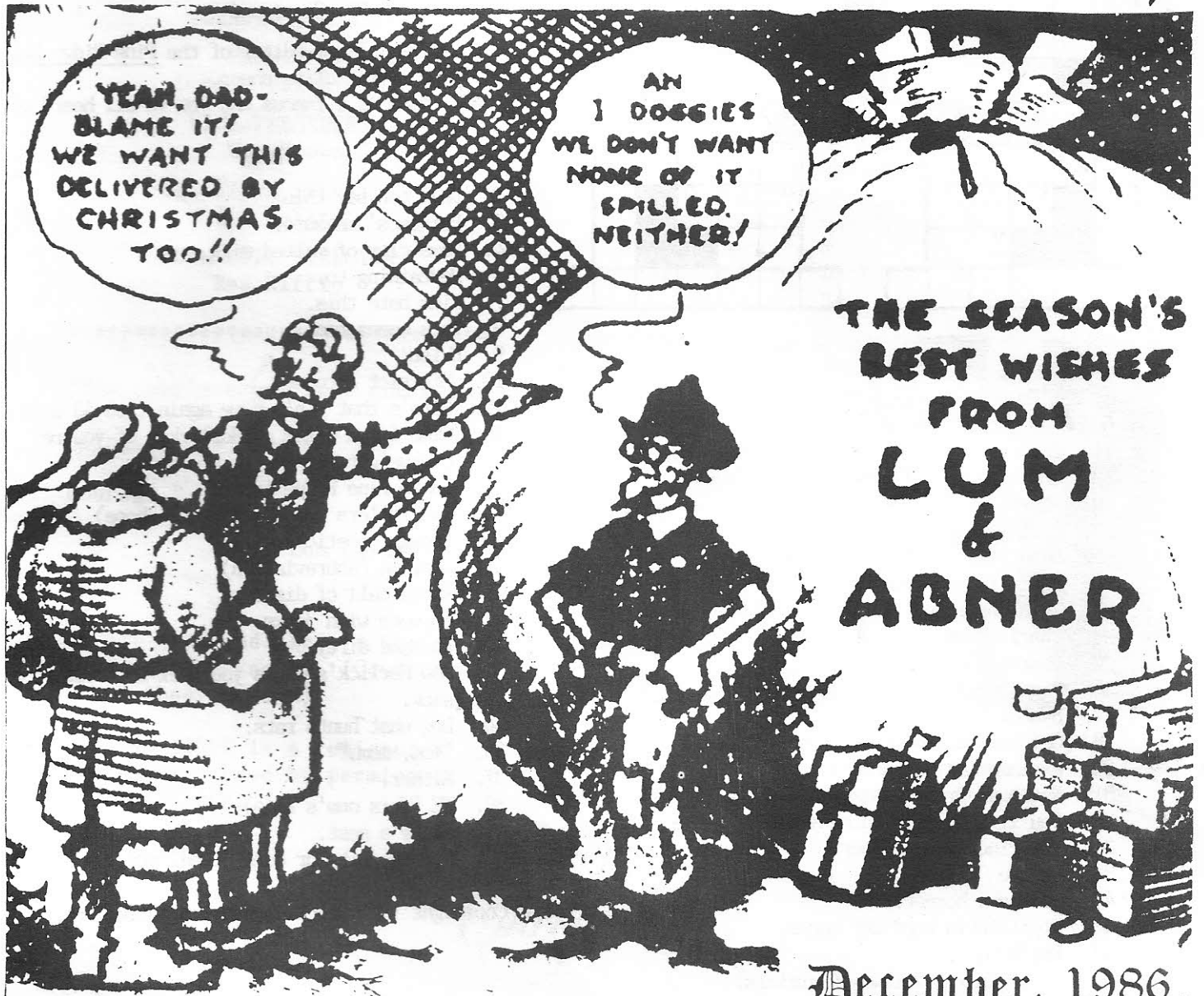


The JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

Official Publication of the National Lum and Abner Society

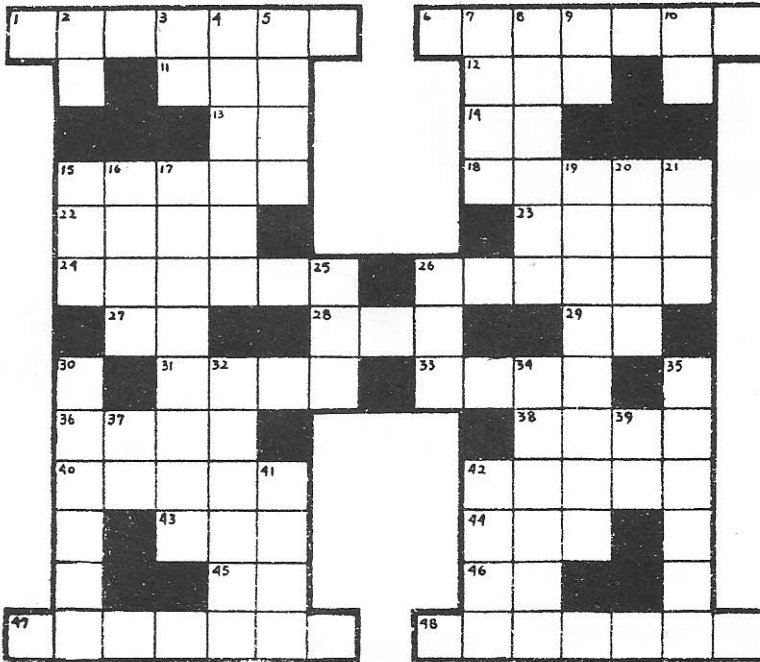


December, 1986

LUM and ABNER'S

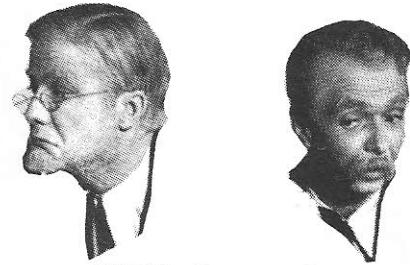
Cross Words Puzzle

(Originally published in The Pine Ridge News)



ACROSS

1. Jot 'Em Down Store is this type of store.
6. Goes around saying "Huh."
11. Horlick's makes a new one of you
12. Christmas Carol Expert (initials)
13. Short for Calcium.
14. Preposition
15. Slow as a " "?"
18. Abner thinks these shoes are animals.
22. This one means ripped.
23. Charity Spears is one.
24. Cedric's one of these.
26. Big game fish.
27. Symbol for Sodium.
28. Get this & you've still got nothing.
29. Exclamation of annoyance.
31. National Broadcasting Co. (plural)
33. You'll find this on many a wire fence.
36. The Pine Ridge barber.
38. Before
40. Mad as a hornet.
42. Highfalutin word for horse.
43. Pig's home.
44. Inter Travel Railway (initials)
45. Squire says this.



ACROSS, Continued

46. Initials of editor of the Pine Ridge News
47. Man what clips sheep.
48. Name of a famous man you've all heard of.

DOWN

2. Deaf men say this.
3. Printers' measure.
4. Home city of malted milk.
5. Pertaining to.
7. Kids hate this.
8. This means real.
9. Exist.
10. District Attorney
15. Here's that pig's home again (see 43 across)
16. Time for a glass of Horlick's if you're overweight.
17. Where Pine Ridge is.
19. Two fellers you all like (we hope).
20. Enough (poetic)
21. Station (abbreviation)
25. Radio call of distress
26. To weep with jerks.
30. To make dirty.
32. How Horlick's makes you feel when you're sick.
34. Dog what hunts rats.
35. "Yes, mom."
37. Either.
39. TE (This one's free)
41. Eagle's nest.
42. Storage pit for corn, feed, etc.

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

December, 1986

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THE NATIONAL LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY

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PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Rex Riffle

"Now thar's a new year comin'...
 bringin' new hope an' new
 courage."

- Lum Edwards,
 1933

COVER: Lum and Abner's Christmas
 card, date unknown. (Courtesy of
 Lum & Abner Museum)

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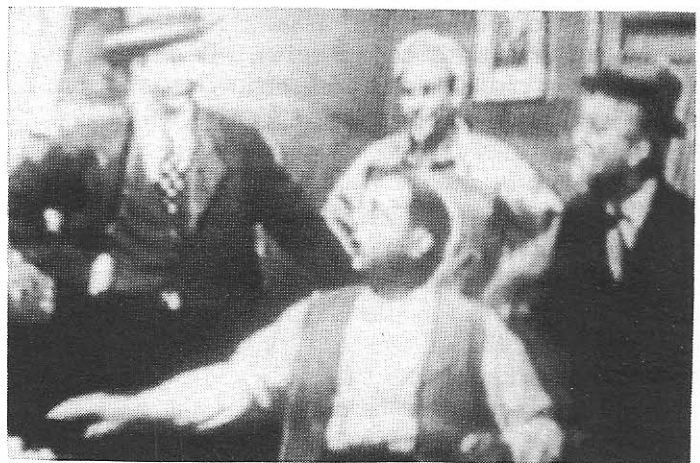
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ABOVE: Chet Lauck, Andy Devine, Opie
 Cates, and Norris Goff in the 1949
 LUM AND ABNER television pilot.

*Merry
 Christmas*



In one of the numerous valleys of the Ouachita Mountains, the little community of Pine Ridge was a picture of complete peace and contentment. It was a clear, still evening that Christmastide night, and the entire countryside lay wrapped in a clean, white blanket of snow, which had fallen rather heavily all day long. Here & there along the deserted streets could be seen an occasional home where the lights of a Christmas tree in the front window still twinkled in the dark of the night. And on the outskirts, three old fellows were trudging along through the snow, on the road that led from Pine Ridge out into the countryside. It was Lum, Abner, and Grandpappy Spears, and from their conversation, it seemed that they were on a real Christmas mission.

It was Abner who broke the silence with a question that had been forming in his mind for the last fifteen minutes or so.

"Yer shore we're headed right, now, air ye, Grandpap?" he finally blurted out.

"Huh? Oh...oh, yeah," Grandpap replied, his mind being on something else. "I know this is the way, Abner...Doc Miller rode his horse over here; ye kin see his tracks thar in the snow."

"Well, hit must be the ole Gaddis place, then," Lum put in. It was the first time he had spoken for some distance, also.

"Yeah, that's jest about whar hit's at, alright," Abner agreed. Then the thought struck him: "But thar ain't nothin' but the barn left over thar, though... that house burnt down two or three year ago."

"Well, Doc said hit wuz due east from that road whar we turned off," Grandpap insisted.

"Due east?" repeated Lum, as if that term jostled something in his memory. But Abner continued thinking about their current predicament.

"Which way IS east?!" he demanded. "I ain't paid no attention ta the DI-rections."

"Wait a minute...whereabouts is the East Star?" Lum asked.

"Thar hit is, right ahead of us," Grandpap pointed out. Sure enough, the star was directly in front of the trio, and somehow it had never seemed to shine so brightly. The sight seemed to reassure the three elderly gents. "We're goin' right, men; don't worry 'bout that," Grandpap said cheerfully.

"Yeah, we kin jest foller the East Star," Lum decided.

"Yep..." Abner agreed, "that ort ta lead us to it, all right."

The group trudged along in silence for another small distance, each absorbed in his own thoughts. Then it was Lum who decided to interrupt the quiet, which in that part of the countryside was broken only by the crunching of their footsteps in the snow.

"How'd ye find out about these folks, Grandpap?" he asked in a conversational manner.

"Well, Doc Miller 'n' his womern et dinner over at our place," Grandpap began. "We wuz settin' thar visitin' after we'd done eatin', an' the phone rung an' tole Doc ta git right over here."

For once, Abner didn't misunderstand, even though he DID ask, "Well? Who done the callin'?"

"Oh, some feller named Joe sumpin'-or-another... I fergit jest what he did call his name...he'd went over ta some neighbor's house ta call." Grandpap tried to remember just what the man HAD said. "He said they'd been into the county seat ta pay their taxes, an' thar waren't no room at the hotel, so they jest come on out ta this ole barn ta spend the night."

"Well, this ain't fittin' weather ta have ta be stayin' out in a barn," remarked Abner, hunching his shoulders against the frigid air.

Abner's observation seemed to remind Lum of something else. "They said they was sorta expectin' the



baby ta be borned tonight, huh?" he asked Grandpap.

"Yeah, that's the reason they called Doc Miller," explained Grandpap.

There was another pause while the three made their way through a particularly deep snowdrift. Finally, Lum, who was carrying the lantern, noticed Abner grimacing as he struggled with his armload of blankets.

"What's the matter, Abner?" Lum inquired, although he thought he knew.

"I doggies, my arms is gettin' tired here, fellers," groaned Abner.

"Well here, let me carry those blankets for a while, an' you kin carry this oil heater," Lum offered charitably. Abner, on making the swap, noticed that the heater was at least as heavy as the blankets had been, if not more so. "Is that box of groceries gettin' too heavy fer ya, Grandpap?" Lum asked their older companion.

"No, I'm all right," Grandpap replied quickly, probably envisioning another trade of cargo in Lum's mind. "Ort ta be thar directly, ennyhow," he muttered.

Abner decided to change the subject. "This snow shore tires a body out walkin' through it," he said, pointing out the obvious.

"Well, maybe we're walkin' a little too fast fer you, Abner," Lum said with a slight grin. "Here, you take the lantern, too." Before Abner could protest, Lum had shoved the lantern into his hand.

"Oh..." sighed Abner. The thought flashed through his mind of all the times Lum's grand schemes had somehow ended up with himself doing most of the hard work. But remembering that this was Christmas, he made no comment.

"Yessir, hit was shore nice of you fellers ta come over here at night thissaway," Grandpap was saying. "I sorta hated ta cause ye ta git out on Christmas thissaway, but after Doc left, why, me an' the womarn got ta talkin' 'bout how pitiful hit wuz that that couple wuz havin' ta stay out in this barn with nothin' ta eat an' all..."

"Well, I'm jest glad ye called me, Grandpap," Abner assured his checker-playing rival. "Jest proud of a chance ta help 'em."

"Yeah, this makes it seem more like Christmas ta me," Lum put in, "doin' fer somebody else. Ye know, ye jest can't do things ta make others happy without makin' yerself happy at the same time." Seeing that the others were agreeing with him, Lum went on, "Trouble with a lot of us, we sorta lose the Christmas idee altogether...think too much about ourselves. The real Christmas spirit is the happiness we git outa makin' others happy."

"Why, shore," Abner said. "Thar we wuz now," he continued, sounding a bit more sarcastic than he really intended, "settin' thar at home...THOUGHT we wuz enjoyin' ourselves; an' these folks out here spendin' Christmas in a ole barn thissaway. Naw," he decided, "Thar jest wouldn'ta been no Christmas to if if ye hadn't called us up, Grandpap."

"Yeah, well, I knowed I could DE-pend on you fellers," Grandpap chuckled. "Now, if hit's the ole Gaddis place, we orta be able ta see it from the top o' this hill, here."

The little group had reached the top of a small rise by now, and from its top they could see a large portion of the surrounding countryside, which lay illuminated by the full moon.

"Wait a minute; I b'lieve that's the barn yonder, ain't it?" said Lum, pointing straight ahead to a shape down in the valley below.

"Yep...yep, that's whar they're at, all right," Grandpap agreed.

"Well, that's due east from whar we wuz at, all right," observed Abner, "fer thar's the East Star right over the top o' the barn, thar." The star, which seemed brighter than ever, did indeed appear to be hanging directly above the weathered old building.

"Yep; thar's Doc's horse tied to the fence, thar," Lum pointed out. "An' ye kin see the light shinin' through the cracks in the walls. Yep, this is the place."



As the three started down the hill toward the barn, Abner had a thought. "Hit's jest a shame these folks never let none o' us know they needed a place ta stay ... we got plenty o' room over thar at the place, and we'd a been jest plumb glad ta have 'em."

This reminded Grandpap of something he had forgotten before. "Well, this man that called Doc said they wuz lookin' fer a place ta stay, an' seen this ole barn warn't bein' used, so they jest put up thar fer the night."

"Well..." replied Abner, deep in thought. "Er, wharabouts do they live, Grandpap? Did he say?"

"Yeah, said they're from over around Pleasant Valley somewheres," Grandpap said. "He tole Doc he never had no cash money...said it taken ever nickel he had ta pay his taxes...but he said if Doc'd make the call, he'd work it out ez quick ez he could."

Lum chuckled to himself. "Well, ole Doc never RE-fused a call in his life, I don't reckon."

"Naw," Abner said, "I've knowed him ta git up in the dead of night, in the wurst kinda weather, ta go call on the sick when he knowed afore he went that he wouldn't never git no pay fer hit."

"Yeah, I don't know what we'd do without ole Doc in this communitiy," Lum remarked. "Whilst they's some that sez his methods is a little old-fashioned, I grannies, I'll take my chances with him ever time."

"Yep, he's pulled me through the shadders time an' again," Grandpap added.

"Yeah, I've allus said that Doc never practiced medicine fer what money he got out of it ez much ez he does fer the good he kin be ta hiz feller man."

"Nossir, if thar ever wuz a man who's got a pre-sarved seat in the better world, hit's ole Doc Miller," was Lum's final comment on the matter.

By that time, Lum, Abner, and Grandpap had reached the ruins of what was once the Gaddis farm. The charred remains of the house stood out from the white snow like something out of another place and time, and the old ramshackle barn was the only evidence that a family had ever made its living there. The three old men approached the barn cautiously.

"We better not be talkin' too loud here, fellers," warned Grandpap. "We don't wanna disturb 'em none."

"But we gotta let Doc know we're here some way or another," Lum pondered. "I reckon hit won't hurt nothin' ta rap on the door, sorta gentle."

"Naw, go ahead, Lum...they'll be needin' this oil stove in thar," Abner said.

Ever so softly, Lum rapped on the barn door. Listening, the three held their breath, waiting for some response.

"I don't hear a sound in thar," observed Lum.

"Well, I don't b'lieve ye knocked quite loud enough," Abner said critically. "Maybe they never heard ye."

"Wait a minute," interrupted Lum. "I hear somebody comin' ta the door."

There was the sound of a bolt being lifted, and then the massive old door slowly swung open with a harsh creak. There, framed in the light from the inside, stood a dried-up little old man wearing a black suit & spectacles perched on the end of his nose.

"Well, howdy, Doc," Lum grinned.

"Oh...hello, there," the old physician responded, staring at them over the top of his glasses. "Well, what are you three old codgers doing out here this time of the night?"



Grandpap began to explain, "Well, we jest got ta thinkin' after ye left, Doc, these folks might be needin' sumpin'."

"Yeah, Doc," Abner broke in, "we brung a oil stove an' some bed kivers..."

"An' here's a box o' groceries," Lum finished up.

Doc examined the gifts closely. "Well now, they're sure needin' 'em," he said at last. "They haven't got any heat of any kind in there. Takin' what little hay was left, I piled it up in the manger and made a pretty good bed, but now these blankets will come in awful handy."

Lum started to say something, but he changed his mind at the last minute. Instead, in a quavering voice, he asked, "H-H-How's the lady, Doc?"

"Oh, getting along about as well as could be expected, Lum," replied Doc with an expression that was not exactly cheerful. Then, not wishing to go into detail, he said, "I'll just take these things on inside and have her husband light this heater and warm that place up a little...er, you men had better stay out here for a while."

Lum understood. "Yeah, yeah, sure, Doc...you go ahead...we'll wait out here."

"If thar's ennything we kin do, Doc, jest let us know," whispered Grandpap.

"Thank you, Milford," said Doc as he started to close the door again. But Lum stopped him; he HAD to ask this next question.

"Doc, er, what kinda work does this feller do?" asked Lum, half afraid to hear the answer.

"Oh, he said a while ago that he was a carpenter by trade, Lum," Doc replied. "Said he'd been out of work for quite a while, though. Well, I'd better be getting back inside."

The old door creaked shut once more, and for a long moment, Lum, Abner, and Grandpap stood staring at it. Finally, Abner spoke.

"Said he wuz a carpenter, huh?"

"Yeah..." said Lum. Abner noticed that his old partner had a very far-away look on his face. "I wuz jest thinkin' ... we've been talkin' about buildin' that loadin' platform at the back door o' the store, Abner...I think it'd be a purty good idee ta git this feller ta help us."

"Yeah, that's a good idee, Lum," said Abner, who had been thinking the same thing. "Might even git him ta do a little fixin' up thar in the store whilst he's at it."

"Well, now, he'll wanna be nigh his wife an' baby fer a few days," Grandpap reminded them. "But quick ez Doc thinks hit's safe fer 'em ta be moved, I'm gonna INsist on 'em comin' right over thar ta our place an' stayin'."

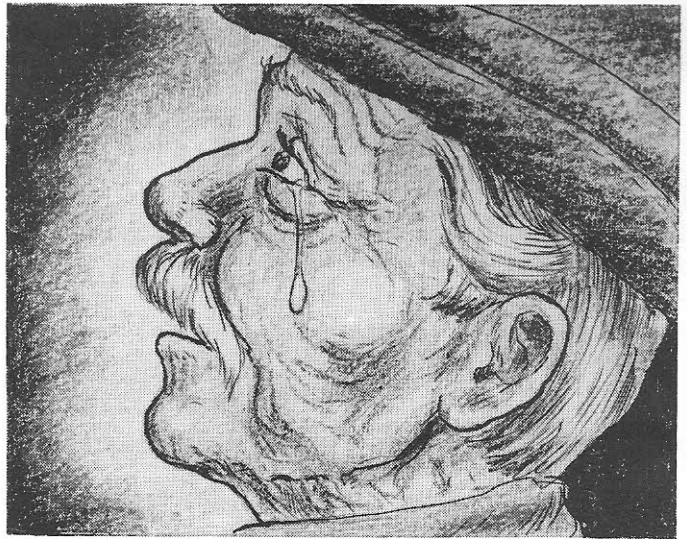


Lum still had that same strange look on his face. "Yessir, I wuz jest thinkin' here..." He chuckled to himself in a melancholy way. "Here we air, three ole codgers ...gittin' along in years... standin' around out here waitin' ... waitin' fer a little baby ta be born." The next sentence almost stuck in his throat. "Hit's sorta like we was waitin' fer ... somebody ta take our place."

Abner looked at the ground. "Well, o' course, we don't like ta talk about sech things, but ... we've about sarved our time, I reckon."

Grandpap fidgeted with the edge of his coat. "Yeh, won't be long an' we'll hafta move on, an' let somebody else take our place."

"An' they'll soon fergit about us," mumbled Abner.



"Hit's sorta like the years," Lum went on. "A lotta things happen, but they'll soon be fergot. Thar's been lots o' joys an' happiness...on the other hand, thar's been lots o' heartaches ... a lot o' blasted hopes." Then the old fellow pulled himself together. "But thar's a new year comin'," he said, "an' we'll all git ta start all over again." Then he whispered, half to himself, "We're sorta like the years, us three ole fellers."

Abner didn't know how to reply. "Well, hit's jest like I've allus said..." he stalled.

"Wait a minute," Grandpap said suddenly as there was a noise from the inside of the barn. "I hear somebody comin' ta the door."

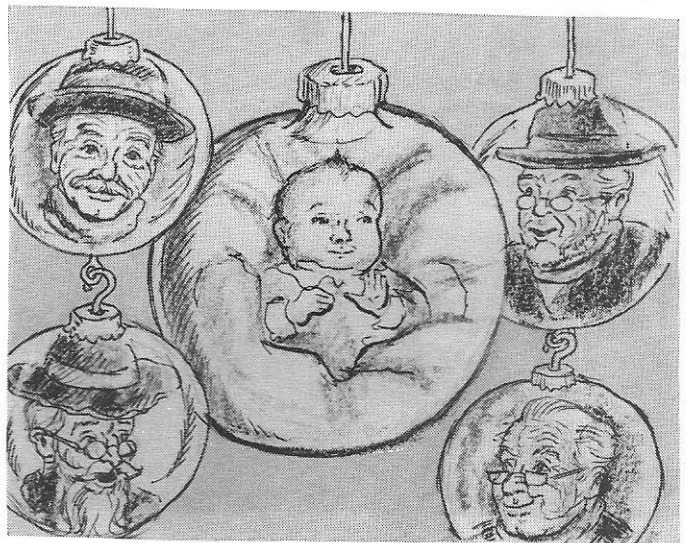
"Maybe hit's Doc," said Abner.

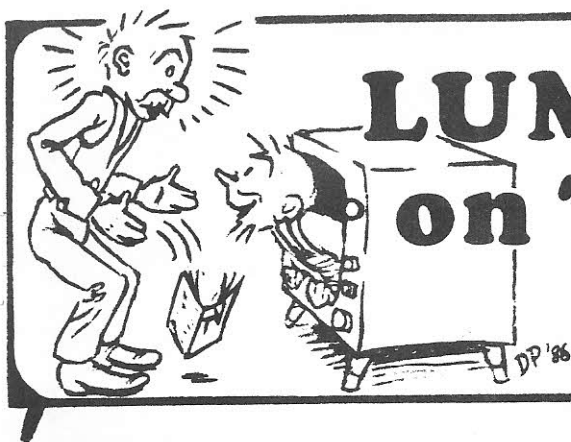
The bolt was lifted, the door swung open with a creak again, and once more old Doc Miller stood before them.

Lum swallowed hard: "E-E-Enny news yet, Doc?"

Doc looked at all of them for a minute. "Well, gents," he finally said with a tired smile, "It's a fine baby boy."

- Adapted by Tim Hollis,
from an original story by
Chester Lauck, Norris Goff,
and Roswell Rogers





LUM and ABNER[®] on TELEVISION?

Part 2 of a Series

After CBS president William S. Paley viewed the pilot for a 15-minute Lum & Abner TV series (see our last issue), he felt that while the show was good, there was not going to be much of a market in the future for 15-minute TV shows. He instructed Lauck and Goff and their staff to go back to the drawing board...they did, but in the meantime, L&A had the opportunity to actually make their TV debut.

On March 8, 1949, TV station KTTV in Los Angeles went on the air, and staged an enormous entertainment bash for the occasion. Jack Benny made his video debut on this special, and contemporary reports show that Lum & Abner were on hand as well. Exactly what they did on the show is still unknown, however.

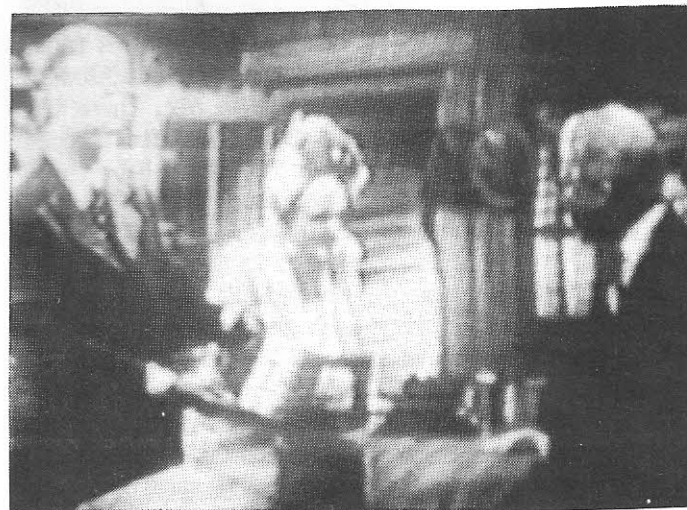
In the summer of 1949, Lauck & Goff gathered up most of their staff and cast members and headed for New York to film the new 30-minute pilot Paley had requested. Whereas L&A had been the only actors appearing in the earlier pilot, this one more closely resembled the half-hour version of the radio show, which at this time was on summer hiatus. Cast in the pilot were Andy Devine as Mose Moots, ZaSu Pitts as Miss Pitts, the insecticide saleslady, Opie Cates as himself, Bess McCammon as Widder Abernathy, and Edgar Stelhi as Doc Miller (who neither sounded nor acted anything like he was portrayed on the radio). Once again, the script was written by Roz Rogers and Betty Boyle, and the whole project was backed by CBS.

Roz Rogers remembers that preparing this pilot was one of the most strenuous tasks they had ever undertaken. As it turns out, it never even officially made it onto film; the print that exists (and which has been distributed by various video tape companies over the years) is only a kinescope of the dress rehearsal. This explains its poor visual quality, but the storyline is not all that bad, if a little more suited to Lucille Ball than Lum and Abner.

The show opens with Lum berating Abner for hiding fishing gear all over the store. It seems that every spring, Abner's fishing fever comes back, and that prevents him from doing more constructive things, such as helping around the store. Abner contritely agrees to give up fishing and concentrate on his work.

While Lum is out delivering groceries, in comes Mose Moots, who has already rented a boat and wants Abner to go fishing with himself and Opie Cates. Abner tries to uphold his promise to Lum, but breaks down under Mose's persistence. He decides that he will pretend to be deathly ill so Lum will let him leave the store, then he will meet Mose and Opie at his house.

Lum returns and finds Abner in apparent misery. "Have ye got enny symptoms?" Mr. Edwards asks his partner. "That's it! That's it! I've got the symptoms!" Abner exclaims, and prepares to make his exit. But Lum spies Mose's boat reservation in the trash

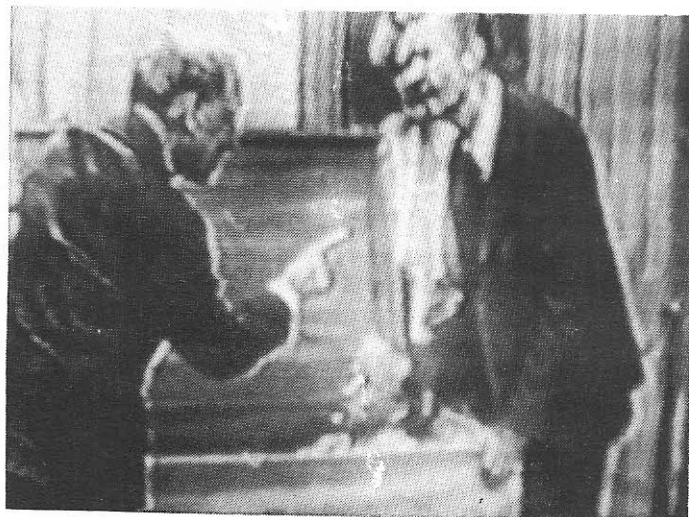




can, and quickly figures the whole thing out. He plays along with Abner, agreeing that he doesn't look too well. In fact, Lum says, Abner looks so bad that he will go home with him to the Peabody house and take care of him! (Interesting note: Abner's "womern," Elizabeth, is not mentioned at all. What has happened to her?)

At Abner's house, Mose and Opie are waiting impatiently. They are caught off guard when Lum arrives with Abner; Lum immediately puts Abner to bed and sends Mose down to the drug store to get a whole list full of horrific medical remedies. Even worse for Abner, Lum gets the Widder Abernathy to come over and read to him from books such as Gilbert, the Boy Trapper.

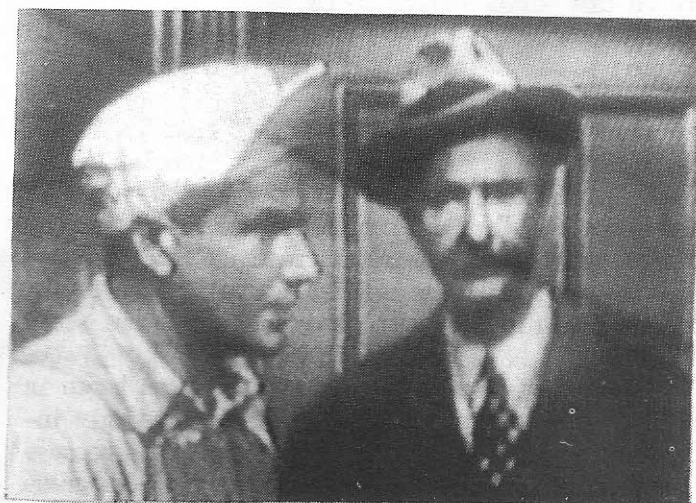
Mose and Opie put their heads together and come up with a plan. Abner will hide in an old trunk in his bedroom, and Opie will carry him out while Mose diverts Lum's attention. While this plot is being executed, who should arrive but Miss Pitts, demonstrating her new brand of moth spray. She explains that it is perfect for things such as ... that old trunk sitting there! She inserts the spray gun and gives the trunk and its contents a thorough treatment. This brings Abner out into the open and Miss Pitts faints, murmuring, "They never told me about such big ones."



Doc Miller arrives on the scene and sees Abner in the trunk. "Great scot, I'm too late again," he says, taking off his hat. He examines Abner and prescribes the only treatment Mr. Peabody needs: a nice, relaxing fishing trip. However, Lum is in pretty bad shape after all the excitement, so Doc puts HIM to bed, with the Widder there to read to him. For the fadeout, it turns out that Mose and Opie framed up the whole thing with Doc, and the four of them (Abner included) all head for the river.

Roz Rogers tells an interesting story relating to this pilot: for the filming, Opie Cates was given overalls, a battered cap, and an old pair of shoes to wear. He liked the outfit so much that he wore it from the studio to the posh Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, where the cast was staying. The hotel management very nearly threw Opie out of the lobby before he could convince them that he was not a bum, but an actor in costume for a part.

On-screen and off-screen shenanigans notwithstanding, for some reason this pilot was not accepted (Norris Goff's failing health may have had something to do with it), and, as stated previously, it never made it beyond the dress rehearsal. That fall, the half-hour radio show returned to the air for its second and final season, and plans to put Lum & Abner on television were discontinued.....for the time being, anyway.





Happy Holidays



from

LUM and ABNER®

Although "Lum and Abner's Christmas Story" is the two old fellows' most famous yuletide broadcast (and rightfully so), it was not the only presentation they ever broadcast for the holiday season. Let's take a brief look at some of their other holiday offerings, most of which are (or eventually will be) available through the NLAS Tape Library.

As far as we know, it will forever remain impossible to know what sort of Christmas and/or New Year's shows L&A presented in 1931 and 1932. Material from that period is virtually nonexistent, and no living person can remember anything that would give us a clue. We only know that in 1933, L&A began their traditional Christmas program, which survived with minimal changes through the 1940s.

In 1938, the charity-minded characters produced a special 15-minute broadcast to promote the sale of Christmas seals, which at that time were sold by the National Tuberculosis Association. The show is one of their all-time best, as Lum starts off by stating that he has decided to "fight tuberculosis." "Well, now, I wouldn't be in too big a resh ta jump on him, Lum," Abner responds. "Recollect, ye jumped on Luke Abernathy at the Fourth of July picnic and nearly got yer face beat off." Finally, Lum explains that they can help fight this dreaded disease by "sellin' seals." You can imagine what Abner makes out of this, and before it is over, he and Lum have had an involved talk about Alaska and Eskimos. At the end of the show, Lum makes an appeal over the party line for people to buy Christmas seals to decorate their packages.

Our next holiday show from L&A is from New Year's Day, 1940. Lum reads his list of resolutions to Grandpappy Spears; among them is one to "be nicer to Abner in 1940." But when Abner comes in and Lum starts giving him the royal treatment, our bearded friend doesn't like it. He yells that he ain't used to Lum being nice to him, and he ain't gonna stand fer it.

When the Alka-Seltzer series of shows began in 1941, references to holidays became increasingly infrequent. According to Roz Rogers, this was because of an agreement with the "Keystone Network" (a group

of smaller stations that ran the Alka-Seltzer transcriptions) that holiday shows were to be taped months in advance, which required that they contain no reference to the continuing storyline. (That is why most special L&A shows from this period have generic openings such as, "Well, L&A have forgotten their current predicament long enough to celebrate Thanksgiving," etc.)

Sometimes this procedure would backfire: on Christmas Eve, 1945, L&A had been tied and gagged by robbers and left in the store, which at the close of the show was on fire. The next day, "Lum and Abner's Christmas Story" went on as usual, then on December 26 we were told how L&A escaped from the fire. This was undoubtedly rather disconcerting to 1940s listeners who faithfully followed the L&A broadcasts each day and almost considered them to be reality.

According to Mr. Rogers' notes, there was a special pre-Christmas show on December 21, 1944, but we have no description of the plot.

Unusual as it seems, the broadcasts for New Year's Day 1945 and Thanksgiving 1945 are almost identical. Both involve the men (Lum, Abner, Grandpap, and Ulysses) at Abner's house for dinner, discussing how good it is for women to have holidays when they don't have to work ... they can just cook all day and have fun.

For some unexplained reason, the continuous series of L&A shows ends around December of 1946, with the story of the Lumburgers. After that date, there are many gaps between recordings, but one program we do have (which was unearthed by famed radio personality Frank Bresee) is from December 16, 1947, and it indicates that this was the only known time that L&A built an entire continuing storyline around a holiday. This isolated episode is from a series concerning a Pine Ridge Christmas Parade, and L&A are frantically trying to build the best float and win the prize money. The efforts of Ben Withers and Cedric to help don't make the job any easier.

We have been unable to find out what sort of Christmastime shows L&A did during their 30-minute days, except for one show from January 1950, which contains some gags about the New Year.

Our final glimpse of how L&A celebrated Christmas comes during the series' last gasp, the group of shows from 1953-54. On what appears to be Christmas Day, 1953, L&A did not present their traditional show, but instead a slapstick farce in which Lum, Abner, Squire, Cedric and Grandpap make a chore out of decorating a tree for the needy children. Abner climbs up into the tree to put the star on top, prompting Grandpap to crack, "Ye look jest like a possum goin' up that thar tree." Abner demonstrates his Christmas spirit by snapping, "If I look like a possum, then you look like a ol' houn' dawg settin' down thar lookin' at me." The whole mess ends when Abner falls out of the tree and very nearly brings the tree down with him.

And so, L&A produced no Christmas shows as a team after that. However that may be, the fact remains that "Lum and Abner's Christmas Story" always has been and always will be a classic, but some of their other holiday stories deserve wider exposure as well.

- Tim Hollis



Holiday greetings from the Zekatif Seketerry's Office! Those of you who have been NLAS members for some time may recall the Jot'Em Down Journal cover that our artistic Prez, Uncle Donnie Pitchford (who illustrated "Lum & Abner's Christmas Story" in this issue) prepared for the December 1984 issue. Last Christmas, we offered signed and numbered prints of this drawing, FOLLER THE EAST STAR, for \$3.00.

Well, we still have a few of these left over, so we are making them available again. The price is the same, and if you order before December 15 we'll do our level best to have yours to you before Christmas. As usual, send orders to the Executive Secretary, Tim Hollis, Route 3, Box 110, Dora, AL 35062.

Because the Christmas holidays are so busy for us all, we are not releasing any new pages for the Tape Library Catalog this month. But watch this space in our next issue; we will be issuing some Lum & Abner episodes that to our knowledge are not available from any other source; they are from the "lost" 1947-48 period. So, stay tuned.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR from all the NLAS Zekatif Ossifers!!!

"Howdy Folks"

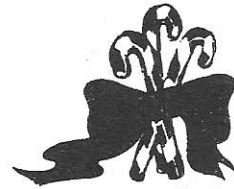
Since our last issue, we have inducted three more individuals into the ranks of our Honorary Members. They are as follows:

E.V. JARVIS worked as producer of the L&A series during the 1938-40 period.

HARRY S. ACKERMAN, well-known producer of many famous radio and television programs, served as the producer of the L&A show from 1947-50.

JERRY HAUSNER, the character actor, first worked with L&A in 1933, and was associated with them off and on for many more years. He was the ghost writer on some of the Lum & Abner Almanacs, as well as The Jot'Em Down Store Party Book (1939).

We welcome all of you to the NLAS!!

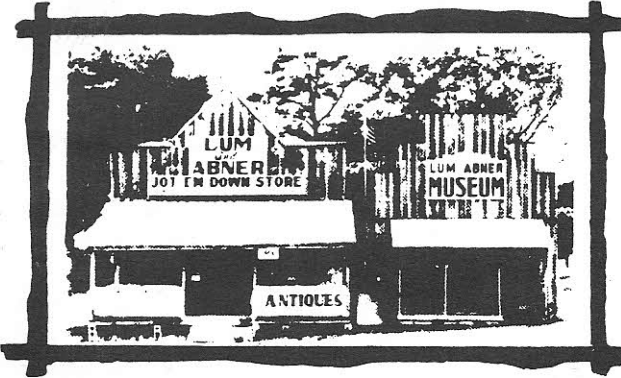


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