

April 1995



Willard Waterman
1914 - 1995

ORIGINAL L&A MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

As Abner would say when in trouble: HALP... HALP... HALP...!
During the winter months, the NLAS has become overstocked with original *Lum and Abner* collectibles. We need to unload some of these items to raise funds for the upcoming Convention. The following is a list of items that are available. We advise that you call the Executive Secretary's office at (205) 648-6110 to reserve items you want; however, if you decide to go ahead and order by mail without calling first, your check will be returned to you if the item is sold. (We do have duplicate copies on a few of these items.)

EXTREMELY RARE FIND: The April 1936 issue of *The Pine Ridge News*, along with the Walkin' Weather Prophet Badge and the original mailer this Horlick's Malted Milk premium came in. This is only the second complete set we have seen in 11 years of searching. The price is exactly what we had to pay for it: **\$90.00**.

Lum and Abner's 1938 Almanac - **\$20.00**.

Radio/TV Mirror, February 1949 issue, with large feature on the Lauck and Goff homes in Hollywood, and beautiful full-color photos - **\$10.00**

Black & White 8 x 10 glossy stills from *So This Is Washington*; there are 10 different scenes. **\$6.00** each, or all ten for **\$50.00**.

LOBBY CARDS: The following are all 11 x 14 color lobby cards from the original RKO Radio Pictures release of the Lum & Abner movies (except, of course, *Lum and Abner Abroad*, which was released by an independent company). Price is **\$25.00** each:

The Bashful Bachelor - One design: L&A seated by old potbellied stove

So This Is Washington - Four designs: (1) L&A with secretary Mildred Coles; (2) L&A speaking to crowd in front of store; (3) Lum & Grandpap with Alan Mowbray; (4) L&A & Pine Ridge citizens with Mowbray

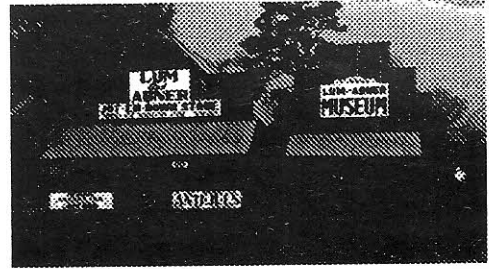
Goin' To Town - Six designs: (1) Squire threatening L&A with his cane; (2) Scene in fancy nightclub; (3) Lum modeling dress for Florence Lake; (4) L&A talking to Barbara Hale; (5) L&A entering nightclub; (6) L&A examining store's cash register

Partners In Time - Five designs: (1) L&A counseling young lovers; (2) Squire pulling a fast one on lovers; (3) L&A arguing with Squire & his henchman; (4) L&A trying to stop lovers' quarrel; (5) Cedric presenting L&A with court summons

Lum & Abner Abroad - Five designs: (1) L&A watching police arrest jewel smugglers; (2) L&A with Russian ballerina; (3) L&A waiting to enter old spooky castle; (4) L&A at dinner with Yugoslavian farm family; (5) Jewel smugglers plotting in dingy cafe

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THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

April 1995

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It won't be long now!

**THE NATIONAL
LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

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PRESIDENT

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Sam Brown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Tim Hollis

Cover: Willard Waterman, as the Great Gildersleeve, gets into a hot checker game with the Abner mannequin in the Lum and Abner Museum in Pine Ridge, June 1993.

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WILLARD WATERMAN

1914-1995

Another living link with the history of *Lum and Abner* was lost when our good friend Willard Waterman passed away on February 2, 1995.

Waterman first began working in radio in Chicago in 1935. He performed in any show and any role he could land; he told us that it was entirely possible that he appeared in some dramatized commercials for Horlick's Malted Milk on *Lum and Abner* during this period. (Many later-famous radio actors, including Les Tremayne, got their start this way). In 1937, Waterman married his sweetheart Mary Anna, and the couple remained married until his death this year.

While Waterman was making the rounds of the radio auditions, he and everyone else began to notice that his natural speaking voice was virtually identical to that of another struggling actor, one Harold Peary. The only time this really posed a problem was when Waterman and Peary would both be cast in the same show. On these occasions, the two performers would put their heads together and decide what vocal tricks they could employ in order for the audience to tell them apart. There would come a day... in the distant future... when their happenstance sound-alike voices would prove to be an advantage for Waterman.

Meanwhile, Waterman continued to perform in a number of shows in both guest shots and as regular characters. By 1945, he had landed a starring role in a Chicago-based comedy series, *Those Websters*, which also featured in its cast two other actors who would later be associated with L&A: Parley Baer and Clarence (Ben Withers) Hartzell. The very next year, *Those Websters* and its cast moved lock, stock, and script to Hollywood, which opened up new vistas for all of the performers involved. It wasn't long before Waterman was making guest appearances on as many shows in Hollywood as he had in Chicago. He was equally at home with comedy or drama, and he soon racked up an impressive list of credits ranging from *Suspense* to *Lum and Abner*.

His L&A work was best summarized in our August 1993 *Jot 'Em Down Journal*, in the article "The Willard Waterman Story:" "On L&A's 30-minute programs in 1948-50, Waterman was usually typecast as a pompous windbag. One of his earliest appearances was on the show in which Lum wants to raise money to attend a businessmen's convention in Leavenworth, Kansas. Lum puts on a grand show for the supposed inspector from the bank's loan department (Waterman), who actually turns out to be from the Internal Revenue Service! 'Your failure to report all this extra income,' growls Waterman, 'will undoubtedly win you a free trip to Leavenworth!' In future episodes, Waterman would be cast as the head of an employment office, the editor of *Reader's Digest*, and a doctor who examines L&A for 'Partnership Insurance' (in a half-hour remake of a story that was originally performed during L&A's 15-minute days)."

Waterman's supporting-role days came to an end in September of 1950. At that time, the CBS radio network acquired the services of Harold Peary, who, of course, was by that time the star of his own NBC series, *The Great Gildersleeve*. Peary's agent in effect "sold"

his client to CBS, but he neglected to clear such a move with the sponsor of the *Gildersleeve* series, Kraft Cheese. Kraft had no interest in moving their show from NBC to CBS, so, now they were faced with the daunting task of replacing Peary, the creator of the *Gildersleeve* character. Fortunately, someone remembered that actor who sounded exactly like Harold Peary, and before you could say "Leee-royy," Willard Waterman was the star of *The Great Gildersleeve*!

Waterman continued as *Gildersleeve* on radio until 1958, and even portrayed the character in an ill-received syndicated TV series around 1955. With the demise of prime-time radio shows, Waterman moved easily into motion pictures, television, and his true love, the legitimate stage. (On television, he could be seen most regularly as the frustrated grocer Mr. Quigley on the *Dennis the Menace* show.) Waterman retired from show business in the early 1980's, and he and Mary Anna moved to Burlingame, California, away from the tarnished tinsel that used to be the golden age of Hollywood.

In 1993, the Watermans were guests of honor at the annual NLAS Convention in Mena. Even Kraft got back into the act, utilizing Waterman in a special promotion at a local grocery store! One of the highlights of the Convention was Waterman's performance in a newly-written script, "Lum & Abner Meet the Great *Gildersleeve*," in which the famous character vacations in Pine Ridge and becomes embroiled in another of Squire Skimp's get-rich-quick schemes. Although his health was not in top form during the Convention, Waterman rose to the occasion and delivered a flawless performance in this script. When he was presented with the 1993 Lum and Abner Memorial Award for his efforts, the audience gave him a standing ovation.

Unfortunately, Waterman's health continued to decline after his Convention appearance. Vice-President Sam Brown last spoke to the couple in January of this year, and learned that Waterman had been pretty much bedridden for most of 1994. This news was jarring, but not nearly as shocking as the news that he had passed away. Our sympathy and prayers are with Mrs. Waterman, and we hope that through our preservation efforts we can ensure that the many humorous characters Waterman portrayed on *Lum and Abner* will long be remembered by fans of that show.

- Tim Hollis



Left: Willard Waterman relates stories about his long career during the 1993 NLAS Convention.



LUM AND ABNER[®] GO TO WAR



Welcome to chapter 20 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. We turn our attention to the months of April and May 1945, a period of major victory for the Allies. April itself gets off to a rousing start; it was the first day of that month (Easter Sunday) that two U.S. corps of army and marine troops landed on Okinawa Island, spurring the Japanese to fight furiously in what would be the last major land battle of the war, lasting until June 21.

Last issue, we reviewed the dramatic events in which L&A were trapped for several days in the cave-in of an old silver mine. Following their rescue, a gentleman named W. J. Chancellor approached them with a guarantee of \$10,000 for the rights to turn their

story into a book or stage play! Lum, in love with school teacher Emaline Platt, moves forward in his courtship by purchasing a huge diamond from a rather shady character. A path of “death and destruction” begins for our friends, in what becomes an unusually dark storyline. It seems the “cursed” gem is called the “Kunlun” diamond. Named for a mountain range in China, the stone is sought by the mysterious Hisari from Tibet (near the Kunlun Mountains). As we left Pine Ridge in March, L&A had found their safe open - was the “diamond” stolen?

So great was the response to last issue’s script summaries written in 1984 by Roz Rogers, I have decided to allow his words to describe many of the plot-lines for this article. Mr. Rogers’ comments will appear in italics; I have retained his punctuation and spelling.

In a special Keystone Network April Fool’s Day episode, L&A ponder about a long line forming in front of Dick Huddleston’s store. It is all due to an April Fools’ day joke perpetrated by Cedric, who told Tom Foster that Dick was expecting a supply of war-rationed cigarettes! Dick, however, is out-of-town, and his store is closed! Nonetheless, more and more townsfolk line up, responding to a rash of rumors that Dick has a supply of numerous rationed items, including silk stockings and tissue paper! “Humings is shore ‘culiar people, ain’t they?” philosopher Abner observes. (The oddity of this episode is the fact that April 1, 1945 fell on a Sunday, a day of the week upon which L&A did not broadcast live... did some Keystone stations do so, or was the transcribed show intended for airing on Monday, April 2?)

The “live” network version of *Lum and Abner* for April 2 is missing from the archives, but we are fortunate to have Roz Rogers’ description of it: *Even though the store safe was open, Lum’s diamond was not stolen. And now Lum is planning to buy some new furniture with his hoped-for marriage to Miss Emaline in mind. He plans to use some of the \$10,000 even though that check has still not cleared the bank. Most of the script deals with Cedric playing a joke on Tom Foster and others.* (This is the same as the April Fool’s Day trick in the Keystone version.)

April 3: Mr. Chancellor’s father shows up (portrayed by silent movie star Francis X. Bushman) and reveals that his son is a little flaky—forever writing books or plays about people who get trapped one way or another. And always there is the \$10,000 check... never any good of course. And there go Lum’s dreams of wealth and marriage. Abner is sure that the Kunlun diamond is bringing Lum all this bad luck.

April 4: Squire Skimp comes in to fore-close on L&A’s 5-day mortgages. They can’t pay of course, so big hearted Squire has them sign mortgages on their mortgages. Granpap comes in to report that robbers broke in to his house last night. They didn’t take anything

IN MEMORIAM:

Frank Martin

In last issue’s installment of “Lum and Abner Go to War,” we discussed the episode of Monday, March 26, 1945. J. Frank Martin portrayed a jeweler in that program. We learned in the February 1995 issue of *SPERDVAC Radiogram* that Mr. Martin passed away at the age of 80 on December 22, 1994.

Mr. Martin earned a living in radio while pursuing a career as a lawyer, and continued to perform on the airwaves even after establishing his legal practice, finally leaving radio in 1955, and eventually retiring altogether in 1979.

Among his network credits are mostly announcing assignments, on such notable programs as *Lights Out* and *Suspense*.

The National Lum and Abner Society has been honored to have had Mr. Martin as an honorary member, and we offer our condolences to his family in this time of loss.

Many thanks to Dan Haeefe of SPERDVAC for the information published in his fine article on Mr. Martin’s career.

but left a note: "We know it is in your possession. Relinquish it now before death overtakes you."

April 5: Abner reports that his house was broken into — or almost. Lisabeth sent them on their way with her broom. Abner wants Lum to get rid of the Kunlun diamond, but Lum is determined to use it for an engagement ring. Meanwhile a stranger queries Cedric about the owners of the Jot Em Down Store, where they live, etc., and says that "this time I will not fail."

April 9, 10, 11, 12: Lum tries to talk Abner into hiding the diamond at his place, but Abner refuses. (The cast pauses for a comment on the wartime midnight curfew. Their understanding of the law is that the "givermint" expects them to stay awake until 12:00! Abner feels guilty that he and Lisabeth have been turning in early, but Lum assures him only the businesses are required to stay open that late. "I thought they'd put a ceilin' on sleepin'," Abner comments.) They find a note saying: "Be in your house at midnight tonight. Be prepared to surrender the Kunlun diamond or suffer the fate of its curse." They stake out Lum's place armed with shotguns. They do hear a noise and wind up firing at each other. Dick thinks Abner should take the diamond to the County Seat and sell it. Abner is afraid to risk it. Lum has his own plan; he talks Ulysses into taking it home and hiding it. While carrying it, Ulysses is struck by a car. Ulysses is not hurt badly. Abner now has the diamond and, without telling him, he, Dick and Cedric go to the County Seat to try to sell it. (During a lunch break at what I always imagine to be the "real" Skyline Cafe of Mena, Cedric states that he'd like to quit his defense plant job and move to town. He thinks the war is nearly over, but Dick scolds him into supporting the soldiers by staying on the job.) The jeweler needs some time to examine and appraise the diamond, so they go out to lunch. When Abner goes back, the jeweler is dead! He died with the diamond in his hand. When Lum finds out what Abner has done and that he no longer has the diamond, Lum is pretty mad. But then a stranger appears and on behalf of the Cult of the Black Leopard demands the return of the diamond. Lum tells him what happened to the diamond and that they no longer have it. The stranger believes him but leaves with the threat that if it is ever found in Lum's possession again he will suffer the same fate as the jeweler. Lum is relieved and thinks maybe it's best to be rid of that cursed thing after all. Then a package arrives for him from the jewelry store... It's the diamond!

(War Report: On April 13, 1945, Vienna fell to the invading Russian troops.)

April 16, 17, 18, 19: The diamond continues to cause trouble and fear, and the representative of the Black Leopard (his name is Hisari) continues to make threats on Lum's life. Lum and Abner finally decide to bury it in Abner's basement at night, but while they are doing this, the diamond disappears. Hisari fakes a note to Lum from Miss Emaline, luring him to the schoolhouse the next night. Abner finds out that Miss Emaline never wrote the note but too late to warn Lum. (This episode has a chilling cliffhanger ending!)

(War Report: Russian troops reached the suburbs of Berlin on April 22. Three days later, U.S. and Russian forces met at Torgau.)

April 23: Cedric trades his car for a talking parrot named General. But about all the parrot can say is, "Hold everything, the Marines are here!" And in response to the question "What are your orders, General?", it says, "Surround the place and mow 'em down!" (The voice of the parrot sounds like actress Lurene Tuttle.) Abner reluctantly agrees to allowing Cedric to keep the parrot in their feed room for the time being.

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Lum comes in pretty shaken. He's had another death threat note from Hisari, who refuses to believe that Lum doesn't even know where the diamond is. Abner talks Lum into going home and hiding while he (Abner) deals with Hisari if he should show up.

Hisari does show up and becomes convinced that Abner has the diamond. Abner offers to sell it for \$3,000. Hisari turns this down and attacks Abner. But now the parrot starts hollering out, "Hold everything, the Marines are here" ...etc. The frightened Hisari finally pays \$5,000 for the diamond and gets out of there before the Marines get him.

April 24: Abner brags to Lum about getting rid of Hisari for good... finally admitting he did have a little help from the parrot. However Abner doesn't tell him that he had the diamond and sold it to Hisari. Cedric later reveals to Lum that he was back in the feedroom and overheard Abner sell the diamond. Lum refuses to believe this.

April 25: Lum still doesn't believe that Abner sold the diamond to Hisari for \$5,000. However he makes a few inquiries around town to see if Abner has been spending a lot of money, but no evidence. Cedric comes in collecting old clothes for the destitute people of Europe (WAR MESSAGE). ("What Can you spare, that they can wear?" Cedric asks, repeating the slogan of the United Nations Clothing Collection Drive.) By mistake he gets hold of Abner's blue serge coat. Lum, in trying to get it back for Abner, discovers several \$100 money orders and now he believes the truth about Abner and the diamond.

April 26: Another WAR MESSAGE script, this one pushing for a United Nations charter, its value & purpose. (This inspiring episode is presented in script form in this issue! Attentive listeners will also notice the glorious organ themes that begin to appear during this period of Lum and Abner, both in scene bridges and the playoffs prior to the last commercials. These are the work of Ralph Emerson.)

April 30: Abner reveals to Dick what he was doing with the money so secretly: he was paying off the mortgage on the store and on both his and Lum's house. Furthermore he was going to pay for the new furniture Lum had ordered, plus giving any left over money to Lum for a wedding present. The reason for doing this so secretly was that he knew if Lum got his hands on that kind of money he might get some big idea and squander it all. Dick agrees that could be the case but he urges Abner to call Lum and tell him everything. He tries this but Lum hangs up on him, and now Abner swears he'll have nothing to do with Lum for ever.

(War Report: German radio reported on May 1 that dictator Adolph Hitler had died while "heroically" defending Berlin against the Russians; it would be learned later that he and his wife committed suicide on April 30!)

May 1, 1945: Dick reveals to Lum all the nice things Abner is doing with the \$5,000. Lum feels pretty ashamed of himself, but when he tries to apologize to Abner, Abner is so fed up with Lum's previous treatment of him that he won't listen to a thing that Lum says.

(War Report: May 2, 1945 - German troops in Italy surrendered, and Berlin surrendered to Russian troops!)

May 2: Lum and Abner, because of their quarrel, have divided up the store again. This time the line of demarcation seems to have run right through the telephone so that the mouth piece and crank are on Lum's side, but the receiver is on Abner's side. This leads to some pretty complicated phone calls. (L&A risk trouble with the O.P.A. over the division of pairs of shoes - who collects the shoe

stamp?)

May 3: A man named Dr. Fontaine Grill comes into the store wanting to use the divided up telephone. (Who portrays Dr. Grill? Is it Frank Graham again? We do know how the name "Fontaine Grill" came about. Roz Rogers told us he was searching for a name for the character when he looked out the window and spotted a sign reading "Fountain and Grill!!") His car has broken down on his way to an important appointment in Washington D.C. He gets the bad news that it will take 10 days to fix his car so he will have to take the train. He asks Lum and Abner to store a large box he has in his car. Abner asks what is in the box, but Dr. Grill tells them they must not be curious nor meddle in any way, and for this they will one day be greatly rewarded. And thus begins a series concerning Robert the Robot which runs until June 27, 1945. And this ends Mr. Rogers' wonderful "Script Resumes" for the war period of L&A. Thank you Mr. Rogers for your kind efforts!

Their curiosity running amuck, L&A decide to call a truce while they "study up" a way to legally get into Dr. Grill's mystery crate. Mr. Douglas, the mechanic, finds an old newspaper in Grill's car that alarms them all: it reports that Grill is suspected of blowing up a store building! Could the box be full of "dynamite?"

While the above headlines proved frightening to Lum and Abner, the "real" newspapers of May 7, 1945 had more amazing news: **Germany surrendered to the Allies!** May 8 was designated **V-E (Victory in Europe) Day!** The surrender terms were ratified in a ceremony in Berlin the following day. After five years, eight months and seven days, the European phase of World War II was over. Just how did the regular *Lum and Abner* program commemorate that momentous occasion? Well... it didn't!! Lauck and Goff did, however, produce a "special" program, recorded in advance by the Keystone Network, designed to be broadcast in honor of the victory over Germany. This program has only recently been discovered, and is being released now by the NLAS from the only known (and apparently much-played) disc. See the accompanying ad for more information!



Soldiers listen intently to radio reports announcing the German surrender on Monday, May 7, 1945, while land battles and Kamikaze attacks continue at Okinawa.

Now, on to what happened on the "regular" L&A program... "Air Raid Warden and Justice o' th' Peace Eddards" decides it is in the best interest of the law to open the box on May 8, and what a shock they get! "They's somebody in there," yells Abner! That "somebody" is a robot, which Grandpap names "Robert" (misreading "robot" on the instructions).

Cedric arrives with a letter from soldier Ernest McMillan, written to scold him into writing more "V-Mail" letters. The routine serves as another pitch for the folks at home to write the military men and women to improve their morale.

With "Robert" fully assembled on May 10, the three old fellows discover that the mechanical man can be operated by a unique radio remote control! (If this seems a bit far-fetched for L&A, remember that they delved into science fiction in 1942 with their attempted rocket trip to Mars!)

Abner discovers Robert's strength, using the control box to have him lift feed sacks and heavy barrels! Before long, Robert is an employee of the Jot 'Em Down Store, which worries Lum. After all, Robert can't be over a year old, and the Department of Child Labor just might not go for that!

(Side note: Cedric introduces his new expression, "hello characters," on Tuesday, May 15, replacing "oh, what a beauty day." Frankly, I still miss "wonderful world!")

After a few close calls (in which Abner is nearly crushed by Robert!), the robot begins taking over such menial tasks as sweeping the floor. Abner's ego takes a turn - he develops a sense of power! He feels Robert can help him "get even" with everyone who has "done him wrong" through the years! He begins a "gittin'-even-with list," which he discusses with an evil glint in his eyes!

Squire Skimp appears on the scene, wanting to cash in on Robert. Meanwhile, Lum's worries are realized, as a woman (probably Lurene Tuttle) from the Child Labor Board arrives to survey Abner regarding his employees. In answering her questions, Abner accidentally conveys the idea that the unseen Robert is a mere infant! More complications arise, as Cedric arranges a double date, to include Robert as the seven-foot blind date for Clarabelle's cousin "Berthy!"

Lum travels to Mena on May 22 to answer the charges levied against them by the Child Labor office, leaving Abner to his own devices - or, rather, to Dr. Grill's "device," namely Robert the Robot! Abner's latest scheme: Robert will make deliveries for the store!! As Lum returns from Mena, weary from his arguments to convince the officials that Robert is not "huming," he is amazed to see a demonstration of Robert the "De-liver Boy!" "Captain Peabody" (inspired by Cedric's *Smiling Captain Stalwart* comic books) receives instructions from "Lt. Corporal Cedric" (a.k.a. "Major Cedric" and "Colonel Cedric"), who runs from house to house, directing Abner's remote controls by telephone! A few "SNAFUs" occur, as is to be expected!

"Abner the Master," is his new self-proclaimed nickname, which worries Lum, who fears his partner will become another "Frankenstein!" Robert proves a popular gimmick, and Abner proudly demonstrates him to Dick Huddleston on May 24. Unexpectedly, "Colonel Cedric" reports to "Smilin' Captain Peabody" that Robert is nowhere to be found - "double SNAFU!!" The control box was accidentally set for high speed - where is the robot? They'd better locate him fast; a telegram arrives on Monday, May 28 from Dr. Grill - and he wants his box back!!

By studying a real estate map, Lum discovers a slight curve in the road on which Robert was traveling (Highway 16). They deduce that straight-walking Robert would have left the road and headed cross-country. Cedric eventually finds him in a deep ditch beside the road, very near a large, dead bull! Our friends realize it must be Ira Hodgekins' prize bull, which turned up missing the same day as Robert! As our two-month collection of programs ends on Thursday, May 31, 1945, "Smilin' Captain Peabody" finds himself being sued for a whopping \$500, thanks largely to the interference of his lawyer, Lum! (When the negotiations started, Ira was willing to settle for a mere \$100!!)

By the way, just what does Robert look like? In one episode, L&A think he looks "huming," in others he seems more machine than man. Next issue we will present "the many faces of Robert the Robot," and you can be the "judge!" Be sure to join us, and start making your plans to attend our 11th annual convention in Mena this June!

The programs discussed this issue are available on NLAS Cassette Library Tapes #169 - 175, plus on the brand new *Alka-Seltzer Specials* cassette. - "Uncle Donnie" Pitchford and Roswell B. Rogers



Prayer in school - elementary children offer thanks on V-E Day, Tuesday, May 8, 1945.



The Alka-Seltzer Specials!

What timing! In our ongoing process of recording the original *Lum and Abner* transcription discs, we've discovered some "gooderns," and one is just in time for the 50th anniversary of V-E Day! *The Alka-Seltzer Specials* cassette is 60 minutes of unique L&A, not available since originally aired - and some were never broadcast!

1. The "Victory Special" (V-E Day)
2. "Special Routine for Alka-Seltzer" (1941 - never broadcast!)
3. Keystone "Special X" (an "emergency" disc to be used by the stations on the Keystone Network, in case the regular disc shipment was lost or damaged - it is a 1945 reenactment of an unrecorded script from November 4, 1935!)
4. Keystone "Special Y" (the flip side of "X," this is a 1945 performance of the "pitcher takin'" script of March 19, 1936, which was recently published in *The Lum and Abner Scripts - March 1936*)
- plus 5. *Lum and Abner* "Theme Auditions" (reworkings of the program's opening which were never used)
- and 6. L&A performing a "Wartime P.S.A." from 1945.

All recordings were mastered from the original discs. To get your copy, send \$4.00 (which includes postage and handling) to
THE NATIONAL LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY
#81 SHARON BLVD.
DORA, ALABAMA 35062.





VOL. 3 No. 1

PINE RIDGE, U. S. A.

April 26, 1945

PEACE CONFERENCE IN FRAN SANSISCO!

EXTRA
LUM AND ABNER
TAKE SELVES A
NEW YORK TRIP

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NEW HOLSTEIN COW BOUGHT
 By D. Huddleston

A new Holstein cow that can trace her folks back 20 generations has been bought by Dick Huddleston, and it has started the women of Pine Ridge to

The Weather

SUNRISE: Time of day when the sun come up.
SUNSET: Time of day when the sun set.
MOON: More expected Weather Prophet for a week.
PINE RIDGE & VICINITY: Parted. No rain likely for a week.

OUR FIRE HORSE TO COMPETE AT KENTUCKY RACE

Ed'ards and Peabody

ANNCR: And now... let's see what's going on down in Pine Ridge. Well, as we look in on the little community today, we find Lum, Abner, and Grandpappy Spears over at the Jot 'Em Down Store, trying to get the latest conference reports on their radio... **LISTEN:**
LUM: Hurry up, Abner... git the radio turned on. I wanna lissen to the conference.
ABNER: Well, I got it turned ON, Lum... I jist cain't seem ta hear nuthin' on it here.
LUM: Well here.. gimme the earphones, let me lissen.
ABNER: Alright... you won't be able to hear nuthin' either, though. That raddio is jist as dead as a dead horse.
GRPAP: Maybe the pigeon-toed crystal's busted.
ABNER: Huh?
GRPAP: I tole you fellers time an' agin to git one of them with a loud speaker horn on it.
ABNER: Well, thissen wuz workin' alright a couple o' months ago, Grandpap, when I turned it on. I recollect hit brought in the Dempsey-Tunney fight jist as clear as a bell here awhile back.
LUM: Grannies, yer right, they ain't a sound comin' through there. Can't even git any good static.
ABNER: Naw, hit's busted, Lum, they ain't no two ways about it. Did we git a guarantee with this thing?
LUM: Grannies, I don't recollect.
ABNER: I don't neither. We ort to of insisted on one, I know that. I can see that right now.
LUM: Yeah. Shore wish it wuz workin'. I hate to be missin' that conference.
ABNER: Me too, me too.
LUM: Yessir, I'da loved to of gone out there to Fran Sansisco myself. I'da made 'em a good delegate.

ABNER: Yeah, but..... YOU would?
LUM: Why shore. Yep, I had a few idees I was aimin' to bring up at the conference. Jist in case the givernint DID pint me one of the delegates.
ABNER: Well law me, Lum, you wouldn't be no good at a meetin' like that. You cain't talk but one language. Way I understand it, they's gonna be delegates there from might nigh ever country they is.
LUM: I know, but they got inna-terpreters.
ABNER: Who has?
LUM: Everbody has.
ABNER: Well, I ain't got one. Er, leastways I don't think I have... what air they?
LUM: Well... they're fellers that lissen to what one delegate sez, and they turn to the other delegates and tell them whut the first delegate said, in the language of whatever delegate they're a talkin' to. See?
ABNER: Uh..... would you mind comin' over that agin, Lum... I bleave I jumped the track back there sommers.
LUM: Well, hit's easy.. see, they take... well, hit's like this...
ABNER: Yeah.
GRPAP: Orlo Wormley wuz a delegate oncet.
ABNER: What's that, Grandpap?
GRPAP: I say Orlo Wormley wuz a delegate oncet.
ABNER: To the Fran Sansisco Conference?
GRPAP: No, I don't recollect what he wuz a delegate to... I know he wuz one, though.
ABNER: Well.
GRPAP: Yeah, had to go clean to Hot Springs, I recollect.
ABNER: Oh well, that couldn't of been much of a conference, then.

What wuz you sayin' now, Lum?

GRPAP: Yessir, ole Orlo Wormley was a delegate. An' he had quite a EX-perience on that trip, too.

ABNER: Yeah, well, we ain't innerested right now, Grandpap.

GRPAP: Yessir, yer right Abner, hit WUZ innerestin'. Lemme tell you 'bout it...

ABNER: Well, not now, Grandpap.

LUM: Yeah, we gotta figger out how ta git this radio fixed.

ABNER: Yeah, that's what's worryin' us.

LUM: History's bein' made out there in Fran Sansisco, an' I grannies, I wanna be in on it.

ABNER: Yeah, yeah... law me, I... wait a minit, here comes Cedric... maybe he knows sompin' 'bout raddios.

GRPAP: There wuz a big crowd that come down to the station to see Orlo off on the train...

ABNER: Grandpap, you can tell us that some other time. Don't innerupt us now.

(SOUND: Door opens, closes)

LUM: Hey, Cedric, come in here.

ABNER: Yeah, Cedric, you know ennything 'bout raddios? How they work an' all?

CEDRIC: Yes mom.

ABNER: Well, good fer you!! Hooray!!

CEDRIC: Yeah, know all 'bout 'em. Jist turn that little button there and switch that dial aroun' a little bit, an' hole the earphones up to yer head, an' lissen.

ABNER: Oh well, we know that much, Cedric. I mean do you know how they work inside?

CEDRIC: I didn't know you COULD work 'em inside.

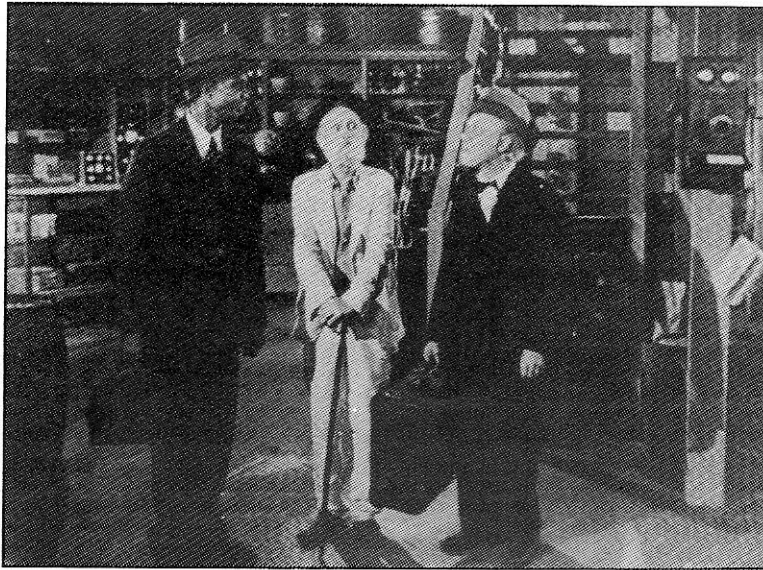
ABNER: Well, what I mean, Cedric...

GRPAP: You jist got here in time, Cedric.. I wuz tellin' 'bout the time Orlo Wormley was a delegate to Hot Springs. Big crowd come down to the station to see him off...

ABNER: Better hole off on that now, Grandpap..

LUM: Yeah, we gotta git this radio workin', er go down to the barber shop an' lissen to thatun down there one.

ABNER: Yeah, Cedric, did



you notice if there wuz a big crowd down there when you come by?

CEDRIC: Well, I never come that way. I jist come from school, an' I want you fellers to help me with mah homework.

ABNER: Oh law me, I don't bleave we've got time fer that right now, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Well, I'm sposed to have this done fer tomorrow.

ABNER: Tomorrow?

CEDRIC: Yes mom. Gotta write a theme on "The Santa Francisco World Security Conference an' What It Means To Me."

ABNER: Well, I doggies,

that's a good subject. Say, Lum ort to be able to hep you with that, Cedric. He's already got some idees on it, he wuz sayin'.

LUM: Yeah, I'll give you some stuff to write down on that, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Well, I've got it started, but then I sorta bogged down.

ABNER: Well, you go ahead an' read us what you got, Cedric, an' we'll go from there.

CEDRIC: Well, here's whut I got: "The Santa Fransansico World Security Conference an' What It Means To Me, by Cedric Wolfgang Weehunt."

ABNER: That's good... good. Go on.

CEDRIC: Well, right there's where I bogged down.

ABNER: Hmm... doggies, you bog pretty fast, don't you?

CEDRIC: Yes mom.

LUM: Let me think now, Cedric.. let's see...

ABNER: Git ready to write this down, Cedric, this'll be..

GRPAP: Yessir, they wuz a big crowd down there to see Orlo off on the train... everbody cheerin' an' wavin' an' carryin' on...

ABNER: Don't write that down, Cedric..

GRPAP: There wuz Orlo, lookin' out the train winder.. big ribbon pinned on hiz coat.. ticket stuck in hiz hatband..

ABNER: Grandpap, yer gittin' Cedric all mixed up here.

LUM: Yeah, start out thissaway, Cedric.. History is bein' made at Fran Sansisco. In that town, delegates from all over the world an' practical every country has gathered together to write what they hope will be the final chapter in the long search fer peace

on earth.

ABNER: Doggies, that sounds good. Have you got that, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Well, I ain't got QUITE all of it..

ABNER: Well, read what you got. You wanna be shore now you got this jist zacktly right.

CEDRIC: Here's what I got.. "Orlo Wormley is makin' history at Fran Sansisco. Delegates from all over have tickets stuck in their hatbands."

ABNER: No Cedric, you got that all mixed up... I tole you not to lissen to Grandpap.

LUM: Abner, you better take the pencil and write this.

ABNER: Yeah, give it to me.. we'll fix you up good here, Cedric. This here's wrong, let me scratch that out...

GRPAP: Yeah, that's wrong, Orlo Wormley never went to Fran Sansisco. Went to Hot Springs.

ABNER: Oh my goodness...

GRPAP: An' there he wuz settin' there in the train, leanin' out the winder, wavin' at all of his friends, an' then the train started to pull out an' Orlo leaned so fer out he lost hiz foothold and fell

offa the train. Right out on the platform. Pore boy... he never DID git to Hot Springs.

ABNER: Air you done with yer story now, Grandpap?

GRPAP: Yeah, that's all... innerestin', wern't it? I seen

Orlo not so many years ago, an' I asked him "What sorta convention wuz that you wuz sposed to go to, Orlo?" He said he'd often wondered that hissef... sorta sad when you think about it.

ABNER: Yeah, I reckon hit is. Now, if you'll jist be quiet fer a minit, Grandpap, we'll try to finish this thing up fer Cedric. That's importance.

CEDRIC: Recollect now, this is sposed to be what that conference means to me.

LUM: Yeah, that's right.. Maybe we better start out different. Well, jist what DOES the conference mean to you, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Well, I dunno... sompin' 'bout peace, I know that.

ABNER: Yeah, well yer on the right track there Cedric. Yer a smart boy.

GRPAP: Well, if you want my honest opinions, a world conference like this is jist a waste of time.

ABNER: HUH?

GRPAP: The last time they tried that after the other war, hit never worked out.

ABNER: What's that, Grandpap?

GRPAP: I said, them things never work out.

LUM: Well now that's a fine altitude to take, Grandpap.. jist cause sompin' didn't work out once before ain't no sign hit won't work the next time. Here's what yer sayin'.. yer sayin' jist cause no doctor discovered a cure fer cancer last year means that he won't this year,

or no other time. Would you want the doctor to jist give up tryin' to find a cure?

GRPAP: Well no, course not, but that's different.

ABNER: I don't see where hit's so different.

LUM: Course hit ain't. World peace is sompin' all of us wants more'n ennything in the world.

ABNER: Amen.

LUM: I think hit's wonderful that fellers from everwhere, different nationalities an' all, air settin' down together, tryin' to figger this thing out in a spirit of friendship an' cooperation. This is a big thing, Grandpap. I'm purty shore that peace is what God wants us to have down here on this earth of ours. An' if we don't git together an' git it.. at least do our best to bring that about.. I'd say we were shirkin' our duty.

ABNER: I doggies, lemme git some of that wrote down here now.. Yessir, that ort to make a good theme, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Well, does that tell what it means to me?

ABNER: Well, uh... I don't know, does it Lum?

LUM: Well, maybe not zacktly.. I reckon hit means sompin' like this to you, Cedric.. Here you air, a boy that kin live purty much jist like you want to.. Go huntin' and fishin', work and play, go to a free public school, go to the church you want to, think what you want to... Here you air writin' what you want to 'bout a world conference. I think hit means that you wanna keep it that way. Not only fer yerself, but fer boys like you all over the world. No matter wher they was born rich or pore, or what color they air, or ennything else. God made all them boys, an' I don't think He meant fer some of 'em to be better'n others. I think He'd like to

see 'em all git a equal chance. And Cedric, I bleave... yeah, I bleave I'd end up that theme with a little prayer. We know they's bound to be some mistakes made, 'cause the delegates is jist humans like me and you. But I know we're on the right path when men of ever nation set down with one another as neighbors. And with the divine hand to guide 'em, I know they'll be able to write the basis fer everlastin' peace.

(MUSIC: "MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE")

(A recording of the above program may be heard on Tape #172 in the NLAS Tape Library. If you do not already have an NLAS Tape Catalog, the price is \$5.00. Order from the Executive Secretary at #81 Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL 35062.)



The 11th Annual

NATIONAL



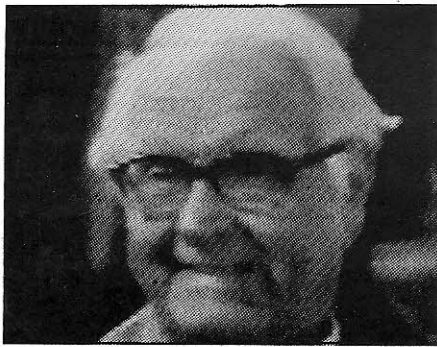
LUM & ABNER®

SOCIETY

CONVENTION

Mena, Arkansas * June 24, 1995

SPECIAL GUESTS:



Parley Baer

Mr. Baer is truly an entertainment veteran, having performed in radio, movies, and TV for most of the past 60 years. He is most familiar to radio fans as "Chester" on the original radio version of *Gunsmoke*. Before those days, he appeared in various roles on the *Lum and Abner* broadcasts, and was well acquainted with many of the performers associated with the show. Mr. Baer continues to work in all facets of show business, and can be heard regularly as the voice of Ernie Keebler of cookie commercial fame.



Jean Vander Pyl

Ms. Vander Pyl also began her career in radio in the 1930's. Her first husband worked for the ad agency responsible for Lum and Abner's broadcasts for Postum, so from 1938 to 1940 Ms. Vander Pyl appeared regularly on *Lum and Abner*... not as a Pine Ridge character, but in the commercials! She is most famous today as the one and only voice of Wilma Flintstone, a role she has performed in cartoons for the past 35 years. She plans to be with us if her busy schedule will allow her to do so. Let's keep hoping!



Shirley Lauck Babcock

The first child of Chester "Lum" Lauck and his wife Harriet, Shirley was our guest at the 1994 NLAS Convention. She enjoyed the experience so much (and so did we!) that she has decided to become a "regular" at our meetings! Shirley has many fond and entertaining memories of growing up as the daughter of a radio star (even though she says she was not aware of her dad's celebrity status until later years). Those who met her last year will be glad to be with her again, and those who did not are in for a real treat!

It probably goes without saying that the appearances of all of these guests at this year's convention hinges upon nothing unexpected coming up. Any changes in the convention schedule will be announced in the June issue of the *Journal*. In the meantime, these three guests are all looking forward to being with us. At this time, we plan to have three separate programs on Saturday, June 24: one around 10:00 a.m., one around 2:00 p.m., and one around 7:00 p.m. (more detailed information will be published in our next issue). On Friday, June 23, and Sunday, June 25, we encourage everyone to visit the Lum and Abner Museum in Pine Ridge (just 22 miles east of Mena).

The NLAS Executive Secretary's office reports that there have been record numbers of people writing to say they plan to attend this year, so if you have not yet made your room reservations, it would be wise to do so. Call the Best Western Lime Tree Inn in Mena, Arkansas, at (501) 394-6350.