

February 1991



D. WATSON

It's Later Than You Think!
The 1991 NLAS Convention
Will Be Held
SAT., JUNE 22
Mena, Arkansas
"Be Thar Er Be Squar"

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL February 1991

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LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY

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should be!

COVER: L&A take time out on the set of The Bashful Bachelor to pose for a publicity shot for their newest sponsor, Alka-Seltzer, 1941. (Photo courtesy of Miles, Inc.)

LUM AND ABNER is a registered trademark. Used by permission of Chester Lauck, Jr.



ABOVE: Magazine ad announcing L&A's return to the air for Alka-Seltzer, 1941 (Courtesy of Bobb Lynes)

LUM AND ABNER

and their Sponsors

PART 6 OF A SERIES



After all the hoopla surrounding the production and release of *Dreaming Out Loud* during the second half of 1940, Chet and Tuffy began to take steps to revive their radio program. An examination of available sponsors turned up Miles Laboratories of Elkhart, Indiana.

The pharmaceutical company's empire had its beginning in 1882, when Elkhart physician Franklin L. Miles had begun selling a product he called "Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine." Two years later, he formed the Miles Medical Company to sell this and other products he had developed. In October 1931, Alka-Seltzer was introduced, and in 1935 the company name was changed to Miles Laboratories. (The name has now been simplified to Miles, Inc.) Long a user of radio advertising, beginning in 1933 Miles Labs had sponsored *The National Barn Dance*, the kissin' cousin of Nashville's *Grand Ole Opry*.

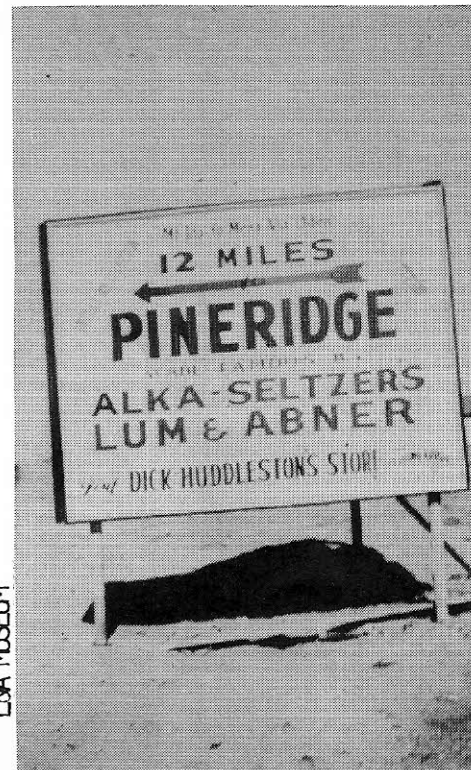
Miles was anxious to use *Lum and Abner* to promote their products, but before committing to a national sponsorship, they wanted to first test audience response in a smaller area. A group of radio stations on the West Coast were known collectively as the "Arizona Network," and it was on this small collection of stations that Miles Labs first sponsored *Lum and Abner* for a brief trial period in the spring of 1941.

The primary storyline of this trial series concerned L&A running a bank and becoming embroiled in a mystery involving a bag of diamonds and a certain "Mr. Devroe." This series does exist on tape (although without its original commercials), and for years efforts to place it within the context of the regular broadcasts produced only puzzlement. It was through the help of Miles' archives department that we have finally been able to set the record straight.

Needless to say, the trial series was a definite success, and on September 29, 1941, *Lum and Abner* returned to the network airwaves on NBC-Blue, sponsored by Alka-Seltzer (with occasional other ads for One-A-Day Vitamins and Miles Nervine). It was the first time the whole nation had heard L&A for almost a year and a half, so the opening of the first episode had to serve as a sort of "reintroduction" of the characters in just a few words. "And now," began announcer Lou Crosby, who was continuing his fine work from the 1938-40 Postum series, "let's see what's going on down in Pine Ridge. Well, it's morning in Pine Ridge, and the town's oldest grocery and dry goods merchants, Lum Edwards and Abner Peabody, have just opened their Jot 'Em Down Store. As we look in on the little community today, we find the two old fellows concentrating on how to speed up business and modernize their store. Listen..." The first Miles storyline concerned Lum's purchase of a book, *Modern Salesmanship: 72 Secrets to Sales Success*, which, in L&A's hands, had the result of sending most of their regular customers to Dick Huddleston's store.

The Miles series was heard four days a week... Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday... but in the summer of 1942 the show began being heard on Wednesdays and skipped Fridays... most likely so as to give Chet & Tuffy three-day weekends! One of the biggest changes in the series beginning in 1941 was its heavy use of outside radio actors to play supporting characters. The first and most frequently used was Jerry Hausner, who had appeared as "Spud Gandel" in 1937. Other regulars were cartoon voiceman Frank Graham (as Diogenes Smith and, later, B.J. Webster), Elmore Vincent (as Abner's senile father, Phinus Peabody), and former movie idol Francis X. Bushman, who played a wide range of roles, from stuffy businessmen to eccentric millionaires to the governor of Arkansas. Very few new characters were created or voiced by Lauck & Goff themselves from this point on, the major exceptions being Mousey Gray (introduced in December 1941) and Ulysses S. Quincy (debuting a year later).

Miles Labs did not concentrate on merchandising the show



Alka-Seltzer sponsored this billboard on Highway 88. It is the only known time that "Pine Ridge" was spelled as one word.



MILES, INC.

Defying all the contemporary laws against advertising in motion pictures, L&A take time out to plug their radio sponsor in THE BASHFUL BACHELOR (RKO, 1942).

as much as the previous sponsors had; they produced a few L&A postcards to send to fans, but the only true premium that was offered was an 8x10 photo of L&A, with their facsimile autographs on it. This photo eventually became the most commonly-used portrait of the duo, and it retains that status today.

Not long after the start of the new series, Chet & Tuffy began production on their second motion picture for RKO, *The Bashful Bachelor*. In a move that was unusual in movies at that time, they even managed to work their sponsor into the movie. Lum develops a headache because of Abner's stumbling, so Abner thoughtfully mixes a glass of Alka-Seltzer and offers it to his partner. On the screen, Tuffy held the Alka-Seltzer bottle in such a way that the label was hidden from view, but it is clearly visible in stills. Instead of taking their show off the air as they had done with their first film, Lauck & Goff decided to enlist help with writing their scripts. The writer they chose was Roswell "Roz" Rogers; one of the first storylines he created alone was the saga of Diogenes Smith, which ran most of the first three months of 1942. In many ways, this mystery story stands as the greatest tale ever spun on the show. After Rogers had proven his talent, Chet & Tuffy never went back to writing their material on any kind of regular basis.

The United States' reluctant involvement in World War II produced perhaps the most noticeable changes in the show's

style. The government wanted all radio performers to encourage their listeners to support the war effort, and sent suggestions for the writers to incorporate into the scripts. Roz Rogers faithfully included these requests in the L&A programs, with the result that the show lost some of its earlier, isolated rural flavor. Lum & Abner and their associate characters now seemed to be more aware of events in the outside world, even though most of their references were confined to the effects of the war on the home front. Unlike most radio comedians, L&A did not spend much time verbally bashing the enemy; one of the few references to the causes of the war came when Abner told a customer not to blame Lum and himself for wartime shortages. "Blame that crazy paperhanger, Adolph Shickelgruver, er whutever hiz name iz!" he yelled. On the day of the United Nations Peace Conference in San Francisco on April 26, 1945 (the L&A program's 14th anniversary!), L&A dropped their usual comedy in order for Lum to give Cedric a serious explanation of what freedom was all about.

In the autumn of 1944, easygoing Lou Crosby left his announcer's microphone to concentrate on other work. He was replaced by Gene Baker, another great announcer with a totally different style. While Crosby's relaxed style made him come across as almost a resident of Pine Ridge himself, Baker's approach identified himself more closely with the listeners at home, as he often related the current storyline with a slightly amused tone of voice. His more rapid delivery of the

commercials, hammering home Alka-Seltzer's slogan ("When your tablets get down to four, that's the time to buy some more!"), seemed to fit the stepped-up pace of the show in general as it continued into the late 1940's.

A rare event occurred in July 1945 when *Lum and Abner* left the air for a six-week summer vacation. (Miles Labs filled their time slot with another comedy team, *Pic and Pat*.) When the show returned in September, much discussion was made of the fact that the war had ended while L&A were on vacation, and Lum decided to go into the business of splitting atoms.

Besides the usual quota of outside character actors, radio and motion picture celebrities began to appear as themselves on the show more often. Earlier in the decade, Barbara Stanwyck had made several appearances to promote the sale of War Bonds, but now visits from the likes of Kay Kyser and Bob Hope became almost commonplace. (Hope began ad-libbing during the closing Miles Labs commercial, and succeeded in reducing Gene Baker to helpless laughter.) L&A themselves began to make occasional inside jokes about their sponsor and even their own show (as when Lum complained of turning his radio dial and hearing some show "about two ole men runnin' a store... an' talkin' that hillbilly talk").

During most of the Miles series' run, the shows were recorded onto transcription discs and then mailed around the country to a group of independent stations (that is, stations with no network affiliation), which became known as the "Keystone Network." The influence of the Keystone Network became so great that L&A even wound up recording some special broadcasts just for it... shows that were not heard over their regular network hookup (NBC-Blue had become the American Broadcasting Co. [ABC] in 1944, with no visible

effect on the show).

In 1947, the show moved from the ABC network back to CBS, where it had been last heard in 1940. We are unable to determine whether or not this brought an end to the Keystone transcriptions. It is known that by 1948, radio had changed drastically from the days when *Lum and Abner* had begun. In order to survive, the show would have to change as well... which meant another change in sponsorship. Join us in our next installment to see just what happened!

-Tim Hollis



This giveaway photo from Miles Labs remains the most famous publicity shot of L&A ever produced.



MILES, INC.

On a visit to the Miles headquarters in Elkhart: Lauck and Goff (center) with company officers Franklin B. Miles (left) and Walter Beardsley (right).

“AND NOW...”

... let's see what's going on TODAY in the “wonderful world” of Lum and Abner. Well, on Monday, December 17, 1990, it seems that a certain concerned television viewer telephoned the office of Tony Giles, co-host of WBRC, Channel 6's, *Morning Show* in Birmingham, Alabama. This viewer was quite concerned over Mr. Giles' announcement that “Lum and Abner” were to appear on the show the following day. “Did you know they are deceased?” the viewer asked.

As it turned out, the guests on the December 18 edition of *The Morning Show* were Alabama's own Tim Hollis and the visiting Uncle Donnie Pitchford, in full makeup as Abner and Lum respectively, appearing free gratis to promote the NLAS.

Originally, Tim and Donnie were trying for a guest spot on *Cousin Cliff's Clubhouse*, a WBRC cartoon program hosted by veteran magician and TV personality (and longtime NLAS member) “Cousin Cliff” Holman (pictured below). Tim had previously impersonated Popeye and Brutus (via hand puppets) on Cliff's program, much to the delight of the children



have fun they did!

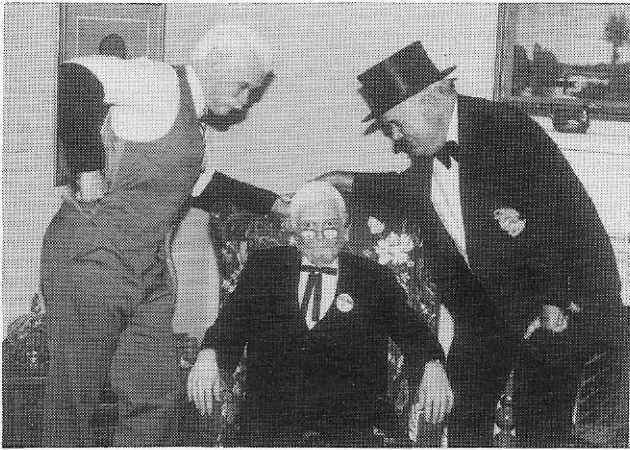
Introduced to the TV audience as impersonators of L&A, Hollis and Pitchford responded to Giles' questions with ad-lib quips, borrowing heavily on gags from the real L&A as well as the aforementioned Cousin Cliff:

LUM: Abner went awful high in school... clean up to th' third floor! In a one-room schoolhouse at that!

ABNER: I woulda gone past th' fourth grade, but my Papa wuz in th' fifth!

At the close of their six-minute free-for-all, their excellent host presented the viewing audience with the address for the NLAS, which generated numerous calls! Our thanks to “Cousin Cliff” Holman, Tony Giles, and the staff of WBRC-TV, Birmingham!

- Uncle Donnie Pitchford



appearing on the show. When it became apparent that the *Cousin Cliff* show would not be videotaping during the few days Uncle Donnie would be in town, the jovial Mr. Holman secured the Ossifers a spot on the highly-rated *Morning Show*. (Incidentally, the multi-talented Tim Hollis is currently completing his first book, a biography of the “Cuz” entitled *Cousin Cliff: 40 Magical Years In Television*.)

Around 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 18, Hollis and Pitchford awoke to begin a 2 1/2-hour ordeal of applying old-age makeup (using the techniques taught them by the one and only Rev. Bobs Watson at the 1990 NLAS Convention). After several pounds of makeup, colored hair spray, and crepe hair were plastered onto their faces, the two imposters jumped into the remaining pieces of their costumes and drove from NLAS Headquarters in Dora to the beautiful Channel 6 studios atop Red Mountain in Birmingham (en route being awarded a hefty dose of strange looks while pausing at stop lights!). After news anchorman Bill Bolen, a college friend of Tim's dad, mistook Hollis the Younger for the Elder (was our makeup THAT good?), the bogus L&A were briefed by Tony Giles (pictured in next column): “Let's just have some fun,” he suggested. And



1000 KEYSTONE BROADCASTS

(In the spring of 1946, Chet and Tuffy reached a milestone when they made their 1000th episode for the Keystone Network. This event was commemorated with the following special broadcast, which was not heard in their regular ABC Network series. The exact date of its broadcast cannot be determined because the Keystone stations did not all play the same episodes on the same dates. However, it is a splendid example of Lum and Abner's ability to poke fun at other types of standard radio programming... as well as their own show!)

SOUND: Three Rings On Phone

ANNCR: That's our ring! Time for *Lum and Abner*, brought to you by the makers of Miles Nervine and Alka-Seltzer!

MUSIC: Eleanor

ANNCR: Well, the old fellows have put aside their worries and cares for the day, and are striving to get some relaxation in the evening hours. Lum has gone over to Abner's house to listen to a special radio broadcast that Lum has heard about. Well, we'll soon see what happens next.

MUSIC: Up and Out

ANNCR: You know, there's an old saying, folks, that few things are impossible when you use diligence and skill. Now, we know every job requires diligence and skill, but the occasional lack of sleep due to nervous tension and overwrought nerves can make you cross and irritable. Then, your job suffers. And that's why we say, use Miles Nervine for that occasional sleepless night. It's a mild but effective sedative which has been making good for almost three-quarters of a century. And it's guaranteed to satisfy, or your money back. Caution: Use only as directed. All drugstores have Miles Nervine in two forms: effervescent tablets at 35 and 75 cents, or liquid Nervine at 25 cents and one dollar. It's a prescription-quality product backed by Miles Laboratories. Remember, it's Nervine: N-E-R-V-I-N-E. Miles Nervine!

MUSIC: Eleanor

ANNCR: And now, let's see what's going on down in Pine Ridge. Well, as we look in on the little community today, we find Abner sitting in front of the radio, with the only pair of earphones clamped to his head, while Lum sits beside him, anxiously trying to help matters along. Listen...

LUM: Hurry up, Abner, cain't ye git that radio ta workin'?

ABNER: I don't seem to... it twuz workin' all right a coupla months ago. Me an' Lizabeth set right here an' lissened ta some show on it. *Mrs. McGee and Folly*, er sumpin' like that.

LUM: Well, hurry up an' git th' thing ta workin'. Hit's time fer that speshul broadcast right now, I b'lieve.

ABNER: Seems ta be sumpin' wrong with it here, Lum.

LUM: I kin see that!

ABNER: Whut IZ this speshul broadcrast ye wanna lissen to?

LUM: Th' Keystone Network's havin' a big to-do 'bout a coupla



UALR ARCHIVES

fellers that's did 1000 'secative broadcasts fer 'em.

ABNER: One thousan'?!

LUM: That's whut they say.

ABNER: Law me, how ole iz them fellers, ennyway?!

LUM: I dunno... mus' be a coupla ole duffers, I reckon.

ABNER: Fer th' law me sakes alive.

LUM: Hurry up! Git that thing ta workin', Abner!

ABNER: Wait a minnit! Wait a minnit! I b'lieve I hear sumpin'! I b'lieve I hear it!

LUM: Iz it th' Keystone Network?

ABNER: Well, be quiet! Don't holler right in mah ear! (PAUSE) Naw, I reckon hit's some more o' that stratics.

LUM: Well, here... let me put them earphones on, Abner... I kin tell bettur whut we're lookin' fer.

ABNER: Lum, don't try ta yank 'em off! You'll taken mah ear right with it! Wait a minnit, I b'lieve I'm gittin' sumpin' now.

LUM: Well, Abner, we don't wanna miss out on this broadcast! Dick Huddleston tole us ta be shore an' lissen... said we'd EN-joy it.

ABNER: Whut duz HE know about it?

LUM: I dunno, but I'd love ta find out who them fellers air, too, that they're makin' all this fuss over.

ABNER: Doggies, wait a minnit! I'm gittin' sumpin' now, I

b'lieve, Lum!
 LUM: Well good... lemme lissen, too.
 ABNER: Naw... naw, wait... (PAUSE) Well!
 LUM: Have they menshuned who them fellers air?
 ABNER: Well sir, now that's jes' plumb hard ta b'lieve.
 LUM: Who iz it?
 ABNER: Lum, did ye know that ye kin dance ever dance if ye want to?
 LUM: Dance ever dance??
 ABNER: All ye gotta do iz use "Oh So Foamy" Shampoo ever nite.
 LUM: "Oh So Foamy?"
 ABNER: In th' giant economy size bottle, that iz.
 LUM: Whut air ye talkin' 'bout, ennyway?!

ABNER: (MUMBLING) Braggin' 'bout hiz up-to-date raddio...
 LUM: Whut do ye hear now, Abner?
 ABNER: Jes' a secont! Don't innerupt me, Lum!
 LUM: I hope ye got it this time.
 ABNER: (PAUSE) Well, ha ha!! Man, oh man! Ha Ha!!!
 LUM: Iz that it?
 ABNER: I doggies, kin that womern yodel!
 LUM: Yodel?
 ABNER: I wish I could do that! Yodelodelodelaheehoo!
 Yodelodelodelayheehoo!
 LUM: Air you ailin'?!?
 ABNER: I'm yodelin'!
 LUM: Oh. First thing ye know ye'll have this place fulla hawgs.
 ABNER: Haw??
 LUM: I kin hear 'em rustlin' up under th' house, now.
 ABNER: Jes' lissen ta that!! Ain't that th' out-cappinest thing ye ever heered in yore life?!

LUM: Fer goodness sakes, that's jes' some advertizement yo're lissenin' to! Whut we want's that speshul broadcast!
 ABNER: HOW kin shampoo help ye ta dance?!

LUM: Well, I cain't hear it! You got on the earphones!
 ABNER: Yodelodelodelodelaheehoo!
 LUM: Abner, if ye don't cut that out, I'm gonna wrop that radio aroun' yore haid! Fer goodness sakes!
 ABNER: Haw? What'd ye say, Lum?
 LUM: Gimme them earphones!!
 ABNER: Wait a minnit, wait a minnit... they're gonna play mah favorite song, *Wabash Cannonball*.
 LUM: Well, you ain't got time ta hear it.
 ABNER: Lum, don't keep turnin' that dial, thar!
 LUM: Abner, I never come over ta yore place tonite ta set an' watch you lissen ta somebody yodel 'bout some cannonball...
 ABNER: That's hard ta do.
 LUM: I wanna hear 'bout them fellers that's just did a thousan' 'secative programs on th' Keystone. Now, either git it, er I'm goin' home!!

ABNER: Wait a minnit, wait a minnit...
 LUM: Grannies, wish we'd a-lissened over at my place. I got two sets o' earphones on that radio o' mine.

ABNER: I'll git it... I'll git it, now... jes' hole yore horses, Lum... set down. Couldn't we lissen ta jes' one verse o' *Wabash Cannonball*, an' hear 'bout them other fellers later?
 LUM: No, 'cause it'll be too late, then. Dick said ta lissen in now if we wanted ta hear it. Said hit'd be a big s'prize to us.
 ABNER: Wish he'd lissen ta hiz own radio an' stop toutin' stuff ontu us.
 LUM: Hear ennything now?
 ABNER: I kin hear somebody talkin'. Ain't very plain, though.
 LUM: That must be it. Lemme lissen.
 ABNER: Wait a minnit, I'll git it a littul clearer... oh-oh, now, lost it altogether...
 LUM: Oh, fer goodness sakes... butterfingers...
 ABNER: Oh, now I kin hear 'em plain!
 LUM: Well good... whut air they sayin'?

ABNER: Jes' a secont. (PAUSE) Aw, no! No! That's wrong! Ha ha!! They got it wrong! Ha ha ha!!
 LUM: Whut have they got wrong?
 ABNER: Sech ignorance! Ha!!
 LUM: Whut'd they say?
 ABNER: Oh, some feller asked another whut "equinox" wuz.
 LUM: "Equinox?"
 ABNER: Yeah, an' th' other feller said sumpin' 'bout bein' th' time o' th' year when th' sun crosses th' E-quator, er some sech silly idee! Ha ha!!
 LUM: Well, whut's wrong with that?
 ABNER: Well, ennybody knows, Lum, Equinox iz them Indians that lives up in Alaska!
 LUM: Wait a minnit... air ye lissenin' ta one o' them quiz programs?
 ABNER: Why, shore. Wurst part o' it iz, they said that feller

This list of the Keystone Network stations appeared in the pressbook for the 1943 L&A film *TWO WEEKS TO LIVE*.

Keystone Transcription Network	Pick out your station from these lists and step out for an immediate tie up for your show.	
Aberdeen, S. D. KADR	Harlan, Ky. WHLN	Salem, Ore. KSLM
Albert Lea, Minn. KATE	Harrisburg, Ill. WEOQ	St. Cloud, Minn. KFAM
Appleton, Wis. WHBY	Hastings, Neb. KHAS	Saranac Lake, N. Y. WNBZ
Ardmore, Okla. KYSO	Hattiesburg, Miss. WFOR	Scottsbluff, Neb. KGKY
Asotria, Ore. KAST	Helena, Mont. KPFA	Sedalia, Mo. KDRO
Atchison, Kan. KVAK	Hickory, N. C. WHKY	Shenandoah, Ia. KMA
Athens, Ga. WGAU	Holla, N. M. KWEG	Sheridan, Wyo. KWYO
Auburn, N. Y. WNBQ	Huntsville, Ala. WBHP	Suffolk, Va. WLPW
Augusta, Ga. WGAC	Huntsville, Tenn. KSNM	Sumter, S. C. WFIC
Aurora, Ill. WIRO	Idaho Falls, Ida. KID	Tallahassee, Fla. WTAL
Beckley, W. Va. WJES	Jamestown, N. D. KRMC	Traverse City, Mich. WTCM
Bend, Ore. KBND	Jacksonville, Fla. WJAX	Tucuman, N. M. KTNM
Blytheville, Ark. KLCN	Jacksonville, Fla. WJAX	Vicksburg, Miss. KVIC
Bozeman, Mont. KBBM	Jerome, Ark. KJRM	Victoria, Tex. WQBC
Brady, Tex. KNEI	Kilgore, Tex. KOCA	Waycross, Ga. WAYX
Bridgeton, N. J. WSNJ	Kinston, N. C. WFTC	Welch, W. Va. WBRW
Brownsville, Tex. KEEV	Laconia, N. H. WLNH	Williamson, W. Va. WBTH
Brunswick, Ga. WMOC	La Grange, Ga. WLAG	Williamson, N. C. WFMF
Butte, Mont. KGIR	La Junta, Colo. KOLA	Wilson, N. C. WCTM
Calumet, Mich. WHDF	Laurel, Miss. WAML	Winona, Minn. KWNO
Carlsbad, N. M. KAVE	Logan, Utah KVNU	Wolf Point, Mont. KGCC
Casper, Wyoming KFDN	Logan, W. Va. WLOG	
Charlottesville, Va. WCHV	Long View, Tex. KFRO	
Clovis, N. M. KICA	Marinette, Wis. WMAN	
Columbia, Miss. WCBI	Marion, Ohio WMRN	
Cordale, Ga. WMJM	Marquette, Mich. WDMJ	
Corsicana, Tex. KAND	Martinsville, Va. WMVA	
Decatur, Ala. WMSL	Mason City, Ia. KGLO	
Decatur, Ill. WSOY	Medford, Ore. KMED	
Denton, Tex. KDNT	Rhinot, N. D. KLPH	
Dodge City, Kan. KGNO	Moorhead, Minn. KWOK	
Durango, Colo. KIUP	Moultrie, Ga. WMCA	
Elk City, Okla. KASA	Muncie, Ind. WLBC	
Elkhart, Ind. WTRC	North Platte, Neb. KGNF	
Escanaba, Mich. WDBC	Okmulgee, Okla. KHDC	
Fergus Falls, Minn. KCDE	Olean, N. Y. WHDI	
Fl. Myers, Fla. WFTM	Opelika, Ala. WJHO	
Frederickburg, Va. WFVA	Ottumwa, Ia. KBIZ	
Fremont, Neb. KORN	Owensboro, Ky. WOMI	
Galveston, Tex. KLUF	Palestine, Tex. KNET	
Gastonia, N. C. WCNC	Pampa, Tex. KFPD	
Goldboro, N. C. WGBR	Petersburg, Va. KPFD	
Grand Junction, Colo. KFJX	Pierre, S. D. KGFX	
Great Bend, Kan. KVBG	Ponca City, Okla. WBBZ	
Greenville, Miss. WJPR	Poplar Bluff, Mo. KWOC	
Greenville, S. C. WFBC	Port Huron, Mich. WHLS	
Grimm, Ga. WKMO	Poyette (Madison), Wis. WJBU	
Hannibal, Mo. KHMO	Presque Isle, Me. WAGI	
	Rapid City, S. D. KOBH	
	Rosnoke Rapids, N. C. WCRT	
	Rock Springs, Wyo. KVRB	
	Roswell, N. M. KGFL	
	Saginaw, Mich. WSAM	





At a party for L&A's 16th anniversary, 1947: Chet Lauck,
Frances Langford, Andy Devine, Tuffy Goff.

wuz right! Ha ha ha! Imagine, bein' right... "equinox!" Ha ha!
 LUM: Well, that may be right...
 ABNER: Aw, hit ain't no sech a thing, Lum! You've saw pitchers o' them! Settin' on ice, fishin'... got big tusks in their mouth, hangin' down thar!
 LUM: Well, them's WALRUSES.
 ABNER: Haw? Them iz EQUINOX, Lum!
 LUM: Yo're thinkin' o' ESKYMOES, iz whut yo're tryin' ta talk about!
 ABNER: Naw, naw I ain't, neither!
 LUM: Eskymoes iz them fellers that's got fur all over 'em, 'cept their face!
 ABNER: Yeah, that's right... I've saw pitchers o' them. Gave that feller three thousan' dollars an' a new washin' machine an' I dunno whut all...
 LUM: Well, turn that off an' git sumpin' else!
 ABNER: I'm goin' to! Jes' a minnit! (PAUSE) Still b'lieve I'm right 'bout Eskymoes... er, no, that might be right... I ain't gonna waste MY time lissenin' ta no sech huskin' shuckins, I know that. Cain't even tell whut they're talkin' 'bout.
 LUM: Abner, will ye PLEASE gimme them earphones, er leastways one o' 'em??
 ABNER: Wait a minnit, I'll git it fer ye! Don't git so EX-cited!
 LUM: Well, if ye don't hurry, we're gonna miss it.
 ABNER: I'll git it, I'll git it! Ah..... whut wuz it ye wantid ta hear, now?
 LUM: Oh fer pity sakes...
 ABNER: Oh, I recollect! Them two fellers that's a thousan' years old...
 LUM: Well, they ain't THAT ole, hardly. They've did a thousan' 'secative broadcasts on th' Keystone.
 ABNER: Oh yeah, I knowed it twuz sumpin' 'bout a thousan'.
 LUM: Here, lemme try ta git it. I kin at least recollect whut it tiz we're a-lookin' fer.
 ABNER: Wait a minnit, wait a minnit!
 LUM: Air ye gittin' 'em?
 ABNER: Shh! Be quiet! Be quiet! (PAUSE)
 LUM: Have ye got 'em?
 ABNER: WHY, YOU VARMINT!!!
 LUM: I never done nothin'!

ABNER: I doggies, did ye hear that, Lum?!

LUM: I cain't hear nothin'! YOU got th' earphones!!

ABNER: YOU ORNERY CRITTUR!! YE ORT TA BE ASHAMED O' YORESELF!!!

LUM: Abner, whut in th' wurd iz th' matter with you? Have ye lost yer reasonin'?!
 ABNER: Well, cain't ye hear whut he's doin'??
 LUM: Whut WHO'S doin'??
 ABNER: I don't even know who he iz, Lum! But he cain't git away with that!! He jes' now tied a pore ole womern up an' took all her jewels away frum her!!!
 LUM: Fer pity sakes, that's jes' a PLAY they're doin'... gimme them earphones!
 ABNER: Wait a minnit... (PAUSE) 'At's a time!! 'ATS TH' THING TA DO, BOY!! HA HA HA!!
 LUM: Abner, fer th' las' time, will ye lissen ta me?!?
 ABNER: Jes' a secont! They've got in tech with Don Doon now!!
 LUM: With who??
 ABNER: Don Doon, th' counterspy!! Don't ye know nothin', Lum??
 LUM: Abner, I've put up with all o' this I'm goin' to. If ye don't let me git that program, I'm gonna whop ye one...
 ABNER: Wait a minnit, Don's on th' case now! Doggies, now we'll git some action! GO TO IT, DON OLE BOY!! 'ATS A TIME, BOY!! GO TO IT!!
 LUM: He cain't hear you!
 ABNER: Haw?
 LUM: Abner, me an' you has been partners an' friends fer a long time, an' I've overlooked a lotta faults in ye in th' las' 30 years... but I grannies, if ye ain't keerful, I'm afeered me an' you haz come to th' partin' of th' ways!
 ABNER: Be quiet, Lum, I cain't hear whut they're sayin'! WHAT'D YE SAY, DON?? Er, naw, I don't reckon he kin hear me...
 LUM: Abner, fer pity sakes...
 ABNER: Doggies, I wish he COULD hear me... I could give him a awful good tip... HE'S HIDIN' OVER THAR BEHIND TH' CURTAINS, DON!!
 LUM: Abner, I've been ez patient with ye ez enny human could be, but I tell ye, I've come ta th' end o' my rope.
 ABNER: HIT 'IM AGIN, BOY!!
 LUM: I come over ta yore place this evenin' so's th' two o' us could lissen ta that speshul...
 ABNER: Oh, dad blame it all!
 LUM: Wait a minnit... whut're ye turnin' off th' radio fer?
 ABNER: Well, we hafta! Jes' when it twuz gittin' excitin', too. Come on, Lum, git yer hat!
 LUM: Git my hat? Whut fer?
 ABNER: Well, the feller on the radio said we hadta go right down ta our favorite grocery store an' buy a package o' Mother Hubbard's Ole-Fashioned Macaroni.
 LUM: I swan to goodness, ye b'lieve everthing ye hear!
 ABNER: Come on, Lum! He said, "Don't delay! Do it right away!"
 LUM: Abner, don't ye know th' store's closed now? Hit's after dark!
 ABNER: Haw?
 LUM: Now, jes' set down over thar in that rocker an' let me work on that radio...
 ABNER: He said, "When yore macaroni gits down ta four, that's th' time ta buy some more."
 SOUND: Footsteps Outside
 ABNER: Oh-oh! I'll bet that's him! He's found out we ain't gonna git that macaroni! Somebody's walkin' up on th' porch

out thar, shore ez th' wurld! A spy!

SOUND: Knock On Door

LUM: Yeah, I grannies, thar they air.

ABNER: Oh-oh, we oughta left already.

LUM: Wonder who that kin be?

SOUND: Door Opens

GRANDPAP: Hey, ennybody home?!

ABNER: Why Grandpap, whut're ye doin' over here?

GRANDPAP: I jes' come over ta tell ye sumpin' innerestin'. I wuz settin' thar at home an' I heered th' out-cappinest radio program I ever heered...

ABNER: Have ye bin down ta git yer macaroni yet, Grandpap?

GRANDPAP: Howzat?

ABNER: Whut program wuz ye lissenin' to? Don Doon?

GRANDPAP: Naw, this wuz some kinda thing th' Keystone Network got up ta celebrate a coupla fellers that's jes' did one thousan' 'secative broadcasts fer 'em.

ABNER: Wait a minnit, ain't that whut ye wanted ta hear, Lum?

LUM: Yeah. Hit's all over now, Grandpap?

GRANDPAP: Yep. Too bad ye never heered it.

ABNER: Well, who WUZ th' two fellers?

GRANDPAP: Well now, that's th' 'culiar thing 'bout it. They had th' same names ez you fellers.

ABNER: They did?!

GRANDPAP: Yeah, they called 'em "Lum and Abner."

ABNER: Why, them varmint! Stealin' our names! I doggies, Lum, we oughta lawsue 'em! Right up ta th' su-preem court...

MUSIC: Up and out

ANNCR: Friends, every single day at this time of year, millions of dollars are lost by wage earners because they can't go to work due to common colds. And you too will be lucky to escape a cold this season. That's why it's wise to "do what you can when you're catching cold, to keep that cold from taking hold." Now, when you start catching cold, just call on Alka-Seltzer. It can help give comforting relief for that headachy, feverish, ache-all-over feeling when you follow the Alka-Seltzer A-B-C cold comfort treatment. And here it is: A - Alka Seltzer! Start taking it according to the directions on the package. B - Be careful! Get plenty of rest, eat wisely, and stay out of drafts. C - Comfort! Just gargle with Alka-Seltzer for the raw, raspy throat that often goes with a cold. It's so soothing and effective, really there's nothing quite like it. You see, only Miles Laboratories know the secret scientific process for compounding Alka-Seltzer. So, get a large economical package from your druggist. And then follow the easy Alka-Seltzer A-B-C cold comfort treatment, and help yourself to REAL relief!

MUSIC: Eleanor

ANNCR: Listen again at the regular time for Lum and Abner and their three rings on the Pine Ridge party line. Well friends, as you know now, today Lum and Abner are celebrating their first 1000 broadcasts over the Keystone Broadcasting System. And they, together with their sponsors, Miles Laboratories... makers of Alka-Seltzer and Miles Nervine... wish to thank ALL of you for your interest and loyalty during these 1000 programs. It is your loyalty to Lum and Abner, Alka-Seltzer, and Miles Nervine that make these broadcasts possible. Gene Baker speaking.

MUSIC: Fade out



Meet the Members

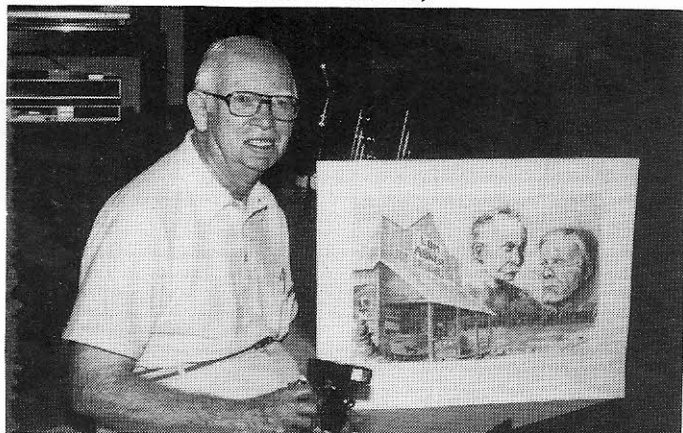
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PAUL CORZINE of St. Louis, Missouri

Paul Corzine has been a Lum and Abner fan since the early 1930's, hearing the program while at work after school. Paul was learning printing and linotype operation at the *Tri-County Record* in Dongola, Illinois, present home of "Singin' Sam" Brown. Paul retired from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* in 1979.

Says Paul, "I found my first Lum and Abner tapes in an antique store in St. Charles five or six years ago. At an Elderhostel in May 1989, I first learned of SPERDVAC (the Society to Preserve and Encourage Radio Drama, Variety, and Comedy). Next, I learned of the National Lum and Abner Society. I am so pleased to learn that tapes of so many of the shows are available, and at the rate I've been going, I'll have a sizable collection.

"I'm also pleased that preservation of the shows and Lum and Abner memories is being led by such YOUNG and dedicated people." This fact was made known to Paul when he met Uncle Donnie and Aunt Laura (both born after L&A went off the air) at an Elderhostel in Mena, Arkansas, held at Queen Wilhelmina Inn during June 1990 (see the October 1990 "And Now" column for details).



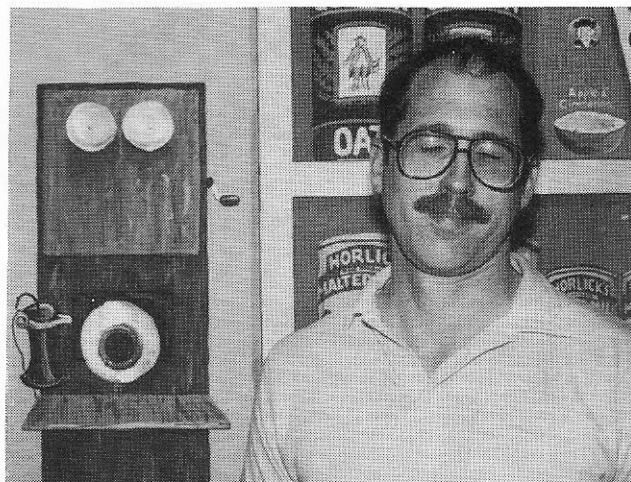
CHARLES PITTS of Garland, Texas

"My name is Charles Pitts. I am married and have a four-year-old son named Jeremy. I am a window clerk for the Postal Service.

"I first heard of Lum and Abner on a 'Golden Days of Radio' record my father ordered. An excerpt from their program with Jim Backus was on it, and I found out that my father used to listen to L&A in the late 1930's. I thought this excerpt was really funny, and I bought some more records of *Lum and Abner*.

"One night while throwing flats at the post office, I ran across an issue of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal*, so I decided to stop and copy down the address. I wrote them and became a member. Since then, I've been ordering tapes from Tim and letting my father listen to them after I do. We both enjoy them, and this has led to a sort of hobby."

Charles and his family were present at the 1990 NLAS Convention in Mena... we hope they will return this summer!



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