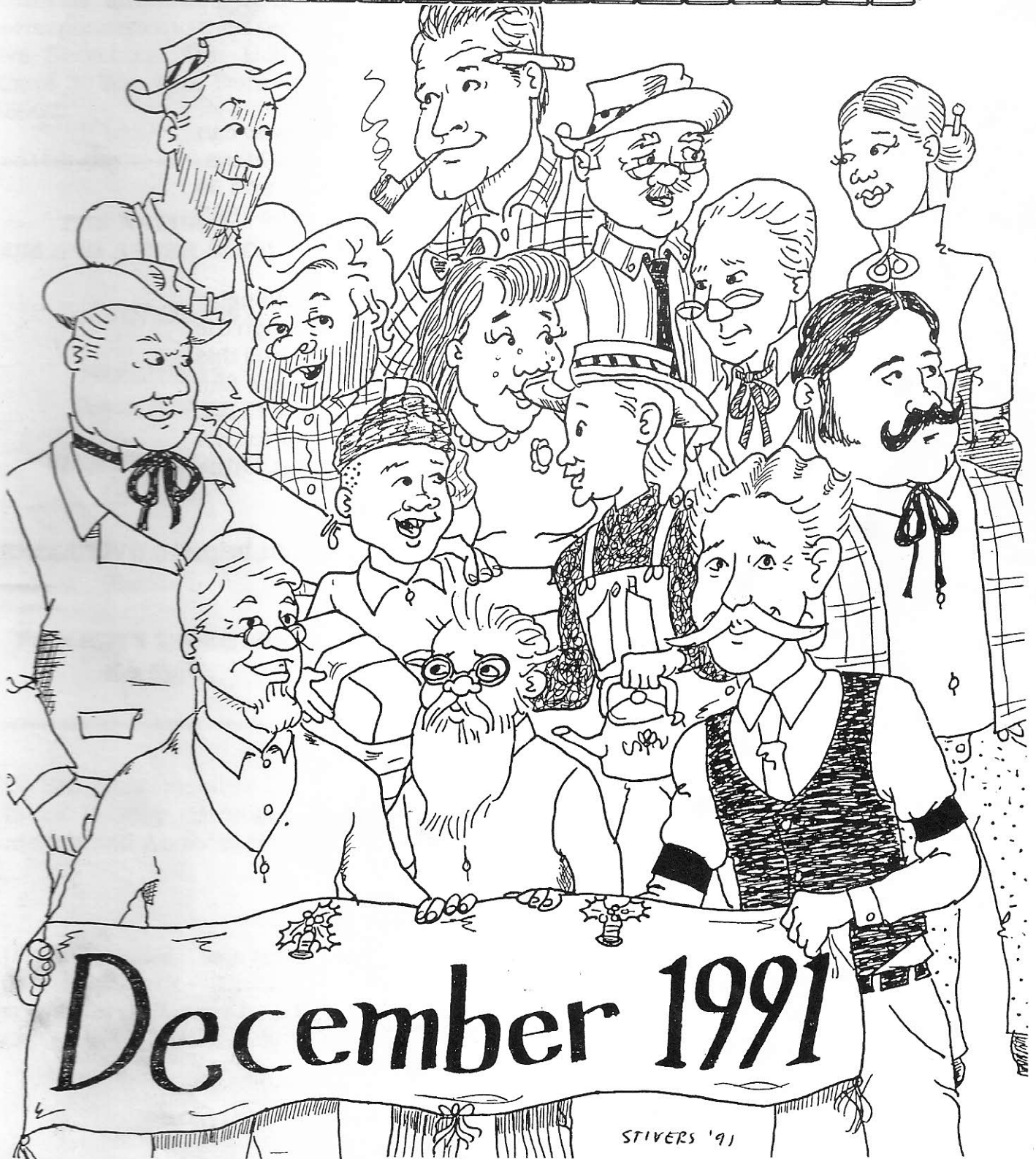


The JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

Official Publication of the National Lumber and Abner® Society



HELP!

The NLAS desperately needs the help of anyone who can give it to us. Our next annual Convention in Mena, Arkansas, is coming up on June 27, 1992, and is scheduled to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1942 Lum & Abner feature *The Bashful Bachelor*.

Here is our problem: we need to locate a 16 millimeter print of this film to show at the Convention. Although the movie is available on video cassette, for our purposes this is not sufficient. If any of our members who are film collectors can find a print of the film to loan to the NLAS, please contact the Executive Secretary. If anyone knows of a source that might be willing to sell a print of the movie, please let us know as well.

The 1992 NLAS Convention will be richer for your help; we hope someone can assist us!



The Jot 'Em Down Journal, Volume 8, Number 3 (Whole Number 45), December 1991. Published bi-monthly by the National Lum and Abner Society, a non-profit organization. Membership, including a subscription to the Journal is \$8.00 per year. Send editorial and subscription correspondence to the Executive Secretary, Tim Hollis, Route 3, Box 110, Dora, AL 35062.

THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

December 1991

In This Issue:

**THE NATIONAL
LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT

Donnie Pitchford

VICE-PRESIDENT

Sam Brown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Tim Hollis

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

Rex Riffle

COVER: NLAS member Gary Stivers' holiday rendition of the Lum and Abner cast.

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

Lum & Abner's Christmas Parade Float.....2

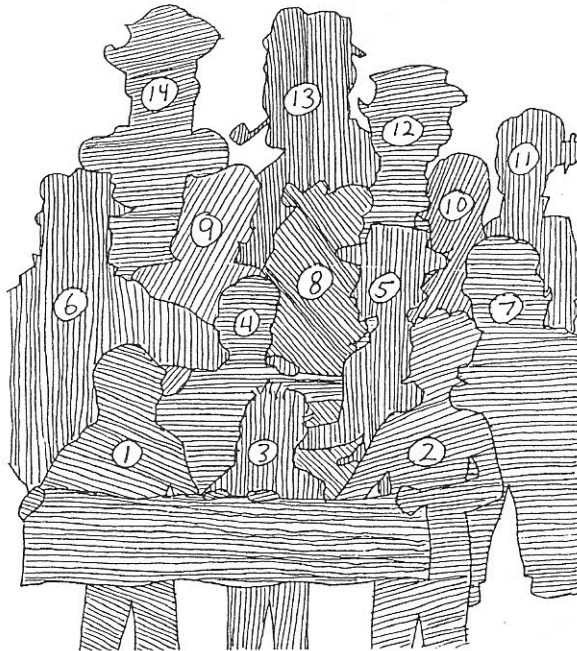
The latest in our series of classic L&A scripts, this one from 1947.

Lum & Abner Go To War6

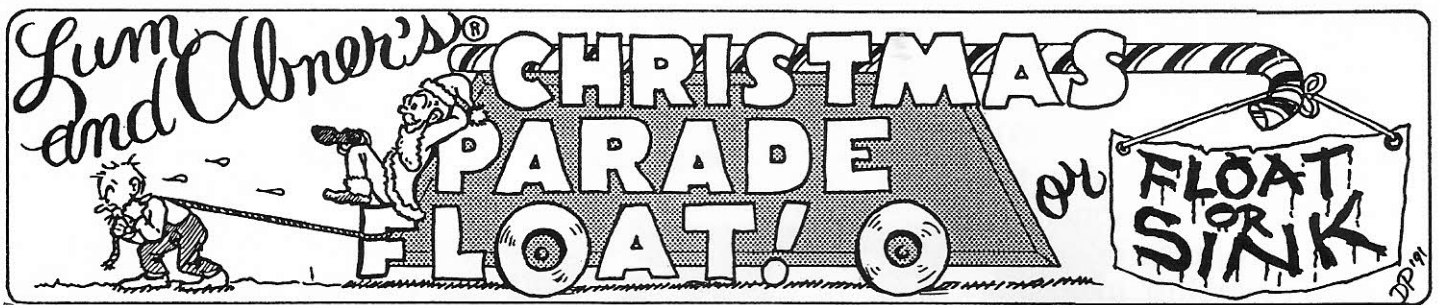
A salute to the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Meet The Members8

The spotlight shines again.



(1) Abner, (2) Lum, (3) Grandpappy Spears, (4) Mousey, (5) Cedric, (6) Squire Skimp, (7) Mose Moots, (8) Winifred Redfield, (9) Ulysses S. Quincy, (10) Doc Miller, (11) Sister Simpson, (12) Ben Withers, (13) Dick Huddleston, (14) Caleb Wehunt.



(The following *Lum and Abner* episode was broadcast on December 16, 1947, and is not a part of the package currently being syndicated for radio broadcast. This program may be heard on Tape # 233 in the NLAS Tape Library.)

(SOUND: Three telephone rings)

ANNOUNCER: That's our ring, time for *Lum and Abner*, brought to you by the makers of Alka-Seltzer!

(MUSIC: Theme, "Down on the Old Party Line")

ANNOUNCER: Friends, these are busy days for everyone: Christmas shopping, wrapping, mailing, and a big list of other important things you must get done. And you certainly don't want anything to slow you down. A nagging headache or an unexpected spell of acid indigestion wouldn't be welcome. So, why not be prepared with reliable Alka-Seltzer and the dependable relief it can bring for just such upsets? You know from experience how annoying the combination of a nervous headache and of acid-upset stomach can be. And you should know how quickly Alka-Seltzer can bring you welcome relief! With plenty of Alka-Seltzer on hand, you're prepared with "relief in reserve"! Ask your druggist for two packages of Alka-Seltzer next time. That extra package on the side, keeps a fellow well-supplied! Alka-Seltzer comes in two generous-size packages: the handy "get-acquainted" package for thirty cents, and the large "economy-size" package, containing more than three times as many tablets, for only sixty cents.

(MUSIC: Theme full, down and under)

ANNOUNCER: 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 Lum and Abner back in the feed room of the Jot 'Em Down Store, working on their float for the Christmas parade. Listen...

(SOUND: Sawing & hammering)

LUM: Wait a minnit, Abner...

ABNER: Huh?

LUM: Hold it jist a second!

ABNER: What'sa matter now?

(SOUND: Sawing & hammering continues)

LUM: Wait, hold it! WAIT A MINNIT!!!

(SOUND: Sawing & hammering stops)

ABNER: What is it; I wanna git this thing over with, Lum!

LUM: We're buildin' it all crooked here!

ABNER: Well, it looks all right ta me!

LUM: No, it don't! We ain't never gonna win no hunnerd dollar prize with a float that's all... cockeyed! Look how th' roof slants down on yer side there!

ABNER: Well, now, wait just a minnit, now, that's got ta be even! Look 'ere, comes right down ta th' top o' my head, jist like it does yer head on yer side there. Hit's all right; let's go...

LUM: 'At's right, ain't it?

ABNER: Yeah, shore.

LUM: Mus' be an "octipicle allusions"!

ABNER: Huh?

LUM: Er, what'sa matter with me, no wonder it slants, in that case! I'm a good foot taller'n you, might nigh!

ABNER: Hu- OH! (laughs) Shore, what'sa matter with me, yeah, that'sa cause of it, right there!

LUM: 'Course ever'thing else looks a little off, too. Air you shore yer follerin' th' plans I drewed up fer this float?

ABNER: Yessir, I'm follerin' 'em jis' 'zackly th' way you drewed 'em.

LUM: Hmmm...

ABNER: Maybe that's th' trouble!

LUM: Well, let's glance over 'em ag'in; make sure we're doin' this right.

(SOUND: Paper rustling)

ABNER: Lum, I still think it'd be better ta build this junk right di-rect ont'a th' boat, 'stidda buildin' it here in th' feed room!

LUM: No, 'cause then somebody'd be bound ta see it! Then Mose Moots'd find out about it, an' he'd steal the idee from us...

ABNER: Oh...

LUM: ...an' win the prize!

ABNER: Yeah, maybe so, maybe so.

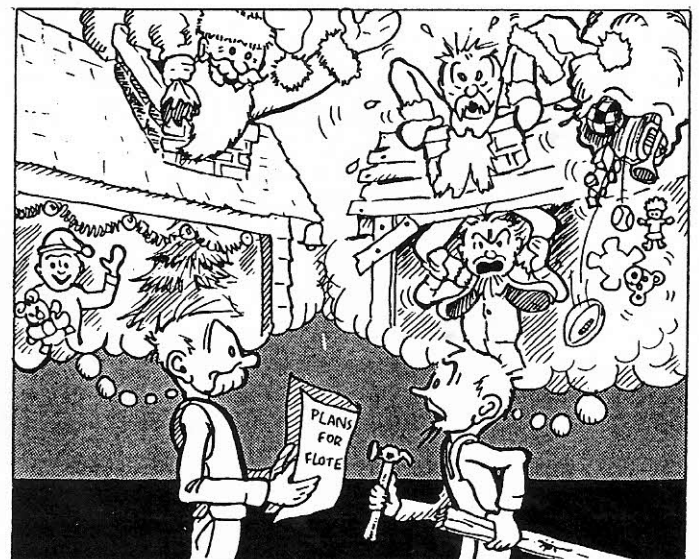
LUM: Now, lessee here... 'Cordin' ta th' plans we have, this little roof up here with the chimbley on it ort ta be...

ABNER: Yeah, we got th' framework fer th' roof did already, Lum.

LUM: Y'know, we wanna be shore ta make that chimbley tall enough so's when I'm in it with the bag o' toys, my feet won't hang down int'a th' little room below.

ABNER: Well, I don't want you kickin' me in th' head, neither, if I'm gonna be th' little boy standin' there with m'head up that chimney, lookin' fer Sanny Claus!

LUM: Well, we'll take care o' that!



ABNER: Lum, I still think you orter git somebody else fer that little boy!

LUM: No, hit'll be a lot easier with you!

ABNER: I'm too old fer it!

LUM: Well, we kin dress ya up ta whur nobody kin tell how old ye air!

ABNER: Am I still gonna hafta wear them perjommers with th' feet in 'em?

LUM: Yeah, I think that's best.

ABNER: Doggies, I'll freeze ta death runnin' aroun' thataway!

LUM: Well, you'll be holdin' a candle in yer hand!

ABNER: Lum, a candle ain't gonna keep me warm with jist a pair o' perjommers on, out there in th' main street o' town in freezin weather!!

LUM: Well, you kin wear a couple o' pairs o' long underwear and a sweater under it.

ABNER: I'd druther wear a overcoat over it! A good long one, too!

LUM: Abner, you ain't gittin' th' right Christmas spirit fer this!

ABNER: Look, Lum, why don't we jist have Cedric fer that little boy, he don't know no better...

LUM: He's too big, I tell ya!

ABNER: Oh...

LUM: We cain't 'ford enough lumber ta build a float that high! 'Sides, he's gonna drive th' tractor that pulls th' float!

ABNER: I though he's gonna be one o' Sanny Claus's "gobbelins" in Mose Moots's float!

LUM: I talked 'im outta that.

ABNER: You did?

LUM: Hit weren't easy! Had ta give 'im a month's supply o' peanut butter!

ABNER: Chunk style?

LUM: Yeah!

ABNER: Hmph!

LUM: An' with him, a month's supply runs purty high!

ABNER: Doggies, this float's gonna break us up in "bidness" 'fore we git done with it!

LUM: Yeah, but don't fergit, this float's gonna win us a hundred dollars!

ABNER: I hope so, I hope so!

LUM: Wait a minnit, wuz' at somebody comin' up in front?

ABNER: I don't know, I never paid no 'tention...

LUM: Well, better look, we don't want nobody bargain' back here, findin' out what out float idee is. Might be spies, sent out by Mose Moots!

ABNER: Might be somebody up 'ere stealin' sump'm, too, lemme take a look... (distant) oh, no... jist Ben Withers. He done knows about the idee.

LUM: Done knows about it? How does he know about it?

ABNER: (near) Oh, I don' know; he wuz in th' store yesterdee, an' it come up, in th' conversation.

LUM: Grannies, I hope he ain't told nobody.

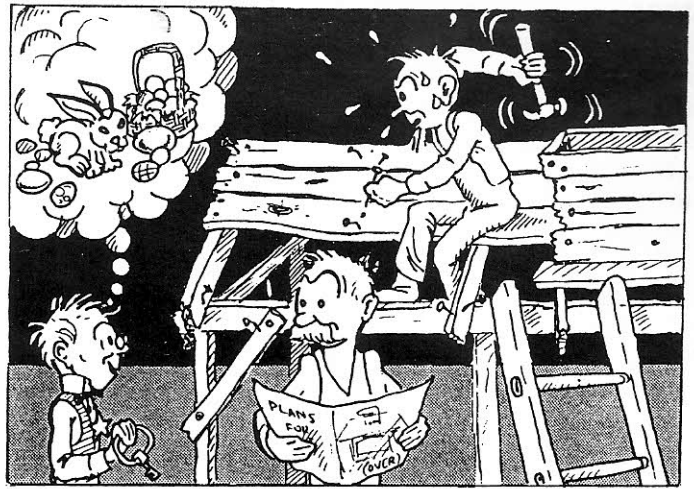
ABNER: Well... I - I told 'im it wuzza secret. (shouts) Hey, we're back here, Ben!!

BEN: (distant) Anybody here?

ABNER: Yeah, I said we're back here in the feed room, Ben!! Come on back here!!

BEN: Oh, way back there in the feed room!

ABNER: Yeah (laughs).



BEN: (near) Oh, here y'are!

ABNER: Yeah!

BEN: My stars! What are you buildin'? Rabbit hutch?

LUM: No, this is gonna be part of our float, in the parade.

BEN: Oooh, that's a nice idea. Rabbits are attractive!

LUM: We ain't havin' rabbits!

BEN: Fine. I would say, however, that they possibly would fit in better in an Easter parade, though.

LUM: Yeah, but Ben, this...

BEN: Rabbits are more symbolic of the Eastertide than of Christmas, I think - colored eggs, Easter baskets, one thing and another. I recall attending an egg-roll on the Zincafoose lawn in Mount Idy one year...

ABNER: At Christmas?!?

BEN: No, it was for the children.

ABNER: Huh?

BEN: It was quite a traditional thing with the Zincafoose family. I recall this one particularly well. There were the two Zincafoose boys, Herbert and Kenneth, all dressed up in their sailor suits and straw hats, with pipes just alike...

ABNER: Pipes?

BEN: Yes, they promised their father they wouldn't smoke until they were twenty-one!

ABNER: Aw...

LUM: Ben, I wonder if you'll excuse us, me an' Abner's gotta awful lotta work yet ta do on this float, an' th' parade's jist a coupla days off, y'know.

BEN: Fine... well, the egg-roll started off in the traditional fashion, with Kenneth rolling the egg to Herbert, then Herbert rolling it back to Kenneth...

ABNER: Well, sounds like fun!

BEN: ...then, the old man, Mr. Zincafoose, joined the festivities. He caught up the egg, and rolled it first to Kenneth, and then once to Herbert.

ABNER: (laughs)

LUM: What's they do, just have one egg?

BEN: Fine. Then, their mother, Mrs. Zincafoose, gaily rushed out onto the lawn to catch up the egg, but she stepped on a croquet ball and broke her hip, and had to be carried out of the fun.

ABNER: Ohh, it's a shame she had ta miss out on all that fun!

BEN: Now, the rice part of it was, the Zincafooses put on this same, traditional ceremony every year at Easter.

ABNER: Ever' year!? Musta been hard on Miz Zincafoose...

BEN: Fine.

LUM: Come on, Abner, we got ta git ta work here!

ABNER: ...hittin' that croquet ball ever' Easter!

LUM: If we jist git a coupla boards nailed on here, we'll have it ta whur we kin take it out and see it it fits on the boat all right.

ABNER: Yeah, all right, I'm ready ta git started.

LUM: Will ya 'scuse us, Ben, if we go ahead an' work?

BEN: Not a-tall, Lum.

(SOUND: Sawing & hammering)

LUM: Brace that side over there good an' strong, Abner.

ABNER: Yeah, I will, that's what I'm doin' right now.

LUM: If I'm gonna be up on that roof, I don't want it col-lapsin' down with me.

ABNER: Well, I'm bracin' it, don't worry.

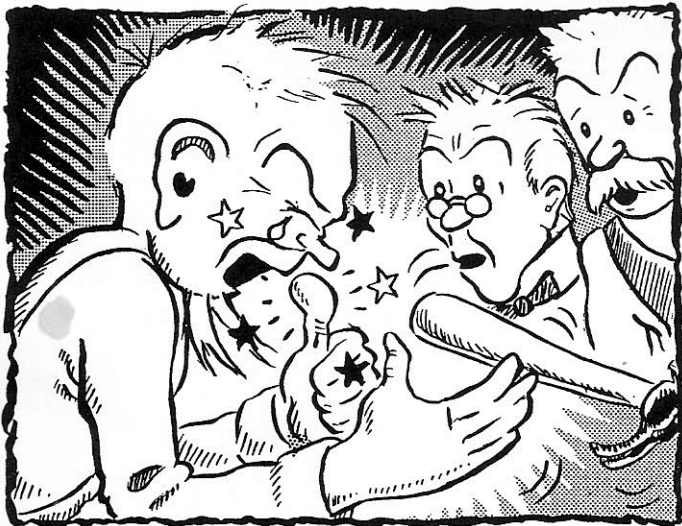
BEN: Well, I'd stay here and help you, but I think I'd better go back to the jailhouse and work on my own float.

LUM: Well, good!

(SOUND: Loud hammering, stops)

ABNER: (Yells with pain) Doggies, I hit that thumb ag'in!!

LUM: Grannies!



(SOUND: Sawing & hammering resumes)

BEN: I've given up that idea of having a sleigh drawn by eight tiny bloodhounds.

ABNER: Oh, that's a shame, that sounded like a good idee ta me, Ben!

BEN: Well, I couldn't find any way to fasten antlers on the bloodhounds. Even the Scotch tape wouldn't work. And, on top of that, seven of the hounds ran away.

ABNER: Seven? Why didn't the othern run away?

BEN: Well, he was asleep when the other ones took out, and when he woke up, he couldn't seem to find the trail.

ABNER: 'At's a fine bloodhoun', when he cain't even trail another bloodhoun'!

BEN: Well, I think what happened, he got mixed up in that Scotch tape, and got some plastered acrossed his nose.

ABNER: Oh, mighta did it, that mighta been it.

BEN: Well, I'll see you fellas later.

LUM: Yeah, all right, Ben.

ABNER: Yeah, come back again when ye can, Ben.

LUM: An' don't tell nobody our float idee!

BEN: Yes, I will! Thanks! (exits)

LUM: I cain't hardly wait ta git this out on th' boat an' see how it looks!

ABNER: Well, Lum, won't somebody see us if we take it out

there?

LUM: I doubt it. We'll jist have it out there long enough ta check th' maysuremints an' then brang it right back in th' feed room.

ABNER: Oh... yeah. Gonna hafta have somebody ta hep us git this thing outta here, too; this's gonna be purty heavy, y'-know it?

CEDRIC: (entering, shouting) Howdy, ever'body!!

ABNER: OH, my goo'ness!!

CEDRIC: (laughs)

ABNER: Doggies, ya scared me; Cedric!! (laughs)

CEDRIC: Yes mum, I scared me too!

ABNER: I never heared you come in, there! (laughs)

CEDRIC: Well, I come in jist when Mr. Ben went out!

ABNER: Oh! Well, I'm glad yer here, Cedric; you kin hep us take this contraption we're building here, an' take it out there and set it on th' boat!

LUM: Yeah, we'll needja, Cedric. By the way, did you make arrange-mints with Earl Pomeroy to borry his tractor ta pull our float with?

CEDRIC: No mum, I never, 'cause I won't be able ta run that tractor fer ya after all, Mr. Lum.

ABNER: Huh?

LUM: Ya won't?? Well, you said you would!!

ABNER: Yeah, we give you that peanut butter!!

CEDRIC: Yes mum, I know it, but since then I found out I'm gonna hafta be in th' float th' school's gittin' up!

LUM: Oh, fer pity sakes. Nothin' seems ta go right fer me!

ABNER: Whattaya gonna do in th' school float, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Uh... let's see, now... oh, yeah, I'm gonna be one o' th' three wise men!

ABNER: WISE MEN!?? You?

CEDRIC: (laughs) Yes mum!

ABNER: Who's the' other two wise men?

CEDRIC: Um... uh.... "Barrel-legs" Crockett, and "Knucklehead" Johnson.

ABNER: Doggies, that's a fine try-o o' wise men ye got there, there's a brain trust!

CEDRIC: Thank ye, mum!

ABNER: Air you gonna ride onna float?

CEDRIC: No mum, we're gonna ride onna camel!

ABNER: Camel??

CEDRIC: Yes mum. Not a real, genu-ine one, it's one they're buildin'.

ABNER: Oh! Oh...

LUM: Cedric, don't you think you could git outta that, an' run the tractor fer us?

ABNER: Well, Lum, now, if he's been chose fer th' school float, I think he ort ta do it!

LUM: Yeah, I guess yer right.

ABNER: Hit's a honor fer 'im, special ta be a wise man!

LUM: Yeah, shore.

ABNER: He'll look awful digganified, ridin' up there on that camel with them other two fellers.

CEDRIC: I'm gonna wear my mama's kimony!

ABNER: Huh?

CEDRIC: Only trouble is, hit's a little short fer me.

ABNER: Yeah, it'll look like a long shirt on ye, Cedric.

CEDRIC: S'posed ta have one that comes clean down long to th' groun', th' teacher said.

ABNER: Hey, Lum, why don'cha let Cedric borrry that bathrobe o' yers, that's a good long one.

LUM: Yeah, yer welcome ta use that, if ya want to, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Well, much obliged. 'Course, I guess it won't matter too much if I'm the middle wise man, right 'twixt them humps on th' camel's back. I wouldn't show much, nowadays.

ABNER: No... is that whur yer gonna ride?

CEDRIC: I don't know. I better check with my teacher and find out jist what I am s'posed ta do.

ABNER: Yeah, ya better do that, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Kin I go in there an' use yer telephone?

ABNER: Yeah, shore, go right ahead, Cedric.

LUM: But hurry right back, Cedric, we're ready ta take this thing out here and try it on th' boat!

ABNER: He's done gone up ta th' front, Lum. Is it all ready now?

LUM: Hit's ready enough ta see if it fits! We got all th' hard work did on it.

ABNER: Yeah, I'm glad ta git that over.

LUM: Jist need ta put th' trimmin's on it. I thought we'd git some o' that tissy-paper that's got pitchers o' bricks on it ta wrap aroun' th' chimbley.

ABNER: Well sir, I had that same idee, I laid a roll back fer us.

LUM: Lessee now, I reckon if you an' Cedric git on each side of it, I kin hold th' door...

ABNER: You kin hold th' door?

LUM: Wait a minnit, we'll hafta tip it over sideways in order ta git th' ... OH MY GOODNESS!!! Look what we've done!!!

ABNER: Huh??

LUM: We've build it sa big, we cain't git it out the DOOR!!!

ABNER: Fer th' land sakes!!!

LUM: Now, we'll hafta tear th' whole thing down, an' start over!!!

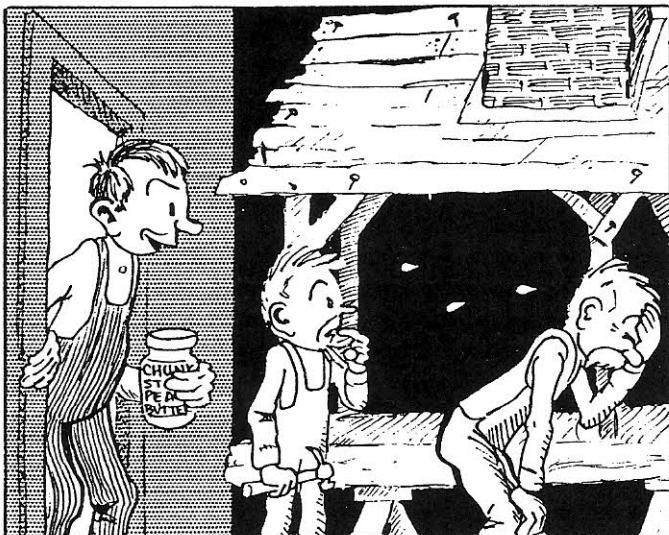
ABNER: Oh, my goo'ness sakes a-live!!!

CEDRIC: Say, Mr. Lum!!

ABNER: Huh?

LUM: Don't bother me now, Cedric!! I'm tryin' ta think!!

ABNER: Yeah, leave 'im alone!!



CEDRIC: Say, I guess I won't hafta borrry that bathrobe after all.

ABNER: Why, air you ridin' in th' middle?

CEDRIC: No mum, I ain't ridin' a-tall!

ABNER: Huh?

CEDRIC: I called my teacher, and she said I had things a little mixed up. I ain't gonna be on the camel, I'm gonna be in it!!

ABNER: In it??

CEDRIC: Yes mum, I'm th' back half of it!! Y'know, Mr. Lum, I might drive that tractor fer you after all...(fade out)

(MUSIC: Humorous buildup)

ANNOUNCER: Well, is Cedric going to leave the front end of the camel without a hind leg to stand on? As the day of the parade nears, the rivalry between the merchants rises to fever-pitch!

(MUSIC: Final chords)

ANNOUNCER: Friends, it's not fun to have a cold. But if you have a cold right now that is making you miserable, try Alka-Seltzer's A B C cold comfort treatment: A, Alka-Seltzer - take it at once to relieve the stuffed-up, feverish, ache all-over misery of your cold; B, Be careful - rest, eat and dress wisely; C, Comfort - gargle with Alka-Seltzer to soothe and comfort that raspy, sore throat. Keep plenty of Alka-Seltzer on hand. It's easy to do, if you'll just remember this rule: always ask your druggist for two packages of Alka-Seltzer. Keep that extra package as "relief in reserve". Alka-Seltzer is sold at all drug stores in two generous-size packages; the handy "get acquainted" size, for thirty cents, and the larger "family-size" package, containing more than three times as many tablets, for only sixty cents.

(SOUND: Short Tone)

ANNOUNCER # 2: Mothers, are you having trouble getting your growing children to take their vitamins this winter? Try giving them One-A-Day brand multiple vitamin capsules. Each One-A-Day brand multiple capsule contains all the vitamins for which the amount needed for grownups and children has been established. What's more, one capsule every day is all they take. And One-A-Day brand multiple vitamin capsules are low in cost, a full, two-month's supply for only two dollars. Ask your druggist for One-A-Day brand vitamins, good for growing children and adults! Remember, for vitamins the easy way, for vitamins the thrifty way, the brand you want is One-A-Day!

(MUSIC: "Down on the Old Party Line")

ANNOUNCER: Listen again tomorrow, and every weekday at this time, for *Lum and Abner*, down in Pine Ridge, brought to you by the makers of Alka-Seltzer and One-A-Day brand vitamins. Gene Baker, speaking.

(MUSIC: up to full, down and under)

ANNOUNCER: This is CBS, the Columbia Broadcasting System.

(MUSIC: playoff)

CREDITS

Lum, Cedric CHET LAUCK

Abner TUFFY GOFF

Ben CLARENCE HARTZELL

Announcer GENE BAKER

Script ROZ ROGERS

and BETTY BOYLE

Theme song RALPH EMERSON

and ELSIE MAE EMERSON

Recording courtesy of FRANK BRESEE

Cartoons "UNCLE DONNIE" PITCHFORD,

based upon the 1932 style of CHET LAUCK

LUM AND ABNER®

GO TO WAR

A 50TH ANNIVERSARY SERIES



It has been a half-century since the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the beginning of the United States of America's active involvement in World War II. Although the content of *Lum and Abner* retained virtually its same style, it would not be long before the program began to reflect the changing trends of wartime America in the 1940s. This series of articles will trace the history of World War II through the rural charm of one of radio's finest series (which just happens to be the show we are dedicated to preserving!).

Since the "ossifers" of the NLAS are all Baby Boomers, we cannot speak of World War II from a first-hand perspective, but we have all been enlightened by parents and other relatives who lived through military service, rationing, heightened patriotism, and the dread of losing loved ones in battle. Those of us who lost family or friends in Korea or Viet Nam know only a part of the mixture of emotions the generation of World War II experienced. Our younger members whose first taste of war was the brief Operation Desert Storm experienced a slice of the sense of national "esprit de corps" that existed in World War II.

According to the 1973 *World Book Encyclopedia* I used in high school, historians do not agree on the exact date World War II began, due to the fact that global peace was not achieved following the conclusion of World War I. Russia, Germany and Italy were subdued by dictators, and acts of aggression abounded. Germany, Italy and Japan desired more territory. Adolph Hitler's Germany invaded Poland in 1939, and the rest of the world took keen notice. United States military bases at Pearl Harbor were bombed by a Japanese attack force on a Sunday morning, and our nation entered a new era.

Prior to this, *Lum and Abner* had entertained its listeners through the better part of the Great Depression, leaving the air in 1940 during the filming of *Dreaming Out Loud* (see the February, 1985 and October, 1990 issues of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal* for more details), to return the following year. After a West Coast trial series for Miles Laboratories (see the February, 1991 *Journal*), *Lum and Abner* was back coast-to-coast on the NBC Blue Network (later to become ABC) as well as the transcribed Keystone Network, with a new writer, Roswell Rogers, who would eventually become head writer (and who would move on to the award-winning *Father Knows Best* television series). Beginning September 29, 1941, *Lum and Abner* could be heard four weeknights each week, skipping Wednesday.

The absence from the airwaves, combined with an infusion of new ideas from the brilliant Roz Rogers, produced an outstanding series of *Lum and Abner* episodes. In these, the last of the "pre-war" L&As, Lum immediately sets out to improve business at the Jot 'Em Down Store by ordering *Modern Salesmanship*, a book of "Secrets to Sales Suc-cess", and attempts to modernize

operations with the purchase of a used adding machine, much to Abner's disgust. With Lum's old Flame Evalina Schultz wed to Spud Gandel, he is free to fall in love with Miss Fredericks, the latest school teacher at Cloverleaf School, District # 187 (whose first name is never mentioned, so far as we know!). Lum's quest for romance leads to some embarrassing predicaments: (1) Lum, to avoid a date with Sister Simpson, pretends to have a broken leg, then realizes he will have to continue this "story" or risk being found out. In desperation, Lum falls for Squire's crooked scheme of hiring a Hindu fakir who is actually a "faker" (voiced by Jerry Hausner) to pretend to conduct a "miracle healing" session. (2) To impress Miss Fredericks, Lum opens a public library in the store, stocking it with such literary classics as *Gilbert*, *the Boy Trapper* and *The Farmer's Almanac* (Grandpap's favorite). His desire to have statues of lions in front of the store inspires Abner to purchase one lion who just happens to be alive! The toothless feline gets loose in Pine Ridge, terrorizing Lum in particular, but is eventually discovered to be perfectly harmless. All this hilarity brings us to December of 1941.

On the Friday prior to Pearl Harbor, listeners of *Lum and Abner* wrapped up a week's worth of shows with a humorous episode concerning the old gents' efforts to install a stove pipe in the Jot 'Em Down Store (a situation that was reprised in later continuities), in an effort to begin baking products for their new "Pine Ridge Bakery", an addition to the existing "Jot 'Em Down Store and Library". At 4:10 p.m. E.S.T. on the day of the next *Lum and Abner* broadcast, Monday, December 8, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a Joint Resolution declaring war on the Empire of Japan. In his stirring radio address, President Roosevelt referred to December 7 as "a date which will live in infamy."



That first wartime *Lum and Abner* episode concerns itself with Grandpappy Spears' ongoing trivia from the *Almanac*, and introduces Lum's new bakery invention, "Prune Bread", which would have fared better as a weapon for the war effort! Apparently "war talk" was too grave a subject at this point, for there are no references until later in the month. The series progresses with L&A's entry into the bakery business as they purchase a delivery truck to transport Lum's improved bread to their customers. This episode was broadcast Thursday, December 11, the day Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, with the U.S. responding quickly with a declaration of war against those two nations. President Roosevelt joined the heads of government of China, Great Britain and Russia as one of the "Big Four", and the U.S. became one of "The Allies", fighting the group of nations known as "The Axis". In the mythical Pine Ridge the following day, Lum, who is still in love with Miss Fredericks, tries to get her attention with a picture locket baked into a loaf of his newly palatable bread. Unfortunately, the loaf is accidentally delivered to the residence of Snake Hogan, whose old-maid sister Gussie believes she is the object of Lum's affection, as she discovers the locket and its love note. Thus begins a hilarious love triangle, with a brand-new character, Mousey Gray, being the third. Mousey, created by Roz Rogers, was voiced by Tuffy, and would become a regular for many memorable episodes.



The first suggestion of anything dealing with the military comes in the episode of Friday, December 19. There is no mention of war, but Lum finds himself wishing he was "a few years younger; dad blamed if I wouldn't jine the army," as a means of escaping the matchmaking of Snake Hogan. Abner follows with a discussion of Tom Blevins' boy, who has just returned from camp. L&A note the "im-provement" in the demeanor of the young men who have "jined" the military. This sets the stage for all subsequent conversations concerned with the different branches of military service. Lum and Abner consistently hold these and other areas of national defense in high regard. As we will discover in future installments of "Lum and Abner Go to War", the Pine Ridge Philosophers prove quite adept at promoting causes for Uncle Sam.

Quiet, meek Mousey Gray, regarding Gussie as his secret "dream girl", challenges Lum to a fight on Monday, December 22, and proves to have a powerful punch! It has been said that

"love conquers all", and this applies even to town tough Snake Hogan, who is no match for the "Mousey that roared"! Also significant in that episode of Tuesday, December 23 is the fact that Cedric, upon entering the Jot 'Em Down Store, makes the first reference to "blackouts", the practice of turning off all lights at night in the event of an enemy air raid:

CEDRIC: Say, they're gittin' ahead of us over thar at Cherry Hill!

ABNER: Gittin' ahead of us?

CEDRIC: Yes mum... they're puttin' in street lights over thar now, so's they kin have a blackout!

ABNER: Fer the land sakes!

Pine Ridge would indeed "catch up" with Cherry Hill in the months ahead, with its fictional characters becoming "wropped up" in doing their part for the "giverment", in adjusting to War Savings Time and rationing, filling up Victory Boxes, and saying "goodbye" (sometimes forever) to local young folks who are on their way to fight for Uncle Sam.

As for the remaining *L&A* episodes of 1941, War references are absent. Following the traditional Christmas program on Thursday, the Friday, December 26 show finds Lum entering a new business, that of a boxing promoter. His prized pugilist? It's none other than "Killer Dinnamite" (Mousey) Gray (also known as "Dinnamite Killer" Gray)!! A carnival is coming to Pine Ridge (in the wintertime!), and 1941 concludes with the efforts of both Lum and Squire to secure the rights to manage Mousey's bout with "Iron Ike", who will pay a thousand dollars to a victorious challenger. The next references to the War occur in February, 1942, and will be discussed in our February issue.

When the subject of *Lum and Abner* arises from time to time between one or more "ossifiers" and persons who lived through the Great Depression and World War II, it seems the majority of the discussions reveal that the elder participants in the conversation recall *L&A* more from the 1930s than the 40s. Many have told us they never listened to *L&A* during the war, and some were not aware it was still on the air! This usually strikes us as odd, since we generally regard that era as our favorite, especially since most of the extant episodes come from it. Tim Hollis offers the theory that perhaps the war was so deadly serious that many Americans felt they had no time or place for the frivolity of radio comedy. This writer's opinion is that possibly the program did not reach as large an audience on NBC Blue and ABC as it had with CBS before its hiatus, with the gap in broadcasting causing a shift in listening habits for some Americans. Another cause for a reduced audience was related by the late Don Pitchford Sr., who explained that many farming families had no electricity, and even many who did used battery-powered radios. Batteries were a luxury, and often the radio was reserved for war news, especially when older brothers were abroad risking their lives. Whatever the reason, this era in *Lum and Abner* is certainly worthy of appreciation today, not only for its ability to rekindle a small sample of the down-home patriotism of that era, but for its consistently humorous scripts and excellent characters. It is from these programs that Diogenes Smith emerges! If the reader isn't familiar with this unique character, tune in next time!

The programs discussed in this installment of "Lum and Abner Go to War" may be found on Tapes # 45 through # 53 of the NLAS Tape Library.

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford
December 1991 - Page 7

Meet the Members

Send Your Article & Photo
To: MEET THE MEMBERS,
P.O. Box 869, Carthage,
TX 75633

RACHEL WINNIK

Of Chevy Chase, Maryland

Miss Winnik holds the distinction of being our youngest member! She listens to *Lum and Abner* every Sunday night on WAMU-FM from Washington, D.C., and sent the following information:

"My name is Rachel Winnik. I live in Chevy Chase, Maryland. I've listened to *Lum and Abner* Sunday nights since my dad found out about it last year. I always record it so I can listen to it during the week.

"I'm eight years old. I'm in third grade at Georgetown Day School. When I grow up, I want to be an actress. I have a six year old sister. This past summer, I went to France and Italy with my family. I like to read, watch TV, and listen to the radio. I hope I will always be able to listen to *Lum and Abner*."

And so we! Thank you, Rachel, and thanks to your dad for introducing you to *Lum and Abner*!



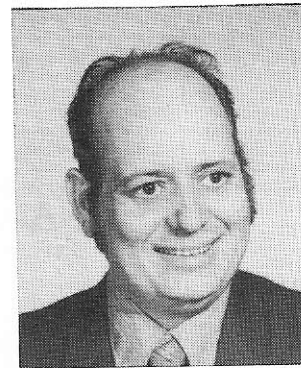
TOM SHAFFER

Of Phoenix, Arizona

Tom writes to tell us, "I do not remember hearing *Lum and Abner* while growing up in Western Pennsylvania in the forties, but I discovered them later in life when I started collecting Old Time Radio cassette tapes. They are now my favorites. I have a habit of keeping a tape player by my bed, and falling asleep listening to the two old gents and their adventures.

"I am a former high school science teacher who now works for an educational organization and teaches parttime at Arizona State University. I travel widely, and hope to attend my first NLAS Convention this summer in Mena."

Thanks for writing, Tom! Keep your plans alive for our next Convention, and we look forward to meeting you in June!



LAIRD and RUTH KING

Of Poteau, Oklahoma



Last year, Laird and Ruth King were recognized by the governor of their state, being presented Governor's Community Service Arts Awards for their outstanding contributions to the cultural development of Oklahoma through their support of the arts. The Kings serve as volunteer curators of the Kerr Museum in Poteau, spending many hours classifying artifacts and educating museum visitors.

The Kings are also active in local theater groups, sharing their talents in all aspects of production. Mr. King is an avid singer in a group called Barbershoppers. Both Laird and Ruth are active members of the Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society.

Mrs. King, a 1936 graduate of Central State University, was selected to receive that institution's *Broncho Award*, joining 35 other graduates so honored from the 100 year history of the school. An educator for most of her life, Mrs. King and her husband spent school vacation time living among and educating the Navajo Indians of New Mexico.

Speaking of her honors, Mrs. King commented, "It still seems like a miracle". A descendant of the original Pine Ridge families, Ruth Goodner King and husband Laird have attended the NLAS conventions in past years, and we sincerely hope to see them again! Congratulations to the Kings for their well-earned recognition!

KURT JENSEN

Of Murphysboro, Illinois

Longtime NLAS members will no doubt remember Kurt Jensen's activities as an Abner impersonator in several personal appearances in the Southern Illinois area. For our more recent members, allow us to "interroduce" you to Kurt!

In October of 1970, two high school boys at Murphysboro, Illinois appeared in a talent show as Lum and Abner. Speech teacher Joe Miller graded the boys both with A's and commented, "Good vocal characterization, good pace," and "well done!". Twenty years later, cousins Bruce Graff, pastoring a church at Bluefield, West Virginia, and Kurt Jensen, who preaches near Brownstown, Illinois, still remember those days of "doing all the characters" as they would listen to the revived interest in Lum and Abner on radio, particular station WHO in Des Moines, Iowa. The L&A rebroadcasts were aired around 9:00 P.M., and Kurt still has reels of tape that he recorded in the late 1960s and early 1970s from a 1937 floor model Philco radio! One of the highlights was when WHO put Chet Lauck on the air live to be interviewed and to field questions (Chet's memory failed at one point when he claimed Tuffy Goff did the voice of Snake Hogan!).



Kurt Jensen in makeup as "Abner"

Kurt could not have known that twenty years later he would make dozens of appearances in Southern Illinois (radio, stage and television) as "Abner Peabody". From 1985 until the present, Kurt has joined partner Ed Frost in numerous "gigs" as L&A. They have appeared in character for Mack's Superfoods and Radio Station WGGH (longtime carriers of *Lum and Abner*), both in Marion, Illinois, and in their own appearances at churches, nursing homes, senior citizen meetings, etc. Several local newspapers have run stories on their efforts, and two radio stations have featured them as "L&A historians". Kurt recalls, "Ed and I lived near Fairfield, Illinois back in the mid to late 1970s, when *Lum and Abner* played on no less than five area radio stations, with five different L&A series." A big disappointment was when Ed and Kurt arranged with Chet Lauck to be interviewed on Fairfield's WFIW, which aired L&A, and were quickly thrown out of the radio station office! "They didn't believe that we had Chet lined up to do it, and they couldn't figure out what our 'angle' was," Kurt remembers, "They thought we wanted money for our part and did not accept our enthusiasm to just get it on the air (a la the Des Moines interview of 1969), and to promote our love for *Lum and Abner*." The rival media, *Wayne County Press*, however, was happy to feature an article on Kurt and his generous

letter from Chet stating that Kurt could use the Pine Ridge characters in his ministry. Later, he would feature a cartoon version of *Lum and Abner* in his biweekly church newsletter.

Since the founding of the National Lum and Abner Society, Kurt Jensen has been an enthusiastic member, greatly supporting the fine efforts of the "ossifers". One of Kurt's brainstorms was a *Journal* feature called "Meet the Members" (so Kurt could read about himself). Actually, Kurt has been featured in numerous articles in the *Journal* with photos, art work, poetry, and even a couple of bylines. He has an article in the works entitled "The Ministry of Lum and Abner", based on his youthful experiences with a half-dozen boys, all devoted to *Lum and Abner*, who all grew up to be present day "pulpit pounders".

Kurt is 37 and married to the former Jill Whited, an RN, and they have three children: Dane, 11, Erica, 8, and Karla, 1. In addition to his pastoral position, Kurt is employed by the DeSoto Grade School, where he works with learning disabled children.



Kurt Jensen meets "Buffalo Bob" Smith and Howdy Doody, two legends of children's TV from 1947-1960

Keep Those "Meet the Members" Letters and Photos Coming!!!!

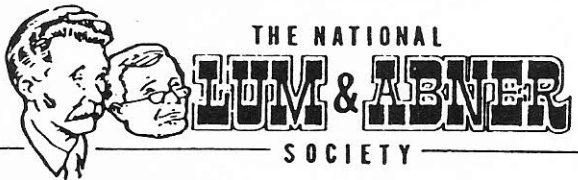
Many members have had to wait quite a spell to see their article and picture in print, and we appreciate your patience! As a special Christmas treat, we've offered an extra number of "Meet the Members" submissions for you. After all, isn't Christmas a time for "family" to get together? With the NLAS membership becoming more and more like an extended family, it seems only natural. We are, however, getting somewhat "caught up" on our file of letters, and will soon be needing more information for "Meet the Members", so let me encourage you to mail your photo and information to the address at the top of the previous page! And, if you are one of those members who has not seen your article yet, it should be appearing soon! **Thanks** to all our wonderful members for allowing us all to get to know you a little better! And an extra **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the "Prez" and his "Good Womern"!!

-Uncle Donnie and Aunt Laura

December 1991 - Page 9



Merry Christmas!



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