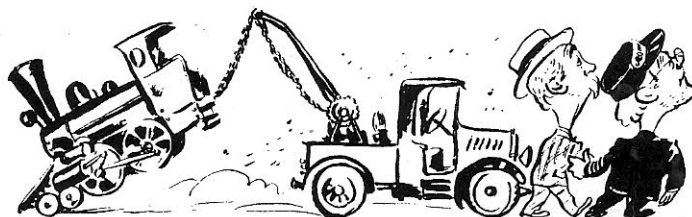


February 1989

A little-known bit of L&A history is tied up with the Kansas City Southern Railroad: when that railway line introduced their new train, the "Southern Belle," in 1940, and the streamlined locomotive made its initial run from Kansas City to New Orleans (via Mena), one of its passengers was Tuffy "Abner" Goff, returning to the old home town for the world premiere of the first L&A movie, DREAMING OUT LOUD. The KCS Railroad subsequently produced an advertising film that incorporated color (although silent) footage of Goff's arrival in Mena. The entire promotional film has now been made available to the public by the Kansas City Southern Historical Society; although the Goff/Mena segment is brief, the whole 22-minute film is highly enjoyable for its nostalgia and is a wonderful reminder of a bygone era in the history of transportation. Members of the NLAS who are interested in obtaining a VHS copy of the tape can order it for \$20 postpaid; orders should be sent to Mr. Gene E. Bailey, 732 Connally Street, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

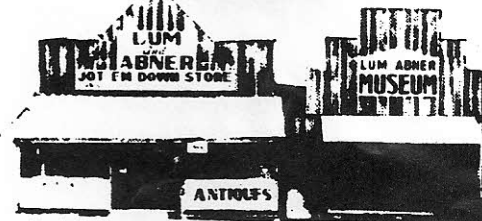
(Our thanks to Mr. H.E. Huber of both the NLAS and the KCS Historical Society for making us aware of this video tape's availability.)



-----Advertisement-----

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and Jot 'Em Down Store**

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THIS ISSUE WAS PRINTED THROUGH THE FACILITIES OF

**Action Printing Company**

404 JOHNSON STREET • P. O. BOX 308  
ADAMSVILLE, ALABAMA 35005  
PHONE (205) 674-3531



The Jot 'Em Down Journal,  
 Volume 5, Number 4, February  
 1989. Published bi-monthly  
 by the National Lum and Abner  
 Society, a non-profit organi-  
 zation. Membership, including  
 a subscription to the Journal,  
 is \$6.00 per year. Send edi-  
 torial and subscription corres-  
 pondence to the Executive Secre-  
 tary, Tim Hollis, Route 3, Box  
 110, Dora, AL 35062.

# THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

F E B R U A R Y 1 9 8 9

## *In This Issue:*

THE NATIONAL LUM AND ABNER  
 SOCIETY

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT  
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VICE-PRESIDENT  
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THE MANY FACES OF LUM & ABNER.....5  
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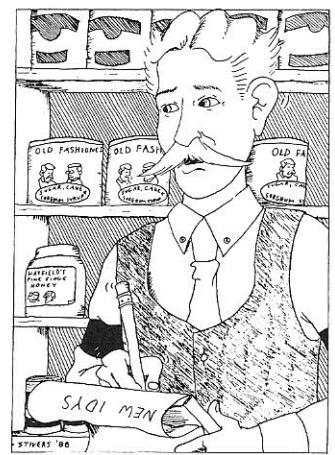
LUM & ABNER CROSSWORD.....8  
 A contest for all would-be L&A ex-  
 perts!

THE GOLDEN ERA.....10  
 Another installment of the comical  
 comic strip.

\*\*\*\*\*

COVER: Lum and Abner's makeup  
 as it appeared around the  
 1938 - 1939 period; see related  
 story, page 5. (Photo courtesy  
 of Mrs. Harriet Lauck)

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 trademark. Used by permission  
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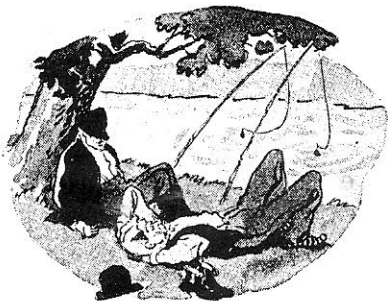
ABOVE: Gary Stivers' "portraits"  
 of Lum & Abner, from his "Golden  
 Era" comic strip



# LUM AND ABNER<sup>®</sup>

Meet

## ANDY GRIFFITH



FADE IN:Guitar music and whistling the tune "Eleanor"

Being a member of both the National Lum & Abner Society and the Andy Griffith Show Appreciation Society, and a devotee of both, I have always felt that there was a strong tie or link between them. Listeners who were entertained by L&A right up to their last show must have been pleased only six short years later to find (although on television) another small country town with characters equally as lovable as those in Pine Ridge. Mayberry, North Carolina ... a fictional town, as was Pine Ridge, Arkansas, in the beginning ... was the setting for the same stuff that made Lum & Abner great. Richard Kelly, in his book The Andy Griffith Show, sets out to give an informative account of how the Griffith show was produced and developed, and how it grew to be a national and international success. Kelly tells how a fictitious group of characters can "arrest and delight" the imagination. Radio always did this better than television. Andy Griffith fans, numbered by the millions, need to be reminded that in the beginning there was "Lum and Abner."

When familiar with the Andy Griffith Show, one suspects that the writers, Harvey Bullock and Everett Greenbaum, may have been drawing from their memories of radio, and Lum & Abner in particular. Both writers had backgrounds working in radio; Greenbaum admits having been greatly influenced by "Vic and Sade" (the spawning ground for Clarence Hartzell's Uncle Fletcher/Ben Withers), while Bullock once wrote

for television's "Charley Weaver Show," starring L&A's onetime regular Cliff Arquette ("of Mt. Idy"). It is quite evident that certain similarities of characters and plots would surface. (And let us not forget that it was Griffith himself, recalling the character of Opie Cates from the L&A series, insisted on his TV son being named "Opie.")

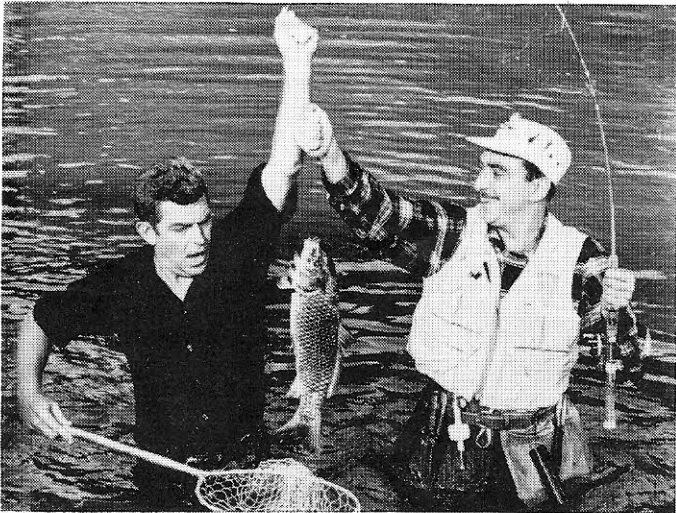
One does wonder how well Lum & Abner might have prospered on television during the run of the Andy Griffith program (1960-1968). Griffith was written with a distinct 1930's flavor more similar to L&A, and quite unlike the turmoil and unrest in America and the world during the 1960's. Had Danny Thomas been arrested in Pine Ridge instead of Mayberry, how much more America today might be endeared to Lum & Abner! But instead, we were introduced to the rather similar duo of Andy Taylor and Barney Fife.

Andy Taylor (Griffith of course) was originally a man of many hats. He was the sheriff, the town's newspaper editor, and originally to be featured more in his role officiating as justice of the peace. Those who are familiar with Lum & Abner's history know that Lum Edwards was once the town's newspaper editor (1936), and as the justice of the peace shared an office with town constable Abner Peabody. Abner, the "great detektive and human bloodhound," as Goff described him in 1932, was extended through the equally small, feisty, and scrappy deputy Barney Fife, ably portrayed by Don Knotts.

Andy Taylor, as Lum Edwards before him, had numerous romances. For Andy, there was Ellie Walker, Peggy McMillan (descendant of the MacMillan Boys and Mother?), Mary Simpson (kin of Sister Simpson?), and Helen Crump the schoolteacher. Lum's list includes Evalena Schultz, Emaline Platt, Miss Fredericks (all schoolteachers), among others.

Another female character in Mayberry was one Clara Edwards, and in one of the earliest episodes, Andy himself pronounced her surname "Eddards"! (Memories of radio days must have been fresh on someone's mind!) Names mentioned in passing were "Chester," who quits the Mayberry band, and "Norris," who runs the gas station for Goober Pyle.

Both L&A and Andy & Barney would, on occasion, pass the time at their work by duet singing. Roots ran deep in religion as well, Griffith having studied for the ministry and Lauck being a former Sunday School teacher in Mena. Rural music was enjoyed in Pine Ridge through the talented MacMillan Boys and Mother, while Mayberry had, coming down from the hills, Briscoe Darling and his boys. Fishing was the favorite pasttime, and both towns had legendary fish that folk had tried to catch for years. "Old Sam" was in Tucker's Lake near Mayberry, and in the Ouachita River at Pine Ridge, L&A tried to catch old "Moby Dick" in 1954.



**"OLD SAM" IS CAUGHT!  
WONDERFUL WORLD!**

Another similarity in character is that of Cedric Weehunt and Gomer Pyle, both kind and gentle men with simple minds; both very childlike and good-natured. Had television invited us to visit Pine Ridge instead of Mayberry, one of the popular shows of the mid-to-late 1960's might have been "Cedric Weehunt, USMC"! As it was, "Gomer Pyle, USMC" was a top-rated show itself, and gave Jack Benny a terrible time in the ratings for that time slot.

Frances Bavier's Aunt Bee on the Griffith show was broadened much more than that of L&A's Aunt Charity Spears, but both were kind, benevolent souls. Had there been a reason to expand the character of Aunt Charity, she could have been Aunt Bee. And just as the party line phone system was a central feature of Lum & Abner, Griffith used it equally as well. Mayberry's "Sarah" was Pine Ridge's "Mamie."

Naturally, any small town could expect to have a barbershop for the hub of male activity (loafing). Pine Ridge had Mose Moots, while Mayberry had Floyd Lawson...played by Howard McNear, remembered from his L&A appearances as Mr. Tolbert the store robber, Dr. Roller the Pest Controller, Detective Wilson, and other characterizations. Both shows brought us into the barbershops more often for comedy than for a

shave and a haircut. Another crossover cast member (after a fashion) was Dick Elliott, Mayor Pike in the early Andy Griffith episodes. Nearly twenty years earlier, Elliott had been assigned the role of Squire Skimp in several of the RKO Lum & Abner movies! (And the story goes on... in 1940, Elliott had played Squire's comic-strip clone, Marryin' Sam, in a film version of Al Capp's "Li'l Abner"...but that's another article.)

Besides similar characters, a few of the episodes carried similar plotlines, but rarely the same "pay-off." An example would be the December 12, 1960, "Ellie For Council," in which Ellie Walker runs for office in Mayberry, creating a feud between the women and their husbands. There were at least two occasions in Pine Ridge when the men and women were divided politically (1940 and 1946).

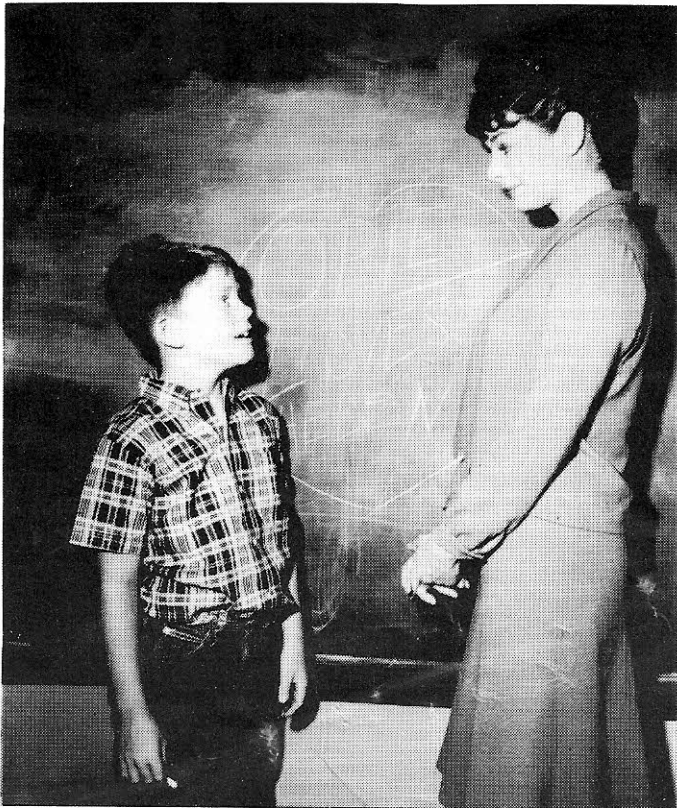
Another similar episode is "Mayberry Goes Hollywood," January 2, 1961, in which a film producer comes to town to film a motion picture based on the quiet, simple town and its inhabitants. But the townsfolk change that image to fit the silver screen and become exactly what the producer didn't want! Let us remember that L&A made the same mistake in the Jot 'Em Down Store in 1940, during the advance publicity for their first film, "Dreaming Out Loud."

On January 22, 1962, a lovely young lady (Barbara Eden) gets a job in the barbershop; the women of Mayberry disapprove and convince their husbands to stay away from that business establishment. In Pine Ridge, 1946, a Miss Kitty (Kitty O'Neil, the "Laughing Lady"



**HOWARD "FLOYD/TALBERT/  
DR. ROLLER/DET. WILSON" MC NEAR**





**"OPIE LOVES HELEN" (OR EVALENA,  
OR MISS FREDERICKS, OR MISS  
EMALINE.....)**

of the Al Pearce show) became the new town barber and received the same response from the womenfolk.

April 23, 1962, brought us "Andy On Trial," when Sheriff Taylor is tried for alleged wrongdoing. Lum was arrested and tried for that sort of thing with alarming frequency. Also, both shows had "Cave Rescue" programs and concerned themselves with "Abandoned Babies." When Aunt Bee innocently fronted for counterfeiters by selling greeting cards, we were instantly reminded that L & A once unwittingly fronted for counterfeiter Diogenes Smith, and later used his printing press to print greeting cards!

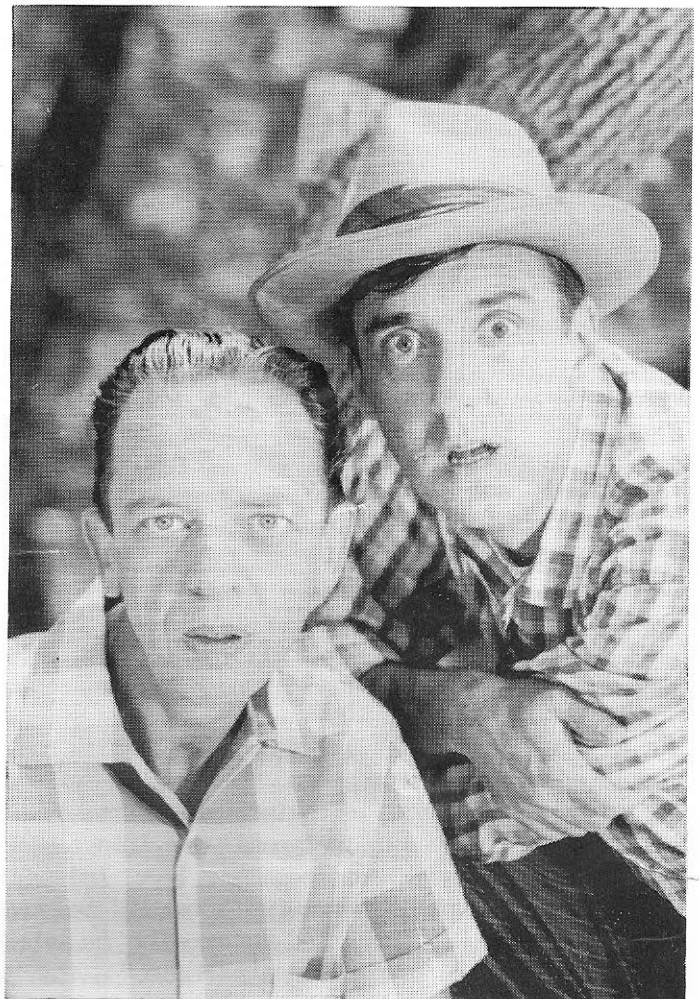
In the January 2, 1967, "Don't Miss A Good Bet," a con artist "takes" some Mayberry folk in a get-rich-quick scheme to uncover oil or minerals from a tract of land. Thirty years before, Squire Skimp was already at it, and this same situation formed the basis for the entire plot of one L&A movie, "Goin' To Town" (1944). Both programs explored the problems with chain letters.

And this gets deep: Mayberry had a town drunk named Otis Campbell. At the funeral of Cling Wilhite, the real-life Pine Ridge's model for Grandpappy Spears, one of the pallbearers was named...Odis Campbell!!

Both Mayberry and Pine Ridge had nearby cities that were referred to and visited ( Mt. Pilot/Mena ). And let's not ignore the fact that, after the Griffith show had become "Mayberry RFD" in the late 1960's, none other than L&A's longtime writer Roz Rogers provided some of the scripts! The whole business was capped off on September 13, 1965, when Tuffy Goff himself appeared in Mayberry, in the guise of Mr. Doakes, the kindly old grocery store owner!

Certainly no one here is yelling "plagiarism." But it does make Lum & Abner fans realize that L&A could have made a very successful transition from radio to television...if not in the early years of the medium, at least by 1960. And should the millions of Andy Griffith Show fans ever discover Lum and Abner in the family tree, I believe they'll exclaim with Gomer: "Gaw-aw-lee! SurPRISE, surPRISE!", while Lum and Abner followers simply say, "Wonderful World!!"

- Kurt Jensen



**"HAW?"**

**"MUM?"**

(The photographs that accompany this article were very generously loaned to us by Jim Clark, "Presiding Goober" of the Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers' Club. For more information on this fine organization, write to them at 27 Music Square East, Suite 146, Nashville, TN 37203. GAAWW-LEEE!)

# The Many Faces Of

## LUM and ABNER®

The visualization of radio characters has been a subject of much fascination; as evidence, witness the profusion of publicity photos and motion pictures featuring radio performers that appeared during the 1930's and 1940's. L&A and their associate characters, while often left up to the listeners' imaginations...part of the great appeal of radio...were depicted visually literally from their first weeks on the air until the show's demise, and then afterward. In this series of articles, created by Uncle Donnie Pitchford and Squire Rex Riffle, we will be exploring these various depictions of the L&A characters.

In this issue, we begin with Lum & Abner.

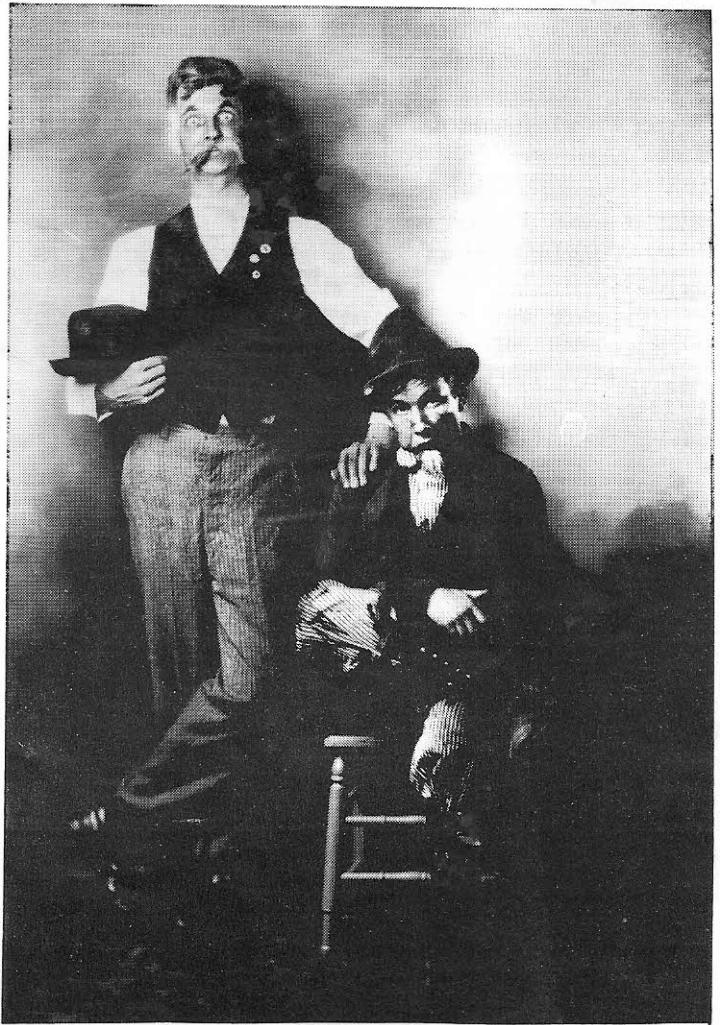
The best place to start when discussing the appearance of radio characters is usually with the listeners' imaginations themselves. Our Prez, Uncle Donnie Pitchford, recalls that when he first heard the recorded L&A programs, his initial mental picture of the characters was based somewhat on the rural TV situation comedies ( or "corncoms" ) that he had seen while growing up. "Believe it or not," he says, "before I had heard any shows in which they actually discussed their physical makeup...such as Lum's mustache...I pictured Lum as looking something like the character of Fred Ziffel on 'Green Acres'! And what is even stranger, I thought of Abner as looking something like Pat Buttram...or Mr. Haney...on that same program...probably because of the slight similarity in their high, cracked voices."

Publicity Director Rex Riffle has had very detailed conceptions of all of the L&A characters, colored largely by his childhood in the very Pine Ridge-like community of Johnstown, West Virginia. As for the two starring characters themselves, Rex says that he always pictured Lum as having a mustache, but it was not until he had seen their photos in makeup that he was able to visualize Abner as having a beard.

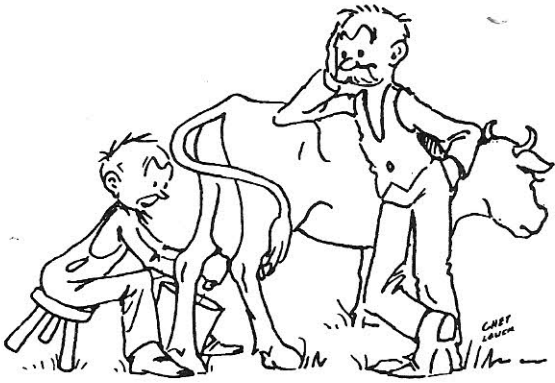
Zekatif Seketerry Tim Hollis says that he had less opportunity to picture the characters for himself, because before he had ever heard an episode of the series, his father had already described to him the way the characters looked in the 1936 L&A Almanac, which the senior Hollis remembered well from his childhood. "But beyond the fact that Lum was tall and thin and had a handlebar mustache, and Abner was short, with a goatee, I didn't have much to go on," Zec Sec Hollis says now. He was also influenced by

John Dunning's misguided statement in his book Tune In Yesterday that L&A "supplanted the burnt cork of blackface with the whiskers and tattered clothes of the hillbilly;" it is difficult to imagine a description that fits Lum & Abner less.

As for the commercially-released depictions of Lum & Abner, those go all the way back to the show's first four weeks on the air on station KTHS in Hot Springs, Arkansas. The first publicity photo of L&A in makeup was taken in May 1931, at the Mena studio of photographer Oscar Plaster. At this early point, Lum's mustache and Abner's beard had already been created (#1), but Mrs. Plaster, who still lives in Mena, has a few other observations about the costumes







#2 (1932)

they chose. She points out that Lum, ever the aspiring businessman, wore a dress shirt and vest decorated with about a dozen different political campaign buttons, while the more laid-back Abner had casual, almost sloppy, attire. While L&A were supposed to be roughly twice the ages of Chet & Tuffy, there was no way at this time to convincingly age the two, short of Mrs. Plaster powdering their hair and drawing wrinkles into their faces with a makeup pencil.

During 1932, after the Lum & Abner program had been established as a national feature on NBC, Chet and Tuffy published a small hardback book (which is now exceedingly rare), Lum & Abner and Their Friends From Pine Ridge, which featured photographs (once more taken by Oscar Plaster) of the citizens of Waters, Arkansas, posing as the various L&A characters. The Plasters' first L&A publicity shots were also used, but in addition, Chet Lauck himself (who had aspired to being a cartoonist before he went into radio) provided his own cartoon versions of L&A; the style was strongly reminiscent of 1920's newspaper comic strips (#2).

The next set of L&A photos was made in 1933, at which time the show was headquartered at WTAM in



#3 (1933)

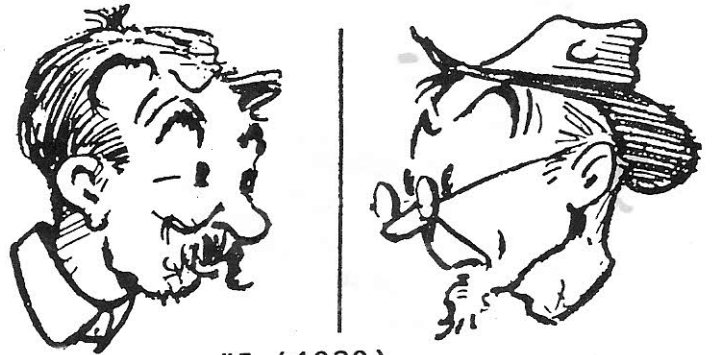
Cleveland, Ohio. By now (#3), Lum's mustache had become extremely large and exaggerated, while Abner's goatee was colored extremely dark, almost black.



#4 (1936)

These photos provided the models for artists Wendell Kling and Dewey Prolestino's beautiful ink-wash renderings of the characters in the three Lum & Abner Almanacs (1936, 1937, & 1938). (#4) In 1939, an unidentified cartoonist drew them for The Jot'Em Down Store Catalog, Calendar, & Party Book (#5).

Some additional refinements were made during the late 1930's, but it was when RKO Radio Pictures began work on L&A's first motion picture, "Dreaming Out Loud" (1940), that professional makeup people devised



#5 (1939)

the most sophisticated getup that L&A had had up until that time (#6). Other than slight alterations in their hairstyles, two major changes were made at this time: rubber or latex was now applied to areas



#6 (1940)



of their faces and necks to simulate the oldsters' wrinkled skin ( it took two or three movies before it was perfected enough to look convincing ), while at the same time, Abner's "chin-whiskers" became more of a full beard than the pointed goatee of earlier photos. Abner's hair and beard were made solid white, while Lum's hair and mustache remained a light gray (perhaps reflecting Chet Lauck's own coal-black hair?).

The movie makeup was slightly improved in each subsequent movie, until by the time of "Goin' To Town" (1944) and "Partners In Time" (1946), it was almost impossible to tell that L&A were being portrayed by young men (#7). Basically these same outfits were used in the two ill-fated L&A TV pilot films.



#7 (1946)

The final changes in their appearances were made for the never-released, Yugoslavian-produced film "Lum & Abner Abroad" (1954). To avoid having to take makeup men behind the Iron Curtain with them, the decision was made to use their natural hair, dyed blonde (to appear gray in the black & white film). As a result, Lum's hair is fuller and more wavy than it had appeared in the past, while Abner's was shorter than before (#8). But perhaps the most noticeable difference was that Chet & Tuffy used their own real



#8 (1954)



#9 (1970)

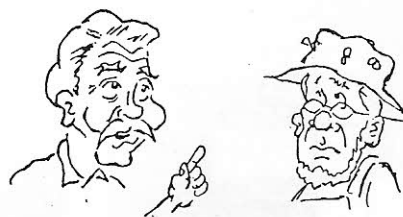
mustaches, rather than artificial pieces, making it the only time Abner appeared with a mustache instead of a beard!

After this film ( and the radio program's demise that accompanied it...another long story ), there was virtually no new publicity for L&A for the next 15 years. Throughout the 1950's and early 1960's, Chet Lauck portrayed Lum in a series of TV commercials for Conoco Oil, but he looked basically the same as always. In 1962, he appeared in some political TV spots for Senator Bill Fulbright of Arkansas, but, using his real hair, etc., he looked much as he did in "Lum & Abner Abroad."

In 1970, Mr. Ace Ochs of the CBS-TV network expressed interest in a series of L&A animated cartoons and had an unidentified animator prepare some preliminary sketches. As it turned out, this animator had never seen any of the old L&A publicity shots ... he had only heard some recordings of the radio programs, so his sketches resulted in creating a totally new version of the characters (#9). However, Chet Lauck was not at all pleased, and for one reason or another the whole idea was dropped.

Several L&A fans have used their own styles to depict the Pine Ridge folk in their own private work. Two cartoonists, Kurt Jensen and Gary Stivers, have worked the lovable old characters into comic strip form; Jensen's work (#10) appeared for many years in a church newsletter, while Stivers' strip, "The Golden Era," has brought his version of L & A to the Jot 'Em Down Journal since the spring of 1988.

In our next installment, we will be reviewing the various visualizations of the lovable, simpleminded Cedric Weehunt. How about telling us (or showing us) how YOU picture him? Address all comments to the Executive Secretary, Tim Hollis, Route 3, Box 110, Dora, AL 35062.

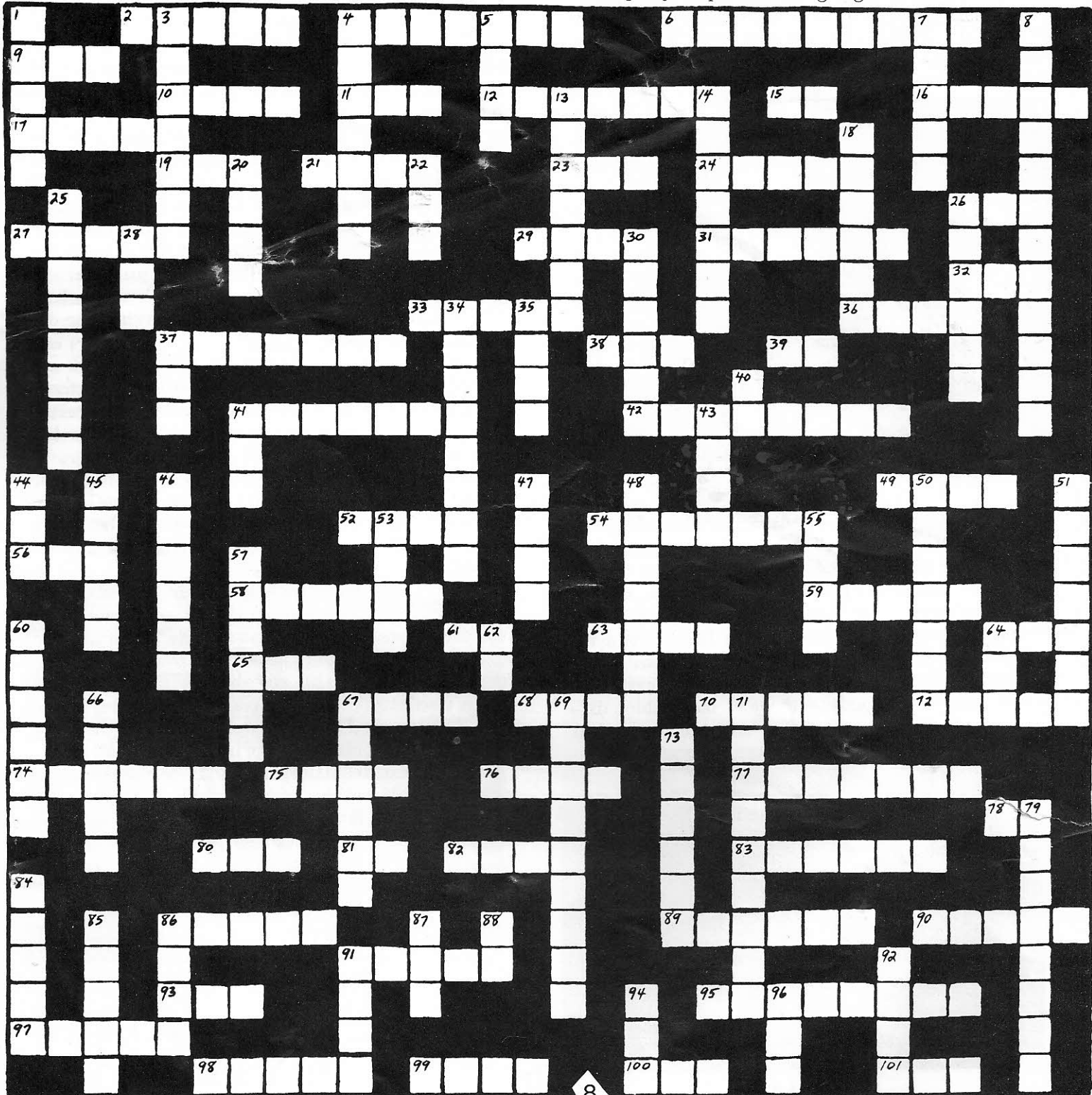


#10 (1975)



# LUM and ABNER® CROSSWORD

Okay, Lum & Abner experts: your work is cut out for you. We are using this tricky crossword puzzle, created by Knoxville, Tennessee, member Jack Callaway (whom you may think seems more like Squire Skimp by the time you get through) as our first NLAS Contest!! Send your completed puzzle to the Executive Secretary's address (found on the back cover of the Journal) before March 15, and the CORRECT solution with the earliest postmark will receive a special NLAS prize. So, sharpen your pencils and get goin'!



ACROSS

- 2 - He runs the filling station.  
 4 - Grandpap's first name.  
 6 - Ronald's last name.  
 9 - Mountain View \_\_\_\_.  
 10 - He reminds Cedric of his uncle.  
 11 - \_\_\_\_ Edwards.  
 12 - Lum \_\_\_\_.  
 15 - What Abner thinks Miss Fredericks' mother is studying for.  
 16 - What Cedric thought he saw in Abner's house.  
 17 - Elizabeth's daughter.  
 19 - An accident turns it into rubber.  
 21 - The best checker-player in town.  
 23 - L&A were two months late for his funny hat contest.  
 24 - She wants to purify the language.  
 26 - Abner liked being one.  
 27 - Gregory W. W.'s last name.  
 29 - The county seat.  
 31 - He sells insurance.  
 32 - Hillary's relationship to Milford.  
 33 - He always says "hello."  
 36 - A \_\_\_\_-of-arms was on the baby's locket.  
 37 - Llewellyn Gray's middle name.  
 38 - What Lum & Abner called Ellie.  
 39 - Mr. Webster's initials.  
 41 - Subject of the 3rd Golden Era Discussion Club meeting.  
 42 - Loves to read the almanac.  
 49 - The Phantom Author's first name.  
 52 - Cedric put one up in front of the store.  
 54 - He slept through club meetings.  
 56 - One of L&A's announcers.  
 58 - \_\_\_\_ Overnight Writer's Course.  
 59 - Lum's best friend.  
 61 - Mr. Chancellor's initials.  
 63 - He runs the post office.  
 64 - It was the cause of Grandpap's fall.  
 65 - Lum used it when Nurse Lunsford went to the feed room.  
 67 - Black \_\_\_\_ Cave.  
 68 - \_\_\_\_ Ridge.  
 70 - Pine \_\_\_\_.  
 72 - He arrested Lum as a counterfeiter.  
 74 - Don's last name.  
 75 - Lum prepared this dish for Duncan Hines.  
 76 - Mountain Lion attacks Cedric here.  
 77 - What Cedric did to the dishes.  
 78 - Sgt. Hartford's initials.  
 80 - \_\_\_\_ 'Em Down.  
 81 - Jot \_\_\_\_ Down.  
 82 - Jot 'Em \_\_\_\_.  
 83 - It didn't even get out of town.  
 86 - The \_\_\_\_ Pelican.  
 89 - Not discussed at Golden Era meetings.

ACROSS, cont'd

- 90 - He was named after Cedric's uncle.  
 91 - Opened the Hippodrome.  
 93 - What everyone should contribute to.  
 95 - Charlie's last name.  
 97 - She escaped from reform school.  
 98 - \_\_\_\_-eyes.  
 99 - Sheep-\_\_\_\_.  
 100 - Our Publicity Director.  
 101 - What folks called Ben at first.

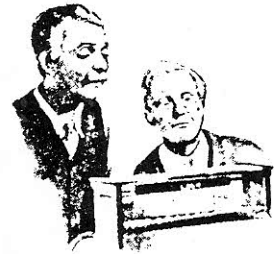
DOWN

- 1 - Who is this "W" person?  
 3 - These children kept Ervin as a pet.  
 4 - She moved back to Little Rock.  
 5 - Town east of Pine Ridge.  
 7 - Gussie's maiden name.  
 8 - Diogenes gave Lum this job.  
 13 - First he was Doc, later Ben.  
 14 - She runs the boarding house.  
 18 - He likes "chunk style."  
 20 - L&A think the baby is one.  
 22 - Golden \_\_\_\_.  
 25 - Lum wants to take Miss Fredericks to one.  
 26 - Thinks he's from Toledo.  
 28 - He wants to hire Cedric as one of his writers.  
 30 - \_\_\_\_ machine.  
 34 - It was going to be used to propel the rocket ship.  
 35 - \_\_\_\_ Lisa.  
 37 - \_\_\_\_ Alixis.  
 40 - Phinus Peabody is from here.  
 41 - \_\_\_\_ rocket.  
 43 - Almost everyone in Pine Ridge says this instead of "isn't."  
 44 - This one is stuffed and disappears from L&A's museum.  
 45 - \_\_\_\_ bread.  
 46 - Sir \_\_\_\_.  
 47 - Mona \_\_\_\_.  
 48 - Adding \_\_\_\_.  
 50 - Grandpap suffered from it.  
 51 - Restaurant in Pine Ridge.  
 53 - He was elected school board president instead of Lum.  
 55 - The Mena newspaper.  
 57 - Sky \_\_\_\_.  
 60 - \_\_\_\_ Hines.

DOWN, Cont'd

- 62 - Mr. Tiffin's initials.  
 64 - Owns the livery stable.  
 66 - Prune \_\_\_\_.  
 67 - \_\_\_\_ ship.  
 69 - Necessity's daughter.  
 71 - The kind of ink that was being made in the feed room.  
 73 - Fredreich's last name.  
 79 - Cedric is afraid of her teeth.  
 84 - Supposedly a Hindu prince, but he was actually from Kansas City.  
 85 - Dr. Fontaine's last name.  
 86 - The best dog that ever set his nose to a trail.  
 87 - The Executive Secretary.  
 88 - Singin' Sam Brown's Zekatif Ossif.  
 91 - Rocket \_\_\_\_.  
 92 - Stacked up in the room at the back of the store.  
 94 - Call letters of L&A's radio station.  
 96 - Abbreviation for our Prez's first name

(ANSWERS WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE JOT'EM DOWN JOURNAL.)



**Squire Skimp**

Don't feel too badly if you didn't get all the answers: some of the Zekatif Ossifers tried it & it stumped them, too!



# The Golden Era

by Gary Stivers

YOU REMEMBER WIDDER ABERNATHY'S NEPHEW JONAH THAT WORKS AT THE DEFENSE PLANT UP IN LITTLE ROCK, DON'T YOU, ABNER?



THE WIDDER SAYS THAT JONAH QUIT HIS JOB AS A RIVETER SHORE AS THE WORLD. SHE SAYS HE BECAME A WELDER INSTEAD



THE WIDDER SAYS IT TOOK HIM NEARLY TWO WEEKS TO FIND OUT THAT HE HAD THE HICUPS



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**SOCIETY**  
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