

December 1994

# Lum and Abner® on

## Walt Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

By now, everyone in the U.S. an' A. has heard that Walt Disney's original animated cartoon feature, "Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs," has been released on video. But do you know that on February 28, 1938, just a couple of months after the movie's original release, Lum and Abner presented their own tribute to the Disney film? In honor of its recent advent on video, we herewith present L&A's review of the story.

As the sequence begins, Lum is trying to decide what sort of movie he wants to make as the first production of his newly-formed Pine Ridge Motion Picture Company.

**LUM:** Right now, this *Snow White an' the Seven Dwarfs* peers to be 'bout the poplarest thing they is..

**ABNER:** Who?

**LUM:** *Snow White an' the Seven Dwarfs*. Been readin' bout it in that movin' pitcher magazine I bought.. It's been a big help.. I knowed that wasn't no waste of money... Knew I'd git some good idees outa it.

**ABNER:** Well. What did it say?

**LUM:** Well, hit jes' went on bout what a suck-sess it was an' all.. the crickets is jes' raved bout it.

**ABNER:** Well, that's done been made, ain't it?

**LUM:** Yeah, but I thought we could sorta outdo thatun. Make a Eddards Super-Speshul outa it.

**ABNER:** (laughs) Oh.. well!

**LUM:** Have bout eighteen er twenty of them dwarfs stid o' jes' seven.

**ABNER:** Uh huh.

**LUM:** I thought we could call ours *Snow White an' the Eighteen Dwarfs*. Huh, put ours in the same town with that other pitcher an' you know who'd git the bizness.

**ABNER:** Yeah... well, where air we gonna git a nuff o' them there dwarfs aroun' here fer the actors, Lum? I ain't never seen none aroun' Pine Ridge.

**LUM:** Well, that's another place we got 'em. I thought we could have our dwarfs bigger.

**ABNER:** Oh, well good. Good.

**LUM:** They's one called Doc; I thought we could git Doc Miller fer him.

**ABNER:** Yeah... yeah.

**LUM:** An' another'n named Sneezzy..

**ABNER:** Sneezzy? Why, we could git ol' Sneezzy Jim Williams fer him..

**LUM:** Yessir, I grannies he'd make a goodun.. him with his hay fever..

**ABNER:** Yeah, he jes' sneezes all the time.

**LUM:** An' Sleepy, I thought we could git ol' Luke Spears fer that.. he can go to sleep standin' up if nobody don't disturb him.

**ABNER:** Yeah, he sets down there at the barber shop an' leans that chair back an' jes' sets there an' sleeps by the hour.

**LUM:** Oh, he's a plumb nuisance. Yeah, Luke couldn't be beat fer Sleepy. Jes' got a natchural talents fer it.

**ABNER:** Yeah, he sleeps well, he does.

**LUM:** An' I think Mose Moots'd make a good Happy.. that's another dwarf.

**ABNER:** Well here, Lum, I'd sorter like ta be one of them dwarfs myself.

**LUM:** Oh yeah, well I couldn't decide twixt you an' Cedric Weehunt fer the one called Dopey.

**ABNER:** Well.

**LUM:** Either one o' you could do that part good.

**ABNER:** Well, you jes' give it to me then. I've got more money invested in this company than he has, I ort to have my first pick.

**LUM:** Alright, we can make Cedric Bashful. That's another.

**ABNER:** Anything, jes' so I git ta be Dopey.

**LUM:** An' ol' Grandpaw Masters is a natchural born Grumpy.

**ABNER:** Oh my yes. Grumpiest somebody I ever saw in my life, that old man.

**LUM:** Well, I mean they's a dwarf called that.

**ABNER:** Oh. Well uh, what are you gonna be in th' pitcher Lum? Ain't you goin' to be in it?

**LUM:** Well, I was sorter aimin' on Katherine Brogan bein' Snow White, an' me be the prince that comes in an' saves her from the queen, you know, after she et the pizen apple.

**ABNER:** You mean that there Katherine Brogan'll hafta eat a pizen apple?

**LUM:** 'Cordin' to the story she does.

**ABNER:** Oh well, I don't bleave you'll ever talk her inta eatin' anything pizen thataway, Lum.

**LUM:** Well, we kin use a double fer that.

**ABNER:** A double?

**LUM:** Yeah, then she kin eat the double.. have two apples. Take a closeup o' the pizen one, an' let her eat the otherm.

**ABNER:** Oh.. yeah, could do that I reckon.. but what does she have ta eat the apple fer?

**LUM:** Cause that's in the story. The queen give it to her an' she never knowed it was pizen an' then I come up an' kiss her an' save her.

**ABNER:** I doggies, she does hafta take a lot o' punishment, don't she?

**LUM:** Oh yeah, she... jes' what did you mean by that ree-mark??

**ABNER:** Well, uh... Havin' ta eat.. er... that's right, we're goin' to have two apples, ain't we?

**LUM:** I think we can handle it to where nobody won't ketch on.

**ABNER:** Well, what does the queen wanta pizen her fer, Lum?

**LUM:** Cause the queen's jeallyous of her. See, the queen is allus been give up ta be the purtiest worman in the land. She's awful proud of hersef over it. Till one day she looked in a mirror an' said, "Who is the fairest in th' land?" and the mirror said that Snow White wuz.

**ABNER:** Well I do know... huh? Who said that?

**LUM:** The mirror.

**ABNER:** You mean a reglar lookin' glass?

**LUM:** Well... yes.

**ABNER:** (Laughs) Oh, well they don't talk, Lum.. you can look in one of 'em an' talk, but that's yersef yer lookin' at talkin', not the mirror.

**LUM:** Well, thissen did. Er, that is the man in the mirror.

**ABNER:** The man? I thought you said hit wuz a queen.

**LUM:** Hit wuz the queen, Abner..

**ABNER:** Well, queens is women, Lum. Kings is men.

**LUM:** I know they air. The queen looked in the mirror an' seen a man.

**ABNER:** Well, that musta been somebody standin' behind her, then.

**LUM:** No, she wuz in the room by hersef.

**ABNER:** Well, she musta been lookin' out the winder then, Lum, an' jes' thought hit wuz a mirror. Fer lookin' glasses jes' ree-reflect what looks into 'em.

**LUM:** Well, thissen didn't.

**ABNER:** It wern't a lookin' glass then.

**LUM:** Hit WAS, Abner.

**ABNER:** I don't bleave it, I don't bleave it... they's bound to be a mistake there sommers.

**LUM:** Well now, we ain't goin' to change the story jes' cause you don't bleave that.

**ABNER:** Well fokes'll think we've lost our minds.

**LUM:** Alright, we jes' won't use that. Make some other pitcher. I never wanted to make it noway, I'd have to wear them tights in the thing, an' you know how my legs looks.

**ABNER:** Oh my goodness, no, don't wear them tights. Yer legs'd look like a rope hangin' down there with a knot tied in it.

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**Cover:** Tuffy "Abner" Goff is the sagging Santa who is trying to assemble Christmas toys. We have no other information about this photo or the occasion on which it was made. (Photo courtesy of Shirley Babcock)

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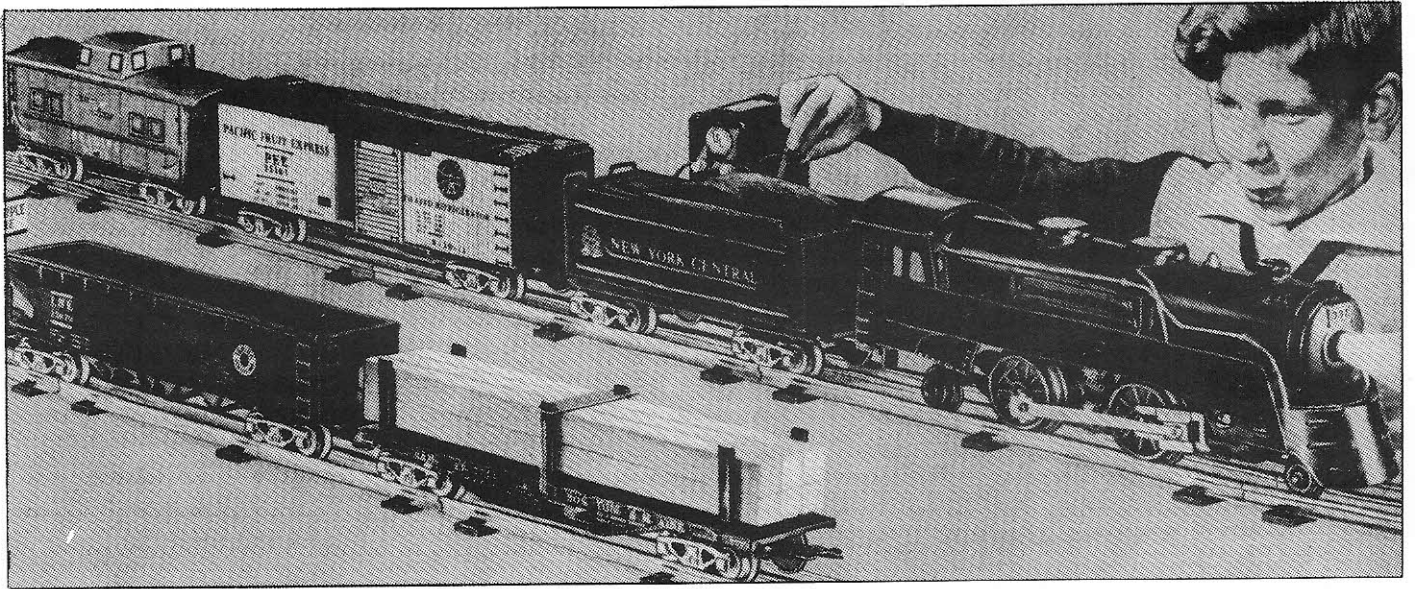
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## Christmas 1942: LUM AND ABNER® RIDIN' THE RAILS!

*(The following episode of "Lum and Abner" was broadcast on Thursday, December 24, 1942. We do not know why, for Christmas 1942, L&A chose to broadcast this program instead of their traditional Christmas program. Judging from the opening and closing announcements, it may be that all parties concerned felt that "Lum and Abner's Christmas Story" was perhaps inappropriate for this first wartime Christmas. At any rate, this episode was discovered by L&A collector Joe Riddle, and was sent to us by one of our members, John Knuppel of Yukon, Oklahoma. We have been unable to make arrangements to release this episode into our NLAS Tape Library, but hope to be able to do so soon.)*

**ANNCR:** The makers of Alka-Seltzer bring you *Lum and Abner*.  
**(MUSIC: THEME)**

**ANNCR:** Merry Christmas everyone, from Lum and Abner and their sponsors, Miles Laboratories, the makers of Alka-Seltzer and One-A-Day Brand Vitamin Tablets. At this time, we'd like to pause here for a moment to thank each and every one of you listeners for your many expressions of friendship and loyalty, your purchases of Alka-Seltzer and One-A-Day Vitamins, and your many letters telling us how much you enjoy these regular visits down in Pine Ridge. In turn, to show their appreciation to you, Lum and Abner have tried especially hard to add their bit to your day's pleasures by giving you a few moments of good, wholesome humor and homespun philosophy. It's our hope, then, that you'll continue to listen and to enjoy. For our part, we'll try our best to make you glad you came.

Well, it's Christmas Eve in Pine Ridge now. As one glances down its quaint, darkened streets lined with snow-covered homes, lights twinkle forth from shuttered windows as on Christmastimes gone by. And within these homes, the spirit of Christmas shines brighter than ever, as these simple American folk sing "Peace on Earth, good will to man." Inside the Jot 'Em Down Store on this Christmas Eve, we find Lum and Abner winding up a very busy day. Listen...

**LUM:** Well, ther you air, Newt. Will ther be ennything else now?

**NEWT:** No no, I reckon that's about all. Couldn't carry no more no way.

**LUM:** (chuckles) No, not unless you got three er four more arms.

**NEWT:** (chuckles) How much does all that come to, Lum?

**LUM:** Uh let's see here... six dollars an' ninety cents.

**NEWT:** Fair enough, fair enough... here's five, six fifty, seventy-four, eighty-four, ninety. Ther you air.

**LUM:** Much obliged to ye, Newt... Say, here's a extry bag o' candy fer the youngins.

**NEWT:** Well, much obliged to ye... That's awful thoughty of ye, Lum.

**LUM:** Oh, not at tall. Say hello to the missus, and hope you have a merry Christmas!

**NEWT:** (fading) Same to you...

**ABNER:** Merry Christmas, Newt!

**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)**

**LUM:** Oh me... grannies, I'm wore to a frazzle... WORE TO A FRAZ-ZULL...

**ABNER:** Doggies, me too. Reckon hit'll be alright, Lum, if I come down early in the mornin' an' finish puttin' up these orders?

**LUM:** Yeah, they're mostly groceries, ain't they?

**(SOUND: TELEPHONE)**

**ABNER:** Yea, yea..

**LUM:** Well, the fokes won't be needin' that stuff till tomorry no way... I'll come down an' help ye in the mornin'.

**ABNER:** Well, good... good.

**LUM:** Better git the phone ther, that's our ring I bleave.

**ABNER:** Oh... doggies, I hope it ain't another big order. (Receiver up) HELLO, JOT 'EM DOWN STORE AN' LIBERRY, ABNER

PEABODY DOIN' THE TALKIN'... MERRY CHRISTMAS...

OH, WE BEEN BUSY, LIZABETH.... ALRIGHT, I'LL START

HOME RIGHT AWAY, JES' AS QUICK AS WE STRAIGHTEN

THINGS UP A LITTLE BIT AROUND HERE... YEA, WELL I'LL

HURRY... HONEST I WILL... ALRIGHT HONEY... GOODBYE.

(Click) Doggies, I bleave my womarn's mad at me. I orta been home a hour ago to deecorate the tree.

**LUM:** Oh well, I reckon we may as well close up ennyway. Hit's gittin' late, and besides, we're might nigh sold outa everthing.

**ABNER:** Yessir, they come near cleanin' us out today, you know

it?

**LUM:** Wellsir, I'll say one thing about the fokes.. in spite o' their rationin' and dimouts an' everthing, everbody's doin' all they can to keep up the Christmas spirit.

**ABNER:** Oh yea.

**LUM:** I like to see that too, Abner, cause that's the kind of a spirit we need in times like these.

**ABNER:** Yea, yea we shore do.. I doggies, jes' look at that toy counter ther.. ain't but about a couple o' things... Wait a minit, look ther, Lum...

**LUM:** Huh?

**ABNER:** Ain't that a lecatric train in that box ther?

**LUM:** Why shore.

**ABNER:** Well, I thought we sold that.

**LUM:** Well we sold one... we had two in stock this year.

**ABNER:** Well I never knowed that.

**LUM:** Oh yea, sold the other one to Walt Bates.

**ABNER:** Walt Bates? Why his youngins is a way yonder too young fer sompin like that, ain't they?

**LUM:** Course they air, but jist twixt me an' you, I think Walt got it fer hisself.

**ABNER:** (chuckles) Fer the land sakes... a growed up man like him, he orta be shamed o' hisself.

**LUM:** He'll more'n likely have it broke fore the youngins ever gits ta play with it. What he sees in a lecatric train, I'll never know.

**ABNER:** Me neither. I don't even know how the silly things work.

**LUM:** You don't?

**ABNER:** No.

**LUM:** Well they ain't much to it.. jist put the tracks together an' plug the cord in a socket sommers. You know, hit might not be a bad idy to look thissen over, Abner.. jes' to see that it's in good condition.

**ABNER:** Yea, ort to find out if hit'll run I reckon..

**LUM:** I hate ta sell merchandise that's undefekative.

**ABNER:** Oh me too.. dissapint somebody.

**LUM:** Set the box down here on the floor an' let's glance at it.

**ABNER:** Yea, yea.. let's see, wherbouts is a good place to set this up, you reckon? Right here all right, Lum?

**LUM:** Yea, that's good. Jes' enny place ther. Open it up.. that's the stuff.

**ABNER:** Is they enny directions with it?

**(SOUND: TELEPHONE)**

**LUM:** I don't know.. won't need 'em, I don't think. Let's see now, first we gotta put the tracks together... You see these little wire things stickin' out here?..

**ABNER:** Wait a minit, that's our ring.. Must be Lizabeth.. You answer it, Lum.

**LUM:** Well, all right. You git to work on the track.

**ABNER:** Tell 'er I jes' left..

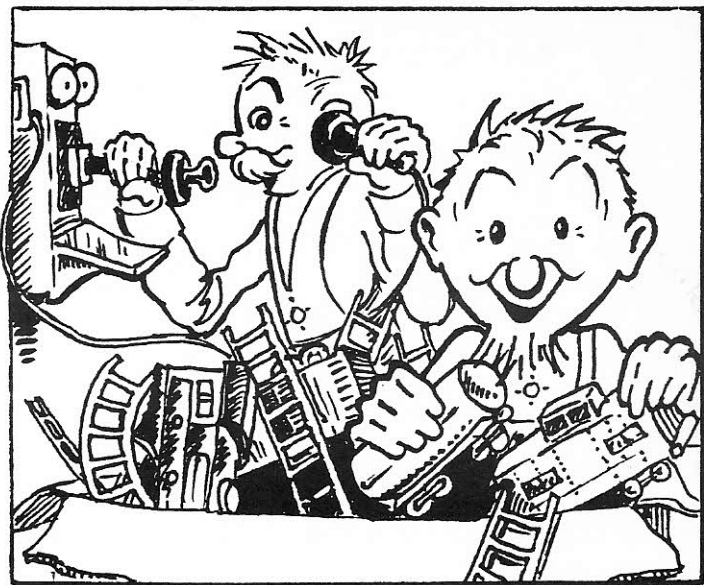
**LUM:** (receiver up) HELLO, JOT 'EM DOWN STORE... MERRY CHRISTMAS... MUM? OH YEA, HE'S UH.. HE'S JES' GITTIN READY TA LEAVE FER HOME NOW LIZABETH... YES MOM, I'LL TELL HIM TA HURRY... UH HUH... ALL RIGHT... GOOD BYE. (Click) I bleave you better git right home, Abner.. Lizabeth sez all the relates air waitin' fer you.

**ABNER:** Yea, I'm goin' right away... am I doin' this all right, Lum?

**LUM:** No no, yer sposed to make a kinda circle out of it.

**ABNER:** Huh?

**LUM:** You've got them tracks runnin' ever which a way. Here, let me show you.



**ABNER:** Yea, well, mebbe you better do that. I'll set up this depot here, an' I'll put this tunnel up... I'm more of a tunnel man, I bleave.

**LUM:** Better foller the directions on them, I don't want you to git that all mixed up too.. Look here, you got some o' this track upside downwards even.

**ABNER:** Well fer the land sakes...

**LUM:** The train's gotta run on them little tracks.

**ABNER:** What's wrong with me.. I never noticed that..

**LUM:** Some railroad man.

**ABNER:** I doggies, if a youngin puts these things together, I orta be able ta do it.. Oh, say Lum, here's a letter that dropped outa yer pocket when you bent down ther jes' a minit ago.

**LUM:** Huh? Oh yeah, that come today. It's from a aunt of mine up in Wisconsin... you recollect her.

**ABNER:** Aunt Minnie?

**LUM:** Aunt Minnie... (chuckles)

**ABNER:** Yea, she's the one that allus calls you her favorite nephew.

**LUM:** Yea, that's the one. Hand me that piece o' track next to you ther.

**ABNER:** Oh yea, here..

**LUM:** She sent me some money an' tole me to buy myself a good Christmas present with it.

**ABNER:** She did?

**LUM:** Yea.. that's the kinda aunt to have, ain't it?

**ABNER:** Well, bless her heart... BA-LESS HER LITTUL HEART..

**LUM:** Well, here's a piece of double track.. must be a switchin' place er sompin.

**ABNER:** Watcha gonna buy yerself with the money, Lum?

**LUM:** Oh, I don't know.. hadn't thought much about it.. cain't think o' nuthin' I want. Grannies, they's more track here than I figgered they was. Might have to run it clean aroun' the pickle barrel.

**ABNER:** Doggies, that'll be a good place fer the tunnel, right ther... Bleave I'll put it over ther right now.

**LUM:** Yea... Say, Abner, speakin' about Christmas presents, I ain't got around to buyin' nuthin' fer you yit.

**ABNER:** Oh well, I don't want nuthin', Lum.

**LUM:** I wanna git you sompin', though. What would you like?

**(SOUND: TELEPHONE)**

**ABNER:** Law me, I don't know what I'd like.. jes' fergit it this year.

**LUM:** No now, I ain't gonna fergit it. You git the phone this time,

Abner.

**ABNER:** Well I cain't leave right now, Lum, this depot'll fall apart if I do..

**LUM:** Well I cain't leave neither, I'm right in the middle o' sompin here.

**ABNER:** More'n likely jes' Lizabeth ennyway, an' I cain't go right now...

**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)**

**LUM:** Yea, well... Well... evenin', Miz Clayton.

**MIZ CLAYTON:** Evenin', Lum.

**LUM:** Abner, git up an' wait on Miz Clayton.

**ABNER:** I cain't git up, you go wait on er Lum, yer closer'n I am.

**LUM:** Yea, but what I'm doin's more importance. Uh, JES' LOOK AROUND' THE STORE, MIZ CLAYTON.. TAKE YER TIME DEECIDIN' WHAT YOU WANT..

**MIZ CLAYTON:** Well I know what I want. Some of these cranberries here, 'bout two pounds.

**ABNER:** Well, look 'em over an' see what kind you want.. hand me that screwdriver, Lum..

**MIZ CLAYTON:** You've jes' got one kind here... Leastways that's all I can see.

**ABNER:** UH HUH... How's this lookin', Lum?

**LUM:** You got the depot kinda crooked ther, ain't ye?

**MIZ CLAYTON:** Air you fellers goin' to sell me some cranberries er ain't ye?

**LUM:** JES' HEP YERSEF THER, MIZ CLAYTON... TAKE WHAT YE WANT..

**MIZ CLAYTON:** But they ain't no sack here.

**ABNER:** UH HUH... Does that look better, Lum?

**LUM:** Yea... JES' LEAVE YER MONEY ON THE COUNTER, MIZ CLAYTON...

**MIZ CLAYTON:** Well, I bound you Mr. Huddleston can find time to wait on a customer...

**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)**

**LUM:** Ther, that takes keer o' the tracks... git out the cars and engine now..

**ABNER:** Yea, I'm dyin' to see them...

**LUM:** ENNYTHING ELSE YOU WANT, MIZ CLAYT— Well fer goodness sakes, she's gone.

**ABNER:** Huh?

**LUM:** Reckon what made her run off an' leave thataway?

**ABNER:** I don't know, you never can tell about wimmin fokes... I doggies Lum, looky here... Ther's a reglar little baggage car..

**LUM:** Why shore, they allus have them.

**ABNER:** Ain't that cute?

**LUM:** Hand all the cars to me an' I'll hook 'em up.

**ABNER:** Well, I orta have some o' the cars, ortent I?

**LUM:** No, now I know more about this. Sides, you gotta take this cord an' plug it into the light socket. That's one o' the most importance jobs they is right ther.

**ABNER:** Hit tiz? I doggies, gimme that cord... hand it here, I'll fix it up..

**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)**

**GRPAP:** Well, hidy hidy hidy!

**ABNER:** Well, hidy Grandpap... merry Christmas.

**LUM:** Yea, merry Christmas.

**ABNER:** Is this socket all right here, Lum?

**LUM:** Yea, that's fine, Abner..

**GRPAP:** You fellers got enny Christmas tree deecorations left?

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**LUM:** Nossir, don't bleave we have, Grandpap. We ain't got none, have we Abner?

**ABNER:** Yea, we got a few left... jes' some tinsel stuff over ther..

**GRPAP:** Wherbouts is it at? My specks is all steamed up and I caint hardly see nuthin hardly.

**ABNER:** Why, hit's in a box jes' south o' the depot ther, Grandpap.

**GRPAP:** South o' the depot?

**ABNER:** Yea. All right Lum, I'm all set here with the switch, you want me to turn it on?

**LUM:** Not yit, I gotta fix sompin here first..

**GRPAP:** Did you say the depot, Abner?

**ABNER:** Yes, that's what I said..

**GRPAP:** Well, I ain't got time to go clean into the county seat after deecorations, I want 'em tonite. This is Christmas Eve.

**ABNER:** I never said you had ta go to the county seat..

**GRPAP:** Yes you did, you said depot.. I heared what you said.

**ABNER:** Well the depot is right here.

**GRPAP:** Right here?

**ABNER:** Yessir.

**GRPAP:** Lissen, Abner Peabody, I've lived around these parts too many years fer you to tell me wher the depot's at.. a little dried up varmint like you...

**ABNER:** Now don't start no fussin' around here, Grandpap. I meant the deecorations is right over ther in that box over ther..

**LUM:** Abner, don't let him walk ther, he's liable to ruirn everthing.

**ABNER:** Oh er, wait a minit Grandpap, we ain't got no deecorations after all. You better go over to Dick Huddleston's store, I bleave.

**GRPAP:** Yessir, you bet yer life I'm goin' over ther, and I ain't never goin' to come in here again neither. If I live to be a hunderd an' ninety year old, I ain't never goin' to set a foot inside....

**ABNER:** Merry Christmas!

**GRPAP:** Merry Christmas! ....this consarn store, I hate an' deespise it...

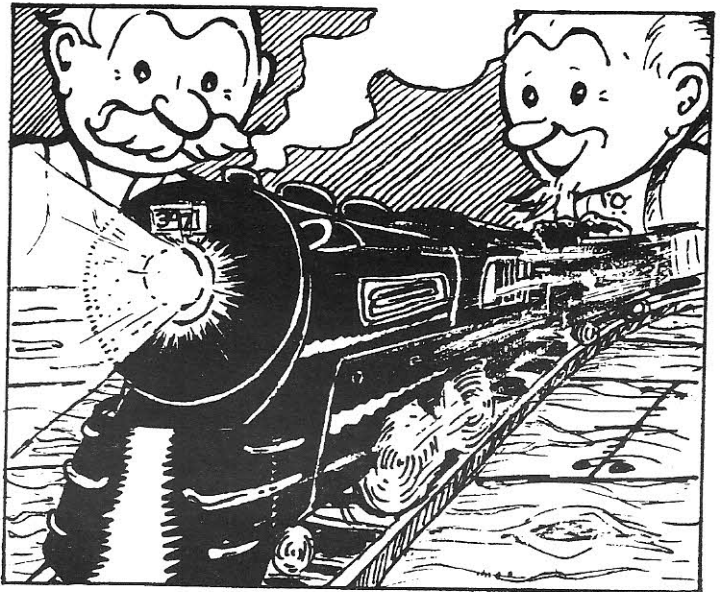
**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, SLAMS)**

**ABNER:** You got it fixed yit, Lum?

**LUM:** Yea, I bleave so..

**ABNER:** I doggies, that Grandpap shore gits hissef upset over nuthin', don't he? (Laughs) Mad enuf ta bite..

**LUM:** (Laughs) Now Abner, watch this.. I think this is the right button ta press.. here we go..





**ABNER:** Oh, look at that... I doggies, look at er go... good fer the train... look at it go ther...

**LUM:** Purtiest thing I ever seen... and looky here, I kin make it go faster er slower with this switch..

**ABNER:** Well I do know, what they won't think of next. Let me do that once.

**LUM:** No, yer liable ta break it er sompin.

**ABNER:** No I won't... lemme do it, jes' once...

**LUM:** No, I better be the engineer, I'm more EX-perienced, I bleave..

**ABNER:** I'm jes' as EX-perienced as you air, Lum, let me work that one time..

**(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES)**

**CEDRIC:** Wonderful world an' merry Christmas!

**ABNER:** Well merry Christmas, Cedric.. we're busy now, Cedric.

**CEDRIC:** Yes mom, I jes' come in ta buy papa a present. You fellers got enny suggestions?

**ABNER:** No we ain't, Cedric. What'd you give him last year?

**CEDRIC:** Oh, let's see... last year I give him two packages o' BB's fer my BB gun...

**ABNER:** Well that wuz nice.. come on now Lum, let me run it one time..

**CEDRIC:** Oh boy, iz this a lecatric train?

**ABNER:** Uh huh.

**CEDRIC:** Oh, that's it right ther.. that's what I'm gonna buy my papa.. wrop it up fer me an' I'll take it..

**ABNER:** WRAP IT UP? Well, you don't wanna buy this, Cedric..

**LUM:** Course not Cedric, this ain't a very goodern, I don't think..

**ABNER:** Oh no, hit's no good at tall..

**CEDRIC:** I don't care, I don't care... I want it ennyways, wrop it up.

**ABNER:** Well now wait a minit Cedric, git away from that now... That's done been sold.

**CEDRIC:** Who bought it?

**ABNER:** Oh, some feller.

**CEDRIC:** Aw shucks.. who wuz it?

**ABNER:** I don't know, he was in a awful hurry.

**CEDRIC:** Er uh.. what'd he look like?

**ABNER:** Cedric, I don't know... I couldn't tell.. let me play with that now, Lum..

**CEDRIC:** Er uh, why couldn't you? The lights was on wasn't they?

**ABNER:** Yea, but I couldn't see hiz face, Cedric.. he hadda mask on, I think..

**CEDRIC:** A mask? Was it the Lone Ranger, was it?

**ABNER:** Mighta been, I don't know..

**CEDRIC:** Oh goody, which way did he go?

**ABNER:** Uh, south I bleave hit wuz.

**CEDRIC:** South, huh? Boy, I've allus wanted ta git a look at the Lone Ranger.. I'll see you fellers later... merry Christmas!

**ABNER:** Yea, merry Christmas, Cedric! **(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES)** Now Lum, let me run the train now, you been doin' it fer a half a hour now..

**(SOUND: TELEPHONE)**

**LUM:** It ain't been that long..

**ABNER:** It has done it.

**LUM:** Sides, I'm jes' tryin' it out to see if hit's in good workin' condition.

**ABNER:** Well I'll check it fer ye..

**LUM:** Wait a minit, ther wuz the phone again... More'n likely



Lizabeth.. Now you better git on home fore you git in trouble.

**ABNER:** Well, air you goin' home too?

**LUM:** Well..... not right away.. I'll straighten things up around here first.

**ABNER:** I doggies, I'm goin' to stay too then.

**LUM:** No, now hit's Christmas Eve, Abner, and yer fokes air waitin' fer ye ta decorate that tree.

**ABNER:** Uh, Lum... Lum, do you still wanna git me a Christmas present?

**LUM:** Why shore I do. Natural.

**ABNER:** Well I've jes' deecided what I want.. that lecatric train, that's what I want you to git me..

**LUM:** Oh grannies, that's a shame, Abner... hit's jes' been sold.

**ABNER:** Huh? Sold? Why the— oh, I wuz jes' foolin' Cedric when I said that.

**LUM:** I know, but hit's actual been sold.

**ABNER:** Who bought it?

**LUM:** Oh, a lady.

**ABNER:** What lady?

**LUM:** Er, a lady that lives up in Wisconsin... she jes' now bought it fer her favorite nephew.....

**ANNCR:** Well, it looks as if Lum is going to have a very merry Christmas this year, doesn't it? And folks, may this be a very merry Christmas for you. May the spirit of Christmas and the hope it brings for peace and good will among men remain with you always. May the years which lie ahead be good to you and yours. This is the Christmas wish for you from Lum and Abner, their sponsors, Miles Laboratories, makers of Alka-Seltzer and One-A-Day Brand Vitamin Tablets, and from your announcer, Lou Crosby.

**(MUSIC: THEME)**





# LUM AND ABNER<sup>®</sup> GO TO WAR

Happy New Year

Welcome to chapter 18 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. In this installment, we go back - back - back to December 1944 and January 1945 for more - more - more!

"Trouble in the home" has been the subject of *Lum and Abner* during the closing episodes of November 1944, and as we tune in on the Monday, December 4 broadcast, Lum is offering wild "ad-vice" to his longtime partner, designed to reunite him with Lizabeth. Such desperate ideas as a sit-down strike atop a flagpole, or leaping from a tall lodge hall with a single bound, impress Abner not at all! (Abner claims he gets dizzy just licking an airmail stamp!) Chet "Lum" Lauck gets the giggles as Tuffy Goff reacts to his "sug-jest" that Abner chain himself to a radiator. "I don't like th' sound o' that chainin' up stuff," Abner complains, "'special' on no radiator; they're liable ta start th' car an' drag me clean inta th' county seat!" Finally, Lum offers an idea that seems to stick - except to Abner's ribs: a hunger strike!

Abner complains that he is "H-U-N-G-G-R-E-E," as the "hongry" strike enters its second day. In fact, he is so hungry, he is "shakin' like a dog on a wet sack!" Cedric stops in to enjoy his sack lunch, which is positively loaded with Mama Weehunt's famous fried chicken, which by all accounts would give Colonel Sanders a run for his feathers! A drooling Abner accuses him of "hoarding," a particularly despicable crime during the era of wartime shortages.

By day three, Abner begins to drop off some extra pounds. A card from the weighing machine at Ed Beckley's drug store shows Abner's weight to be 132 pounds, down from 140. (The card has a photo of beauty queen Alice Faye, who married Chet and Tuffy's pal Phil Harris of *The Jack Benny Program*.) Lum has circulated some gossip concerning Abner's hunger strike, which unfortunately backfires: Lizabeth thinks her man has trimmed down to impress another woman!

Plan #2: Abner becomes a bum, but on a very full stomach! According to Squire Skimp, most women marry men to reform them, and seeing her husband become a shiftless tramp should awaken Lizabeth's "reforming" instinct! Abner begins enjoying his new vagabond existence, happily singing "hallelujah, I'm a bum" (based on the old hymn *Revive Us Again*: "Hallelujah! thine the glory, Hallelujah! amen."). Soon, he is spouting such hobo lingo as "grabbin' a rattler" (train), "steam- heated benny," (winter overcoat), and "ridin' the rods," all learned from Willie the Boodler, a visiting transient who uses the local jailhouse for occasional shelter. Before long, "knight of the road" Abner's "carefree" attitude evokes a sense of wanderlust in Lum, who is "burdinged" with paperwork for the "O, P an' A."



HAROLD PETERSEN

Lum regains his senses, as does "ol' Jungle Joe Abner," who shuffles sadly into the store on December 14, having just received a letter from his daughter, "Little" Pearl, a nurse stationed in France: **ABNER:** ...says she's en-joyin' her work sump'm wunnerful. Only bad part is that they're purdy short-handed, an' they could use a lot more nurses, she said.

**LUM:** Well, I ain't s'prized, th' way th' war is goin' now. Th' closer ya git ta winnin', th' tougher it gits, seems like. What else does she say?

**ABNER:** (in a near-sob) Down at th' bottom there, she says, "I hope you an' Mama are gittin' along fine." Doggies, I'm glad she ain't here ta see what eediot's her mama an' papa's been makin' outa theirselves. There Little Pearl is over there, workin' in th' hospitals, helpin' wounded soljers, an' here me an' Lizabeth are, wastin' our time havin' this silly squabble, this trouble in th' home.

Cedric storms into the store to tell the old fellows that "Major



Brooks" is in town. According to Lum, this is a young man named Robert Brooks, who was "Ernest McMillan's classmate over there at the University of Arkansas." Just returning from the war, Brooks has been highly decorated for his bravery and heroism in air battles with the German forces. (From the sound of "Robert's" performance, he is probably a "real person," portraying himself! If anyone has any knowledge of Major Robert Brooks, please contact us!) Robert, who was stationed in Italy, England and France, discusses his experiences with L&A. Abner is certain the young war hero must have met Little Pearl while in France, and pesters him for information concerning her. Of course, Robert didn't see her personally, but comments on the fine job performed by the nurses: "You have no idea how much they mean to the wounded fellows over there. As a matter of fact, the army could use a whole lot more nurses too, especially in the army hospitals here at home. Do you know they're returning over 50,000 wounded a month, and they only have 9,000 nurses to care for them? You see, there are a lot of boys coming home who aren't as lucky as I am. They're going to need a lot of care and attention."

Still convinced that Robert spent time with his daughter, Abner grabs the phone and calls Lizabeth about supper: "Slap on a extry plate, 'cause I'm bringin' home a feller that's been nob-hobbin' aroun' with Little Pearl over there in France!" In his zeal, Abner has reestablished contact with his "womern," and his "trouble in the home" is ended!



***A giant of the "Big Band Era," Glenn Miller volunteered for military service in World War II, and disappeared while in flight on December 15, 1944.***

(War Report: The famous Battle of the Bulge began on December 16, 1944. Before the Allies could cross the Rhine in France, they had to face a last-stand effort personally planned by Adolph Hitler. Code-named "Watch on the Rhine," the effort

involved an attack by 38 German divisions, who struck along a 50-mile front. The German forces, commanded by Field Marshall Walter Model, drove the Allies back, but Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe replied "nuts" to a request to surrender! The attack became known as the "Battle of the Bulge" because of the bulging shape of the battleground as it appeared on the map.)



HAROLD PETERSEN

As the week of December 18 commences, Abner becomes "Ol' Doc Peabody," an expert in "T.I.H." ("trouble in the home"), offering free advice to the unhappy husbands of Pine Ridge! Partner Lum is angered by "Ol' Doc's" new sign on the front of the store, as well as the steady stream of "customers" flowing into Abner's "office!" Amazingly, "Ol' Doc Peabody's" advice works! Lum wonders if his partner has "super-national" powers!

The week concludes on Thursday, with a "pre-Christmas" program in which Lum attempts to influence Abner into buying a monogrammed red leather desk set for his present. All the while, Lum suggests he really doesn't want a gift - unless it's something inexpensive, like handkerchiefs - but red is his "favor-rite" color - and he does like to have his "ineeshuls" on things - and maybe Abner could get him something made of leather - but he really doesn't want a gift this year!!

Abner's "ad-vice" office is closed for Christmas day, as he joins Lum and Grandpap to make their annual trek through the snow to take supplies to yet another family who must use the old Gaddis barn for the "birthin'" of their child. As usual, Doc Miller is on hand, as Messrs. Edwards, Peabody and Spears wait outside in the cold, waxing philosophical about their lives and the upcoming new year. Of course, this is the annual reenactment of the classic 1933 Christmas script, one of the highlights of the *Lum and Abner* series, which is equally enjoyable regardless of the year in which it was performed. It is as moving today as it was 40, 50 or 60 years ago.

(War Report: By December 27, the Allies had halted the German offensive in the Battle of the Bulge. By early January of 1945, the Allies recovered all ground lost in the battle.)

Quickly falling in love with Cloverleaf Township School teacher Emaline Platt, Lum himself makes an "appint-mint" with "Ol' Doc" for some "love ad-vice!" At first, Abner makes very few suggestions to Lum, or "Case #176-J-12," as he calls him, but finally



*The items in this window display were not available during a wartime Christmas.*

guides him toward making a phone call to his lady love (on the closing show for 1944, Thursday, December 28). In rehearsal for the call, Lum reads a pamphlet designed to recruit merchant seamen, while Abner coaches him on how to sound “romanticals.” The document mentions that the European war is mounting to a climax, and a “long, bitter struggle” is “ahead in the Pacific.” 43,000 experienced seamen must be recruited for service in the next 12 months. “This goal must be met if we are to succeed in keeping our armies supplied and our casualties down.” It seems many are leaving the Merchant Marines early to find employment at home, before the returning military men get the available jobs. Lum comments that the experienced seamen should get back on the job, since there is no time to train new men.

Happy New Year! Monday, January 1, 1945 finds Lum, Grandpap and Ulysses sitting in Abner’s parlor, reflecting on the new year, awaiting a turkey dinner, being prepared by the “wimmen fokes.” They bide their time looking at photos of Little Pearl and her nurse friends serving in the war effort. The men enjoy their holiday, but comment about the lack of enthusiasm on the part of the women. In typical fashion, the fellows can’t understand the “fuss” the ladies make over preparing the meal! Lizabeth makes a rare appearance, shouting from a distance that dinner is ready, but the guys are more interested in Earl Pomeroy’s wagon across the street! Oddly, the program ends here, leaving to our imagination the reactions of the women! (A similar plot is presented in better fashion for Thanksgiving of 1945.)

Back to our storyline: Just how can Lum “reach” Miss Emaline? He had better do something - according to advisor-Abner, Lum has a rival! (I’m not telling who it is!) “Ol’ Doc’s” latest “ad-vice” is December 1994 - Page 8

for Case #176-J-12 (Lum) to become a “bary-tone,” a singer who “sings lower than a “altory,” with a “deep and meller voice!” Miss Emaline simply adores baritones, especially if they sing *On the Road to “Mandolin” (Mandalay)*. Before long, Abner’s bragging to Miss Platt about Lum’s vocal abilities encourages her to enter him in the Arkansas State Choral Society’s singing contest, to be held in Hot Springs!!

For the remainder of the first week of January 1945, Abner becomes nervous Lum’s voice coach. Lum plans to hide in the hills until the contest blows over, only pretending to travel to Hot Springs! It just isn’t possible; Miss Platt has arranged for Lum to travel with one of the contest’s officials!

Chet Lauck has a week off beginning Monday, January 8, as Lum travels to Hot Springs. In his final appearance as Abner’s “papa,” actor Elmore Vincent as Phinus “Stonewall” Peabody enters the storyline again to help his son run the store. They discuss the grand send-off party given Lum earlier, and Abner is certain his partner will make Pine Ridge proud by “bringing home the bacon.” Referring to wartime meat shortages and rationing, Phinus comments, “if he can bring home some bacon nowadays, I’m fer it!” Abner assigns Papa the task of organizing ration stamps, one he tackles with typical Phinus results!

(War Report: January 9, 1945: Allied troops invaded Luzon, Philippines.)

Abner’s “ad-vice” business picks up, as Walt Bates seeks help with his war plant worries. His workers are falling short of their quotas, since many have become lax in returning on time from weekend trips. Pine Ridge has almost nothing to offer the out-of-town workers for amusement. Papa takes on the project, while Ira

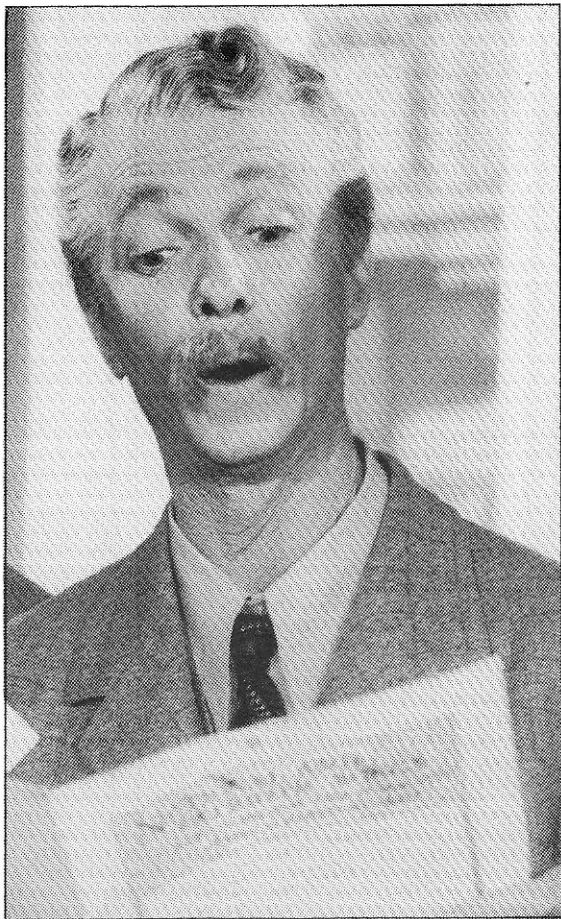


Hodgekins (ably portrayed by Horace Murphy, one of singing cowboy Tex Ritter's sidekicks in the old "B-Western" movies) visits Abner for advice about his women-folk. Ira's wife and mother-in-law are critical of his livery stable business, and are weary of "takin' in warshin'" to pay the bills.

"Ol' Doc" Peabody "sug-jests" that Ira and his wife trade jobs, so that the ladies will understand first-hand how difficult the business is! Ira feels certain he can knock out the "leetle bit o' warshin'" in a half-hour or less. Lo and behold, the plan backfires! Thanks to Phinus' suggestion, Mrs. Hodgekins has rented an old C.C.C. camp outside of town, where she plans to hold weekend dances and box suppers to keep the war plant workers in town. A total of 16 wagons and teams are needed to transport the workers to the "doin's" via old-fashioned hay rides, which will cut down on the use of tires and gasoline! At a dollar a head admission, the workers will generate a hefty profit for the livery stable! Naturally, Ira is excited, until he discovers the women refuse to "re-trade" jobs!! Meanwhile, Ira develops a bad case of "warsh-pan hands!"

(War Report: January 11, 1945: Russian soldiers entered Warsaw, Poland.)

Lum returns on Monday, January 15, with a First Place ribbon from the singing competition!! Now a local "celebrity," Lum finds himself booked to sing his solo at the women's charity bazaar! As the event draws nigh, Lum finds numerous excuses to miss it, but simply cannot - Miss Emaline is scheduled to play the "pianner" as his accompanist!



*"On th' Road to Man-da-lay-hay!"*

Journalist Squire Skimp, author of the *Pine Ridge Pickups* column in the *Mena Star* newspaper, requests Lum have a set of photos taken to accompany an article he is preparing about the singing contest. Lum disagrees, adding, "th' givernmint don't want ya ta spend money fer non-eesential things nowadays! We're s'posed ta save our money - put it inta war bonds. Ever time you spend money fer sump'm ya don't need, you're makin' it harder ta keep inna-flation down!" Lum continues his "patriotics" lecture, insisting that everyone needs to plan a "boo-jit" (budget) that will permit the maximum buying of war bonds. Squire agrees that "winning our economic war here at home is a mighty big factor in winning the military war." Pictures notwithstanding, Squire submits his article at Abner's insistence.

(War Report: January 21: Hungary declared war on Germany. January 22: The Allies reopened a land route to China. The Burma Road, over which war materials had once been transported, was cut off when Japan seized Burma. The Allies built a new road to connect the railroad in northeast India to the Chinese end of the old Burma Road. The new route was first called the Ledo Road, and then the Stilwell Road. Incidentally, the Burma Road connected with *The Road to Mandalay!*)

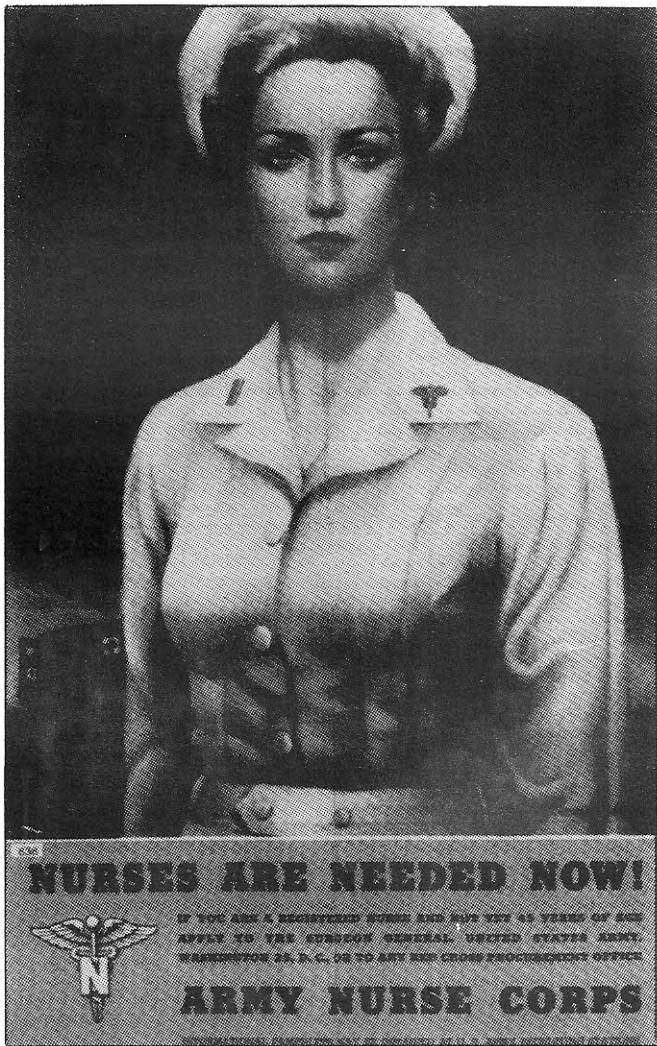
The following Monday, all but Lum gather at the store to review Lum's "good" singing at the charity bazaar the previous Saturday. Even semi-cultured Squire Skimp is complimentary of the musical performance, but all agree that such "good" singing is rather difficult to listen to! They even manage to convince an embarrassed Lum, arriving after being in "hiding," that he performed well!

*The Mena Star* with the article about Lum's vocal success arrives on Tuesday, and Lum is quite irritated with Abner for pushing it through. Chasing after him with the infamous Jot 'Em Down Store baseball bat, Lum's attention is diverted by another "real person" visitor, a young nurse on her way back to the Alexandria (Virginia) Hospital School of Nursing. Like Major Brooks, she has not seen Little Pearl either, in spite of Abner's continued questioning. Discussing the current shortage of nurses, the young lady says of her chosen education, "I think it's wonderful training. It's the best preparation there is for homemaking. The marriage rate's pretty high in the cadet nurse school." Her name is Beulah Tyler, and Lum discovers she is the poster girl for the cadet nurses; in fact, her poster is hanging on the store wall! "I'll be a polka-dotted possum," Abner exclaims, introducing a new expression. As she departs, the appeal for new nursing candidates is complete, and Lum resumes waving his baseball bat at his partner!

Wednesday, January 24: a letter from a "music lover" and reader of *The Mena Star* corrects Squire's article; it was a seven-year old boy who won First Place in the singing contest, whereas Lum won the "Humorous Song Division," since the judges thought he was impersonating a "nervous man" attempting to sing! The truth is out - Lum merely clipped off the "Humorous Division" portion of his "first place" ribbon!

After a day, Abner and Grandpap mourn Lum's suicide. Huh!?! Lum's suicide? Well, after all, his romance with Miss Emaline is surely finished now, since he misrepresented his singing "suc-sess." After some misunderstandings over hearing Cedric shooting at someone who was "settin' in a tree eatin' nuts" (it was a squirrel, not a "stark-ravin' mad crazy in-sane" Lum), an amazingly happy Lum breezes into the store, crooning *On the Road to Mandalay!* Lum even exclaims "wonderful world!" for the first time in years (remember the classic "Diogenes Smith" series?). Concerning the





singing contest deception, it seems the old boy revealed all to Miss Emaline, who was so impressed with his honesty that she complete forgave him!

Lum starts the week of January 29 in Mose Moots' barber shop, getting "the works," including a shoe shine, a mud pack facial and a "mananacure." But what has happened to his hair?! "You had gray hair, Lum," Abner reminds him, "now it's pyore coal black!" "Coal black?" snaps an astonished Lum. "Yeah," Abner adds, "sort of a greenish black!" Lum angrily follows with, "I told him distinct ta make it a soft golden-brown with auburn highlights!"

Failing in his efforts to make himself more attractive for Miss Emaline, Lum spends the Tuesday program trying to "study up" a way to correct his stiff, straight, greenish-black hair. Perhaps he can bandage his head until his true color grows out. Not wanting to perpetrate another lie, Lum is assisted by Abner and Grandpap in creating an "accident," in which a washtub will fall on his head, giving him a real injury to bandage! In trying this stunt, it is Abner who gets clobbered!

On the final show of January 1945, Cedric badgers Abner (whose washtub injury is not mentioned) for help in writing a school theme paper concerning Groundhog Day, which is "th' day after tamarrer - February 2." (The version we have today is a Keystone recording, in which Abner mentions his "trouble in the home," which was resolved back in mid-December! No doubt the "live" January 31 version eliminated that reference.) Cedric and Abner spend the quarter-hour attempting to address "Groundhog Day: What Is It and What Does It Mean?" a subject neither can fathom, prompting Abner to call Miss Platt and demand that she "give our scholars easier lessons to do over there! Some o' this stuff you're handin' out there a growed a-dult of a man couldn't git it!"

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and we will get back to Abner's aching head in a couple of months! The 1944-45 programs discussed this issue are available on NLAS Cassette Library Tapes #159 - 164.

- "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford

## YOU CAN HELP THE NLAS RESTORE A "LOST" LUM AND ABNER PROGRAM!

In the previous issue of *The Jot 'Em Down Journal*, the NLAS introduced the newly restored program, *Thanksgiving in Pine Ridge - Part One*. A musical *Lum and Abner* offering, this two-hour "special" features the Pine Ridge cast enjoying several records, played on the "gramophone." This unique broadcast, first heard in 1953, existed in its complete form only on eight sides of badly damaged 16" transcription discs.

As luck would have it, the first hour (sides 1-4) was in the best condition of all, which was still pretty poor! We were able to restore this hour, through painstaking audio editing, which included the location and substitution of alternate versions (but the same original recordings) of the damaged songs, as well as tedious splicing of the spoken material (sometimes word-by-word).

Part Two will be released - with your help!! We need good recordings (cassette, open reel, or tell us what you have) of the following songs:

*I'll Always Be in Love With You* - by Kay Starr  
*Change Partners* - by Kay Starr  
*Down Among the Sheltering Palms* - by Curt Massey  
 plus *Unknown* - by Who Knows!

The last song listed is so badly broken that we must describe it! Hopefully someone can identify and locate it. The intro to the song has the *Lum and Abner* cast discussing Squire Skimp's days in Vaudeville, while the follow-up continues this conversation. If I am hearing the broken dialogue correctly, I think they identify the singer as **Sophie Tucker** - and the song itself begins with the singer mentioning that the song was introduced many years before. I think the song is *My Little Margie*, at least that line is sung somewhere.

**Anyone supplying one or more of these songs will get them returned, plus a FREE copy of the edited *Thanksgiving in Pine Ridge - Part Two*. Mail your material to "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford, P.O. Box 869, Carthage, TX 75633.**