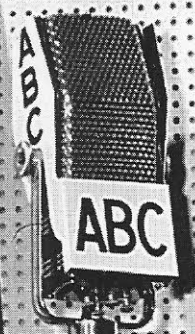


**The  
Jot 'Em  
Down  
Journal**

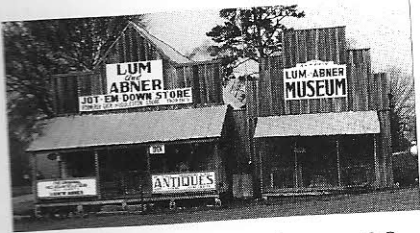
*Winter 2006*

1931  
1932  
1933  
1934  
1935  
1936  
1937  
1938  
1939  
1940  
1941  
1942  
1943  
1944  
1945  
1946



VISIT

The Jot 'Em Down Store &  
Lum & Abner® Museum



Located on Highway 88  
(the "Lum & Abner Highway")

PINE RIDGE, ARKANSAS

For further information, contact  
LON & KATHY STUCKER  
P.O. BOX 38  
PINE RIDGE, AR 71966  
(870) 326-4442



THE SEVEN

**Lum and Abner®**

MOVIES

are available on video!

*Dreaming Out Loud • The Bashful Bachelor*  
*Two Weeks to Live • So This Is Washington*  
*Goin' To Town • Partners In Time*  
*Lum & Abner Abroad*

**\$29.95 each**

Order from  
Lum & Abner Associates  
135 Circle Drive  
Hot Springs, AR 71901

**WHEN YOUR CD'S  
GET DOWN TO FOUR,  
THAT'S THE TIME  
TO BUY SOME MORE!**

We've said it before, we're sayin' it now, and we'll keep on sayin' it until somebody whops us on topa the head with sompin'... If you haven't yet heard the amazing sound quality on our CD's that have been restored from the original 16" transcription discs by our friends at the First Generation Radio Archives, you jes' ain't got no idee what you're missin'. Imagine hearing *Lum and Abner* in the same pristine audio as if you were sitting in the broadcasting studio with them! Each set contains 40 episodes on 10 CD's. Check your CD supply, and if you've missed ordering any of these, git that check in the mail!

The price is \$50 for each 10-CD set, plus \$3.50 for the postage. That figgers out to be just about practical \$5 per CD, an' even Squire Skimp'd be willin' ta pay that much ta hear how good he sounds now. We're a-workin' on a new set right now, but meanwhile, jist check an' see that you've got alla these:

**LUM & ABNER: THE EARLY YEARS  
VOLUME 1**  
JANUARY 4, 1935 - MARCH 12, 1935

**LUM & ABNER: THE EARLY YEARS  
VOLUME 2**  
MARCH 13, 1935 - MAY 23, 1935

**LUM & ABNER: THE EARLY YEARS  
VOLUME 3**  
MAY 24, 1935 - JULY 18, 1935

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

Send orders to the NLAS executive secretary at 81  
Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL 35062.

*The Jot 'Em Down Journal*,  
 Volume 22, Number 3 (Whole  
 Number 127), Winter 2006.  
 Published quarterly by the  
 National Lum and Abner  
 Society. Membership, includ-  
 ing a subscription to the  
 Journal, is \$15.00 per year.  
 Send editorial and subscrip-  
 tion correspondence to the  
 Executive Secretary, Tim  
 Hollis, #81 Sharon  
 Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062,  
 e-mail Hollis1963@aol.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE NATIONAL  
 LUM AND ABNER  
 SOCIETY**

*Zekatif Ossifers*

**PRESIDENT**

Donnie Pitchford

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Sam Brown

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Tim Hollis

\*\*\*\*\*

*Front Cover: Chet "Lum" Lauck  
 and Norris "Abner" Goff celebrate  
 the arrival of 1946. We at the NLAS  
 want to wish all of our members a  
 happy 2006!*

---

LUM AND ABNER is a reg-  
 istered trademark. Used by  
 permission of Chester Lauck,  
 Jr.

---

# THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

*Winter 2006*

## ***In This Issue:***

**70 Years of Lum & Abner ..... 4**

**Lum & Abner's "Dead Sea Scrolls" ..... 7**

**Lum & Abner in the News ..... 12**

**A Comical New Year's Eve ..... 14**



*Merry Christmas  
 and  
 A Prosperous and Healthful Year  
 Lum and Abner  
 and Horlick's*

*As we shall see in the article on page 4 of this issue, during 1935 there was an increasingly open line of communication between Mena and Pine Ridge (then called Waters) and Lum & Abner's sponsor, Horlick's Malted Milk. This greeting card probably dates from the Christmas season of 1935, and combines the sponsor's message with a shot of the real community.*



# 70 YEARS OF LUM AND ABNER

As you know, back in the April 2001 issue of the *Journal* we began this series of articles tracing the month-by-month developments in L&A history as they went along. We were able to do such a thorough job of this because of having the microfilm of *The Mena Star*, from which the proper historical articles were gleaned. Well, the series will continue but in a slightly different format for a while, because our microfilm stops in November 1935 and does not resume until mid-1938. Fortunately, the gap between reels is also the period during which L&A were receiving the largest amount of national publicity, so we will still be able to trace their activities fairly well, even if not on a day-by-day basis.

One of the last L&A reports in the microfilm we have appeared in the *Star* on November 14, 1935, and in hindsight was a harbinger of things to come:

## Getting First Hand Information on Lum and Abner

*O. G. Pack of Kansas City, a representative of the Horlick's Malted Milk Company, is in Polk County at the request of Mr. Horlick, to get first hand information on the famous radio team and the home town and county. Mr. Pack came Saturday and spent Sunday seeing some of Polk County. Monday afternoon he was going to Waters to see Dick Huddleston. He expects to go to Racine, Wis., soon to tell what he has learned on his trip to Mr. Horlick, who is soon to celebrate his 90th birthday, and has taken a great personal interest in Messrs. Lauck and Goff.*

*Mr. Pack believes Mena is overlooking a chance to draw visitors here. There are thousands of Lum and Abner fans who might stop here if more publicity was given connecting Mena with the radio team. He suggests that signs should be put on all highways telling that Mena is the home town of Lum and Abner.*

All of this cooperation between Dick Huddleston and the Horlick company would be paying off during the first four months of 1936, but we'll get to that story next time.

We realize that the Christmas season will likely be over by the time most of you receive this issue, but we still needed to go into

some detail about what was happening during 1935's holiday season. On Christmas Eve, the *Star* gave the following news item:

## "Pine Ridge" Plans Big Christmas Celebration

*Pine Ridge was to celebrate Christmas Tuesday night with a community Christmas tree at the church. Over 100 presents were to be distributed to residents of the community, all of which is made possible by a sizeable donation which was sent by a donor who requested that it be used to the best advantage in spreading Christmas cheer, but also requested that the name of the giver be withheld.*

*Dick Huddleston was in Mena Tuesday and stated that the crowd was expected to gather early and listen to the daily broadcast of Lum and Abner which comes on at 6:30 p.m. A radio will be installed in the church for this purpose and again Wednesday evening a radio party will be held at the church to listen to the Christmas broadcast of the famed radio pair who have made the Pine Ridge community famous.*

*Many residents of the community, it was said, have never heard the Polk County boys over the radio, and a special effort will be made to make it possible for these to attend one, if not both entertainments.*

It is worth pointing out that even at this early point, the Mena paper was already referring to the community in which Dick Huddleston lived as Pine Ridge, even though the U.S. Postal Service was still calling it

Waters. We might not know how the name Pine Ridge made its way into common local usage, but at least we do know who provided the money for the Christmas party held there. In the NLAS's files there is a letter dated December 18, 1935, and it reads like this:

*Dear Dick:*

*There are likely several families in your community whose Christmas will not be complete this year. There must be some who are in need of shoes, stockings, clothing and even provision*

## LUM and ABNER

Lovable old characters  
from the hill country



## N B C BLUE NETWORK

Every night except Saturday and Sunday  
beginning Sept. 2, 1935

WLW	Cincinnati	10:15 P.M. E.S.T.
WJZ	New York	7:30 P.M. E.D.T.
WBZ	Boston	7:30 P.M. E.D.T.
WBZA	Springfield, Mass.	7:30 P.M. E.D.T.
WSYR	Syracuse	6:30 P.M. E.S.T.
WENR	Chicago	6:30 P.M. C.D.T.

Sponsored by

## HORLICK'S

the Original

## MALTED MILK

31 8.35



for Christmas dinner.

Fifty dollars of the enclosed check is included to take care of such needs, and we ask you to devote some time within the next few days in finding out who is deserving of help.

Will you please see after buying what is needed and distributing same. The folks need not be told who is sending it. Just tell 'em it's Santy Claus.

The other \$25 is for the Christmas tree at the school house. We would like for every child in that vicinity to be invited, and that toys, oranges, apples, nuts, candy etc. be given to them. It would add a great deal to their enjoyment if some one of you will act as Santa Claus and distribute the gifts.

We wish that we could be present and see the fun. Thanks in advance for attending to this. We feel sure that you will be fully repaid for your trouble by the enjoyment you will get out of it.

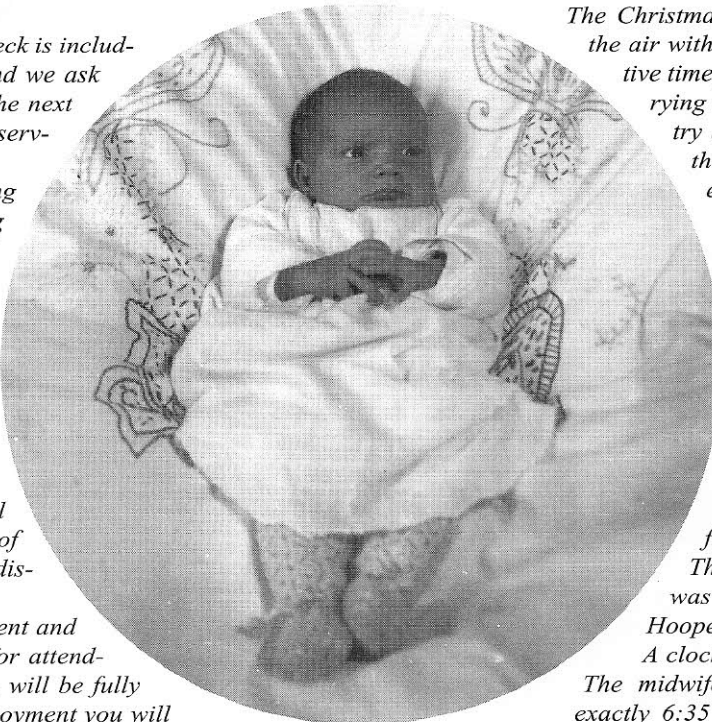
Our best wishes to you, to Mrs. Huddleston and Ethel for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,  
Chet Lauck

It is worth noting that many years later, in 1953, L&A did a program about the two old fellows decorating a Christmas tree at the schoolhouse and throwing a party for the underprivileged youth of the community. The 1935 party, meanwhile, would turn out to be a memorable night in the real Waters/Pine Ridge, but for a completely different reason.

In March 1936, *RADIO GUIDE* magazine told the story of what happened, but... well, let's see what they had to say before making any further comments. First, the writer described the plot that L&A had been putting on the air each Christmas since 1933:

In the script, Lum and Abner and Grandpa Spears (sic) hear that a child has been born to a destitute family whose house has burned down. They start east from Pine Ridge in an attempt to find the place, carrying food and blankets ... Suddenly, Abner remembers that the only place where a house has burned recently is the old Garrett farm. They go there and find that the child has been born in the barn.



**Chester Norris Garrett himself.**

The Christmas night Lum and Abner went on the air with that script for the third consecutive time, a midwife, Ola Hooper, was hurrying across the rough Arkansas country analogous to Pine Ridge, toward the farm of Roy Garrett. She had engaged in a race with the stork.

The farmers around Waters — stolid, sturdy people — had known Roy Garrett all his life. When his house burned down, they told one another that Roy had more than his rightful share of bad luck. When Ola Hooper got to the Garrett farm, she saw the charred ruins of what had once been a house. Then she heard Roy Garrett call from the barn, telling her to hurry. There was no time to lose. The bed was in a corner of the room. Ola Hooper ran to it — not any too soon.

A clock ticked — There came a low cry. The midwife looked up from her work at exactly 6:35 p.m. At that very moment, in a broadcasting studio miles away, Lum and Abner were telling their listeners the events in the Garrett barn.

Okay, okay... Let's cut this off here before some of you get ahead of us. You are no doubt familiar with the traditional L&A Christmas show, so you will realize that the name Garrett appears nowhere in it. No name at all is given to the out-of-town couple who are having to stay in a barn on "the old Gaddis place," and where the lady is to deliver a baby that Christmas night. So, the coincidences that were given were really not so coincidental at all, considering how the show REALLY went.

But hold the party line, it turns out there are even more things wrong with this story. For the December 1985 issue of *The Jot*



**The Garrett house in Pine Ridge, where Chester Norris Garrett was born on Christmas Day 1935.**



living in Shreveport, Louisiana, has now returned to the family property halfway between Pine Ridge and Cherry Hill, where he will celebrate his 70th birthday on Christmas Day 2005. Happy birthday to you, Chester Norris Chuck Garrett!

The fact that there was really no parallel at all between the Garrett story and the L&A script didn't deter the Hollywood publicity machine... or Dick & Ethel Huddleston, either, who both knew a thing or two about promotion themselves. They enlisted Mena photographer Oscar Plaster to shoot publicity photos of the newest citizen of Waters, even convincing Roy Garrett to pose by the barn with his new son who hadn't been born there.

And just to show how easily fact and fiction can become mixed in anyone's mind, before leaving this story we should mention that in June 1972, Norris Goff himself told an extremely convoluted version of it that managed to mix up the situation even further:

*We did this show, and it was really the story of the Nativity done in Pine Ridge... Well, at that time, when we*

*wanted a name, Chet's doing the typing, I'm walking back and forth talking. I'd open the telephone directory, I'd put my finger down, and that was the name we'd use right there. So we came to the name of the family and I put my finger down, and the name was Gaddis. We'd never known anyone in that part of the country by that name at all.*

*That year we had sent Dick Huddleston the money to put on a little Christmas party for the children of Pine Ridge at the school house. And we said buy the fruits and nuts and little presents and have a party for Lum and Abner in the schoolhouse. Well, there wasn't a radio in Pine Ridge, so Dick went to Mt. Ida and rented a radio to put it on down at the schoolhouse so they could listen to our program. Well, just as the program started, this party rushed in to get Dick Huddleston to get the doctor and a midwife, to take them out to this old barn. The family's house had burned down and they were living in the barn. And while we were on the air doing it, they were on their way out doing the same thing. These people had moved in since we'd left there, and their name was Gaddis. And they named the poor child Chester Norris. These things just don't happen, but it did happen.*

So, that was Tuffy's rendition of it, even though midwife Ola Hooper was the closest thing to a doctor they had at the time. He was correct in remembering that it somehow tied in with the Christmas party for which he and Chet had sent money, but he remembered it as occurring the same year they did their Christmas story for the first time. (Maybe that was the earlier Garrett baby he was thinking about... a daughter named Chester Norris? Naaahhh.)

In our next installment, we will be looking at the events of early 1936 that led up to the town of Waters receiving a monumental name change that spring... when Pine Ridge finally became a place on physical maps as well as the imaginary map of Radioland. Be with us on the steps of the state capitol when that event takes place!

- Tim Hollis

***To accommodate Dick & Ethel Huddleston's publicity machine, Roy Garrett posed with his new son by the family barn, which did not even figure into the true story.***

'Em Down Journal, Pine Ridge historian Kathy Stucker consulted Germa Garrett to get the REAL account of what happened that night — and it turns out there was not much of a parallel after all. About the only part of the story *RADIO GUIDE* got right was the name of the midwife, Ola Hooper, who was usually acknowledged as the physical model for Abner's fictitious wife Lizabeth. As it happened, the Garretts had had a child on Christmas day two years earlier — in fact, on the day L&A broadcast their Christmas story for the FIRST time, but no one had made a big deal out of it then.

To shatter the last possible remaining illusion, the Garrett house had not even burned down. Here is how Kathy described it in her 1985 article:

*The Christmas baby was born into the warmth of his family's arms; not in a barn, but in a house that may have been 100 years old at the time. He was to have been named "Howard Leland" after Germa's brother, and no one in the family gave a thought to the Christmas story being presented by Lum and Abner on the radio that Wednesday until Ethel Huddleston, the daughter of Dick Huddleston, dropped by a few days later to check on the mother and new baby.*

*One of Ethel's jobs was to keep in touch with Lum & Abner in their Chicago headquarters, and to talk to them when they visited home in Mena nearby. Ethel was especially persuasive that day, as she conveyed her excitement over the possibility of the Lum & Abner Christmas story coming to life. She soon convinced the new parents of the honor they would be bestowing upon Chester "Lum" Lauck and Norris "Abner" Goff by giving them such a meaningful thank-you for the fame they had given to the area.*

And what was that honor, you ask? Roy & Germa Garrett named their new son Chester Norris Garrett. Kathy reports that as a child, young Master Garrett could not master the name "Chester" or "Chet," and it always came out sounding like "Chuck," so that is how he has been known all these years since. Kathy reports that Chuck Garrett, after spending several years



# LUM and ABNER'S® "DEAD SEA SCROLLS"

## Part Three of a Series

Several issues ago, we explained that a previously-unknown collection of *Lum and Abner* scripts had turned up, and while the NLAS is unable to secure them for our own archives, one of our members was permitted access to them long enough to write a synopsis of each one. Our last installment ended at just about the time L&A's sustaining (non-sponsored) series from WBAP in Dallas/Fort Worth ended and they were once again "between engagements." Of course, this situation did not last long, because on Thanksgiving Day 1932 they began what would come to be a very successful run based out of WTAM in Cleveland, Ohio.

When the scripts resume on November 24, Thanksgiving Day, not all are present, but from then until the December 19, 1932, script, there are sometimes two scripts for each day. The scripts are labeled for a.m. or for p.m. They were broadcasting two distinct episodes per day for a time. After the December 19 script, there is one for December 21, and it and subsequent dates do not have two shows and are not labeled with a.m. and p.m.

November 24, 1932 (a.m.)

A stranger has been walking around on Lum's land across from their office as if he is measuring it. They seem to be at Lum's house, but can see both the office and the land from his house. Lum will be coming over to Abner's for Thanksgiving lunch, and Elizabeth has secretly invited Evalener. They thus immediately establish Lum as single, Abner as married, Abner talks about



*Lum & Abner made their debut over WTAM in Cleveland, Ohio, on Thanksgiving Day 1932.*

what a good worker his wife is now, and so on. Earlier in the year, there had been mention of widower Lum's adult daughter, but she and his first wife have apparently been forgotten by this point.

November 24, 1932 (p.m.)

Talk about how good the Thanksgiving lunch was. More about how Lum should get hitched with Evalener:

**LUM:** *Well hits like I was tellin you this mornin, she's allus teached school she wouldn't know nuthin bout lookin after stock and all them things. Her strenth wouldn't let er.*

**ABNER:** *Well she might be a little puney at first but hit wouldn't be long fore she could take her place in the field. Why when Lizzybeth and me was first spliced she couln't plow more'n a halfa day fore she'd hafta take out and go to the house. But now she can do more work than arry mule I ever seen, take er one day and another the year round.*

They wonder why the man is looking at Lum's land. Lum remembers an old tale about a lost Indian gold mine in the area.

They notice that the man had "sorter dark skin and right black hair." The man had asked Dick Huddleston who owned the land, as if he wanted to buy it. Lum immediately says it is not for sale.

November 28, 1932 (a.m.)

The stranger has purchased five acres of land from Dick Huddleston that is just beside Lum's property.

November 28, 1932 (p.m.)

Abner hasn't been in church for several weeks because he doesn't like the new circuit rider:



**LUM:** Yea, you're jist like a lot a othersns. Long as the pasture's preachin bout the meanness thats bein did in some ferign place like New York, you'll set ther and amen his remarks but agin he gits to talkin bout the meanness thats bein did right here in our communitiy hits a differnt story.

**ABNER:** Well I dont like to hear no services wher I feel like I got to hide behin a post. Nuther thing that feller's too kam bout his preachin. I like to see em pound the pulpit and prance backards and forards crosst the platform ther... Well I reckon I ort to be ashamed of myself fer sayin it, but hit jist looks like they's so many hypocrits in the church here of late I jist hate to attend.

**LUM:** Yea I guess ther is some hypocrits ther Abner but they're the same ones you play checkers with all week and you dont seem to have no objections to 'em. I dont see why you should minds to go to church with 'em.

Grandpap brings over a divining rod that they will use to hunt for the lost Indian gold mine.

November 30, 1932 (p.m.)

They are electing officers for their gold-mining business:

**LUM:** Now I've got some little pieces of paper here and some pencils sos we can all write down the name of whoever we want then drap em in this hat here —

**Abner:** If you see a X on one of em that stands fer my name you know I sign it with my mark.

**LUM:** Yea thats right. I fergot bout you caint write.

At first they each get one vote for president. Lum lectures Abner and Grandpap about their selfishness. Lum then gets all three votes.

December 1, 1932 (p.m.)

Dick Huddleston comes by to invite them to a "radio party" on Saturday night:

**LUM:** A radio party?

**DICK:** Yea you want to be ther by leven oclock.

**ABNER:** Satidy mornin'?

**DICK:** Naw Saturday night. I read in the paper wher Gene and Glenn are goin to put on a special Christmas program startin at leven oclock Satidy night.

**LUM:** Leven oclock? I dont know wher I can set up that late or not.

**ABNER:** Who'd you say it was going to put on the program Dick?

**DICK:** Gene & Glenn, you know you've heard Gene and Glenn and Jake and Lena. Dont you know down to my house one night a couple of weeks ago you heard em and thought they was so funny.

**LUM:** You ort to recollect them Abner.

**ABNER:** Yea, yea, I know now. Lenar is the one that sings so



Gene & Glenn were a popular WTAM fixture during the same period Lum & Abner were based out of Cleveland. This premium jigsaw puzzle dates from that era, and promotes their sponsor, Standard Oil of Ohio.

purty. Got sich a purty altory voice.

**LUM:** Whats their idys in startin the program in the middle of the night thataway.

**DICK:** Well I dont know. Paper says they're goin to run the program jist as long as the audience sends in requests.

**LUM:** Whats the thing fer anyway? What they call it a Christmas program fer?

**ABNER:** Yea, hit aint Christmas yit.

**DICK:** Well hits to raise money fer the poor children up ther in Cleveland.

December 2, 1932 (a.m.)

A newspaper reporter calls to talk to the head of the 14 Karet Gold Mining Company to run a story on it. While talking to him, Lum also brags that he and Evalener "is goin to git married agin this term of school is —"

December 5, 1932 (a.m.)

**ABNER:** Well now I tell you one way you could git out of it. Why dont you jist ast Evalener bout gittin married and if she'll do it why hit'll be alright fer that feller to go head and put it in the paper.

**LUM:** Oh that'd be the best way out of it. I done thought of that. Trouble of it is I jist caint git up a nuff narve to ast her.

Tries again to call and ask her but loses his nerve.

December 5, 1932 (p.m.)

The stranger is digging on Lum's land. Grandpap's divining rod acts up; they have found the location where they think the gold mine will be.

December 6, 1932 (a.m.)

Lum tells Evalener she can buy stock in the company:

**ABNER:** See ther, what'd I tell you? You done sold er some some stock now we'll have to deevide the company up four ways. I grannies keep on gittin peepuls in the company they wont be nuff gold fer nobody.

**LUM:** She aint goin to be no pardner. Wont have no intrust in the company, jis' have some stock in it.

**ABNER:** Well thats the same thing aint it?

**LUM:** Now that jist shows what you know bout bizness. The ossifers and pardners is the onlest ones that gits any money outa the bizness.

**ABNER:** You mean when we sell this gold, we wont have to deevide up with them that jist owns stock in the company?

**LUM:** I never heard of none of em gittin anything.

**ABNER:** Well what do they do with all the money they make in the company.

**LUM:** Why thats all took up by the ossifers and pardners and sich as that. You see they deevide it all up twixt em and then if they got any left over why they jist raise all of ems salaries. Them that jist owns stock dont never git none of it.

**ABNER:** Well cordin to that we ort to git busy round here and sell all we can. I bleave we can make more money thataway than we can with the gold.

**LUM:** No I dont think we ort to do that. Hit aint right. Why our concious would haint us ofa night. We couldn't even set here and look one another in the face. Nossir, I want to make money but I want to make it honest, sides we dont know how much to charge fer it.

Closing line:

**GRPAP:** We dug a gold nugget outa ther as big as two warsh tubs. I never seen anything like it in my life —

December 6, 1932 (p.m.)

Lum thinks they should sell some stock in order to raise money to send the 1200-pound nugget to Cleveland to have it analyzed.

December 7, 1932 (a.m.)

Lum envisions stockholder meetings:

**LUM:** Well we can set Grandpappy by her then. His hearin aint no good nohow. Course I'll set up at the head of the table, bein president and all, and over here on my right will set Evalener. I can see er now settin ther with her face painted up to wher she looks dead ripe and ever oncet in awhile turnin them big brown eyes up at me. I swan when she looks at me thataway I caint hardly ketch my breath —

Snake Hogan wants stock:

**LUM:** Yea he was pisen mad agin I told him we wouldn't sell him no stock. Said he was goin to come over here and fill this place full of pistol smoke.

They decide they should keep the nugget in a jail cell to keep it safe until sending it away. This time they say they will send it to Kansas City.

December 7, 1932 (p.m.)

They decide to sell stock in a 1/4 interest of the company:

**LUM:** Now the next thing is, gittin these stock certificates printed up.

**ABNER:** Next thing is doin what?

**LUM:** Why we got to have sompin to give em sos they'll know they're in the company. Thats what you call a certificate.

**ABNER:** I dont know as I ever seen one.

**LUM:** Well all companys has got em. Theyre right purty. I reckon they fix em up fancy thataway cause most of the time thats all the stock holders gits. What I sorter had in mine to have on ours is to have daisies or some sort of flowers drawn all round the aidge of em, and a big eagle sittin right up at the top with his wings spread out. That makes em look more official.

Phone rings and they convince Lum he should propose to Evalena right then:

**LUM:** Alright be quiet now. Here I go — Hello, Theys sompin I been wantin to ast you fer a long time and I couldn't git up



*The storyline of Lum mistakenly becoming engaged to Widder Abernathy would pop up in various forms throughout the rest of L&A's radio and movie careers.*



narve a nuff to pop the question. How about me and you gittin married?..... huh?..... wait a minit you dont sound like yersef. Who is this?..... Oh my goodness alive. Abner Peabodys if you aint fixed me now —

**ABNER:** Whats the matter Lum what'd Evalener say?

**LUM:** Evalener nuthin. That was the widdler Abernathy I was talkin to and she's done said she'd marry me. What am I goin to do —

December 8, 1932 (p.m.)

Lum is worried about how to get out of marrying Widder Abernathy, then Grandpap arrives with the newspaper from the county seat:

**ABNER:** Dad blame it somebody read that article to me.

**DICK:** (L) PROMINENT PINE RIDGE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE TO MARRY SCHOOL TEACHER. Lum Edwards, has announced that he is soon to wed Miss Evalena Schultz —

**LUM:** Dont read no more Dick (((((TELEPHONE)))))) I've heard all I can stand.

**DICK:** By george I'll say one thing for you Lum. You've been a bachelor fer a long time but when you did make up yer mind to step off you went at it in wholesale fashion.

December 9, 1932 (p.m.)

Dick says that he talked to the Widder Abernathy, explained what happened, and that she was okay with it. However, Dick told her to act really mad when Lum came to talk to her about it. She did, now Lum has disappeared.

**ABNER:** Wher? Wher'd they see him? Who seen him?

**GRPAP:** Well jist keep yer shirt on. Why I stopped back ther in the road and was talkin to the MackMillan boys jist now, and sir they had as fine a load of rich pine knots as I ever —

**DICK:** Well tell us Grandpap. Wher's Lum?

**ABNER:** Takes you a hour to tell anything.

**GRPAP:** Well I was jist fixin to. The MackMillan boys said they had been over ther on Eagle Mountain gatherin up them pine knots and they heard sompin bustin through the underbresh and looked up and seen it was Lum.

**ABNER:** Well I reckon he jist takend a notion to go off over

ther huntin.

**GRPAP:** Nossir thats the singular part about it, the boys said he never had no gun with him or dog or nuthin, jist walkin long with his head down on his chest talkin to hissef. They said they hollerd at him but he never paid em no mind, acted like he never even heard em.

**CLOSING:** Tonight's program completes the second week of the Lum and Abner broadcasts. You have perhaps become acquainted with these old characters of the hill country of the

south and we want to know what you think of them. We invite your comments and we know they will appreciate hearing from you. Just address them, Lum and Abner, in care of this station. This program comes to you at 10:15 a.m. and 6:15 p.m. each day except Saturday and Sunday. Lum and Abner will return to you at 10:15 Monday morning... This is the National Broadcasting Company. Station WTAM, Cleveland.



*At this point in the show's history, Lum & Abner were respectively a justice of the peace and a constable. In early 1933, they opened a general store as one of their many business ventures... but unfortunately, those scripts are not among the recently-discovered collection.*

December 12, 1932 (p.m.)

Snake buys a part of the gold mining company by force:

**ABNER:** Why'nd you tell him all the stock was sold.

**LUM:** Well jist wait a minit, thats what I told him and when I did, he pulled out a pistol and sheved it in my face and said maybe that'd hep me find some. And it did.

December 16, 1932 (a.m.)

They are trying to get money to reimburse the stockholders. The sheriff has given them until tomorrow to get it done, or he will arrest them for violating the blue sky laws.

Frank Foster, the fellow digging on the land he bought from Dick, is taking Evalener

to a party at Dick's house tomorrow night.

They are still waiting for news about the nugget sent to Kansas City to be analyzed. In the meantime Snake Hogan has been forcibly running things:

**ABNER:** Why he's jist so bossy. Abody caint do nuthin to please him. Over ther this mornin afussin at me bout the farr I built, and then on top of all that he made me walk plumb down to Dicks store in the snow jist to git him some smokin tobacker.

Grandpap finds the stock money. He thought he had buried it



but it was in an old sugar bowl where Charity had put it.

This seems to be the last a.m. show. The closing is included:

**CLOSING:** *Lum and Abner will return to you at 6:15 this evening. Beginning next Monday this program will come to you each day at 6:15 p.m. except Saturday and Sunday. This is the National Broadcasting Company, Station WTAM, Cleveland.*

December 19, 1932

Abner solves the Snake Hogan problem by telling Elizabeth what Snake has been doing. She goes to the office and runs him out.

Script labeled "Christmas?"

This probably means they were not sure whether NBC would include them on the special Christmas program. In this script, Lum comes to Abner's house for Christmas. They and Dick have even sent toys to each other for fun. They realize Widder Abernathy's kids and others may not have any toys. They decide to collect some toys and take them to others. Then they decide they'll make an announcement on the party line, and get everyone to come to the phone by using Doc Cook's ring. They ring, and the script closes with both saying simultaneously: "LUM AND ABNER WISH YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.... (click)"

December 27, 1932

**LUM:** *Well quick as I heard that that feller crosst yonder was puttin ina fillin station and wern't no Indian, I knowed right then that wasn't no gold mine we had over ther.*

But for some reason Snake Hogan wants to buy Lum's mining land for a thousand dollars and they agree.

December 28, 1932

They sell the land, then get the report, which Snake had intercepted, that the nugget contains copper in paying quantities.

December 29, 1932

Talking about arresting Snake for fraud:

**ABNER:** *No I done tried throwin a gun on him oncet. I dont want to loose narry nuthern. Thats mine he's a carryin now. I've done give up tryin to errest him. The last time I tried to put him in jail I went over ther to his place and his woman said he was down in the field diggin pertaters and I went down ther after him and blamed if he never put me to work heppin him dig them per-taters. Worked me all day long. Then run me often his place when night come. Said I was trespassin.*

Lum gets a letter from Flossie Phillips of Oklahoma who saw his picture in the paper regarding the gold mine. Wants a better picture and so on; fell in love at first sight. Lum plans to make Evalener jealous.

December 30, 1932

Lum and Abner remember that the sample rock was one they had hauled long ago to fill a hole in Lum's field. Snake does not have a copper mine after all.



**Frank Foster opened his filling station on the show in December 1932, and it remained a part of the show from then on.**

January 3, 1933

Regarding Grandpap:

**ABNER:** *Well I dont know. You caint tell bout a feller like Grandpap. He's lible to be here to hep put all of us away. Fer the last fifteen year they've been shakin their heads over him and sayin he's livin on borreyed time and caint be with us long but yonder he is, dried up but jist as piert as ever.*

January 13, 1933

Elizabeth heard Abner flirting with Flossie over the party line while he was delivering a message for Lum. Abner had to sleep in the barn.

**LUM:** *Well you ort not to let a woman run over you thataway. A man ort to be head of his household.. I've allus said that.*

**ABNER:** *Yea and you'll say that long as you aint married. I said it a thousand times when I was a single feller like you, and I made the mistake of sayin it oncet since I been married. Lizzybeth happend to hear me and I aint said that no more.*

For no apparent reason, as the program continued on its merry way, the next script is for May 22, 1933, and it is with that one that we will pick up next time. Join us then!

# Lum & Abner® In The News

## REPRINTS OF PAST LUM & ABNER ARTICLES

*We do not know exactly when or where the article below was first published, but due to its reference to the annual banquet of the Polk County Possum Club, an educated guess would be that it appeared around December 1935. Some of its facts are questionable, namely the claim that Lauck & Goff first performed their rural characters at the 1931 Possum Club banquet, which would have taken place eight months after their radio debut. The article also provides ample evidence of Dick Huddleston's tireless promotion of Waters/Pine Ridge as a tourist draw, even to the point of claiming that the residents bore the same names as the characters on the radio show.*

## Mena Banquet Recalls Rise of Lum, Abner

by C. F. Bryant, Jr.

MENA - The Horatio Alger rise to fame of Chester Lauck and Norris Goff — Lum and Abner to you — was recalled to local residents last week as the annual banquet of the Arkansas Possum Club was held here. For it was just four years ago that the now famous radio team of Lum and Abner was started — by accident. And the 1931 banquet of the Possum Club was the starting place.

An elaborate entertainment program planned for the banquet that year, failed to materialize at the last moment. The invited entertainers could not be found. Officials taxed their minds to think of something to serve as a filler in the program.

Finally, the suggestion was made that Lauck and Goff, two of Mena's talented young men, be asked to lend a helping hand. They did. And to put their act over, they put on an imitation of residents living at a community near Mena.

Tremendous applause greeted their performance and an official of Station KTHS, in the audience, recognized the possibili-

ties of such an act and immediately asked the young men to come to Hot Springs for radio auditions. For their radio act, they adopted the names of Lum and Abner and the rest of their story is history.

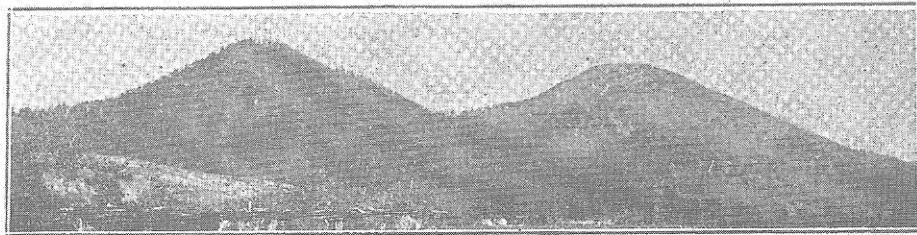
Their act soon won widespread notice and a contract with the National Broadcasting System followed. Now, they are heard nightly over this network on a sponsored feature and the names of Lum and Abner bring words of praise at almost every mention.

Pine Ridge was the name given their "adopted home" by Lauck and Goff in their radio act. The town really is known as Waters, and is located about halfway between Mena and Mount Ida.

Lauck was brought to Waters often by his father, a lumber dealer here. Goff was employed in the wholesale grocery store of his father at Mena and became acquainted with Pine Ridge personalities. The boys in this way grew familiar with the commu-

# POLK COUNTY 'POSSUM CLUB

ORGANIZED 1913



MENA, ARKANSAS

HOME OF LUM AND ABNER

nity and its inhabitants and used this knowledge very beneficially in reparation and delivery of their roles in the broadcasts which are proving ever the more popular.

Dick Huddleston, general store manager at Waters, with whose name all Lum and Abner fans are familiar, in his own language used to describe Pine Ridge and its activities to this writer, can best tell readers of that. His discussion follows:

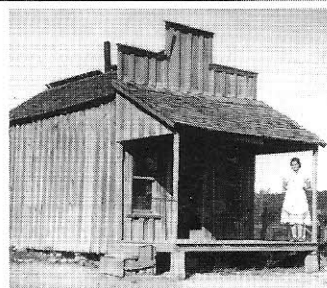
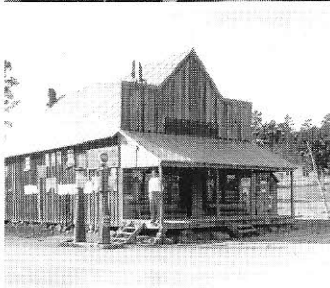
"Hundreds of you folks have the idea that Pine Ridge, as it is portrayed by Lum and Abner, is just an imaginary place anywhere that you wish to put it.

"That is just where you are wrong. The actual Pine Ridge used by the comedians is a little community of 100 people on the Ouachita River in mountainous western Arkansas. It is 20 miles east of Mena, Ark. and 20 miles west of Mount Ida, Ark., on state highway 88 and its citizens get their mail at the post office of Waters, Ark.

"We people out here are the same ones you hear act for you through the persons of Lum and Abner up there in Chicago over the network of the National Broadcasting Company. We aren't the ones that do the broadcasting, mind you, but our names are used and people who know us say the characters and even the voices are exactly like us.

"There are always a lot of tourists coming here too, lots of them out of their way, just to see the town and visit my store. And just as Lum and Abner say, me and my woman get a great kick out of their visits and the questions they ask.

"Lum and Abner talk about our party line. We call it the community line. We have no central office, but each family has its own ring. Those boys are right when they act up to make you folks think the party line plays a big part in our life here. It does. In fact, me and my woman couldn't get along without it and just about everybody else feels the same way about it. Yeah, it wakes us up sometimes at night when somebody is calling somebody else, but we don't mind that so much. We usually get about 10 hours sleep anyhow. It sure teaches us not to tell any secrets over that line. It is good to make announcements to everybody,



**At top above are Lum and Abner, members of the increasingly popular radio team, as they appear in life. At their home town, Mena, Ark., they are called Chester Lauck and Norris Goff. Below, at left, is Dick Huddleston's store at Pine Ridge, Ark., a business given wide publicity through the program of Lum and Abner. At right, below, is the post office and "law office" of Lum and Abner. This community, halfway between Mena and Mount Ida, has gained wide fame through the program of these two Arkansas boys.**

though.

"All us folks that Lum and Abner talk about live here in Pine Ridge except Squire Skimp and Cedric Weehunt. Lum and Abner's law office is located in our little post office building.

"I guess you want to know some things about Pine Ridge. If you listen to Lum and Abner real good, you can let your imagination just about work out the idea correctly. Since we are 20 miles from any good-sized town and are in the mountains, we are pretty much out in the backwoods, I guess.

"Pine Ridge has one grocery store and filling station combined, one grocery store and cream station, one grist mill and blacksmith shop, one post office, and one general store which is mine. Our buildings aren't so much for style but they're just about as good as any other country stores, I guess.

"They are all built out of wood planks standing vertically. All except my store have shingle roofs, but the top of my store is sheet iron and the top of the porch in front is just plain boards. The 'jot 'em down' store has a house built in connection.

"Us people here enjoy Lum and Abner programs very much and

feel honored with such a famous radio team as Lum and Abner is. We usually have a big crowd every evening to listen to Lum and Abner. When one of us pulls a joke on the other in the programs, we always kid each other about it. There's no telling what those two fellows are going to say over the radio, so that just makes it lots of fun for all of us. Last winter when everybody was getting those chain letters and Lum and Abner started one of their own for trading hogs and corn, we just had everybody here owing everybody else until it was pitiful. We had a big time then kidding everybody and asking them when they was going to pay us their debts.

"I guess we have the advantage of you folks. I believe some poet wrote something like this — 'if we could only see ourselves as others see us.' Well, you know we have that chance. It makes us feel mighty bad sometimes but we have to take it."



# A "Comical" New Year's Eve

One of the isolated scripts in our NLAS archives is the one for New Year's Eve 1935, which to date has not been discovered in recorded form. We thought we would present it for you here, as L&A wished their listeners a happy New Year 70 years ago. Besides dealing with the new year and the storyline of their show, it also has some amusing dialogue in which L&A try to figure out some of the most popular newspaper comic strips of that era.

---

## Lum and Abner Tuesday, December 31, 1935

**OPENING:** At a meeting of the city council last Friday night it was decided to appropriate seventy-five thousand dollars for improvements in the city of Pine Ridge. The old fellows are now confronted with the problem of how that amount of money can be raised... Lum as city treasurer has worked out a plan of taxation which he is recommending as a solution.. As we look in on the Jot Em Down Store today, we find Lum and Abner discussing the plan with their old friend Dick Huddleston..... **LISTEN:**

**DICK:** No Lum that wont work. You've got those taxes too high. The people here in Pine Ridge cant afford to pay sixty dollars a month taxes.

**LUM:** Oh yes they can... I figger the average wages here in Pine Ridge is sixty dollars a month.

**DICK:** Yea but they cant pay out every thing they make for

taxes.. They've got to have sompin to live on.

**LUM:** I grannies thats right aint it.. We hadn't thought about that Abner.

**ABNER:** Huh?

**LUM:** Put that funny paper down and listen.. You're the mayor, you ort to be figgerin this thing out yerself.

**ABNER:** Go ahead I'm listenin.. I feel jist like you do about it.. I'll vote fer it.

**LUM:** Vote fer what?

**ABNER:** Why uh... That propysition you jist now talked about.

**LUM:** Fer goodness sakes. We jist found out here we've got the taxes so high fokes wont have nuthin left to live on.

**ABNER:** Uh huh.

**DICK:** I dont think we dare make the taxes over ten percent of their income.. and I doubt if they'll stand for that.

**LUM:** Well I dont see how we're goin to raise seventy five thousand dollars when we're jist gittin ten percent of what they make. That'd be jist six dollars a month a piece on the average.

**DICK:** Well thats a unheard of tax.. Only way we could ever get em to agree to that would be to call a mass meeting of the town and explain to them that we'll have to make the taxes heavy the first year to get started off.

**LUM:** Well how does these other citys raise enough money to build these paved streets and city halls and stuff like that?

**DICK:** Well they've got a larger population to draw from... I told you fellows the other night over ther at the council meeting that we were making the appropriations too high... We can use

seventy five thousand dollars alright, but if we cant afford it we cant afford it. The trouble the other night, the aldermen just tried to bite off more than they could chew.

**LUM:** Well maybe we did.

**ABNER:** Huh?

**LUM:** Huh?

**ABNER:** Yea huh who was it bit off more than they could chew.

**DICK:** The board of aldermen the other night at the council meeting.

**LUM:** He dont know nuthin about that meetin Dick... He was sound asleep.

**ABNER:** Did they have sompin to eat over ther and you fellers let me sleep through it.

**LUM:** Sompin to eat?

**ABNER:** Yea sanderiches over ther at the council



*Abner wasn't the only one who enjoyed reading the "funny papers;" here we see Chet Lauck sharing the Sunday comics with wife Harriet and daughters Shirley & Nancy, circa 1938.*

meetin.

**LUM:** Why course not.

**ABNER:** Well what was they bitin on then.

**LUM:** What was who bitin on.

**ABNER:** The councilmen... Dick said they was bitin off more'n they could chew. Sounds bout like Grandpappy Spears.. He's a glootin if ever I seen one.

**LUM:** Oh fer goodness sakes he was talkin about the seventy five thousand dollars we properated.

**ABNER:** They was eatin the money?

**LUM:** COURSE NOT. Course not—

**ABNER:** Why I wouldn't put that stuff in my mouth fer love nor money.. er love anyway.

**LUM:** I wisht you'd go ahead and read the funny paper and quit inruptin us.

**ABNER:** Well you jist now told me to stop readin it.

**LUM:** Well I thought cause you was the mayor you ort to be payin some tention to what we're talkin about but I bleave we get along better when you're readin the funny paper.

**ABNER:** Well good.

**LUM:** Now what was it Dick?

**DICK:** (L) I dont know now Lum what we were talkin about.

**LUM:** Why you jist said you was afeard the council bit off more'n they could chew.

**ABNER:** Huh?

**LUM:** Nuthin.. nobody aint said nuthin to you.

**DICK:** Oh well I just think we'll have to reduce that appropriation to about twenty five thousand dollars. A lot of those improvements can wait. No use trying to do it all this first year.

**LUM:** Well trouble is, though Dick.. Ten thousand dollars of that was sposed to go to Squire Skimp for the streets.. That dont leave but fifteen thousand dollars to make all them improvements we had studded up.

**DICK:** Well we'll just have to cut Squire's appropriation down with all the rest of em.

**ABNER:** Fooley FOOEY on you from me.

**LUM:** What? Whats that?

**ABNER:** I was jist readin what Wimpy says here. See he's tryin to git this feller to sell him a hamburger on a credick and—

**LUM:** I dont care nuthin about Wimpy.. We've got troubles of our own thout lettin him bother us.

**ABNER:** Well he aint goin to bother you..

He's jist in the funny paper here.. He aint shore nuff.

**LUM:** I wisht you'd go back in the feed room and leave us alone.

**ABNER:** Oh, dont wont me around huh?.. Wantin to make all these plans without the mayor knowin anything about it.

**LUM:** Nobody said nuthin about makin any plans thout you knowin about it—

**ABNER:** Tryin to make me git up and leave the meetin..

**LUM:** We dont keer fer you settin here... Jist quit inruptin us.

**ABNER:** The good people of this town lected me to the office of mayor and I aim to see that they git a fair and square deal.

**LUM:** Well you're lookin after ther intrust I'll say that fer you.

**ABNER:** Yessir.. I'll say that fer me too.

**LUM:** We've had two council meetins and you've slept through both of em.

**DICK:** Well Lum I expect I'd better get on back to the store... There's not much we can do about this until the next council meeting anyway... Maybe some of the others'll have an idea of how we can raise this money..

**LUM:** Well I'll keep figgerin on it, turnin it over in my head, backards and forards.. Have some kind of a reeport to turn in at the next meetin.

**DICK:** YEA THATS THE THING TO DO.

**LUM:** Well GLAD YOU COME OVER DICK.

**DICK:** YEA IF I DONT SEE YOU HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

**LUM:** YEA THANK YOU SAME TO YOU DICK. Well that means I've got the whole thing to do over again... I grannies I dont know hardly wher to start out at.

**ABNER:** I'll swan to goodness (L) (L)

**LUM:** Well hit aint no laughin matter I'll tell you that—

**ABNER:** Looky here Dick. I'll swan this Snuffy Smith aint the backwoodsyst feller I ever seen in my— Hey Dick wher air you.

**LUM:** Dick's been gone for a hour.

**ABNER:** Well, fer the land sakes.... I musta drapped off to sleep again... I woulda swore in court I'd been settin right here readin the funny paper all the time.

**LUM:** Wherbouts did you git that funny paper anyway.

**ABNER:** Why the widder Abernathy brung a pair of shoes back this mornin to swop sizes. They was wropped up in this.. One I hadn't saw too.



*This panel comes from the Sunday comics of December 29, 1935... obviously the paper Abner would have been reading in this script!*



*The "Barney Google & Snuffy Smith" strip from Christmas Day 1935.*

**LUM:** Well I hate to bother you Abner but I wisht you'd put the thing down fer awhile sos I can talk to you bout these taxes.

**ABNER:** Well I'm jist about done here..... Some of these is hard to read.. They spell so funny.. They've got words you never see no whers else... Like here.. What does W H A M spell.

**LUM:** W H A M?

**ABNER:** Yea see she hits him up side of the face ther and he says W H A M what ever that is.

**LUM:** Lets see... Oh. He dont say that.. Wham is what that is.

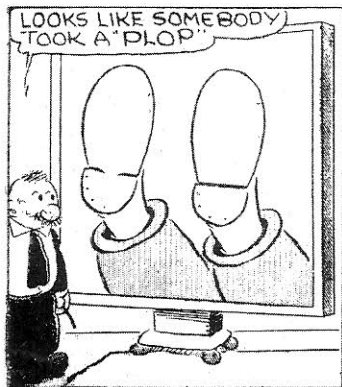
**ABNER:** Well what does it mean?

**LUM:** Why it means.. uh.. Wham.... Hit dont mean nuthin.

**ABNER:** Well what'd they put it in ther fer?

**LUM:** Jist shows she whopped him one. Wham. Thats the noise yer hand makes whenever you hit somebody..

**ABNER:** Oh.. (slap hands and say Wham)



**LUM:** What are you doin'?

**ABNER:** Nuthin I was jist uh.. nuthin.. I bleave I'm ketchin on to it now.. Here's another, next pitcher here shows him fallin down and he says P L O P.

**LUM:** Says what?

**ABNER:** P L O P is the way they've got it spelled but I never heard nobody say nuthin like that whenever they fell down.

**LUM:** P.L— Plop is what that is.. See she knocked him

down.. Them words comes out from under him ther wher he hit the floor. See em bouncin out from under him ther.

**ABNER:** Well who says it?



**LUM:** Nobody.. hits jist uh... Whats she hittin him ther fer?

**ABNER:** Well see he told her he was goin to be right back and he got down ther— wher is it— yea.. See he got to playin cards and never come home till way late in the mornin and she was setin up waitin fer him (L)

**LUM:** Well I can read it git yer thumb outa the way.. Here let me have it.

**ABNER:** Well now dont get started on that Lum we've got to figger that out about them taxes.

**LUM:** Yea I know.. Jist a minit (L) I swan this is the reediculest thing I ever seen.. Looky ther slipped his shoes off thought he could slip in thout her (L) hearin him... (L) She nailed him though looky ther..

**ABNER:** Yea (L)

**LUM:** He's been celebratin New Years (L)... Wait a minit.. I grannies I'd fergot all about that... You know what tomorrow is?

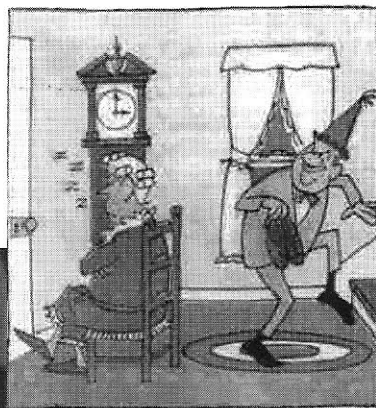
**ABNER:** No why?

**LUM:** Hits new years... I'd plumb let it slip my mind...

**ABNER:** Well I knowed it come right in here sommers.. I'd fergot the exact date but I knowed it allus follered in purty closet to Christmas—

**LUM:** Wait a minit I've got a idy... I'VE GOT A IDY. (L) (((TELEPHONE)))

**ABNER:** What you fixin to do?... Wha you ringin the fire alarm ring fer?



**LUM:** I'm tryin to git evebody to listen in on the party line fer a minit... (L)

**ABNER:** Well what in the world are you up to.

**LUM:** Come here a minit.. I caint tell you now they're listenin in... (whisper) But I thought I'd git em all on the party line (whisper)...

**ABNER:** Oh (L) Yea shore.. (L)

**LUM:** They're all listenin now... HOWDY EVERBODY, THIS IS LUM

EDARDS AND ABNER PEABODY DOWN AT THE JOT EM DOWN STORE IN PINE RIDGE AND WE JIST WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FER BEIN SO NICE TO US THIS PAST YEAR AND TO WISH EACH AND EVER ONE OF YOU A... HAPPY NEW YEAR.

**CLOSING:** And in behalf of Horlick's Malted Milk Corporation, may I add my sincere wishes to that of our old friends Lum and Abner, for a happy and prosperous 1936.

**AND A HAPPY 2006 FROM THE NLAS OSSIFERS!**