

FEBRUARY 1993

WHO SAID THAT?

Fans of *The Andy Griffith Show* are well-known for their ability to pull lines from the show out of context and immediately be able to identify their sources. NLAS members James and Janet McMurrin of Harrison, Arkansas, feel that *Lum and Abner* fans ought to be able to do the same thing. Here, they have collected single lines from many different L&A broadcasts; readers are encouraged to try their luck in this new NLAS contest. Simply write down the L&A character who said each of these lines and mail your answers to the Executive Secretary, Route 3, Box 110, Dora, AL 35062. The person who answers ALL of them correctly will win a special L&A-related prize. Winners and the correct answers will be announced in the April issue. Good luck!

- (1) "Abner, do you have hidden hunger?"
- (2) "Have another bananner!"
- (3) "That's only half of it! You should see me in a bathing suit!"
- (4) "Once?! A feller don't git but two tries on somethin' like that, then he runs outa arms!"
- (5) "Your Miss Emaline is not here... but I am!"
- (6) "Well, I'll be a monkey's aunt!"
- (7) "Blue uniforms?! Did I hear somebody say blue uniforms?!"
- (8) "He asked me that same question. I jes' said, 'The River.'"
- (9) "Then he looked in the sack hisself an' said, 'What we got fer dessert... crickets?'"
- (10) "He's a changed lion, though."
- (11) "Yes, you're right, Mr. Skimp, I believe this is my lucky day!"
- (12) "Hold everything! The Marines are here!"
- (13) "Goodbye, XYZ!"
- (14) "That was the Queen. She wants yer royal highness to git hiz majestic self home an' clean out th' imperial stove pipe before she whops ye on yer royal noggin!"
- (15) "Don't stop me now... I've got a little business with a guy named Squire Skimp!"
- (16) "Did you trip over a chicken?"
- (17) "Poor little vertical!"
- (18) "How should I know? I ain't no weather vane!"
- (19) "Do pianner tuners always crawl through a winder?"
- (20) "The withered flower haz bloomed agin!"
- (21) "Well, how do I let on like we're rich?"
- (22) "There comes a time in the life of ever man..."
- (23) "Ha! Tole him not to! Them are th' things that ole gossip loves ta tell the best!"
- (24) "I'd jes' love ta be over thar peekin' in th' winder if that telephone wuz to ring about now!"
- (25) "Yer a big fried chicken, that's whut ye are!"
- (26) "Come on, let's go over to yer store then, where th' phone's all one piece."
- (27) "Do I have to start every sentence with 'Grandpap'?"
- (28) "Cedric isn't really an Indian, is he?"
- (29) "I said, we'll find Lum's watch, won't we?"
- (30) "Well, I'm older than I look... I'm 29."
- (31) "Does he get these attacks often?"
- (32) "I ort to be at home paintin' my barn right now. I got to git that barn painted."
- (33) "Ain't no danger o' him ever bein' smart!"
- (34) "And you're the worst of the lot, Mr. Skimp. SHUT UP!"

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

February 1993

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LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

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The Golden Era by Gary Stivers



Front Cover: L&A try to piece together a problem in a publicity still for *Two Weeks To Live* (RKO Radio Pictures, 1943). In the actual film, Lum does not appear in this scene.

Back Cover: Original newspaper ad for *Two Weeks To Live* as published in the movie's pressbook. Notice the unusual emphasis on beauty queen Rosemary LaPlanche.

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A SECOND LOOK AT 2 WEEKS TO LIVE

According to some sources, Lum and Abner's third motion picture, *Two Weeks To Live*, was released by RKO Radio Pictures on February 26, 1943. If that is true, then this month marks the picture's 50th anniversary. Thus, as we have done for L&A's two previous movies, *Dreaming Out Loud* (1940) and *The Bashful Bachelor* (1942), we are going to take a closer look at some of the trivia associated with the film.

As with another four of L&A's seven movies, this one opens with an orchestral rendition of the radio show's theme song played over the titles. The screenplay for *Two Weeks To Live* was penned by one Michael Simmons and L&A's radio scriptwriter Roswell Rogers. Rogers' participation in the film should ensure that the story stay true to the radio series... but obviously the tastes of the movie studio overruled that. In fact, with the possible exception of *Goin' To Town* (1944), *Two Weeks To Live* probably resembles the broadcasts less than any of their other RKO features!

Whereas their earlier movies have taken place entirely within Pine Ridge, *Two Weeks To Live* opens in Chicago, and much of the plot is centered there. A pair of lawyers, Stark Sr. and Stark Jr., are frantically trying to locate Pine Ridge on a map of the United States. They succeed, but it must be an extremely complete map, as there are even maps of Arkansas that do not show the tiny community!

The scene shifts to the tranquility of Pine Ridge, where L&A are once again engaged in a hot game of checkers. In comes the mailman, identified as "Ulysses." Ulysses is portrayed by Danny Duncan, who had a regular role as Uncle Henry Lunsford on the L&A radio show. In the first of several wartime references in the film, Ulysses mentions that he has been delivering mail only occasionally, to save rubber... the rubber heels on his shoes, that is.

From Ulysses' special delivery letter (which he has been holding for a week or so), L&A learn that Abner's Uncle Ernest Peabody has passed away, leaving his nephew sole ownership of the C & O Railroad. Lum figures this means the Chicago and



NO OVERTIME FOR THIS GAME!

Chester Lauck (right) and Norris Goff (Left), Lum and Abner, respectively, continue their checker game off, as well as, on the screen. The famous radio team appear in their third motion picture "Two Weeks to Live" produced by Jack William Votion for RKO Radio.

The illustrations accompanying this article are taken from the original RKO Radio Pictures pressbook for *Two Weeks To Live*.

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ANNUAL  PASS

CHINNECOOTE & ARROW R. R.

(Good Between Pine Ridge and the Water Tank)

ISSUED TO BEARER BY COURTESY OF

LUM AND ABNER

NOW STARRING IN

"TWO WEEKS TO LIVE"

(THEATRE)



President

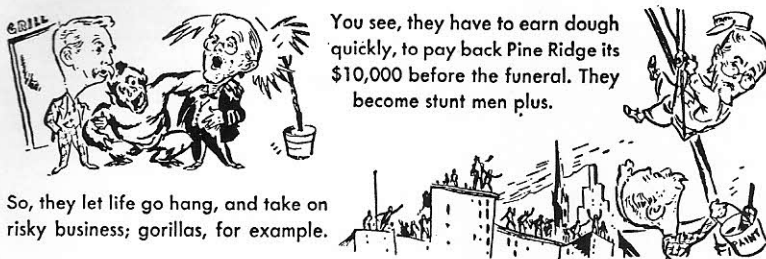
THIS PASS IS POSITIVELY TRANSFERABLE
Children, Dogs, Market Baskets and Lawn Rakes
Earned at Your Own Risk



Ex-President

The New Ordeals of Lum & Abner

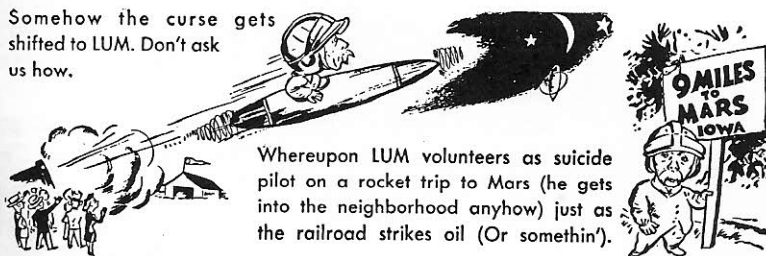
LUM and ABNER have a lame duck railroad wished on them. They let the Pine Ridge folk in on it, and hustle off to Chicago to clinch matters.



So, they let life go hang, and take on risky business; gorillas, for example.



In between, they ready up the doomed ABNER to fit in where the angels sing.



Whereupon LUM volunteers as suicide pilot on a rocket trip to Mars (he gets into the neighborhood anyhow) just as the railroad strikes oil (Or somethin').

Ohio, and immediately talks Abner into making him president of the company. President Eddards' first decision is that they should lay tracks through Pine Ridge, and he comes up with the idea of selling railroad stock to the citizens of the town to finance the purchase of the necessary rights-of-way. This leads to some brief glimpses of a few of the radio show's offstage characters: Abner sells stock to "Mamie" (the telephone operator?), while Lum makes a sale to Grandma Masters.

Oscar O'Shea, who portrayed Squire Skimp in *The Bashful Bachelor*, recreates his role in one brief scene in *Two Weeks To Live*, as L&A turn the

stockholders' money over to him (uh oh). Squire will handle getting the right-of-way agreements signed while Mr. Edwards and Mr. Peabody are in Chicago. Arriving in the big city, L&A are impressed by all the hustle and bustle: "The Columbia Exposition mus' still be goin' on," observes Lum. L&A's appearance at the swanky Hotel Ritzmore prompts a resuscitation of an old gag that we all thought died with vaudeville. Rich Lady (mistaking Abner for a bellhop): "Call me a taxi!" Abner: "All right, you're a taxi."

Soon enough, Abner learns that C & O Railroad stands for the "Chinnecoote and Orville," named after Uncle Ernest's defunct gold mine. The entire assets of the company consist of one junked railroad car, leaving L&A with the question of how to pay back all of their stockholders. Returning to the lawyer's office, Abner slips on a wet floor and falls down a flight of stairs... for the actual acrobatics involved, a stuntman, rather than Tuffy Goff, portrays Abner. The accident greatly alarms building superintendent Franklin Pangborn, a busy character actor who appeared to be greatly alarmed in every picture he ever made!

Fearing a damage suit, Pangborn rushes Abner to a doctor. In the doctor's office, the nurse is played by Rosemary LaPlanche, whose previous claim to fame had been that she was Miss America of 1942. This is her only scene in the movie, but the film's publicity department wasted no opportunity to play up her role... some publicity even featuring her in her swim suit! The lovesick nurse is so involved with talking



LUM'S GIRL FRIEND!

It puts Abner in a dangerous spot when Lum succumbs to the lure of the beautiful Kay Linaker and falls for her dangerous scheme in "Two Weeks to Live," a Jack William Votion Production for RKO Radio starring Lum and Abner, Pine Ridge's popular storekeepers and radio's leading comic team.

to her soldier boyfriend on the phone that she makes a terrible mistake: she gets Abner's checkup results confused with those of a Mr. Strotz, who is confined to a wheelchair and diagnosed as not being able to possibly live more than two more weeks.

For the rest of the picture, L&A are caught between the dilemmas of raising \$10,000 to pay back their stockholders and simultaneously facing Abner's impending demise. (In an amazingly accurate instance, the prop department furnished an actual 1943 calendar for closeup shots... all of this action is supposed to be occurring in September 1943, according to these shots.) Every time Abner picks up the newspaper, he sees an editorial concerning "Death and Taxes;" the book he chooses to read to relax his mind is titled *One Foot In The Grave*; and when he turns on the radio he hears a commercial for cemetery plots.

L&A encounter the bizarre Mr. Gimple, played by Irving Bacon, who had appeared in both of their previous films. Gimple is a strange sort of character (he continually talks to his invisible ghost dog), but he suggests that Abner could raise the necessary funds by hiring out to perform all sorts of dangerous jobs. This leads first to a job painting a "jinxed" flag pole (which lasts about 30 seconds), and then to a sequence with the mad scientist Dr. Van Dyke (Luis Alberni) and his Jekyll-and-Hyde potion. Also mixed up in this is a trainer and his gorilla: the beast is played by Charlie Gomorrah, who made quite a movie career for himself in the 1940's playing apes. (He can also be seen in 1944's *Gildersleeve's Ghost*, based on another famous radio series!)



"HOW AM I DOING, DOC!"

Doctor Lum is trying his best to find out what makes the gorilla tick, while Abner stands by ready for any emergency in this scene from "Two Weeks to Live" produced by Jack William Votion. The gorilla adds just a few more to the many headaches experienced by Lum and Abner, radio's favorite comedy team, in their latest starring production for RKO Radio.



HEART ACTION—RAPID!

No wonder the doctor (Edward Earle) finds Abner's (Norris Goff) heart beating overtime as Rosemary LaPlanche, last year's "Miss America," sends out that "Come hither" look in this scene from the Jack William Votion Production "Two Weeks to Live" for RKO Radio and starring the popular radio comics, Lum and Abner.

Meanwhile, the Pine Ridge citizens are becoming irate at their perceived swindling by L&A. The ringleader of the revolt is "Elmer Kelton." This is probably the strangest piece of casting in L&A movie history. Elmer is played by Charles Middleton, the dour-faced actor who is most often identified with his role as the villainous Ming the Merciless in the Flash Gordon movies! How Middleton ever wound up portraying a citizen of Pine Ridge, Arkansas, is a question that might baffle the hardest brain trust.

Back in Chicago, Abner is still undertaking dangerous jobs, including one as a stunt flier in the Higgins Circus. (Higgins himself is played by Tim Ryan, who was once famous as half of a vaudeville team with his wife, Irene... later known as Granny on *The Beverly Hillbillies*.) The beautiful Miss Carmen (Kay Linaker) flatters Lum into getting Abner to spend the night in a supposedly haunted house, for a fee of \$1000.00. This turns out to be an elaborate plot to collect a fraudulent life insurance claim on "Miss Carmen's" husband, but through a series of typical mixups, Abner goes to the wrong house and accidentally blows up a den of Nazi saboteurs! (Only a viewing of the film could possibly explain how this all comes about.)

The government offers a \$10,000 reward for the hero who infiltrated the Nazi hideout, but L&A are oblivious to what has taken place. ("Why couldn't we do somethin' like that?" Lum

LUM AND ABNER

IN TWO WEEKS TO LIVE

A JACK WM. VOTION Production

PRODUCED BY BEN HERSH
DIRECTED BY MALCOLM ST. CLAIR
ORIGINAL SCREEN PLAY BY
MICHAEL LEVINSON & HOWELL ROSE



laments.) Instead, they sign up with Professor Albert Frisby, who is looking for someone to pilot his rocket ship to the planet Mars. (Perhaps that was Charles "Ming" Middleton's purpose in being there... to prevent these earth creatures from invading his bailiwick!) This is loosely adapted from L&A's radio storyline of October 1942, and Professor Frisby himself is an only slightly reworked version of the radio program's Professor Sloane. Another familiar face (and voice) in this scene is L&A's longtime radio supporting player Jerry Hausner, making his movie debut as a newspaper reporter.

Before the rocket launch can take place, another doctor examines Abner and pronounces him to be in perfect health. However, Lum is suffering from a terrible cold, and when the doctor checks him out and begins to prescribe two weeks of rest, Lum jumps to conclusions and decides that HE has only 14 days to live! Before you can say "I grannies," the protesting Lum is in the rocket ship and the space craft

has been prematurely blasted off (by Abner sitting down on the detonator). Seconds later, lawyer Stark arrives on the scene to inform Abner that he has sold their railroad rights-of-way for \$20,000, enabling them to pay back the stockholders and make a tidy profit as well.

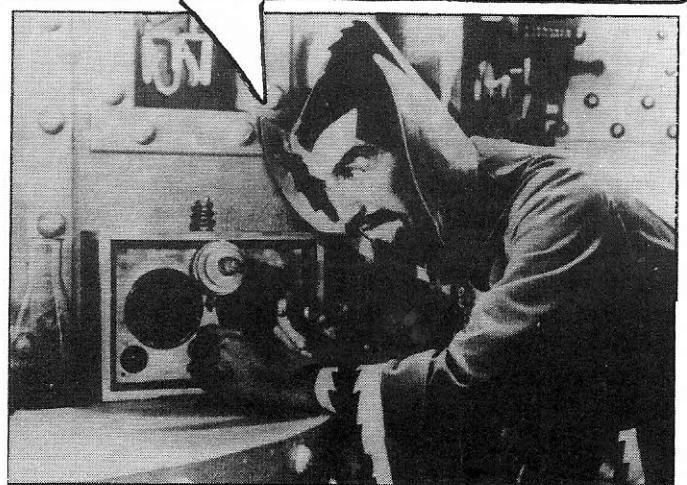
The movie's final scene follows the trek of the rocket ship, which sputters out of control and makes a crash landing. The dazed and blackened figure of Lum emerges from the ship's hold, and the first thing he sees is a signpost reading "Nine Miles to Mars." "Grannies, I might nigh made it... good fer me!" is all Lum can croak out before collapsing; only then is it revealed that the sign actually reads, "Nine Miles To Mars, Iowa."

Two Weeks To Live is a somewhat meandering mishmash of ideas, some of which succeed while others misfire terribly. Lum and Abner seem as out-of-place amid all the slapstick as indeed they are, and they are somewhat overshadowed by the supporting cast of loonies. The film suffers by removing L&A from their comfortable Pine Ridge setting, something that was only rarely done on the radio. In fact, L&A's next two motion pictures, *So This Is Washington* (1943) and *Goin' To Town* (1944), would also take the old fellows far from their radio roots. Just who should receive the blame for the movie's shortcomings is not at all clear; of course, Roz Rogers had already proven himself the perfect writer for L&A with his now-classic radio scripts, and Chet & Tuffy were fairly comfortable with their on-screen portrayals by this time. Even the director, Malcolm St. Clair, was the same party responsible for 1942's *The Bashful Bachelor*, which is generally agreed to be the most faithful to the radio series. So what happened to *Two Weeks To Live*? We may never know.

(For anyone interested in viewing the movie for themselves, *Two Weeks To Live*, along with the other six L&A films, is available on video cassette for \$29.95 from Lum & Abner Associates, 35 Circle Drive, Hot Springs, AR 71901. A 16mm print of the film will be shown on the BIG screen at this year's NLAS Convention in Mena, Arkansas, on June 26.)

- Tim Hollis

AHA! SO LUM & ABNER ARE PLANNING A TRIP TO MARS, ARE THEY? I MUST DISGUISE MYSELF AS AN EARTH MAN AND STOP THEM!





LUM AND ABNER®

GO TO WAR



Welcome to the eighth 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. February 1943 got off to an encouraging start, as the last German troops in Stalingrad surrendered on the 2nd. The month following saw a Japanese naval force defeated in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea (March 2-5), and Japanese troops retreating across the Yangtze (March 13). Preparations for the invasion of the Normandy coast ("Operation Overlord") began early in 1943.

After tuning most of the static out of the old RCA-Victor, we join Lum and Abner on Monday, February 1, 1943. Due to a declining need for trucking service, the state is considering bypassing Pine Ridge with the truck route! As this would ruin business in the community, Messrs. Edwards, Peabody and Spears are searching for any new idea to boost trade.

Grandpappy Spears, having purchased a child's "Jr. Mysto Chemistry Set," is attempting to "inna-vent" a new form of "inna-visible" ink, with the hopes the "givermint" can use it for secret messages. Boiling in the feed room, the unfinished ink is ruined when Cedric Weehunt dumps an unwanted handful of "stretch berries and sweet gum" (a substitute for chewing gum) into the vat. Ordered to dispose of the tainted brew, Cedric slops it onto the floor. Discovering the rubbery characteristics of the "mess," Lum declares it to be synthetic rubber! According to history instructor Rex Riffle, "the Japanese occupation of eastern Asia had cut off the crude rubber supply. Immediately the government put a freeze on tires. Thanks to salvage drives, 85,000 tons of rubber were recycled, but after the third time it would lose its bounce. Thousands of would-be inventors turned in ideas to make synthetic rubber." Will Grandpap's version work?

By Wednesday, it is time to form a company to produce synthetic rubber! By Lum's figures, he, Abner, Grandpap and Cedric each get a half interest in the new firm! Voting for "ossifers" proceeds as one might expect, with Lum (eventually) elected president of the organization, Grandpap the vice-president of both "Mixin' an' Cookin'" and "Secret Way of Makin' th' Rubber," Cedric vice-president of the "Stretch Berries and Sweet Gum" department, and Abner the "Vice-President in Charge o' Vice-Presidents!!"

Eavesdropping on storekeeper Peabody (February 8), we learn that wartime string-beans are packaged in glass rather than cans, while pepper is encased in cardboard, all to reserve needed metals for war use. Lum returns from Mena, having visited with Mr. Dunn (a "givermint" man) regarding their synthetic rubber. "We're doin' sump'm good fer th' army by makin' that rubber," declares Lum, directing chemist Spears to mix up a big batch of the substance to be shipped to Mr. Dunn for his inspection the next day. He further

directs Grandpap to keep the formula a total secret, guarding it from enemy spies!

It's 9:30, Tuesday morning - where is Grandpap? Have spies caught him? He must mix his batch of rubber before the truck arrives! Ah-ha, he's been at Dick Huddleston's store trying to buy a pair of shoes with a # 17 ration stamp - no money, just the stamp! Perhaps a new pair of shoes would have given him better footing on the slick ice outside the Jot 'Em Down Store. Yes, poor Grandpap slips and hits his head! As consciousness returns, it becomes obvious that Grandpappy Spears has amnesia!

Confused, Grandpap wanders away from home, settling into Sister Simpson's boarding house, arising on Wednesday to declare that his name is now Buster V. Davenport! After all, his initials, B.V.D., are right there in his underwear!! Finding a weighing machine card in his pocket, "Buster" notices a trademark reading "The Toledo Scale Company;" therefore, he must be from Ohio!

Elements of this "Synthetic Rubber" plot have had at least two other incarnations in *L&A* history. The rare "orange book," the 1932 *Lum and Abner and their Friends from Pine Ridge* (reprints are available from the Lum and Abner Museum in the real Pine Ridge, Arkansas), claims, "...Abner is one of the greatest inventors that ever invented, him bein the one that invented how to make rubber outa stretch berries and sweet gum..." Unless the scripts or transcription discs are discovered from this early Quaker Oats era of *L&A*, this snippet of information may be all we will ever know about the original "Synthetic Rubber" story. Odder still is the plot of the film *So This is Washington*, which will be discussed in detail in our October issue.

But let's get back to 1943. Following a narrow escape from matrimony ("Buster" thinks he is single!), "Mr. Davenport" visits the Peabody household on February 11. We enjoy a rare treat: Lizabeth speaks! *L&A* hope she can rekindle Grandpap's memory, but Mrs. Peabody is most upset with the men for inviting "Buster" over to hawk his second-hand Hoovers. An unrelated, minor argument ensues between the dish-washing couple:

LIZ: Abner!! Don't wipe that dish... they's grease in thar!

ABNER: I know it's grease! ...that's why I'm th'owin' it away!

LIZ: Well, I don't want it th'owed away, I'm savin' it fer th' givermint!!

ABNER: Givermint!?

LIZ: Why shore, I strain all th' fats an' greases, and put in inta clean cans an' take it down ta Jeff th' butcher, an' he buys it!

ABNER: ...ha! That Jeff mus' be outa his head!

LIZ: He ain't no sichee! He sends it ta th' givermint, 'cause they wont it!

ABNER: Ah, prittle prattle!! Givermint don't wont a batch o' ol' grease layin' 'round th' White House! Bound ya Miz Roosevelt has

a hard enough job as it tiz keepin' 'at big place clean! Special when she ain't home hardly none o' th' time!

LIZ: Jist th' same, they wont old grease and fats; they're fightin' th' war with it, they git glicerone outen it!

ABNER: Glicerone!? (Laughs) Fer the land sakes! Sich ignorange! That's gly-serine is what it's called!

LIZ: However ya pernounce it, but I know they make dinna-mite an' gunpowder an' all sichee stuff outen it!

ABNER: Now, you wimmen don't know nothin' about wars and dinna-mite an' all sich is that!

LIZ: Well, I know if us wimmen fokes don't save up grease, the gevermint'll run clean outa gunpowder, then we're liable ta lose th' war!!

Arriving later, "Buster V. Davenport" turns on the charm, and sells Lizabeth a vacuum cleaner, much to hubby Abner's chagrin!

Grandpap's new charisma with the ladies isn't all it's cracked up to be. In fact, "Buster" calls it a "pigeon-toed nuisance" on February 15. This is the beginning of Grandpap's use of terms such as "spavin-legged, knock-kneed, flat-footed" and "bow-legged." L&A writer Roswell Rogers' explained to us in 1985 that these "conditions of the feet and legs" were introduced as "substitute swear words" for the crusty Mr. Spears. (One of his funniest oaths was, "I'll be a pigeon-toed son of a knock-kneed gnat!!")

The deadline for the state to decide on the truck route falls on Monday, February 22. With no chance to begin synthetic rubber production in time to stimulate trucking activity, L&A discuss the

possibility of leaving their beloved Pine Ridge, which may become a "ghost town." "We b'long here," declares Lum, "jist like them hills that's aroun' Pine Ridge here. Seems sorta like we run the town durin' the day, an' them hills sorter look after things fer us durin' th' night. No, we ain't got n'more right ta leave here than them hills has." L&A soon learn they can continue business after all, because "Buster V. Davenport," selling such second-hand items as pianos, washing machines, ice boxes, ice cream freezers, and, of course, vacuum cleaners, has done enough shipping himself to rescue the town!! The truck route is renewed for two years!

Reality of wartime rationing indicates business as usual in the Jot 'Em Down Store on February 24, as Abner struggles to understand the point system rationing charts. Pointing to an item on the chart, Lum attempts to explain, "...can o' hominy... 10 to 14 ounces," but Abner can't find the word "ounces." "Right thar," Lum says, "O-Z, ounce." Abner thought that abbreviation was surely the word "Oz!"

ABNER: I've heared o' th' Wizard of Oz," is he th' one that made up this chart?

LUM: Course not... I'll ad-mit, though, some of it looks like it mighta been studied up by him!

ABNER: Well, I'm might nigh shore it was him, Lum; he's more'n likely in Worshin'ton, thar, workin' fer th' gevermint; might nigh everybody else is...

LUM: The Wizard of Oz is a fica-ticious character!

ABNER: He is!?

LUM: Course he is!

ABNER: Well, I hope they ketch 'im, then!

LUM: Ketch 'im?

ABNER: Yessir! Ain't safe havin' them fica-ticious fellers sneakin' 'round Worshin'ton these days, Lum!

Reading the newspaper on February 24, Abner notices the headlines, "Nine I-talian Officers Reported to be in U. S. - Doggies, they mus' be lost!" and, "Treasury Estimates One Hunnerd Million Half-Filled War Stamp Albums in U. S. Homes." Lum lectures Abner on the importance of filling

WANTED!

250 Million Pounds KITCHEN FATS FOR WAR USE

Supplies of this vital material are short.



The frying pan is a source of supply.

KEEP A CAN HANDY



Roasting pans contain vital drops of used fats.

SCRAPE THE BOTTOM



Fat comes from soups and boiling meats.

SKIM THE TOP



TAKE THE FULL CAN
TO YOUR BUTCHER

He will see that you
(OVER)

Get 2 RED POINTS



and up to 4c a pound

Used kitchen fats, if no longer fit for cooking, are needed in the manufacture of hundreds of vital items used on the fighting and production fronts.

WAR USE

TIRES
ANESTHETICS
LUBRICANTS FOR PLANES
CAMOUFLAGE PAINT
JELLIES FOR BURNS
SULFA DRUGS
MUNITIONS
SOAPS

HOME USE

TIRES
ANESTHETICS
LUBRICANTS FOR TRUCKS
HOUSE PAINT
JELLIES FOR BURNS
SULFA DRUGS
VITAMIN PILLS
SOAPS

SAVE EVERY DROP OF USED KITCHEN FAT

War Food Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

those books: "...in Africa, er summers, thar's a soldier boy that needs th' bullets them stamps kin buy fer 'im. ...ya got ta fill th' book an' turn it in fer a War Bond. That's when ya start gittin' in-terest on 'em! ...havin' a half-filled stamp book kickin' 'round th' house is jist like sendin' a half of a airplane er a half of a tank into a battle! ...they's lotsa squawkin' an' 'crity-sizin' goin' on nowadays, but I b'lieve if ever'body'd stop worryin' sa much about th' other feller, an' check up on hissself instead, an' make sure he's doin' ever'thing he kin fer th' war effort, these things'd run along a whole lot smoother! An' maybe we'd even win th' war a lot faster!"

Honored at the Golden Era meeting, "Buster V. Davenport" is the man of the year. Lum decides their old / new friend needs a "high society comin' out party!" Reading in the newspaper "sassiety colyums" of big city social leader "Miz Whitley Whitley-Maddox" inspires our friend to become "Lum Whitley-Eddards, statuesque hostess of Pine Ridge sassiety!" As March gets underway, Lum's overblown aspirations overshadow the original intent of honoring "Buster" (and hopefully restoring Grandpap's memory!), and serve to anger Pine Ridge's other self-appointed social leader, Sister Simpson! Wielding a can of gold paint and a brush, Lum is determined to transform the inside of the schoolhouse into the "Gold Room of the Whitley-Eddards Mansion," the site of his elegant "comin' out party."

"What is a debu-tant?" is the \$64 question for Tuesday, March 2. According to an "etty-ket" book, "at the comin' out ball, the debutant stands beside the hostess and re-ceives." Dick Huddleston comes to the intellectual rescue, informing L&A that a debutante is "a socialite who has a coming out party" - it's Grandpap! But it seems a debutante's parents must sponsor the "coming out" affair. Lum suggests the Peabodies adopt "Buster V. Davenport" until after the party - then disown him!! The thought of Grandpappy Spears in a "Buster Brown suit," sitting on Lizabeth's knee, and being led by the hand to Sunday School is repugnant to Abner, who is actually younger than his possible "son!" After considerable argument, the issue is dropped! Nonetheless, Lum sets out to groom the community for the social event of the season.

"Tut tut," clucks Cedric, in response to his job promotion at Walt Bates' "de-fense plant." Cedric brags on March 10 that he boldly stood up to Mr. Bates, demanding a better position than merely "whackin' th' bolt on th' left" on pieces of machinery as they pass along the conveyor belt. Upwardly mobile Mr. Weehunt's new duties are to "whack the bolt on the right!!"

The "high class" menu for the Whitley-Eddards shindig proves a problem, due to the point system and meat rationing. Sardines and crackers substitute for shrimp cocktail!

"Buster V. Davenport" is the new chairman of the Pine Ridge Red Cross, and solicits donations from L&A, who are short on funds, having just paid their income tax (the deadline used to be March 15). "Ever'body gives me that same in-come tax story," says "Buster" sternly, "but the Red Cross needs a hunnerd and twenny-five million dollars! ...if th' money ain't raised, then th' Red Cross'll hafta stop takin' care o' th' wounded soldiers up at th' fightin' fronts! They'll hafta stop sendin' food an' stuff ta our boys 'at's been taken pris'ner! ...they'll hafta let soldiers die 'cause they can't git no more blood plasmly to 'em!" He expounds on the further great work done by the Red Cross, prompting Lum to add, "now's th' time when givin' really counts," in light of the already strained financial condition of most Americans. Promising to scrape up a donation by the following week, L&A are informed that "Buster" intends to depart for his

"hometown" of Toledo on Monday, which is the same day scheduled for the "surprise" debut of "B.V.D.!!" As the "high man" in Red Cross collections will win a prize, Lum promises "Mr. Davenport" \$100 in donations if he will delay his trip until Tuesday! This cash will be raised by attaching a dollar cover charge for each invited guest at the Monday night bash!

"Commodore an' Miz Commodore Quincy," is one of the many "high class" announcements made by butler Cedric Weehunt at the gala event held March 15. The only problem is that Cedric announces the guests each time he sees them! The party is a glowing success, but a nagging thought haunts Lum - just what has he forgotten? When the time arrives for debutante "Buster V. Davenport" to "come out," the "statuesque hostess" remembers - he forgot to invite Grandpap!!! As we learn the next evening at the Golden Era meeting, Grandpap was "fetched" to the wing-ding in the nick of time!

"I'm a cranky ol' Yank," sing the Golden Agers, "in a cranky ol' tank, an' I'm headin' for a hullabaloo!" This musical merriment segues into a discussion on how to restore Grandpap's memory before he runs off to Ohio - too late! "Buster" has already made tracks for Toledo!

In the absence of Grandpappy Spears, a rather strange new character, Dr. Samuel W. Snide, is introduced. Pine Ridge's dentist, Doc Fisher, has been drafted, and school teacher Professor Sloane insists his scholars need regular dental care. In response to Lum's "circular letter" (which Abner fears will require "round en-vellups"), Dr. Snide arrives in town. According to Roz Rogers and Clarence Hartzell, the eccentric dental doctor was portrayed by Eddie Holden, a character actor who was cast as an oriental butler in the radio series *Frank Watanabe and the Honorable Archie*, which originated at station WLW in Cincinnati. ("Me flix 'em," was his motto.) The not-so-good doctor, inventor of the "no shlip, no shlide dental platshe," speaks as if he forgot his Polygrip, and inserted his dentures backwards to boot! Arriving on Monday, March 22, the doctor presents his only credentials: his Elks tooth (after all, teeth are his business), his air raid warden's card (with his fingerprints to prove it's really him) and a medal, earned for winning second place in the standing broad jump in high school (proving he graduated from there before going to dental school). Lum is convinced, and shifts gears from social leader to "assistant dentist!!"

Wednesday, March 24's episode features another standout "double-talk" sketch, one of those eagerly awaited exchanges in which "Abner gets confused" over an "Ol' Eddards Sayin'." This time, it concerns Lum's expression of Dr. Snide's intent to "hang up his shingle" on the Jot 'Em Down Store. The ending on this particular classic is a hilarious twist on the general routine!

G. I. Mousey is home on furlough a day later, visiting his beloved Pine Ridge one more time before his unit is shipped out to a location he cannot reveal (a "military secret, more'n likely"). "I would'n' be s'prized if it wasn't Africa," guesses Lum, "er maybe even Europe itself. Y'know, thar's a big in-vasion bein' planned now. No tellin' when it might start. ...we're on th' move, now. We've taken the of-fensive." Lum reminds Abner that the best way they can assist Mousey and his fellow soldiers is to "buy more War Bonds. ...they's lotsa things we kin git along without an' use th' money we save fer bonds. Jus' think o' all th' things our boys on th' fightin' fronts is gittin' along without! ...it ain't gonna hurt us none ta make a few sackerfices here at home." Lum stresses that the money to finance the large ships needed to cross the English Channel

or the Mediterranean will come from War Bonds. Once on the other side, bonds must still be bought, "ta keep furnishin' food an' ammunition fer Mousey an' his fellers, day after day after day, 'til Mr. Hitler is final licked!!!"

MOUSEY: Well sir, just buy War Bonds!

LUM: That's right! An' ever' day we fail ta do that, we're causin' Mousey's outfit ta lose a battle! An' that makes th' war last jist that much longer! We'll hafta go without meat an' pertaters an' stuff jist that much longer back home!

ABNER: I doggies, us home fokes is gotta purdy im-portance job ta do after all, ain't we?

LUM: You dad blame right we have!

With Private Gray soon to ship out, "Dr. Eddards" and "Assistant Peabody" finish the month of March 1943 transforming the feed room of the store into a clinic for their new resident dentist, Dr. Snide. In addition to nailing a rocking chair to the floor (no slip, no slide?), Lum installs an intercom, constructed from funnels and garden hose. "Callin' Dr. Eddards," bellows Abner into the funnel, practicing his new job as assistant. Some doubt is cast upon Dr. Snide's dental knowledge at the 15th meeting of the Golden Era Discussion Club, as the lisping tooth man struggles through a "high

class, illun-strated leckature" concerning the "teesh" and "gooms" found in the everyday mouth. In other news, Grandpappy Spears has arrived safely in Toledo, having sent a postcard featuring a photo of a prizewinning cow.

As we conclude the month on Wednesday the 31st, L&A work to concoct ideas and slogans to boost Dr. Snide's business. (Example: "Once you've tried Dr. Snide's 'No Slip, No Slide' dental plates, you'll never go back to your old teeth!") Lum has a brilliant idea to manufacture extra-sharp dentures for eating beefsteak. Abner reminds him of the rationing of beef these days, but Lum insists the teeth will be useful for the limited beef available, since it is quite tough to chew! After the duo creates the concept of "Dr. Peabody's Corn Teeth" ("...good, wide teeth with no spaces in-between 'em - never miss a kernel..."), Ulysses S. Quincy enters to enlist the services of the two white-coated gentlemen for \$25! Does he actually trust L&A to perform dental work? Let me inform you that the two "assistant dentists" are actually wearing painters' coats instead of dentists' jackets!

(The programs discussed this issue may be found on NLAS Tape Library volumes #90 through #96.)

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford

MEN A RE MEMBERS

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

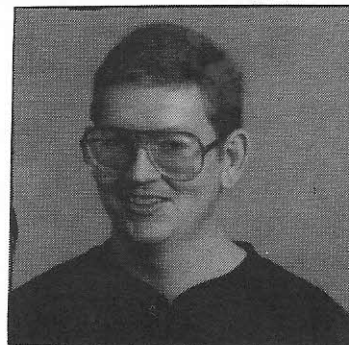
The BAIRD Family of Fort Worth, Texas

A charter member of the National Lum and Abner Society, Phillip is married to Marion, and together they are the proud parents of two sons, Stephen and Joseph.

Both Phillip and Marion are graduates of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Following their 1982 marriage, the couple moved to Phillip's hometown, Temple, Texas, where Marion began teaching at a Christian primary school operated by the First Baptist Church of Temple. Phillip resumed working for the family hardware company until a few years ago, when the family relocated in Fort Worth, where Phillip followed his calling into classes at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Marion became employed at Joshua Elementary School in nearby Joshua, where she currently teaches kindergarten. Stephen is now eight years old, while Joseph turns 6 this month.

Phillip, a longtime fan of the classic Jack Benny radio and television programs, became interested in Lum and Abner through a strange college roommate named "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford, who "force fed" him enough programs to lead to his membership in the NLAS. Marion, on the other hand, became acquainted with a teaching colleague named Laura Pearson in Temple. The Bairds successfully "hitched" "Uncle Donnie" with "Aunt Laura" in 1986.

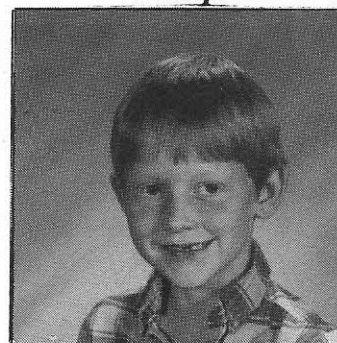
The Bairds have visited Pine Ridge and Mena, but have not been able to attend an NLAS Convention. They are planning to do so in



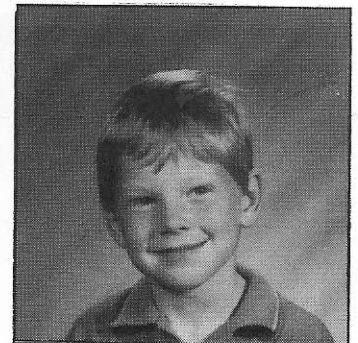
Phillip



Marion



Stephen



Joseph

the near future - like maybe this year! Our thanks to Phillip, Marion, Stephen and Joseph for their continued membership, and we hope to see them in Mena this June!

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2 WEEKS TO LIVE



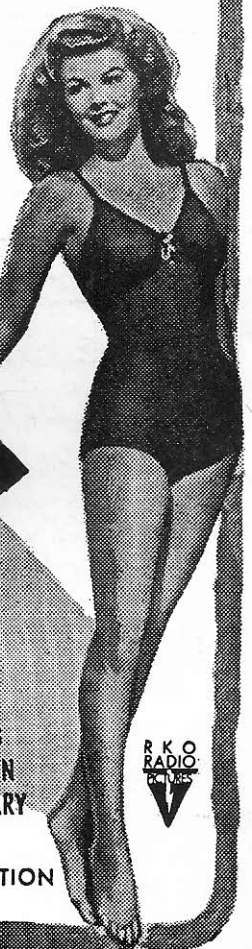
Zaney doings that make a mad scientist look like the sanest man in town!



with

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KAY LINAKER • IRVING
BACON • HERBERT RAWLINSON
IVAN SIMPSON • ROSEMARY
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A JACK WILLIAM VOTION
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Produced by BEN HERSH. Directed by MALCOLM ST. CLAIR. Original Screen Play by Michael L. Simmons and Roswell Rogers.

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