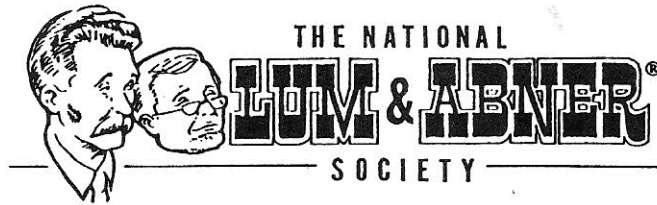


April 1994



CONVENTION

It is time to begin making your plans to attend the Tenth Annual Convention of the National Lum and Abner Society, which will be held in Mena, Arkansas, on Saturday, June 25 this year! As usual, the Convention activities will be centered at the Best Western Lime Tree Inn.

This year's Convention celebrates several important anniversaries. As we just said, the event marks the tenth time the NLAS has officially gathered for a Convention. It is also the tenth anniversary of the official founding of the NLAS (our official founding date was July 30, 1984). And, it is the 50th anniversary of the 1944 Lum and Abner movie *Goin' To Town*, which will be shown on the BIG screen... thanks to NLAS member Jimmie Parker of Jackson, Alabama, who readily answered our call for help in the December issue of the *Journal*.

The schedule of events for the Convention will be published in the June issue of the *Journal*, but they will probably occupy most of the day on that Saturday. Traditionally, the Convention activities are held in the morning and afternoon, and the movie program at night. If any changes in these plans occur, we will announce them.

This year's Convention will feature special SURPRISE guests... we know they will be a surprise, because at this point even we don't know who they will

be! Hopefully we will have these plans finalized before the June issue goes to press, but if not, come anyway and be surprised, too!

A unique event has been scheduled for this year: the U.S. Post Office in Pine Ridge will be issuing a SPECIAL EVENT Lum and Abner/Pine Ridge postmark during the Friday and Saturday of the Convention! Pine Ridge postmaster Kathy Stucker designed the special mark, the proposed version of which is reproduced here (the official version has not been established yet). Mail will be



LUM & ABNER

PINE RIDGE
STATION

PINE RIDGE
ARKANSAS, 71966

JUNE 26, 1994

THEY'RE IN A GIRL-WHIRL...
that's got every
tongue in Pine Ridge
wagging!

**LUM and
ABNER**

more Riots than
on the Radio

*Goin' to
Town*

with
BARBARA FLORENCE
HALE LAKE
GRADY DICK
SUTTON ELLIOTT
N.T.G.
WITH HIS HOLLYWOOD BEAUTIES

PRODUCED BY FRANK HELFORD A JACK WM. VOTION PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY LESLIE GOODWINS

stamped with this mark ONLY during the Tenth Annual NLAS Convention weekend. If you want one of these for your collection, but can't make it to the Convention in person, Mrs. Stucker says you can mail in a stamped postcard or envelope ahead of time, she will postmark it during the weekend's activities, and return it to you. Address all inquiries about the postmark to Kathy Stucker, P.O. Box 38, Pine Ridge, AR 71966.

The Convention is just a little over two months away, so make your plans to attend now! For reservations at the Best Western Lime Tree Inn, call (501) 394-6350.

The Jot 'Em Down Journal, Volume 10, Number 5 (Whole Number 59), April 1994. Published bi-monthly by the National Lum and Abner Society. 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

April 1994

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LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT
Donnie Pitchford

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sam Brown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Tim Hollis

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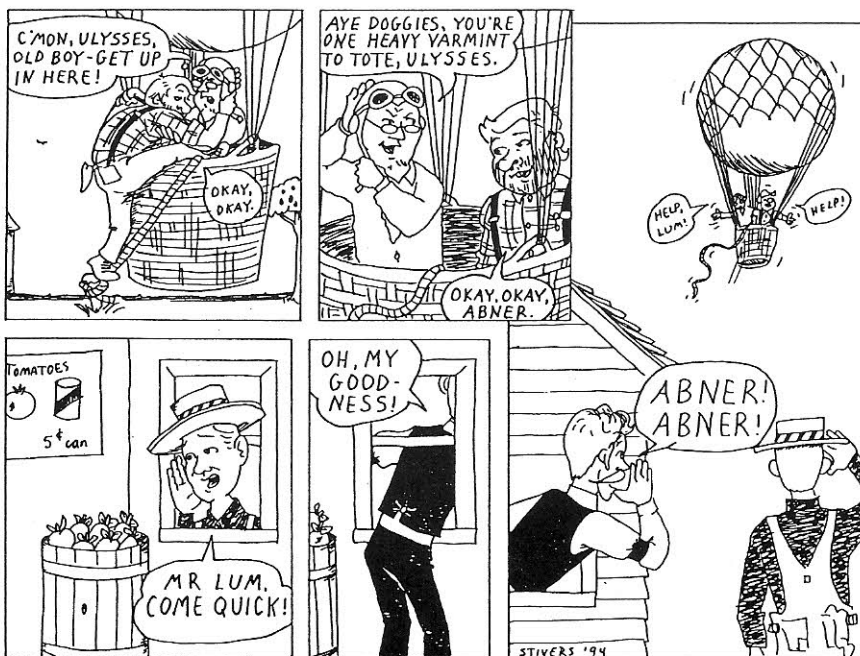
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Good news from the NLAS headquarters.

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Cover: Chet (Lum) Lauck, Norris (Abner) Goff, and two of their children, Gretchen Goff and Chet Lauck Jr., in a special publicity photo for the March of Dimes campaign, circa 1944. Courtesy of the Lum & Abner Museum.

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LUM AND ABNER®

GO TO WAR



Welcome to chapter 14 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.

Due to their absence from the syndicated *Lum and Abner* series of today, we conclude that the transcription discs from February 16 through March 30 of 1944 are missing (but hopefully not lost forever). In our previous *Journal*, we were able to bridge this most unfortunate gap, thanks to the script synopses provided for us by writer Roswell Rogers. Happily, with this issue we are "back in business" with programs readily available through syndication, OTR dealers, and of course, the ("tah dah!") NLAS Tape Library.

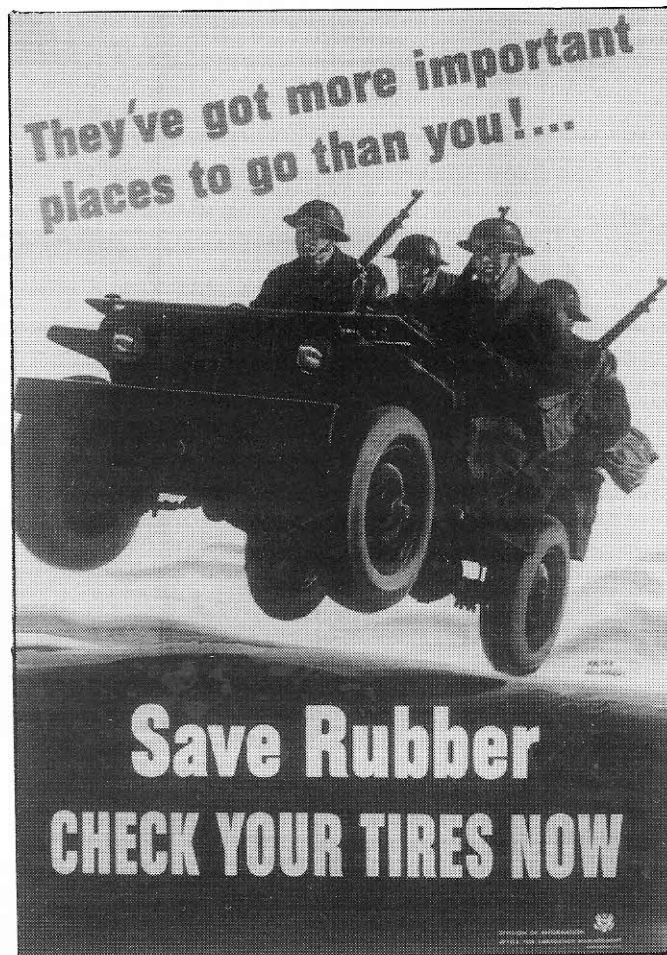
As the Second World War progressed, the Allies made advances up the New Guinea coast, invading such bases as Aitape and Hollandia (April 22), Wakde (May 17), and Biak (May 27). American women continued to take over "men's" jobs, and citizens were growing more accustomed to living without luxuries, all in support of the war effort. Stars of radio and motion pictures were keeping maddening schedules, performing for bond rallies and braving enemy fire to entertain the troops, and keeping their film and broadcast commitments as well.

As the program of Monday, April 3, 1944 gets rolling, the sale of stock in a treasure map expedition is lagging, much to Squire Skimp's displeasure. In fact, their only investor, Cedric Weehunt, wants out! L&A convince Cedric to remain; after all, he is the single, most powerful investor, with a vote for each of his five shares! Quickly holding a meeting of the stockholders (himself!), young Mr. Weehunt votes to impeach President "Eddards," and elects himself president!!

C.E.O. Weehunt begins racking up quite a tab, charging pinball games at Luke Spears' Restaurant to the "treasure hunt copy-ratation!" Treasurer Skimp refuses to be bossed by "eediot" Cedric, and quits the company, after offering to sell the map to Lum for \$65. Neither Lum nor Abner can afford this price, and in a round-about way, the map falls into the possession of good old Prez Weehunt!!!

It is a frigid 5:00 A.M. on April 6th that finds the treasure hunters squeezing into Cedric's chugging jalopy, L&A reluctantly taking his orders. Abner is forced to ride in Lum's lap, due to a back seat full of equipment (which includes Cedric's recent purchase: Luke Spears' former pinball machine!!). The trip will be made even longer by the fact that Cedric must keep his speed under 35 M.P.H., a wartime measure designed to minimize tire wear. "They's still a big shortage on tires fer civilians," Cedric explains, "th' army needs suh much rubber fer differ'nt stuff. Con-sarve yer tars an' keep yer car on war duty!" Cedric periodically stops to order Abner to pump more air into his leaky tires, all the while relating the many military needs for rubber, learned from ration board chairman Ezra Seastrunk. Before getting out of town, two tires go flat - perhaps, Cedric

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suggests, this would be a good time for a "nice, snappy game o' pinball!"

By Monday the 10th, the trio is still in Arkansas, spending an uncomfortable night in a tiny motel room. Crammed into one small bed, L&A struggle with Cedric's sheep-counting the entire night. Cedric's car breaks down the following day. He slaves over the spent engine in the baking sun, while L&A, guarding the food, sample away at a gooseberry pie (sent along by Cedric's mother) until nothing is left!

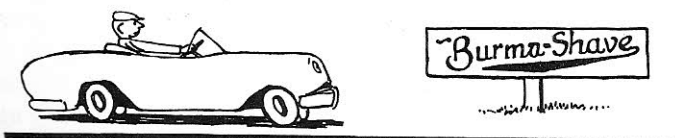
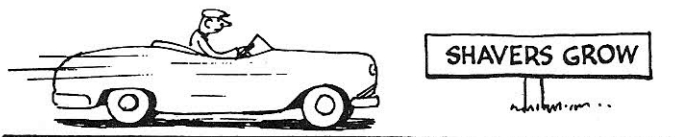
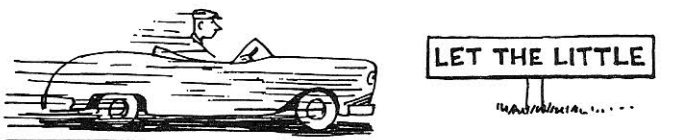
L&A become aggravated at their young friend when Cedric claims he will not share the wealth from the buried treasure. It is "psychology" time: they try to convince Cedric that rich, selfish

people have no friends. The plan backfires! He had changed his mind about sharing the wealth, but if all rich folks become miserable, Cedric will spare L&A that fate by destroying the treasure map!!

The map is saved, and the three fortune-seekers begin digging on Thursday, April 13. They are joined by a Tennessee farmer, who doesn't seem to be bothered by their activities. In fact, he is pleased! So are L&A until they realize there is no treasure, and the farmer thinks they are a crew he had hired to dig a well!!

By the following Monday, we learn the dejected friends have given the map to the farmer, and are on their way home. Flat broke in Little Rock, they are hopeful their Tennessee friend will keep his word, to send them half of any treasure he might dig up!

"Y'know," Lou Crosby begins on the Alka-Seltzer commercial for April 18, "there are a lot of us folks who just can't seem to keep out of trouble when we're good and hungry! We completely forget our better judgment, and also our supply of ration points, and eat too much of the wrong combination of foods." L&A&C are definitely "good and hungry," but have no money to even use their ration points, as they hit upon a scheme to put traveling cash in their pockets. Much to Cedric's sorrow, they have pawned his pinball machine!!



During their drive home, Lum and Abner try to divert the tearful lad's attention from his grief by reading roadside signs. Many of our members will remember with great nostalgia the humorous series of signs placed by the Burma-Vita company, advertising their "brushless shave cream," Burma-Shave! These signs were placed to allow for easy reading of their continued messages, the last sign bearing the Burma-Shave logo. L&A read alternate signs, but a humorous twist results when the "Burma-Shave" sign is missing, and Abner reads another one instead: "Don't hide inside - a dark, old cave - because your whiskers - won't behave - come on outside - and be the rave - of all the girls - both WACS and WAVES - just rub on your face - AJAX HIGH-GRADE SADDLE SOAP!" (This is a hilarious program!)

As the week concludes, L&A try to talk their way around embarrassing questions regarding their unsuccessful treasure trip. Meanwhile, Abner helps Cedric write a letter to his old pal Ernest McMillan, who is stationed "somewhurs in th' Pacifics." In doing so, Lauck and Goff educate their audience about V-Mail, letters written on special paper that could be photographically reduced, to allow for more efficient delivery. V-Mail was sent by air and given priority treatment (and was carefully edited before being reproduced, should there be any information from home that might be helpful to an enemy, should the mail be lost).

Perhaps the treasure expedition is not a failure! On Monday, April 24, a mysterious package arrives from Tennessee, addressed to Abner! The most interesting item in the parcel is a small, locked, iron chest, for which there is no key! Other objects include old cooking utensils, which Lum figures may have once been used by such great historical figures as "Richard the Lionfaced or King Arthur and the knights of the roundhouse!" Discussing a faded photo, which they feel must be a king, Chet and Tuffy burst into laughter, ad-libbing about the "king's" odd clothing. Abner (as a result of his laughing perhaps?) accidentally knocks the iron chest to the floor, and it breaks open to reveal coins! "I grannies Abner," Lum exclaims as Chet Lauck's voice continues to break with laughter, "from now on we're gonna live on Easy Street!"

Wednesday, April 26, 1944 is the 13th anniversary of the first *Lum and Abner* broadcast, but Cedric and Abner are more interested in celebrating their new-found wealth by sending for items from the "wish book." Wishing to show up Grandpappy Spears with a display of "musicals talent," Messrs. Weehunt and Peabody order "two leckatrick git-tars." (They mention Grandpap's claim to musical fame being his "player pianner" - didn't it burn in the January 4, 1944 fire at Lum's movie theater?) Lum returns from the county seat with bad news. He has had the antique coins appraised, learning that they are "ol' timey Chinese coins that ain't worth nothin'!"

Believing the treasure company was successful after all, Squire Skimp attempts to buy his way back in! More "treasury" items arrive as May 1944 gets underway, and Lum notes that the packages are addressed to Abner each time. Abner admits that he bragged to Mr. Olney, the Tennessee farmer, that he just "might" be the president of the expedition! Lum decides the antique clothing and household items must be valuable, and the best thing to do with them is open a museum!

Soon, the store is filled with items, as curator Lum begins printing labels to describe the artifacts. Lum's labeling describes one coat as having belonged to a king, the printing ending with "hands off." "The king's hands was off?" asks Abner, "if his hands is off, he didn't need no buttons on there a-tall," which sends Chet

Lauck into a brief fit of giggling and coughing, concluding with the ad-lib, "this is pretty silly!"

Lum's latest "romanticals" interest is Miss Millbank, whom he considers hiring as an assistant in the store and museum. Abner simply won't hear of hiring a woman for the store, but Lum reminds Abner that many women are working jobs formerly held by men, due to the manpower shortage brought on by the war. After a program of arguing, the idea is dismissed!

with valuables, and is probably booby-trapped, which prevents the robbers from opening the bird! Or, is the owl really alive, as Grandpappy Spears suggests? L&A plan to stake out the store at night to find out, but in the darkness and confusion, Lum gets "whopped on top o' th' head" by Abner, swinging a baseball bat (perhaps the same one with which he "slugged" Jerry Hausner in the "abandoned baby" series)! The mystery is solved. Was the owl alive? According to one episode, yes! Was someone else in the store moving the owl? Yes! Was it a stuffed owl? Yes! Confusing? Yes! I will refrain from spoiling the ending of this one for those who have never heard it!

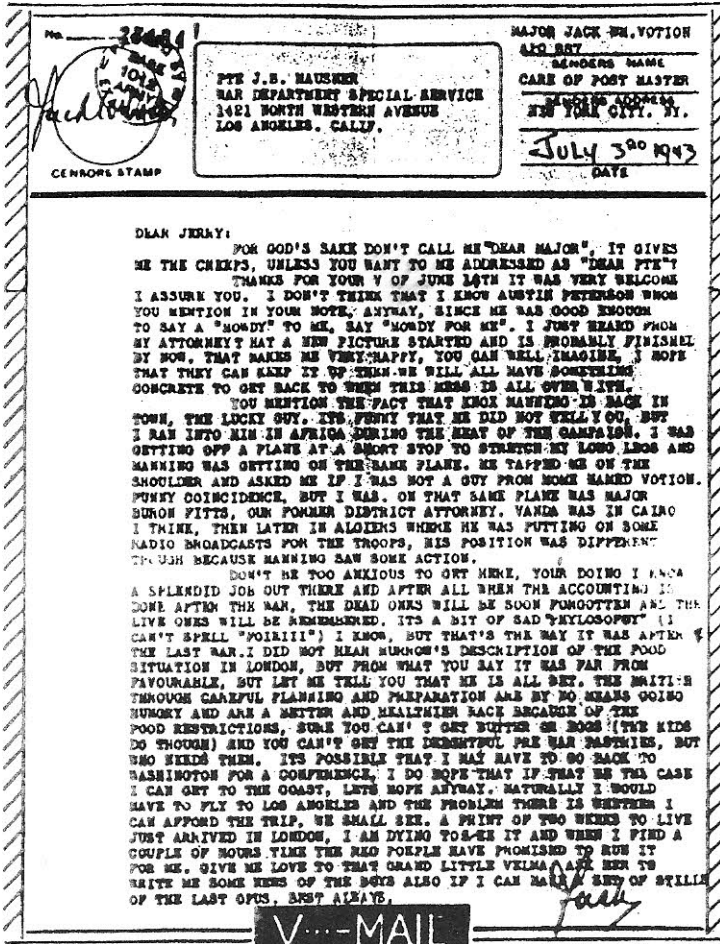
A suitcase full of items arrives from Tennessee on May 16, and L&A get to work immediately, investigating the contents. They are shocked to find a photograph which looks exactly like Abner did as a young man! Abner is certain it is he in the picture; he recognizes the necktie! His recollection that the tie was handed down to him by his father leads Lum to conclude that Abner must have had kings in his ancestry, and they are looking at a portrait of the original owner of the tie, a King Peabody!! Abner's ego gets the better of him.

Their museum is set to open at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 17. A line of citizens forms outside the Jot 'Em Down Store, as Abner and Cedric await Lum's return from the post office. A few seconds before opening time, Lum rushes in through the back door to inform Abner that the many packages of "buried treasury" from Tennessee are actually the belongings of one Phinus Stonewall Peabody - Abner's "papa!" Mr. Peabody has sent a postcard, informing his son that he is coming to Pine Ridge for a visit, and has sent his belongings ahead! Now there is no museum - how will they handle the crowd assembled outside? What a disappointment they will face! "Who cares about that," Grandpappy Spears blurts out, "you don't thank them fokes is lined up ta look at them ol' eediotic ana-tiques, do ya? All they've come fer is th' free lemernade an' th' b'loons!"

Abner is thrilled to have his "papa" coming to visit, but Lum admits he wishes old man Peabody would forget the Civil War! (He fought on the side of the Confederacy.) Lum also recalls Phinus' last visit to Pine Ridge, when he ordered 30 crates of "avacadoes" and 42 bales of lightning rods for the store! Things haven't changed: a shipment of 12 "cartoons" full of beaded handbags arrives C.O.D. at Dick Huddleston's post office - another purchase by "Papa!!"

The tension mounts as Papa's arrival draws near. Lum cannot find a single customer for the beaded handbags, each of which is emblazoned with the slogan "Come to Memphis." Abner can't bring himself to tell his "good wome'n Lizabeth" about Papa's visit, and tries to talk Lum into taking the elderly gent into his home as a roommate! Fearing Lizabeth will get "that 'hand satchel look' in her eye," meaning she will run off to her brother Fred's house in Abilene, Texas (must've moved from Mineola), Abner begins acting oddly. He finally decides to write the news to his wife, but Grandpappy Spears feels this is foolish, and forces Abner to telephone her, but he still can't bring himself to tell her. It doesn't matter; Lizabeth has already figured out that Phinus is on his way, simply because of Abner's evasive behavior!

Others are worried about Phinus' presence: Mose Moots wants him to stay away from the barber shop; during his last visit, he tried to take over, to show Mose how to shave his customers! Plus, he can't seem to realize that Ulysses S. Quincy is not Union General Ulysses S. Grant!! (Phinus took a few shots at him with his rusted musket about 25 years before!!)



This example of V-Mail, reproduced here actual size, was sent from Lum & Abner movie producer Jack Votion to their mutual friend, actor Jerry Hausner.

Lum the lecturer practices his museum tour on his partners, boring them to sleep! Their museum preparations continue as more articles arrive from Tennessee. One artifact, a stuffed owl, seems to have a mind of its own! On May 9, the owl is discovered to be missing! Are they the victims of "big time museum robbers?" They eventually find the bird atop the pickle barrel, and also discover a broken window! As the days pass, the owl moves again! Who could be doing this? Lum claims Roz Rogers is the only person he knows who is "crazy 'bout owls!" Abner agrees, "yeah, him an' Mousey!" Lum suggests Abner may be moving the owl at night, walking in his sleep, to which Abner replies, "I ain't walked in my sleep since they started rationin' shoe leather, I don't thank!"

The investigation of the "owl mystery" causes a postponement of the museum opening. Lum feels certain the owl must be stuffed

Phinus is to arrive at last on May 24, and Abner can hardly wait! A collect call comes in from Mena - it's Phinus! He has a room there for the night... in the county jail!!! He finally arrives in Pine Ridge on Thursday, May 25, the character being played to the hilt by actor Elmore Vincent. Mr. Vincent was our special guest at the 1988 NLAS Convention, where he and costar Jerry Hausner recreated their roles of Phinus Peabody and Spud Gandel in a newly-written script. We were honored to host this unique team-up - these characters never appeared together on the original *Lum and Abner* series!

According to Mr. Vincent, who was previously known on radio for his portrayal of the tongue-twisted "Senator Fishface," the character of Phinus Peabody was created by Lauck, Goff and Roz Rogers when the team learned that the local draft board had classified Tuffy 1-A, creating the possibility of a prolonged absence from the program. Elmore Vincent's "old man" characterization fit the part perfectly, and he won the audition. (For a detailed account of Mr. Vincent's career, see the article "Phinus Peabody: He's a Good Boy" in the August 1988 issue of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal*.)

Papa Peabody enters the Jot 'Em Down Store, and immediately becomes more confused than his son Abner does at times! Phinus is convinced that Cedric, not even born during his last visit to Pine Ridge, is someone named Vesper Hawkins! As you can hear in the recording of that program, this was a tour de force for Lauck, Goff and Vincent.



H. PETERSEN

Lizabeth, Abner and Papa are all still on speaking terms the next day, despite the fact that Cedric's backfiring car, sounding like "Yankee fire," awoke the old rebel soldier as young Mr. Weehunt drove to his night shift at Walt Bate's "de-fense plant." Asleep in the store on May 29, Phinus is aroused by Lum's description of the WAVES' uniform as being blue, the color of the Union Army! Lum explains that a WAVE is coming to the store to set up a recruiting center. (Lauck mispronounces "recruiting" as "roo-creetin" and ad-libs around it!) "We better post a lookout!" Phinus bellows, certain the "blue-coats are comin'" to attack Pine Ridge, "git Vesper Hawkins fer th' lookout!" Lum explains, "this new war we're in is a purty big thing. Jist about ever'body is got ta git in it some way er other an' hep out, even the wimmen foke!" Abner adds that his daughter, Little Pearl, is a nurse for the war effort, as Lum continues, "the navy's got all kinds o' jobs thet wimmen fokes kin do, an ever' time a wo-mun jines up, why, it lets some navy feller go out an' do the actual fightin'! An' that's whut these girls're comin' over here ta do, is ta sign up some new girls fer th' WAVES!"

Thinking Phinus will never sit still with "blue-coated" WAVES in the store, L&A fib to him, claiming he'd better rush to Abner's house to protect Lizabeth from the Union Army! Within minutes of his departure, the WAVE "ossifer" calls Lum again, this time to inform the partners that they are being held captive in the lodge hall by a Confederate soldier!!

Phinus becomes firmly entrenched as a Tennessee trouble-maker. He manages to turn Otis and Clementine Masters' 50th wedding anniversary into an all-out, cake-throwing, Kodak-tossing fracas (May 30)! (An interesting note: As press time drew near, a newly-discovered *Lum and Abner* transcription disc reveals the fact that Grandpappy Spears was also once considered to be a Civil War veteran, and so was Grandpa Masters! Oddly, the two fought on opposite sides, with Grandpa being the "Yankee!!" No wonder Phinus broke up the party!?! This "new" program, Memorial Day 1941, will be available as you read this!)

On the final day of May, Papa drives L&A "stark ravin' mad crazy in-sane," reading to Vesper (Cedric) from his massive scrap-book, *The History and Main Facts of the Peabody Family and All Its Branches*, spinning as many wild tales as Grandpap often does!

The 1944 programs discussed this issue are available on NLAS Cassette Library Tapes #136 - 141.

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford
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Abner's girl Pearl was a World War II nurse.

Here Comes Phinus Peabody (The Alternate Version)

As mentioned in this issue's installment of "Lum & Abner Go To War," the character of Abner's father, Phinus Peabody (portrayed by character actor Elmore Vincent) made his debut on the broadcast of Friday, May 25, 1944. That broadcast has long been available in the standard collection of L&A recordings; in fact, it can be heard on NLAS Tape Library cassette #141. However, there remains one mystery connected with this episode. The original script for the program rests in the collection of its author, L&A writer Roswell Rogers. BUT... the existing script is almost totally different from what was actually broadcast! This is more than an example of one of Chet & Tuffy's famous ad-lib binges: instead, it appears that the script was entirely rewritten at some point. It may be that the printed version was used for their first broadcast of the evening... heard on the East Coast... and the recording that exists may well have been the second broadcast, the one for the West Coast. Between the two, the rewriting could have occurred. At any rate, we herewith present the printed version... read it as you listen to the existing recording, and you will agree that this is truly a mystery!)

LUM: I grannies, Cedric, ther's the mail hack down the street ther, and hit looks like Abner and his papa air on it all right.

CEDRIC: Oh boy... Will the feudin and shootin start right away, Mr. Lum?

LUM: Feudin and shootin?

CEDRIC: Yes mom. My papa says Mr. Abner's papa won't be in town two hours fore he starts up a feud of some kind.

LUM: Oh, well now, Cedric, you ortent bleave everthing you hear.

CEDRIC: Well, he started that feud twixt the McDaniels and the Lennikers, didn't he?

LUM: Oh, he might of had a little sompin to do with it, but you orten to go round sayin things like that.

CEDRIC: No mom.

LUM: You ort to have more respect fer yer elders. Phinus Peabody is a fine old gentleman, and I want you to recollect that.

CEDRIC: Yes mom.

LUM: I jist hope he don't stay around too long is all, cause there's one varmint I cain't hardly stand.

CEDRIC: What does Mr. Phinus look like? I don't seem to recollect.

LUM: Well, natural you don't, Cedric. See, the last time he was here you wasn't alive.

CEDRIC: I wasn't? Oh, that must of been the year I was in the second reader.

LUM: No, hit was before you was borned, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Well, I know I was borned when I was in the second reader...

LUM: No, now listen, Cedric—I grannies, wait a minit, ther they come.

CEDRIC: Mom?

LUM: See him out ther, Cedric? I'll swan to goodness, he don't look hardly no different'n he did twenty-five year ago. A little skinnier maybe, and a little more wrinkled I bleave.

CEDRIC: What's he hittin at Mr. Abner with that cane fer?

LUM: He ain't hittin at him, that's jist the way he talks. Allus swings that cane around. Hit's best not to stand too close to the old man when he's talkin. Grannies, it almost seems good to see old Phinus agin.

CEDRIC: Was you born last time he was here?

LUM: Oh shore, I was growed up then. Wait a minit, what's the matter out ther? Phinus is settin down on the porch and Abner's comin in by hissef.... I hope the old man (((DOOR))) ain't mad bout sompin already.

ABNER: (FADE IN) SAY, LUM—

LUM: What's the trouble, Abner? Why don't you bring yer papa inside? I'm anxious to see him.

ABNER: Well, I'm goin to bring him in... I jist wanted to talk to you alone first. Oh, hello ther, Cedric.



E. VINCENT

"Papa" meets "Granny!" Elmore (Phinus) Vincent with comedienne Irene Ryan, 1940.

CEDRIC: Hello, Mr. Abner. Is that yer papa out ther?
ABNER: Yea. Say, Cedric, I wisht you'd run on over to the place and tell Lisabeth we're here... And tell her to start gittin some vittels ready.
CEDRIC: Yes mom.
ABNER: And you better hurry cause I think papa's hongry... He refused to eat anything when they had him in jail ther at the county seat.
CEDRIC: Yes, mom. I'll hurry. (FADE) CAN I SAY HELLO TO YOUR PAPA?
ABNER: YEA, BUT DON'T SAY NUTHIN TO GIT HIM RILED UP.
CEDRIC: (OFF) I WON'T. SO LONG. (((DOOR)))
ABNER: SO LONG, CEDRIC.
LUM: Abner, if yer papa ain't had nuthin to eat, maybe it'd be best to take him right on over to yer place right now.
ABNER: No, he wants to come in here and see you first.
LUM: Well, that's thoughty of him, but to be right honest I'd druther see him on a full stomach.
ABNER: Yea, I know, but he insisted on stoppin here first... See, he brung you a present and he wants to give it to you.
LUM: A present fer me? Well, bless his heart.
ABNER: And that's what I wanted to see you about fore I bring papa in here.
LUM: Why, what do you mean?
ABNER: Well, when you see what the present is, I don't want you to git mad.
LUM: Git mad?
ABNER: Yea... Don't go flyin offen the handlebars.
LUM: Well, wait a minit... What is this present?
ABNER: Why, hit's— uh— uh— a kimona.
LUM: A KIMONA??
ABNER: Now wait, Lum... Let me explain.... Hit's a Chinese kimona... Hit's sorta black sateen stuff and hit's got red and yaller dragoons all over it. Hit is purty, I'll say that fer it.
LUM: Now wait a minit, Abner—
ABNER: Papa says hit ain't a womern's kimona... Hit's a man's. Alla Chinesemen wear em.
LUM: I don't care who wears em, I ain't goin to, and that's finality!
ABNER: But, Lum, you've jst got to act like yer enjoyin it the worst way. Leastways try it on oncet.
LUM: Try it on?
ABNER: Yea, Hit'll break papa's heart if you don't.
LUM: Now wait a minit, Abner, I think the world and all of yer papa, and I wouldn't want to hurt his feelins none... but I ain't goin to parade round the store in a kimona with yaller dragoons on it, I can tell you right here and now.
ABNER: But you've got to, Lum! Hit'll git papa all riled up if you don't.
LUM: I don't care.
ABNER: Don't fergit, papa's past ninety, and he gits upset awful easy. Promise me you'll pertend you like it sompin wonderful.
LUM: Abner, what would I do with a Chinese kimona?
ABNER: I don't know, but please don't do nuthin to rile papa up agin. Hit takened me the whole trip back from the county seat to calm him down after him bein errested ther.
LUM: What did they errest him fer anyways?
ABNER: Well, near as I can figger out, he went into a store ther to



E. VINCENT

Elmore Vincent in makeup for his dramatic monologue, "The Man Who Knew Lincoln." This could just as well have been the visualization of Phinus Peabody!

buy hissef some shoes, and they told him he'd have to have a stamp first, and he never knowed what they was talkin about, and hit made him mad. So he takened his cane and knocked alla shoes offen the counter, and then busted one of the mirrors they got settin on the floor.
LUM: Grannies, if he don't learn to watch that temper of hisn, he's goin to git hissef in trouble.
ABNER: Well, Lum, you'll pertend you like the present, won't you? Please?
LUM: Well— all right... I'll do it if hit'll help you out. Go ahead, bring him in.
ABNER: Yea, all right, I'll git him... (FADE) YER A TRUE FRIEND, LUM.
LUM: BUT I'LL TELL YOU ONE THING, I AIN'T GOIN TO SLIP THAT KIMONA ON EVER TIME YER PAPA COMES INTO THE STORE. (((DOOR...HOLD OPEN)))
ABNER: (OFF) HEY, PAPA! COME ON INSIDE NOW, PAPA!
PHINUS: (FARTHER OFF) WHAT'S THAT, SONNY?
ABNER: COME ON IN HERE AND SEE YER OLD FRIEND THAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKIN ABOUT SO MUCH.
PHINUS: (FADE IN) I'M A GOOD MINDS TO LAWSUE THAT JAIL, THAT'S WHAT I'M GOIN TO DO, YESSIR, I'LL DO IT, AND WHAT'S MORE—
LUM: WELL, HOWDY DO, MR. PEABODY. SHORE GOOD TO SEE YOU AGIN.
PHINUS: Them varmints! Claimed I got to put stamps on my shoes!
ABNER: Papa, don't you know who this is? This is Lum.
PHINUS: How's that, sonny?
ABNER: Don't you recollect who this is? Hit's—

PHINUS: Don't tell me.... Don't tell me. I'd know that face anywhers. Let's see now—Don't tell me—Yer one of the Hawkins boys.

ABNER: No, Papa, he ain't one of—

PHINUS: Let's see... You must be the youngest one... Vesper. How air you, Vesper?

ABNER: Papa, yer all mixed up agin. This ain't Vesper Hawkins... Hit's Lum. Lum Edards.

PHINUS: Lum Edards? Air you Lum Edards? Little Lum?

LUM: Yea, that's me all right I reckon... (L)

PHINUS: Well lands alive! How you boys do grow. I cain't hardly bleave it. Nosir, Lum, you've clean outgrewed my knowledge... Yes sir, clean outgrewed my knowledge.

LUM: Well, I reckon I have changed a little in the twenty-five years since you was here last.

PHINUS: How long's it been anyway, Lum?

LUM: Well, I jist said—twenty-five years.

PHINUS: Twenty-five years! That's a coincidence... That's zactly how long I been gone too. Abner, did you tell Lum about it?

ABNER: About the present you mean, Papa?

PHINUS: Let's tell him, Abner... (L) Lum boy, I got a little doo-dad fer you... Bought it special... You'd never guess what it is.. Go ahead and guess, Lum.... Go ahead.

ABNER: You better guess, Lum...

LUM: Well—uh—I cain't emagine what it could be, hardly.

PHINUS: (L) Oh, you'll never guess. Abner, show it to him. Don't let the boy stand ther dyin of curosities. Unwrap it... (((SOUND: PAPER))) Unwrap it! HURRY!

ABNER: I'm unwroppin fast as I can, Papa.

LUM: You know you really ortent to of did this, Mr. Peabody... And

I mean that more'n you know.

PHINUS: Bought it special. Hurry up, Abner! Lum cain't hardly wait. That's it. Hold it up, sonny.

ABNER: Well—ther it is, Lum.

LUM: Oh... Hit's worsen I—er, I mean—WELL, WELL... JIST WHAT I'VE ALLUS WANTED... A CHINESE KIMONA.

PHINUS: (L) You like it, don't you, Lum boy?

LUM: Oh, I'm—I'm crazy about it.

ABNER: Yea, he's tickled to death bout it, Papa... Jist look at his eyes light up and glitter ther.

PHINUS: Well, put it on, Lum boy... Put it on! I know yer dyin to. (L)

LUM: Yea... Well, I bleave hit's sorta warm in here, and if I put on anything extry—

ABNER: Lum—you know what you promised.

LUM: Oh, all right. Here, help me on with it, Abner.

ABNER: Yea, sure. Them air the purtiest dragoons I have ever saw, I bleave.

PHINUS: Look at him, tickled to death. You know, Lum, when I seen that kimona in the store in Memphis, I says that's Lum right there! I says Lum's jist got to have that. He'll die if he don't.

ABNER: I doggies, I bleave you look purty good in it... (L)

LUM: I'll bet.

ABNER: (L) You look sorta like a—

LUM: All right, Abner, no remarks now.

PHINUS: (L) Turn around, Lum boy. Parade up and down. Go ahead, strut around... We won't laugh at you.

ABNER: Better parade up and down, Lum.

LUM: Uh—don't reckon Lisabeth's got them vittels all fixed fer you fellers by now?

ABNER: Why no, she wouldn't have em half done yet I don't blea—

PHINUS: Say, ain't that young Milford Spears across the street ther? Abner, git Milford over here and let him see Lum.

LUM: Oh no, now wait a minit—

PHINUS: Show him the big pockets in the sleeves, Lum boy... (L)

LUM: Abner, if you don't take yer papa over to yer place right now, they's a certain promise I know of that's goin to be broke.

ABNER: Oh—well, all right. Come on, Papa, we better go... Lisabeth's jist dyin to see you too.

PHINUS: Yea, sure, let's go. Lum more'n likely wants to show off his new kimona to all his friends anyways. (FADE) Little Lisabeth! Love to set eyes on her agin. How is she anyways?

ABNER: (FADE) SO LONG, LUM.

PHINUS: (FADE) SAY, LUM, I CAN GIT YOU ANOTHER KIMONA JIST LIKE THAT UN ONLY PURPLE WITH ORANGE DRAGOONS ON IT.

LUM: (OFF) WELL, I BLEAVE ONE'LL DO ME FER RIGHT NOW. MUCH OBLIGED THOUGH. SO LONG. (((DOOR)))

ABNER: Come along, Papa. Lisabeth's awful anxious to see you, I think.

PHINUS: (L) Old Lum was shore tickled with that kimona... Never seen a boy so tickled with nuthin in my whole life.

ABNER: Oh yea... He loved it the worst way.

PHINUS: But you know, sonny, that Lum's a culiar one.

ABNER: A culiar one?

PHINUS: Yea... What a boy his age wants a Chinese kimona fer so bad is more'n I can see... Jist cain't understand it... No sir.



E. VINCENT

Elmore Vincent reprised his characterization of Phinus in a 1984 TV commercial for the Thrifty Drug Stores chain.

Jerry Hausner's

HOLLYWOOD

From 1986 until his death a year ago, actor Jerry Hausner granted us numerous interviews via telephone and in person. Many fascinating tidbits concerning his experiences in Hollywood (and show business in general) found their way onto tape during these sessions. Much has been printed about Jerry's associations with *Lum and Abner*, *I Love Lucy*, and Jim Backus, but there are still more recollections that need to be preserved. We hope you enjoy our second installment in this series; additional articles will be published in the future.

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William Spier

"I worked for director Bill Spier on *Suspense*, and Elliott Lewis took it over later. Bill Spier also started *Sam Spade*, and I introduced Howard Duff to Spier when the war was on. Howard, Bill Conrad, Elliott Lewis and myself were all in Armed Forces Radio, and we were stationed here in California. There was a rule that we were not allowed to do any outside work. We were getting \$50 a month salary as privates in the army, and you had to do something to supplement your income.

"I had worked for Bill Spier several times, and he said, 'I'll use you as much as I can,' but I told him, 'yes, but I'm not allowed to,' and he said, 'look, it's only three hours on a Thursday afternoon! Don't be a fool, use another name, and nobody will know!' So, for the time being, I changed my name to 'Roger Vagnoit!'. So, I mentioned this to the other boys, and we went to talk to Spier, and he put us all to work.

"After the war, Howard became a movie star, but still did radio work. We got a call from Bill Spier, who was going to do *The Adventures of Sam Spade*, based on the Dashiell Hammett character from *The Maltese Falcon*. We were invited to the studio on a Sunday night. Lurene Tuttle had a part all set for her, the part of Effie, his secretary, and I was all set to do his best friend, the part of a lawyer named Sid, who was always trying to get him to settle down, quit drinking, get married, and be a 'good boy.' We were all set to do the pilot, which was called an 'audition' in radio. We all assembled in this small studio at CBS. I remember very vividly that the people who were there were Howard Duff, Elliott Lewis, Wally Mayer and Edwin MacDonald. They distributed the scripts, but the reading didn't start. We looked into the control room, and saw Spier in there with an agent by the name of Lester Linsk. We thought perhaps they were having a problem in there. We didn't know which parts to mark in the script, because nothing had been assigned to anybody except to me and to Lurene.

"Finally, Bill Spier announced from the booth that we were delayed due to some kind of litigation. Lloyd Nolan, who had been scheduled to play Sam Spade, was not available. Spier had everybody but me read the part of Sam Spade, and when it was all over, he casually said, 'we'll go with Howard,' and it was that simple - that's how Howard Duff became a star! And the character that I was to play never came into the show again, even though I had frequent parts in the show!"

Wally Mayer

"Wally Mayer was a terrific Irish radio actor. He was a very sensitive and nervous fellow. He was playing the lead on one show, and the script was not finished when we went on the air live! We got the first half of the script, 15 minutes, when the broadcast started! He was worried about how the show would end. Finally, during the middle intermission, somebody came in from the mimeograph department with the balance of the script! The pages started out on white paper, then when you had a rewrite, it was blue, then the next rewrite was yellow, then the next was green. They brought in several script changes from moment to moment, so this guy was reading off a yellow page, then a green page, and a blue page, and finally, he threw up!! He was so worried about how the show would end!"

Housesitting

"My wife Velma and I had our wedding party in the Goff's home back in 1939. That house was later taken over by John Wayne, who lived there for a time, and later Walt Disney's daughter moved into that house. It was a five-acre estate. Tuffy Goff had a Tennessee walking horse way back there. Chet lived in Beverly Hills... when he first came out here, he rented a house on Rexford drive in Beverly Hills that belonged to Lawrence Tibbitt, the opera star. Then he found another house down the street, and he moved into that house, and the other house was left vacant. He didn't want to leave it vacant, because somebody else was going to occupy it ultimately. I had just come out here from New York, and I was broke - really broke! I came out with about ten cents! Chet asked me if I wanted to be a housesitter for a couple of weeks. So, I moved into this Lawrence Tibbitt mansion in Beverly Hills, and I didn't have enough money for bus fare! I didn't have enough money to eat on!! It was really nice, but I was afraid to stay there alone, because it was a great big house. There was another actor by the name of Arthur O'Connell who later became pretty well-known; he was an Academy Award-winner, and a very fine actor. But he was broke at that time too, so he moved in with me. We had the lights going in the house, to protect us from burglars. One night, the word got around to the Beverly Hills Police that there were intruders in the Lawrence Tibbitt house! The police came to investigate, and thought we were the intruders!!"

Hard Times

"Early in their careers, Chet and Tuffy met a vaudeville team in Cleveland, Val and Ernie Stanton, who were billed as 'Two English Boys from America.' They became close friends with Chet and Tuffy, and with me a few years later. Back at that time, Chet and Tuffy and their wives were so poor - they had so little money to exist on - that Elizabeth, who was pregnant, did not have a large enough coat, and the wife of one of the Stanton brothers gave Liz a long winter coat, so she wouldn't freeze to death in Cleveland, where it's very cold. I thought that was very touching."

- Jerry Hausner, edited by "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford

New Tape Library Releases

Well, it has been a long time coming, but at last we are ready to release the next pages in the new, revised version of our Tape Library Catalog!

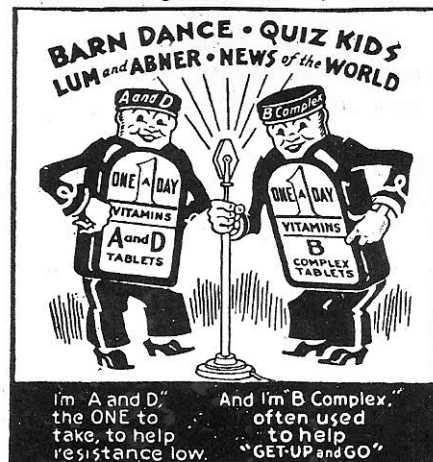
The new pages begin the long series of *Lum and Abner* episodes sponsored by Alka-Seltzer. Of course, the vast majority of this series has previously been available, but only in its syndicated version (minus the commercials and with some other peculiar editing done to them). These are the complete versions, dubbed straight from the original 16" transcription discs. And, there are a few surprises among them!

Shows that have not previously been available include the crucial first two shows of Alka-Seltzer sponsorship, when the program was being heard only on a few West Coast stations as a trial run. Have you ever heard the famous March 1940 episode in which L&A tearfully lock up the store to make their first movie, ending by hanging a sign on the door: "Jot 'Em Down Store, Temporary Closed"? Did you ever wonder what happened after that? Well, when the series resumed over a year later, these episodes pick up exactly where that episode left off! Other previously-unreleased material includes a classic Memorial Day episode, the 1941 performance of "Lum & Abner's Christmas Story," and an episode during the Wonderful World Apartments storyline that was somehow omitted when these discs were originally dubbed for syndication.

In addition to the unreleased episodes, the commercials themselves are entertaining as well. During this period of time, the advertising agency strove hard to tie their Alka-Seltzer spots in with

the show, so we hear announcer Lou Crosby stretching the truth to the point of giving us Grandpappy Spears' endorsement of Alka-Seltzer, etc. There is also a premium offer for an 8 x 10 photograph of L&A, which ironically came just before the United States became involved in World War II! (It seems likely that most of the photos that were distributed in this manner probably soon wound up going to some wartime paper drive, making them one of the shortest-lived premiums the show ever offered.)

The tape numbers on these pages, #AS-1 to #AS-34, replace our former tape numbers #45 - #65, #280 - #282, and #309 - #310. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ORDER TAPES BY THE OLD NUMBERS. To obtain copies of the new catalog pages, send a self-addressed envelope, stamped with 52 cents postage (due to the number of new pages) to the Executive Secretary, #81 Sharon Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062. We'll be waiting to hear from you!



AT LAST... NLAS VIDEO!

Many of you have asked about it... now it has come to pass!

We are now able to offer to our members video tape versions of our annual Conventions. We have included the audio soundtracks of each year's meeting in our cassette Tape Library previously, but now you can have your own VHS video version as well.

We plan to eventually offer all of our Conventions in this format, but at the present time only three of them are available: the years of 1987, 1988, and 1989. (The first two Conventions, 1985 and 1986, and the meetings from 1990 on have not been properly assembled and edited as of yet.) If you have never had the opportunity to attend an NLAS Convention, this is the next best way to see what you have been missing.

The 1987 Convention features as its guest our good friend the late **Jerry Hausner**, relating anecdotes about his work and friendship with Chet Lauck and Tuffy Goff. It also contains our 30-minute video retrospective of his work in radio, films, and television.

In 1988, Jerry returned as our guest, in company with **Elmore Vincent**, "Phinus Peabody" himself! Elmore kept the audience in

stitches with his standard banquet routine, and then he and Jerry teamed up for a brand-new NLAS script entitled "Phinus Peabody Meets Spud Gandel." Having two talented radio actors reprise their original roles from the Lum & Abner series was a treat in itself.

1989 was the 5th Anniversary of the NLAS, and our guest was the announcer from L&A's 30-minute programs, **Wendell Niles**. This tape contains not only Mr. Niles' discussion of his radio and TV career, but also *It'll Never Work*, the infamous self-congratulatory video production that described how the NLAS was founded and documented the Society's first five years.

The running time of these video tapes ranges from 90 minutes to two hours (depending upon the year), and they are affordably priced at \$14.95 each (which includes postage). Each tape also comes with liner notes explaining the details of that year's event. Send orders to the Executive Secretary at #81 Sharon Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062.