

December 1992

The Secretary's Desk

Well, this being the windup of another calendar year, it seems like it is as good a time as any to try to clear off the Zekatif Seketerry's groaning, overloaded desk and tie up a few loose ends before 1993 gets underway.

It seems that the NLAS was well represented on cable TV's Disney Channel during the months of October and November. No fewer than four of our Honorary Members had some of their past work appearing on the channel during those two months. There was the feature film *The Million Dollar Duck*, with a screenplay by L&A's longtime scriptwriter Roswell Rogers; the Hollywood classic *The Story of Alexander Graham Bell* featured Bobs Watson and Chet Lauck's good friend Don Ameche; some of the well-known "Mr. Magoo" cartoons appeared, with the multiple voice talents of our pal Jerry Hausner; and the animated Raggedy Ann cartoon *The Pumpkin Who Couldn't Smile* starred the great Les Tremayne as the voice of the title character. Most of these productions will undoubtedly be showing up on the Disney Channel again sometime in the future, so if you are a subscriber to this cable service, be sure to keep an eye out for them!

NLAS member Ted Theodore of El Cajon, California, reports that PBS affiliate KDBS-TV has produced a program concerning radio history as a part of their *Seniors Speak Out* series. Included among the guests on the program is Honorary Member Forrest Owen, who served as producer of *Lum and Abner* during the 1940's. Other guests from the world of radio include Dick Beals (portrayer of many juvenile roles on various shows), Chuck Flynn (the last actor to play Jack Armstrong), and veteran performers Jack Kruschen and Peggy Webber. Mr. Theodore suggests that NLAS members contact their local PBS affiliates to request that this particular episode be aired; according to Mr. Theodore, at least 170 PBS stations across the nation regularly air the *Seniors Speak Out* series.

The NLAS received several new members as the result of a writeup in the *Nashville Tennessean* newspaper in November. Our thanks must go to staff writer Ken Beck for his lavish praise of our efforts; equal thanks should be extended to Jim Clark of The Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers' Club, who has been passing on his

back issues of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal* to his friend Ken for some four years now. When you are in our position, any publicity is greatly appreciated! Speaking of publicity, the Laurel & Hardy organization, the Sons of the Desert, reprinted Uncle Donnie Pitchford's article about *Lum & Abner Abroad* (February 1992) in one of their newsletters, and this resulted in several nice comments in follow-up issues.

You know, back in 1936 Lum was unsuccessful in his campaign for President of the United States. Now another native of western Arkansas has finally succeeded in doing what Lum couldn't do. We wonder whether this turn of events will cause any more media attention to be focused on "Lum & Abner country," and if so, whether the NLAS will be able to reap any of the side benefits? Only time will tell...

Watch your mailbox for the February 1993 issue of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal*! Included with it will be something long-awaited: the listings for the first releases from the vast Worth Ware collection of L&A transcription discs. These first pages of the NEW NLAS Tape Library Catalog will be sent to all members. They will catalog approximately 100 never-before-released episodes of *Lum and Abner* from 1935; we feel that the discovery and release of these classic episodes is a real milestone in the NLAS's history. (If you do not yet have one of our Tape Catalogs, the price is still \$5.00; however, the Tape Library is currently closed for the Christmas holidays, and will not be filling any orders until after January 1.)

You may want to begin thinking about attending the annual NLAS Convention in Mena, Arkansas, which will be held on June 26, 1993. About all we can tell you at this early date is that the Convention will be a salute to the double 50th anniversaries of the two 1943 L&A films *Two Weeks To Live* and *So This Is Washington*. Any further developments will be reported here in the *Journal*.

And before we go, the NLAS Zekatif Ossifers want to wish each and every one of you the merriest of merry Christmases and the happiest of happy New Years. Have a great holiday season, and we'll be with you again in February!

- Tim Hollis
Zekatif Seketerry



It looks like Uncle Donnie Pitchford and Mousey Tim Hollis may have been listening to "Lum & Abner" for too long. Singin' Sam Brown was smart enough to stay home while this photo was being made.

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

December 1992

In This Issue:

THE NATIONAL LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT

Donnie Pitchford

VICE-PRESIDENT

Sam Brown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Tim Hollis

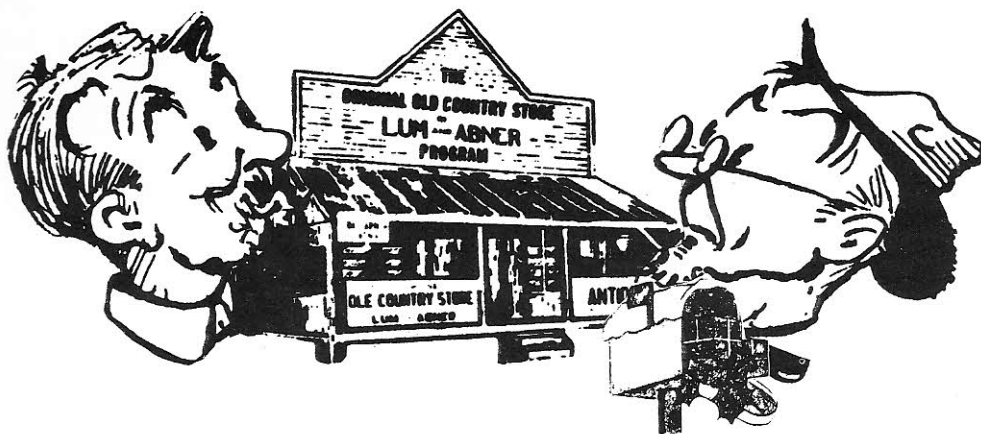
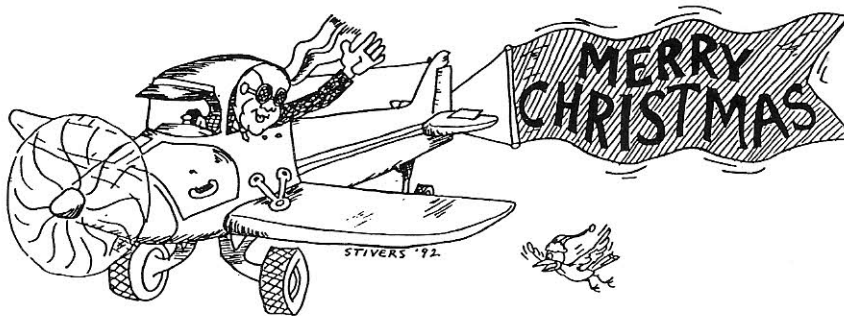
Front Cover Illustration by Harold Petersen.

Back Cover: Christmas card drawn by Chester Lauck, depicting himself, wife Harriet, and daughter Shirley. Probably dates from pre-radio days in Mena. (Courtesy of Roy Vail)

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All I Want For Christmas	2
A classic 1944 <i>Lum and Abner</i> Christmas script.	
Lum & Abner Go To War	5
As our series continues, we move into December 1942 and January 1943.	
Meet The Members	9
This time we look at the founders of one of our cousin organizations.	

The Golden Era by Gary Stivers



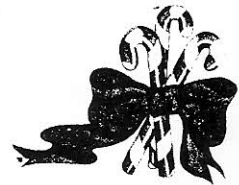
LUM and ABNER®



"All I Want For



Christmas"



(The following Lum & Abner Christmas episode was aired on December 21, 1944. It may be heard on Tape #287 in the NLAS Tape Library.)

ANNOUNCER: And now, let's see what's going on down in Pine Ridge. Well, as Christmas draws near, the old fellows are forced to pay less attention to their outside activities, and confine their efforts to handling their Yuletide trade. As we look in on the little community today, we find Lum in the Jot 'Em Down Store and Library, doing a little Christmas business over the phone with Ed Beckley at the drug store... listen:

LUM: Yeah, well, we're havin' quite a Christmas resh out here too, Ed. Oh yeah, we've run plumb out of silver tinsel. Well, say, what I called up about, Ed, iz this... I seen some leather desk sets down in yer store winder, an' I wuz jest thinkin', in case Abner might come in thar lookin' fer a Christmas present fer me, I wish you'd sorta SUGgest one o' them sets... yeah... Well, I sorta faver that biggest



one with the red trimmin' on the leather, thar... Yeah, that's right... \$7.49, huh? Ah-hah... say, you couldn't have my initials put on that, could ye, Ed?... Costs extry, huh?... Well, you might SUGgest it ta Abner anyway... If you DO put my initials on thar, I wish ye'd use them fancy curly letters... Yeah... Well, I'll shorely 'preciate it if you'd hint around to him 'bout this... Yeah, hit will make a nice present... leastways, hit'll be a lot nicer than a necktie rack... Yeah, that's what he's give me fer the last four years hand-runnin'.... Yeah, I've got my necktie hangin' on one of 'em... Never have figgered out whut to do with the other three... Oh, yeah, he means well, an' all that, but... Oh oh, here he comes back from the dee-liveries, Ed, I'd bettur hang up, and whatever you do now, don't tell him I called you 'bout this. No...

(SOUND: Door opens, closes)

ABNER: (faded) "Jingle bells, jingle bells..."

LUM: Yeah, much obliged to ye... see ye later... so long...

ABNER: Oh, 'scuse me... who wuz that?

LUM: Oh, jest a grocery order, I think. Say, Abner, have you done all yer Christmas shoppin' yet?

ABNER: Oh law me, no. Don't look like I'm gonna git time ta do it, neither, with all them dee-liveries I see ya got put up thar while I wuz out with the last batch.

LUM: Yeah, they been comin' in purty thick an' fast all right.

ABNER: Looks like I'm gonna hafta make about five er six trips today. An' ever one of 'em is a heavy one, too. All them candy an' nuts an' oranges an' fruit an' stuff in thar...

LUM: Oh, by the way, did ya take that basket of groceries out to the Widder Jessup's place?

ABNER: Yeah, yeah, I taken it over. I had a awful hard time gittin' her ta keep it, though. You know how proud she iz.

LUM: Well, what'd ya final do with it?

ABNER: Well, I final jest tole her we had a contest o' some kind here at the store, and she wonned the basket o' groceries.

LUM: Reckon she b'leaved that?

ABNER: Well, ta be honest, I doubt it, Lum, but leastways hit give her a reason ta take it without hurtin' her pride, ya know.

LUM: Yeah, well, you had a good idee, thar.

ABNER: Yeah... course, she never wonned no contest...

LUM: Well, who DID win it? Er, what'sa matter with me??!!

ABNER: Oh, we never HAD one, I jest made that up...

LUM: Shore... be shore an' remind me ta set aside a few toys to take over to her younguns on Christmas Eve.

ABNER: Yeah, yeah, shore. Well, I reckon I better start totin' out some more o' these orders, here. Whichuns ye wanna go first, Lum?

LUM: I b'leave these on the end, here, Abner.

ABNER: Right chere?

LUM: Er, say you ain't got all yer Christmas shoppin' done yet?

ABNER: Naw, not quite... see now, who're these fer? Pomeroy's... doggies, sech scratchin'... I wish you'd print this stuff on thar... Barton... Blevins...

LUM: They ain't many shoppin' days left till Christmas, Abner...

ABNER: Naw, I reckon not... oh, Redfields, I couldn't make that out... I already made one dee-livery over to the Redfields' today...

LUM: Yessir, jest two more shoppin' days till Christmas after today. An' that ain't many.

ABNER: Law me, what's in this order fer the Seestrunkses? A batch o' bricks they're gonna give their younguns this year?

LUM: You know, if a feller waits too long with hiz shoppin', the things he wants ta buy are all gone, generally. If I wuz you, Abner, I wouldn't wait too long...

ABNER: I won't...

LUM: Er... who all AIN'T you bought presents fer, Abner?

ABNER: Oh, I don't know, Lum... Papa fer one... I never kin figger out nothin' to buy fer him. He'll never give ya any idees what he wants. Jes' sez, "Oh, ennything'll do."

LUM: Yeah.

ABNER: An' after ya git him sompin', why, he looks at it an' sez, "Oh, couldn't git a pipe, huh?"

LUM: Well, why don't ya git him a pipe, then?

ABNER: I tried that once... he unwrapped the pipe an' said, "Oh, couldn't git a muffler, huh?"

LUM: Muffler?!

ABNER: Yeah, an' he ain't even got a auty-mobile. No matter what ye git her him, he allus sez, "Oh, couldn't git sompin' else, huh?"

LUM: Well, who else ain't you bought presents fer yet fer this



Christmas?

ABNER: Oh, let's see now... oh, I cain't think now, Lum... I cain't consultrate, I'm tryin' ta think about these orders.

LUM: I wish ya wouldn't git me ennything.

ABNER: Not nothin'?

LUM: Well... not hardly nothin'. Don't go spendin' a lot o' money on me this year. Wartime an' all that.

ABNER: No... well, I wouldn't feel right 'bout it not givin' ye nothin' at tall, Lum.

LUM: Well, o' course, if it'll make ye feel enny better, ye might pick me up some littul trinket o' some kind.

ABNER: Yeah, I'll think about it.

LUM: Jest some littul ole thing like... say, sompin' made outa leather, maybe.

ABNER: Yeah. Well, I gotta git at that shoppin' purty soon, too.

LUM: Yeah, a feller ort to.

ABNER: Do both o' these baskets here go to the Quincys?

LUM: Yeah. You know, I wuz jest thinkin', Abner, a good place ta do yer shoppin' iz right down thar at Ed Beckley's drug store... he's got a awful nice line o' merchandise in thar this year.

ABNER: He has, huh?

LUM: Oh yeah. He's got things down thar like... well, diffrent stuff... Might save ye a lotta trouble if ye wuz ta jest run down thar an' look things over, sorta.

ABNER: Yeah, I might do that... Well, I'd better git goin' here...

LUM: Wait a minnit, Abner, I'll make a couple o' them dee-liveries fer ye... That'll give ye a chance ta go out an' do a littul o' yer shoppin' right now. Like, say, down at the drug store.

ABNER: Oh no, I'll git that later, Lum...

LUM: Well, now, ye don't wanna wait too long... Ed's liable ta sell out o' them... er, diffrent stuff he's got down thar.

ABNER: Well, if he's sold outa one thing, I'll buy sompin' else. Cain't waste no more time settin' 'round here, I know that...

LUM: Well, wait a minnit, Abner!

ABNER: Well, what iz it ye WANT, Lum??

LUM: Why, uh..... oh, say, I wuz jest noticin' my desk over thar...

ABNER: Yer DESK?

LUM: Yeah, lookit how sorta ragged it looks.

ABNER: Yeah, well, I ain't got time ta straighten that up fer ye now, Lum...



LUM: Well, I never meant fer ya ta straighten it up, Abner... I wuz jest thinkin' that if a feller had a... well, sompin' ta set on thar...

ABNER: Ya mean Cedric?

LUM: Cedric?!

ABNER: Yeah, he allus sets on yer desk when he comes in here... I don't b'leave that'll make yer desk LOOK enny bettur, though, Lum... I'll clean it up fer ye right after Christmas... I know I won't have time till after then...

LUM: Well, I don't wanna put ye to no bother, Abner, I wuz jest thinkin' that a feller that's president of the school board, 'sides bein' the owner of a store, he orta have a bettur lookin' desk.

ABNER: Yeah, yeah ye ort to, I reckon. I don't know where ye could buy a new desk, though, now.

LUM: Well, ye wouldn't hafta buy a whole new desk. All you'd hafta do iz... well, the most important part of a desk iz the top o' it... er, what sets on it...

ABNER: You mean ye want Cedric ta buy ye a new desk?!

LUM: No, no...

ABNER: I don't b'leave he kin afford one o' them, Lum...

LUM: I don't want him er nobody else ta buy me one!

ABNER: Well, whadderya want with Cedric, then?

LUM: I never said I wanted Cedric.

ABNER: Yeah, well, if I see him out anywheres while I'm deliverin', I'll tell him ta come over here. See now... ya said I orta take th' Pomeroy's an' th' Bartons an' th' Blevins first, huh?

LUM: Hmm. Well, no, come ta think about it, bettur git the Redfields an' th' Seestrunkses first. An' then, long ez ye hafta go right down thar by th' drug store to git to their places, ye might sorta glance in th' drug store winder ez ye go by...

ABNER: Yeah, well I will if I have time. Never will git my work done today, though, with all this stuff stacked up here...

LUM: Ye know, it wuz a funny thing, but I happened ta go by the drug store mahself this mornin', an' I seen some purty good things in th' winder thar. They had a leather desk set in thar. Red trimmin'.

ABNER: A desk set?

LUM: Yeah, but I wouldn't THINK o' havin' nobody buy me a thing like that fer a present. Hit's a way yonder too much.

ABNER: You think it tiz?

LUM: Oh, yeah... \$7.49 iz whut hit comes to. Course, Ed WOULD let a feller charge it... wouldn't really need ta pay fer it all at one time... but I wouldn't want that no way... hardly.

ABNER: Well, I don't know... hit sounds like hit might make a purty good present...

LUM: Yeah, but I really don't WANT much fer Christmas, Abner... special the way things air this year... jest some littul ole knock knick... a calendar er sompin'...

ABNER: A calendar?!

LUM: Yeah, I don't keer what I git this year.

ABNER: You mean one o' them calendars with a pitcher o' that Indian girl with her hand up to her face, lookin' out over the cliff, lookin' fer her horse, an' she's settin' on it all the time?

LUM: Well, hit don't necessarily hafta be a calendar.

ABNER: Well, what WOULD ye like then, Lum? Now that we've brung up the subject...

LUM: Oh, I wouldn't know whut ta SUGgest, hardly.

ABNER: HUH?

LUM: I'd rather jest leave that up ta you, Abner... I'm shore ye kin find some littul thing down thar at th' drug store...

ABNER: Like what??!!

LUM: Oh, I dunno... I ain't much innerested in ree-ceivin' presents, ta tell ye th' truth. I'd way yonder rather give 'em.

ABNER: Well.

LUM: Nuthin's too good fer my friends an' bizness pardners.

ABNER: Yeah, I'M yer pardner.

LUM: I've allus felt thataway. So ye see, I wouldn't know whut to say. Wouldn't wanna SUGgest nuthin' like a... desk set, fer incidence.

ABNER: Well, wouldn't that be purty good?

LUM: At \$7.49? Oh no, that's outa th' question. I'd be perfect satisfied with a handkercheef with my initials on it... allus like ta git some littul thing with my initials on it. But I'll jest leave that up ta you.

ABNER: Yeah, well, all right, all right...

LUM: You know how I am 'bout them things.

ABNER: Yeah, shore. Er, say, Lum, would you mind steppin' back in th' feed room thar whilst I make sorta a private telephone call?

(SOUND: Abner ringing phone)

LUM: Oh, no, no... be proud to. Facts is, I'll run across th' street to Dick Huddleston's place so you'll have plenty o' time.

ABNER: Well, don't be gone too long now; this won't take but a minnit.

LUM: (faded) Well, take plenty o' time. Red's my favorite color...

ABNER: Wha'd you say?

LUM: (faded) Er, nuthin', I jest noticed some red trimmin' on sompin', here. I'll see ye later.

ABNER: Yeah, all right. Hello? Iz this you, Ed? Well, this iz Abner... Say, Ed, you know that leather desk set I had picked out fer Lum?... Well, I reckon I'll hafta change that, 'cause Lum don't seem ta want one... Yeah, it tiz 'culiar, but that's whut he said... Oh, I don't know, hardly... Have ye got enny o' them thar necktie racks left?... Oh, good, good... I'll take a red one, Ed; he sez that's hiz favorite color.....

(MUSIC: Playoff)



LUM AND ABNER®

GO TO WAR



Welcome to the seventh chapter of this series, designed to chronicle the parallel histories of the *Lum and Abner* radio program and the World War of a half-century ago.

As the tubes on the Philco start to glow again, we rejoin "those two lovable old characters from the hill country, Lum and Abner," as they embrace the fact that their henpecked friend, Llewelyn Snavelly ("Mousey") Gray is being drafted into military service! Mousey himself announces the news to L&A on the program of Monday, November 30, 1942 with the following poem (authored by that "poetics genius," Roswell Rogers, head writer on these wartime *Lum and Abner* programs):

"Lieutenant Gussie, dearest WAAC,
O wife so adored,
No longer will I break my back
O'er tub and scrubbing board.
No longer will I mend your socks
With ne'er a reward;
Nor sew buttons on your smock,
Chores by me abhorred.
I will not polish up your boots
Nor shine up your sword;
No longer folks will call me Toots,
For I am restored.
At last I'm cutting, my dear miss,
That heavy thick cord
With which you've bound me here to this
Psychopathic ward.
Llewelyn Snavelly Gray, that crumb,
That yokel ignored,
Has just received a summons from
His local draft board."

When first introduced into the series by writer Rogers in 1941, Mousey was presented as an older character than he was portrayed a year later. In Mousey's early episodes, L&A inform the listeners that Mousey had been working at the sawmill for eighteen years, which would put him well into his thirties, unless he started his employment as a schoolboy! This tenure is evidently forgotten by 1942, since the age limitations for drafting married men are between 18 and 26 years old. In a letter dated June 4, 1985, Mousey's creator, scriptwriter Roz Rogers states, "Startling thought: Do you realize that Mousey would be close to 70 by now?" which would indeed put Mr. Gray in his mid-to-late twenties in 1942!

At any rate, "young" Mr. Gray is about to become a buck private! On the first day of December, L&A decide it is their "patriotics du-tee" to "muscle-up" Mr. Mousey for his induction physical - after all, he can't be in tip-top physical shape, doing "sich womern's work" as "choppin' wood" for his "military" wife! It's

"Body by Lum"-time, as Mousey assists his new trainer by moving heavy barrels and packing cases to make room for his calisthenics. The preliminaries prove so exhausting, Mousey collapses during the first exercise!

Despite "Lum LaLanne's" efforts, Mousey passes his physical with flying colors on December 2, and sets out to settle his affairs before heading for the "duckin' center," as Abner calls the induction center. (Naturally, addled-brained Peabody thinks Mousey will be "ducked" into water!) Lum plans a surprise party for Mousey (with Sister Simpson handling the arrangements), and simultaneously helps Mousey with his personal business, which amounts to nothing more than a few chain letters (hog or corn?) still unanswered. Overhearing Lum's "party line party plans" with Sister Simpson, Mousey heads for home to compose a poem to read at his own surprise party!

That very celebration gets underway on Thursday, December 3, as L&A greet "Miz Barton" and struggle to balance plates of food on their knees. "We're gonna miss Mousey aroun' here," says toastmaster Lum to the crowd assembled in the schoolhouse, "but Uncle Sam needs 'im more'n we do. I wonder jist how minny o' you fokes realizes what a great thing Mousey's doin'? Do you realize thet little Mousey Gray here is goin' out ta fight fer all of us? He's doin' it fer you, Walt Bates, an' fer you, Miz Barton, an' fer yer youngins, Tom Foster - fer ever one of us here! Now, don't you think we owe him somp'm fer that? You bet we do! Don't you think we orta see thet Mousey has a better gun ta fight with than his enemies has? 'Course we ort to! Do we want him ta be better trained, an' ta have better equip-mint? Yer dad-blame right we do!! Now, here's how we kin do it! Tomorrer mornin'... we're all gonna go ta th' feller we're workin' fer an' say to 'im, 'I wanna jine up with th' Payroll Savin's Plan!' Tell 'im ta take that money outta yer paycheck an invest it in War Bonds fer ya! Oh, I know, lotsa you fokes say yer buyin' bonds now - but, that ain't good enough!! That money hasta come in reg'lar, or it ain't gonna do Mousey much good! An' here's somp'm else, fokes: When that money's taken outta yer wages, you ain't spent that - you've in-vested it! Yer gonna git all that back, plus a whole lotta innerest! An' that's gonna be a mighty nice nest-egg someday, b'lieve me! So, fokes, tomorrer mornin', when Mousey gits on that train, me an' you are gonna do somp'm that'll help Mousey come back on that train when this is all over - me an' you is gonna jine th' Payroll Savin's Plan - and keep faith with Private Llewelyn Snavelly Gray!!"

A "big s'prize" has been planned for Mousey: His mother, a lady blacksmith from Iowa (who always seemed "just like a father" to her diminutive son), has been brought in for a touching reunion!

Monday, December 7 is the one-year anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and on that date L&A receive a postcard from

December 1992 - Page 5

Private L. S. Gray, who reports all is well, excepting the fact that there is no uniform to fit him! Mousey feels he may be advanced soon, for he reports that, while being measured for a uniform, the quartermaster ("He handles the quarters," Lum explains, "He's in th' fi-nance de-partmint") wants to "send (him) to Ripley's column" instead! Mousey adds, "I don't know where that column is stationed, but it sounds good to me," and "P.S.: The army is just like a mother to me, only bigger."

Another postcard, from Buford Adams of Cherry Hill, invites Lum and the Peabodies over for a visit, but Lum points out the necessity to stay home, due to the rationing of gasoline and tires (Cedric only has an "A" book). Staying home will give the Pine Ridge folks a chance to become better acquainted with their neighbors. Lum (with the help of schoolteacher Professor Sloane) cooks up an idea to form the "Pine Ridge Golden Era Discussion Club" (the basis for the title of Gary Stivers' comic strip), a "high class, culture meetin'," designed to discuss "literature classics," such as "Shakespeare and *Gilbert the Boy Trapper*," as well as classical music. That first meeting becomes a Tuesday night staple, as attendees Lum, Abner, Cedric, Grandpap, and newcomer Ulysses S. Quincy (voiced by Tuffy Goff) assemble at Abner's house to discuss the "high class music of Bee-thoven." Ulysses' trademark response, a husky "okay" (which sounds much like Tuffy's "Doc Miller" voice), is about the most intelligent response of the evening (the voice will change slightly before settling into its final form), and before long the cultural event degenerates into checker-playing, spiced with Lizabeth's hot "cocoa and san'ridges." Wednesday's Jot 'Em Down Store discussions of the first Golden Era meeting are positive in nature, but this mood is interrupted by downtrodden Cedric Weehunt's tale of romantic woe. It seems he and pal Gomer Bates have been taking turns dating Miss Clarabelle Seastrunk: One week, Gomer takes her out, the next time, they allow Cedric to accompany them! Thanks to good buddy Gomer, Cedric now has a fine new job at Gomer's papa Walt's sawmill-turned-defense plant - working nights! Now, Gomer is free to "spark" Clarabelle minus Cedric! Should Cedric quit the plant job? "Oh no," answers Lum, "they need all the fellers they kin git thar! Hit's awful im-portance work! Mousey an' all them other soldiers are de-pendin' on that defense work gittin' done so's they'll have somp'm ta fight with!"

Matchmakers Lum and Abner decide Cedric's best bet is to just haul off and marry Clarabelle! They coerce the bashful boy into ringing the Seastrunk house, and popping the question... and the voice on the other end of the phone accepts his proposal!!! But... there's only one little problem... immediately after hanging up the "re-ceiver," Clarabelle is spotted walking down the street!!!! Just who is Cedric engaged to!?!?

"Not very wonderful world," is Cedric's new greeting to his old friends. He has just received a love letter from his new fiancée (December 10)! She signs the note "W," and suggests she and Cedric elope! Winifred Redfield is the only "legible" young bachelorette known with a "W" name, so Lum rings up her papa, Charlie, to explain the mistake. This only serves to make matters worse, as Charlie had no knowledge of an engagement (guess what - "W" isn't Winifred), but excitedly runs off to secure a marriage license!

The week of December 17 begins with more communication from "W," jealous of the new "engagement" to Winifred, and threatening to throw herself into the millpond! How can Cedric get out of his impending nuptials? Lum decides young Mr. Weehunt
December 1992 - Page 6

will become "tetched" - no young lady would want to marry a crazy person! Meanwhile, the second weekly meeting of the Golden Era Discussion Club (joined by a new member, the ever-sleeping Grandpa Masters) concerns itself with the "high class poetics" of William Wordsworth ("Longfeller?" queries Lum). L&A continue their appreciation of this poetry the following day, only to be interrupted by a grocery order from "Widder" Abernathy, who has to be reminded by Abner that she, like everyone else, must participate in food rationing for the duration of the war, and that Abner cannot "de-liver" the groceries, due to the need to conserve rubber (not tires - his rubber heels!). Poor Cedric, daily losing sleep, reports on his efforts at playing crazy: In front of the Redfields' home, he put his jacket on inside-out, stood on his head and barked like a dog, ate a bag of peanuts with the shells on, hung by his toes from a tree limb, and ate an apple (the latter just because he was hungry). These efforts were in vain; Papa Charlie told Cedric such behavior was normal for a young man in love! Cedric was invited in to allow giggling Winifred to feed him a snack, and also to give her an autograph. An autograph? Oops! Poor Cedric signed a marriage license!!!

Thursday, December 17 is the fateful day Cedric Weehunt and Winifred Redfield are to be "hitched!" As the church organ is "busted," Sister Simpson will be unable to supply the appropriate wedding music. (Apparently, the *Lum and Abner* program was using a disc recording of their theme song at this time, with no organist on hand! This practice was no doubt beneficial to them during the times they were required to broadcast from a makeshift remote studio near their motion picture set. We suspect this practice continued until the time Ralph, and later Elsie Mae, Emerson began playing creative organ bridges between scenes, as well as climactic runs at the ends of each episode.) "Say, Mr. Lum," asks the "narvis" groom, "didjoo say ah'm s'posed ta kiss Miss Winifred after I git through sayin' 'I do?'" Lum (the "Jestice o' th' Peace" who will "pre-form" the ceremony) answers, "Well, that's th' general customs." Cedric responds, "I jes' hope I don't git bit by them big teeth o' her'n!"

During the course of the wedding, we learn that Cedric's middle name is Wolfgang! Just prior to Cedric's "I do," the church lights mysteriously go out! Is it a blackout? No, for as soon as they come back on, Cedric is found missing, replaced by a note (pinned to the floor by a knife) reading, "Cedric belongs to me, and nobody else!" signed, "W!" "Aye doggies, Lum," shouts Abner, "Cedric's been kidnapped!!!" (This is reminiscent of the famous *Amos 'n' Andy* episode of April 3, 1939 in which Andy escapes marriage when he is shot before his wedding concludes!)

L&A listeners had to wait until the following Monday (December 21) to find out what happened to Cedric. That episode begins with L&A receiving a letter from soldier Mousey! Private Gray reports that Lieutenant Gray (Gussie!) has sent him plenty of yarn and knitting needles, to enable him to knit her a sweater in his free time! In addition, he is enjoying listening to a radio, sent to him anonymously (in fact, Mousey received two such radios - each from L&A!).

Coffee rationing is getting the best of Grandpap - he wants to buy coffee with a gas coupon, claiming he'll sit in his car while he drinks his java! Later such attempts include the use of cigar coupons and airmail stamps (he promises to drink coffee while sitting on his roof watching for enemy airplanes)! Grandpap wastes his coffee, contends Lum: "Grannies, he fills that coffee pot might nigh full o'



These soldiers, pictured in a 1942 issue of Movie-Radio Guide, could possibly be listening to Mousey's "extra" radio!

coffee, then sprinkles a li'l water on top of it, an' then boils it fer a hour or so! ...He orta git Presi-dint Roosevelt ta come down here an' show 'im how ta make it!"

Following the first of Ulysses' flimsy excuses for not hosting the next Golden Era meeting at his house, Cedric returns! It seems "W" is not a woman, but Cedric's pal Wimpy Foster, who answered the Seastrunks' phone while visiting, and, recognizing Cedric, spoke in a girlish voice, answered "yes" to Cedric's proposal, and continued his prank with the notes and kidnapping! But - Cedric is still engaged to Winifred!

Being "Meatless Tuesday," host Lum prepares crackers and cheese for the regular meeting of the Golden Era Discussion Club. Cedric is more concerned with the possibility of a breach-of-promise lawsuit from the Redfields. This becomes a reality on December 23, as Cedric arrives with his summons! The trial is to be held in Lum's "Jestice of the Peace" court, with two hitches: it is to be a jury trial, and Squire Skimp is to be Winifred's lawyer! (Squire has been "out-of-town" since his disappearance following the "Rocket Ship" fiasco; see our last issue.)

Thursday, December 24, 1942 was the date of the tenth broadcast of the traditional *Lum and Abner* Christmas program (and its ninth anniversary). For a "short story" rendition of that classic, see the December, 1986 issue of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal*. Related articles may be found in the December issues of 1984 and 1985, whereas the 1986 issue reprints the sleeve of a rare album containing the Christmas program on 78 R.P.M. records.

Cedric's trial gets underway on Monday, December 28, conducted in Ira Hodgekins' livery stable during the noon hour, to enable everyone to stay on the job for war purposes. Progress is slow, due not only to time limits, but to the distractions from Ira's mooing cow, Grandpappy Spears' new squeaky shoes, and the regular meetings of the Golden Era Discussion Club. On Wednesday, we hear Charlie Redfield's attempted testimony, interrupted by Ulysses' noisy lunch-eating of peanut butter sandwiches and hot coffee, which makes "Judge Eddards" so hungry, he adjourns the court early, in order to share Juror Quincy's lunch! (We are uncertain as to the identity of the actor and actress who portray Charlie and Winifred, but neither character is Chet or Tuffy.)

Public announcements such as Lum's "the nex' coffee coupon's good now" delay the trial (including Cedric's own damaging testimony) on the last day of 1942, but not nearly as much as the arrival of Private Mousey Gray, home on furlough! Addressing the crowd, Mousey asks for more letters from home, and for something else: "Some of the fellows in our camp were sent to Africa. One of 'em is gonna git a medal when he comes back, and five of 'em aren't comin' back. When that happens to fellas you know, well, you just sorta git ta wonderin'... You wonder why that they should have to give so much, ...and you wonder why folks back home kick about little things like rationing. You wonder if they're doin' anything to match up with what those five fellas have done. You just wonder if the folks back home are doin' their part." Lum assures Mousey the Pine Ridge home team will do its part: "I want ever'body in this court ta go out today an' buy th' biggest War Bond you kin afford! Facts is, I wantcha ta buy a bigger one than you kin afford!! Th' sackerfice is mighty small compared ta what them five 'as give, special when it ain't no sackerfice at all, buyin' bonds, it's a investmint!" Mousey reminds Lum that the military needs assistance continually, not just today. Lum continues, "Instid o' buyin' them bonds today, I want ever'body lissenin' ta me ta go ta whoever yer workin' fer an' tell 'im ta take so much outta yer salary and put it in War Bonds ever week, regular!" Amid Lawyer Skimp's protests, Lum adjourns the court to allow everyone to buy bonds!

The 1943 *Lum and Abner* series gets underway on Monday, January 4, with L&A discussing the ongoing trail while fending off more wild excuses phoned in by Ulysses, who apparently doesn't want to have the next Golden Era Club meeting at his home. Wimpy Foster's testimony is essential to Cedric's case, but Attorney Abner can't call him to the stand until Squire Skimp is finished. Winifred herself testifies on January 6, answering each question with the world's most annoying giggle, and fainting on (Squire's) cue just as Abner begins cross-examination! But, no worry - now Abner can call Wimpy Foster! But where is he? Uh-oh... he's been drafted!!

Squire's final argument given the following day drives Abner to tears, sympathizing with "poor li'l Winifred." Just as it appears Cedric will lose the case, a phone call reveals that the "poor, withered flower," Winifred, has eloped with the so-called "doctor" who testified as to her emotional state!! The jury's decision goes to Cedric Wolfgang Weehunt!!!

His present predicament resolved, Cedric is free to devote his energies to the old pinball machine at Luke Spears' Restaurant once more, and on Monday, January 11, reaches his goal of winning the double grand prize! After five years of endlessly playing game after game - of becoming completely sick and tired of it - Cedric wins the prize: five FREE games on the pinball machine!!

Inspired by Gussie Hogan's "ossifer" status, "Little Pearl" Peabody declares her desire to "jine" up with some form of the service for the duration. Naturally, Papa Abner and Mama Lizabeth feel their daughter is too young to venture forth, and Abner sets out to find local employment for her. In the process, he gets involved in an amazing string of horse-trading (one of the few examples of this we have on tape), and assigns Pearl to take care of all the repairing and delivering of items involved in his transactions!

In answer to the ongoing wartime need for nurses, Pearl responds by submitting her "applin-cation." In the meantime, L&A struggle to complete a confusing questionnaire from the Office of the State Director of Vehicular Transportation (January 18), while dodging yet more "ex-cuses" from Ulysses S. Quincy regarding the

use of his home for the Golden Era meeting. So intent is Lum on completing the questionnaire that he is late to the meeting (held at Grandpap's home). Grandpap reports that Ned Lubbock is leaving town to relocate in Big Fork. The reason? There aren't enough farm hands in Pine Ridge (even Ulysses can't find anyone to paint his barn). This meeting of January 19, in which Lum attempts to model correct conversation (by pretending to be a "Mrs. Smith"), causes the other Golden Agers to think Lum has become "tetched!"

But what of that complicated, bothersome questionnaire? Being "givermint" business, Lum persists. The form, designed to gauge the amount of trucking done in Pine Ridge, asks for the value of their business. In mulling this over, we are treated to an episode of *Lum and Abner* that stands as one of the most nostalgic and realistic ever broadcast (January 20). L&A reminisce about their long association with the Jot 'Em Down Store, recalling their many friends who have touched their lives through the years. Especially touching is Lum's refusal to remove an old calendar, placed on the wall by Evalina Schultz, his lost love. Their sentimentality is enhanced by the fact that several local farmers are following Ned Lubbock's lead, and moving to Big Fork. Lum decides the Store is priceless, with its many memories, and instructs Abner to write "no valuation" on the form.

Still more citizens move from Pine Ridge, as Little Pearl packs for nursing school. The community is becoming a "ghost town" ("Huh?" asks a frightened Abner), due to the fact that the troublesome transportation survey, recently completed and mailed by Lum, has helped the state agency determine that Pine Ridge just may not have enough business to warrant its staying on the all-important truck route, which could be moved to Big Fork!! Pine Ridge's future looks bleak. Just as L&A begin to brainstorm new business ideas to stimulate the Pine Ridge economy (perhaps President-Elect Clinton should listen to their ideas!), Abner bids a tearful goodbye to his beloved Little Pearl, as she heads toward the county seat aboard the mail hack, to catch the train for nursing school.

Following the eighth meeting of the Golden Era Discussion Club (actually held at the home of Ulysses S. Quincy!), the Wednesday, January 27 program again faces the truck route dilemma. Perhaps Grandpap's new business venture will help: He has bought a "Jr. Mysto Chemistry Set #2-B," with which he hopes to become a successful chemist! Abner becomes excited about Grandpap's 90¢ investment, and the following day, plans to help him "inna-vint inna-visible ink," so that "the givermint could buy it ta send secret orders ta Gen'ral MacArthurs and all them other officers! Thataway, if th' letter got lost, an' some Japaneseman picked it up, he wouldn't be able ta read it!" Lum asks Abner just how the general will be able to read a letter written in invisible ink, to which Abner replies, "They could jst write 'im another letter in reg'lar ink, tellin' what they wrote 'im in th' first 'un!"

Today's episode marks the beginning of Cedric's "peanut butter" running gag: "I jst love an' admarr that stuff!" Abner offers
December 1992 - Page 8

TUESDAY'S BEST LISTENING

See program listings for more detail and additional news programs

Time shown is CWT; for MWT subtract one hour.

News and Discussion

A.M.
11:00 Boake Carter
P.M.
12:00 H. R. Baukhage
1:00 Cedric Foster
5:45 Lowell Thomas
6:00 Fulton Lewis, Jr.
6:15 News of the World
6:45 H. V. Kaltenborn
7:00 Earl Godwin
9:00 Raymond Gram Swing
9:00 John B. Hughes

Variety

A.M.
8:00 Breakfast Club
P.M.
6:00 Amos 'n' Andy
and 10:00 Fred Waring's Orchestra
7:00 Johnny Presents
Ginny Simms, vocalist and mistress of ceremonies; Dave Rose's Orchestra, and a chorus known as the Bombardiers
7:15 Lum and Abner
7:30 Horace Heidt, with Frankie Carle and Musical Knights
7:30 Duffy's
Ed Gardner; Shirley Booth; Marie Greene; Eddie Green; Peter Van Steeden's Orchestra
7:30 Al Jolson Show
Parkyakarkus and Shakyarkus (Harry Einstein and Elaine Arden); Carol Bruce; Ray Block's Orchestra
8:00 Burns and Allen
Jimmy Cash; Paul Whiteman's Orchestra
8:00 Battle of the Sexes
Walter O'Keefe is master of ceremonies

8:30 Fibber McGee and Molly
Jim and Marian Jordan; Bill Thompson; Isabel Randolph; King's Men; Billy Mills' Orchestra
8:30 Victory Parade of Spotlight Bands
Tony Pastor's Orchestra
9:00 Bob Hope Variety Show
Frances Langford; Jerry Colonna; Vera Vague; Skinnay Ennis' Orchestra
9:30 Red Skelton and Company
Harriet Hilliard; Ozzie Nelson's Orchestra; Wonderful Smith

Drama

P.M.
7:00 Lights Out
Arch Oboler's "Chicken Heart" will be tonight's story
8:00 Famous Jury Trials
8:30 Suspense

Classical Music

P.M.
6:30 American Melody Hour
Vivian della Chiesa, Conrad Thibault, Evelyn MacGregor, Remo Bolognini

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7750 S. Halsted, Dept. E-101, Chicago

Movie-Radio Guide lists some classic programs for Tuesdays during the winter of 1942! Note "Chicken Heart," on Lights Out, the program humorously recalled by Bill Cosby on one of his comedy albums of the 1960s!

Cedric War Savings Stamps as change from his peanut butter purchase, but Cedric declines. Lum uses this as an opportunity to encourage Cedric (and the listening audience) to complete his books of stamps, and to use them to purchase bonds. Cedric isn't sure he wants the war to end so soon, for he'll lose his job at the de-fense plant! Lum chastises the youth for this attitude: "...Ernest McMillan's a awful good friend o' yers... If you knowed that you could shorten th' war by jst five minnits, an' if ya knowed that those five minnits you could save could be th' five minnits in which Ernest could be killed if ya didden buy a couple o' stamps... I b'lieve ya'd wanna buy 'em, wouldn't ya?" A thoughtful Cedric, as did millions of caring Americans, sacrificed his intended purchase to instead buy War Savings Stamps!

As for Grandpap's "inna-isible ink," it seems the "genus chemist" can't recall its formula - he wrote it in "inna-visible ink!!" But join us in our February, 1993 issue, as the "Jr. Mysto" set leads us on a merry-go-round of wartime comedy, as the team of Lum and Abner deal with "inna-ventions," amnesia, truck routes, high society, and dentistry! All this and World War II!

(The programs discussed this issue may be found on NLAS Tape Library volumes #85 through #90.)

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford

MEMBER MEMBERS

Send your article & photo to: P.O. Box 869, Carthage, Texas 75633

MIKE and DEBBIE BROOKS

of Bartlett, Tennessee

These NLAS members are no strangers to those of you who have attended our last three NLAS Conventions in Mena, Arkansas. Mike and Debbie are "ossifers" in one of our "cousin" organizations, as Mike explains:

"Ahoy there! When 'Uncle Donnie' asked me to write a little about Debbie and myself, I replied, 'Hey, the Lum and Abner crowd doesn't want to hear about us Popeye folks...' He told me to go ahead and do it anyway, and you folks can be the judge and jury.

"My wife and I have been members of the NLAS for almost exactly three years. I know this for a fact, because Tim Hollis sent Donnie an advertisement for our 'Official Popeye Fanclub' three

years ago, when we were just a fledgling group struggling to get ourselves underway. It turns out that Donnie was (and still is) a huge Popeye fan, and over twenty years ago, not only lived near Bartlett, Tennessee, but on the exact same street where we currently reside!! And to top it all off, he (Donnie) was considering the creation of a Popeye fanclub long before we ever had the idea!

"...Wonderful world...

"So for the past three years, we have been bouncing ideas off of each other and sort of mutually helping each other out. Donnie, Tim and 'Singin' Sam' are all great folks, whom we respect very much. Even Aunt Laura and the rest of the Hollis clan have a special place in our hearts.

"Debbie, my wife of fourteen years, and I have been involved with collecting Popeye memorabilia, even before we were married. My personal interest in the little sailor man and his pals goes back even further, to my early childhood.

"Just like L&A, Popeye represents American nostalgia, and memories of a happier, more rational world. And both have the prestigious honor of representing good, wholesome humor... truly a very rare commodity in today's world. You can watch a Popeye cartoon (or listen to his old radio show), or catch a Lum and Abner radio show or film, and rest assured that all will be suitable for the

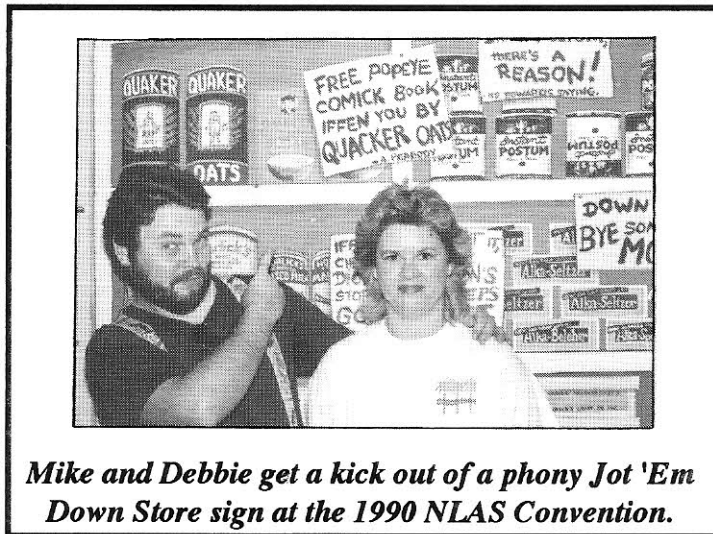
whole family to enjoy. No four-letter words or risqué implications here... and it's all very entertaining!!

"Well, I've rambled enough. By day, I'm a computer programmer, and by night I'm co-founder and editor of the Popeye Fanclub Newsletter. My wife is a public relations officer for our club, and by day she works as a formulations chemist for Maybelline Cosmetics.

"We're real proud to be associated with all of you L&A folks, because nostalgia is not just a thing of the past. It's part of our American heritage..."

We wholeheartedly agree with Mike and Debbie! This energetic couple has contributed greatly to our past three conventions, always leaping headlong into the hard work necessary to prepare for our meetings. Among their many contributions: Mike and Debbie

have helped transform the Lime Tree banquet room into our NLAS Convention headquarters, Debbie has served as "GOfer" for us, Mike has provided guitar accompaniment for fiddle players Troy Boyd and the late Ruel Bain, Debbie has served refreshments, Mike has provided his camera and services in videotaping our conventions, and, through their club, have obtained rare film footage for our last movie presentation. Additionally, Mike and Debbie are always generous in promoting the NLAS in the Popeye Fanclub newsletter.



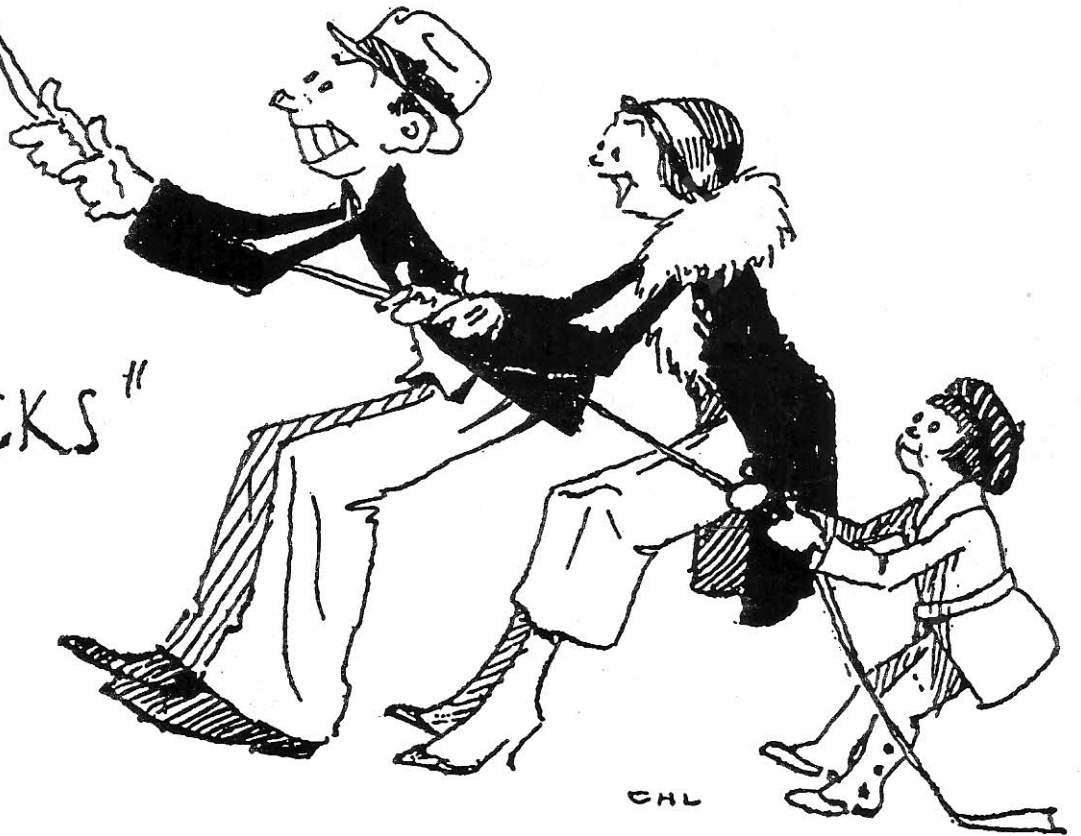
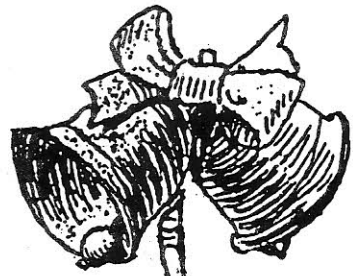
Mike and Debbie get a kick out of a phony Jot 'Em Down Store sign at the 1990 NLAS Convention.

If you are interested in the Popeye characters, you may enjoy attending the Annual Popeye Picnic, held the weekend after Labor Day in Chester, Illinois, the home of late Elzie Segar, Popeye's creator. Our own "Singin' Sam" and his "good wome'n Carole" have attended for the past two years, so our two clubs seemed destined to "crossover" for years to come. For more information on the Official Popeye Fanclub (they publish a huge newsletter - "much bigger than the *Jot 'Em Down Journal*," as Mike is proud to point out!), send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**POPEYE FANCLUB
MIKE & DEBBIE BROOKS
5995 STAGE RD. SUITE 151
BARTLETT, TN 38134**

KEEP THOSE PHOTOS AND ARTICLES COMING!!!

WE'RE PULLING FOR YOU
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MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR



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