

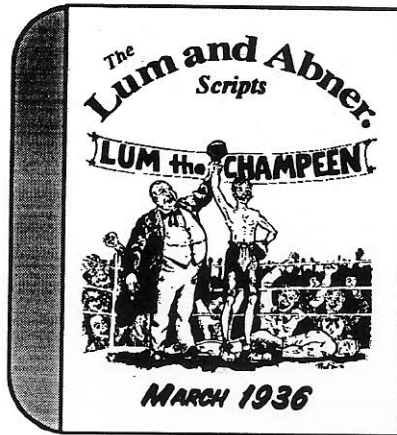
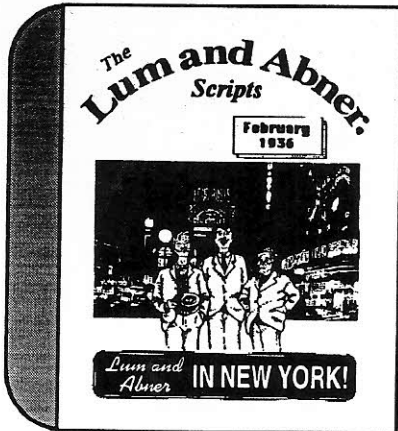
Beginning In This Issue:



Lum and Abner® and the Great American Roadside!

FEBRUARY 1996

Lum and Abner® Scripts Still Available!



As you probably know, this is the time of year when we usually release a new volume in our ongoing series of books reprinting the unrecorded *Lum and Abner* scripts of the 1930's. Well... due to unforeseen delays, our next scheduled volume will not be available until this year's Convention on June 22. (It will be offered here in the August issue of the *Journal*.)

Meanwhile, we wanted to remind everyone that three of our previous volumes are still available. In *February 1936: Lum & Abner In New York*, our heroes embark on a hazardous journey to the Big Apple to rescue runaway Pine Ridge boy Robert Hogan. *March 1936: Lum The Champeen* finds Mr. Eddards entering the boxing ring against Cyclone Gordon, with visions of

the prize money dancing in his eyes. In *April 1936: Lum and Abner At The Kentucky Derby*, our friends again hit the road, this time to Louisville, Kentucky, to enter Pine Ridge's fire horse in the big race. Each of these volumes is still \$5.00. They should be ordered from the Executive Secretary at 81 Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL 35062.

(Just as a sneak peak, the next volume will be *May 1936: The Perils Of Lum*, in which Mr. Eddards has narrow escapes from many fates worse than death, including marriage to the Widder Abernathy, and enraging Evalena Schultz beyond all hope of reconciliation. It's a goodern, so be watching this space for further announcements!)

VISIT

The Jot 'Em Down Store and Lum & Abner® Museum



Located on Highway 88
(the "Lum & Abner Highway")
PINE RIDGE, ARKANSAS

For further information, contact
LON & KATHY STUCKER
P.O. BOX 38
PINE RIDGE, AR 71966
(501) 326-4442

They'll jes' be proud ta death ta see ya!



THE SEVEN

Lum and Abner® MOVIES

are available on video cassette!

*Dreaming Out Loud * The Bashful Bachelor * Two Weeks To Live * So This Is Washington * Goin' To Town * Partners In Time * Lum and Abner Abroad*

\$29.95 each

Order from
Lum & Abner Associates
135 Circle Drive
Hot Springs, AR 71901

The Jot 'Em Down Journal, Volume 12, Number 4 (Whole Number 70), February 1996. Published bi-monthly by the National Lum and Abner Society. Membership, including a subscription to the *Journal*, is \$10.00 per year. Send editorial and subscription correspondence to the Executive Secretary, Tim Hollis, #81 Sharon Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062.

THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

February 1996

In This Issue:

L&A and the Great American Roadside 2

We begin looking at the commercial businesses that have been inspired by L&A through the years.

L&A's Washington's Birthday Pageant 5

L&A and Cedric celebrate in this 1945 script.

The Secretary's Desk 9

Odds, ends, and what have you.

**THE NATIONAL
LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT

*Donnie Pitchford
Carthage, Texas*

VICE-PRESIDENT

*Sam Brown
Dongola, Illinois*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*Tim Hollis
Dora, Alabama*

HISTORICAL MUSICAL NOTE:

Fifty years ago this month, the LUM AND ABNER series got its third and final piece of theme music. "Down On The Old Party Line" was written by the show's organist, Ralph Emerson, and his wife Elsie Mae Emerson. It replaced the former theme, "Eleanor," which was involved in an ASCAP dispute.

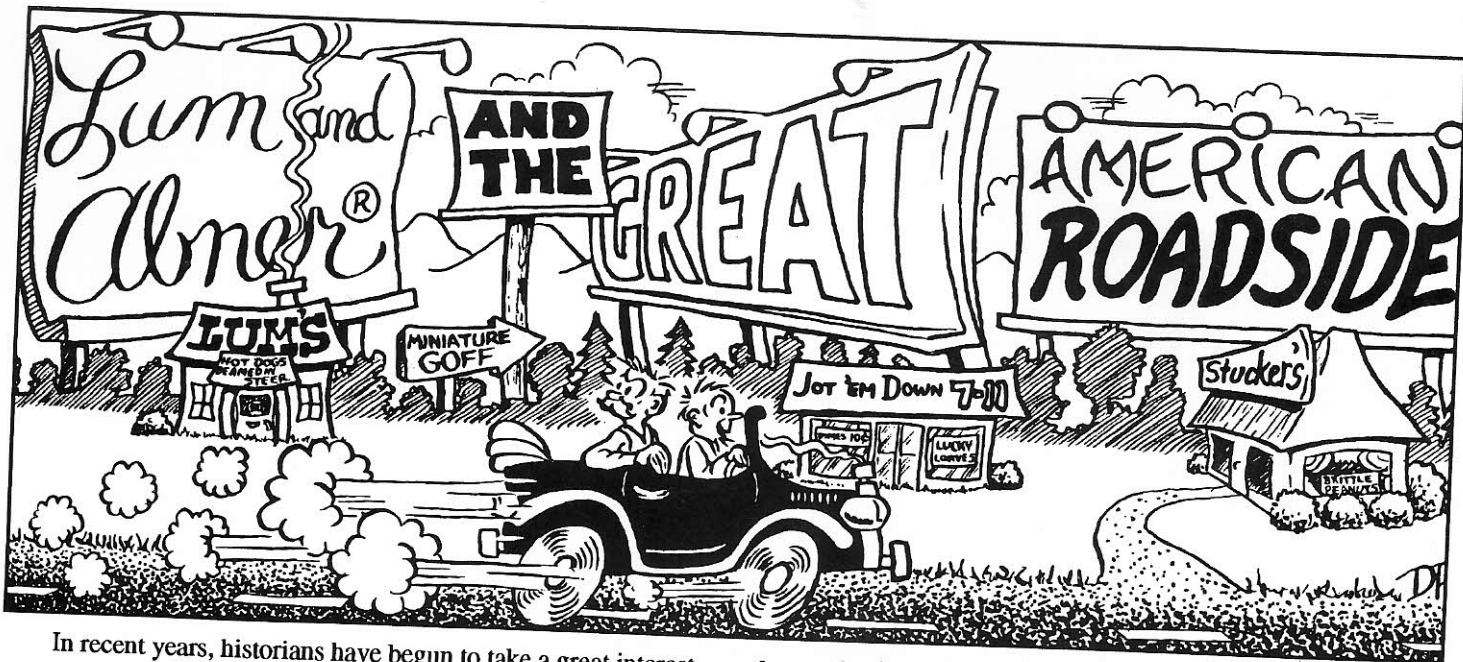
The Emersons' theme was used on every L&A show from February 1946 until the series left the air forever in 1954, including the show's half-hour days, when it was played lavishly by a full orchestra. In 1987, Mrs. Emerson made a special recording of the tune for the NLAS, and it has been used at many NLAS Conventions ever since.



Organist Ralph Emerson awaits his cue as Chet (Lum) Lauck and Norris (Abner) Goff finish a broadcast, 1946.

Cover: One of the last remaining buildings in the chain of Lum's restaurants, still operating in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in 1985; the location has since closed. (Photo by Tim Hollis)


LUM AND ABNER is a registered trademark. Used by permission of Chester Lauck, Jr.



In recent years, historians have begun to take a great interest in what is often termed "roadside culture;" those often underrated pieces of Americana that take the form of motels, restaurants, service stations, tourist attractions, and other businesses that served the travelers along the country's highways. Oddly enough, Lum and Abner became parts of this roadside scene in their own way, and in this series of articles we will be examining the various projects that brought (or proposed to bring) our old Pine Ridge friends to a new generation of travelers.

We will begin with what is at once the most pervasive, yet controversial, part of the L&A/roadside experience. Before delving into it, let's hear what Chet Lauck himself had to say about it. In 1972, while addressing an audience at Indiana State University, the subject was raised of L&A's famous 1946-47 campaign concerning Lum's culinary masterpiece, the Lumburger. After describing the way the Lumburger was made, Chet decided to elaborate a little further:

"There is a company now who has these Lum's Restaurants over the country... which is definite infringement on the name, but we did get a settlement out of them, so they're welcome to use it now. I wish them well! But they serve a Lumburger. I've never tried it; I've been so mad at them I've never eaten in one of those places. You know, when they first came out with these Lum's Restaurants... it's a franchise deal, they have hundreds of



Your ACCOUNTANT will see why a LUMS franchise at \$45,000 is the best place to put your money

WHY DON'T YOU BOTH CHECK THE PROSPECTS?

LUMS offers other benefits!

REAL ESTATE ASSISTANCE—LUMS experts will help you in site selection, leasing or purchasing details, land construction supervision, and long financing.

TRAINING—Complete, practical, on-the-job experience for you and your manager in an independently owned LUMS.

YOUR OPERATION—Trained, experienced LUMS crews will supervise every detail of your critical first days. Free local help of unit, every franchise, your promotional contacts and methods. Your franchise training, your promotional contacts and methods. Your franchise training, your promotional contacts and methods. Your franchise training, your promotional contacts and methods.

CONTINUED FOLLOW-UP—LUMS will attach the strict but vital this will be detailed out on the right foot.

PROFIT BUILDING CONTRACTS for your operation. This includes a complete building contract to show what possible weaknesses should be corrected. There'll be help on the track

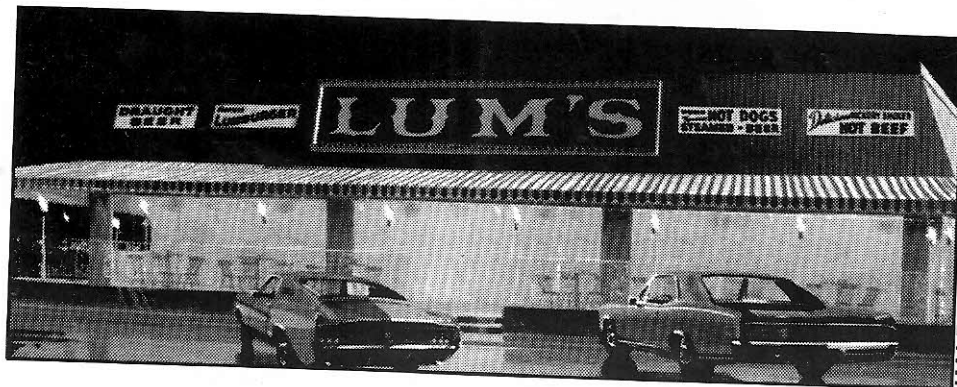
The latest quotation on a sparkling-new, ready-to-open Lums restaurant is \$45,000. And a wonderful buy at that price. Because Lums great food has made a sensational dipps response in the public appetite. With exceptional hot dogs seasoned in beer and royally garnished. Thin slices of special, barbecue beef piled high on a bun. Rose—imported and seasoned—in man-size steins. All other popular items beside. Here's powerful appeal for hungry crowds any time of the day or night. In distinctive buildings—paved in pleasing surroundings—at average-man prices. All adding up to a public magnet that's attracting success to Lums restaurants even in foreign lands now. No doubt about it—Lums is the most promising franchise you can buy today! Write today for details on a lifetime opportunity. Go over the complete brochure with your accountant—above all, closely read the pro-forma profit potential. Your letter or call will have close personal attention.

E. C. K. CHIVERS

E. C. K. CHIVERS & ASSOCIATES, INC.
P.O. Box 1087 - Home Vista Station
Miami, Florida 33122
Phone (305) 373-4871

Exclusive Franchise Sales Agent for LUMS and ABNERS

This ad appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL on February 13, 1969. The fine print revealed to all that the same company was operating both a LUM'S and an ABNER'S chain of restaurants.



Early architect's rendering of a Lum's restaurant.

them all over the United States... we thought this might be an infringement, but how could we prove it? They could say, "We've never heard of Lum and Abner, what are you talking about?" There were too many outs, so we had to sit back and watch them use the name. Then they made the mistake of coming out with Abner's, a roast beef operation, and advertised the two franchises together in the *Wall Street Journal*. Then we brought suit, as that definitely identified Lum's as the Lum of Lum and Abner."

That was the story in a nutshell, but the

history of the Lum's Restaurants is more tangled than that overview would indicate. While the company is now officially defunct, their story can be unraveled through the help of the files in the Chet Lauck Collection of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. From the information contained there, the following can be ascertained...

In 1955, a restaurant opened in Miami Beach, Florida, actually bearing the name "Lum & Abner's." When the restaurant was purchased by a company called Marketing Associates International of Hollywood, Florida, in 1957, they chose to drop the Abner half of the name and concentrate on calling it only Lum's. By 1967, the big franchising push was in full swing, and Lum's was operating in over 24 states and several foreign countries.



UALR

A typical Lum's location of the 1960's.

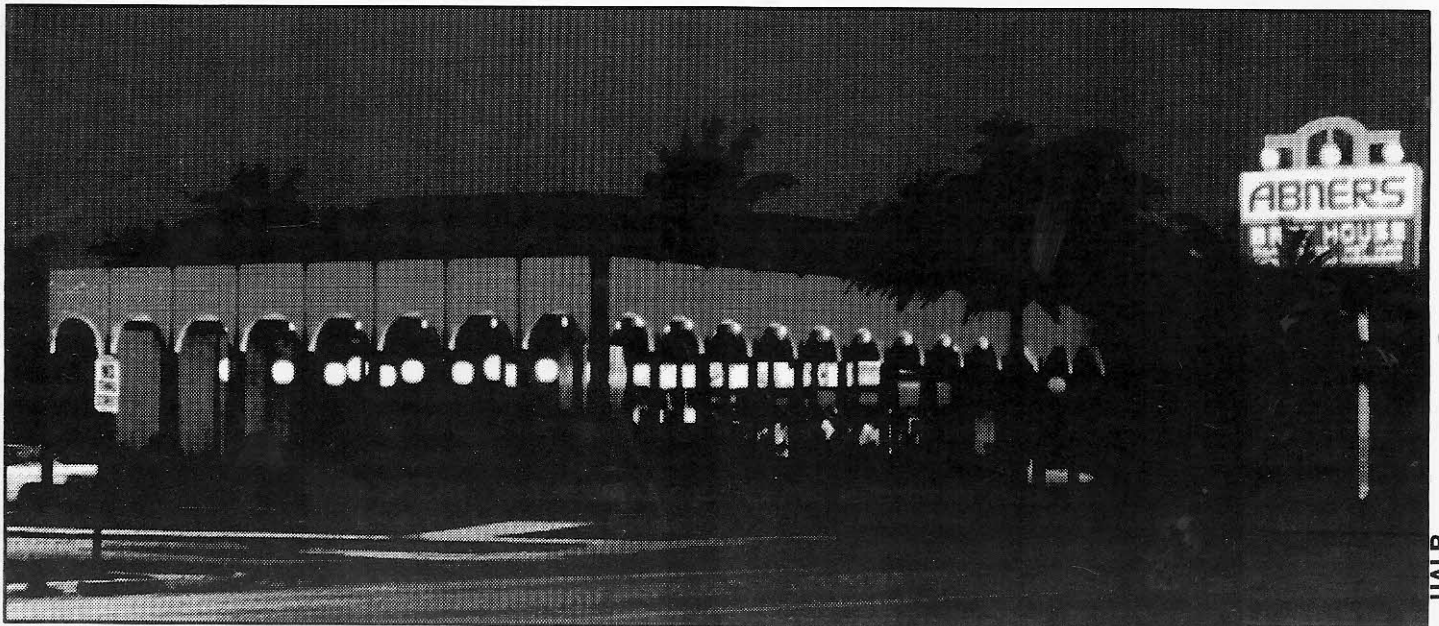


C HOLMAN

The Lum's location at Hollywood and Vine, in the shadow of the Capitol Records tower.

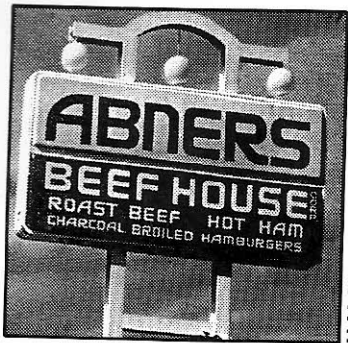
The primary menu item in the Lum's locations was their famous "hot dog steamed in beer." NLAS Prez Uncle Donnie Pitchford has previously related his experience in a Lum's in Memphis, Tennessee, where he was afraid he was going to become intoxicated at age seven by his alcoholic frankfurter. He was greatly relieved to learn that the beer content of the weiner had been evaporated by the cooking process, but anyone who did wish to get falling down drunk in a Lum's Restaurant would have had no trouble whatsoever, as they prided themselves on their selection of imported beers from every country around the globe. (In fact, the beer took up more space on their menus than their food items did.)

A 1967 franchising folder hyped the restaurants in this fashion: "Let's mull over Lum's. Why? Because you're interested



UALR

One of the few Abner's Beef Houses that actually opened for business. This one was probably somewhere in Florida.



UALR

in profit. And Lum's, established for over 20 years, has caused thousands of delighted customers to shout 'hot dog!' Financially, you too can get steamed up over Lum's steamed-in-beer hot dog. With sherry-flavored sauerkraut? Even more delicious!"

As Chet Lauck indicated in his 1972 speech, the oddness of the name Lum's caused some raised eyebrows in L&A circles, but nothing much could be done at the time. (One supposes that more could have been accomplished earlier if Chet had only known that the company admitted to starting out as "Lum & Abner's.") Marketing Associates International dropped their watermelon in 1969, when they released a slickly-produced full color brochure that read in part: "You've heard of Lum's. Lum's hot-dog-and-beer cafes rocketed into fame and fortune in less than two years. Already market after market has been closed out to further franchises. Now, the same parent organization is launching a companion, but not competitive, opportunity for franchisees with Abner's Beef House."

Yes, it's true. The corporation actually thought they could get away with operating two separate franchises but advertising

them together: "Lum's" and "Abner's." Abner's menu was a bit different from Lum's, as described in their brochure: "Slices of mouth-watering roast beef, huge charcoal-broiled chopped steak hamburgers, and fine Hawaiian ham sandwiches. All on delicious egg rolls. Throw in profit extras like the most unique french fry served anywhere and appetizing onion rings. With these are five flavors of deliciously-drinkable shakes, soft drinks, and, naturally, coffee, tea, or milk." (Apparently the beer garden flavor was to be reserved for Lum's.)

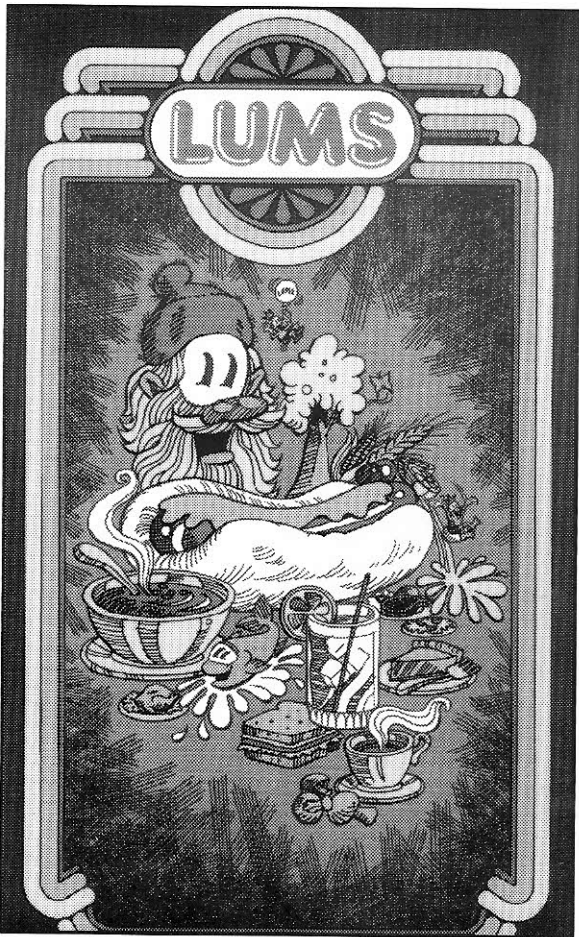
Well, the details of the lawsuit Chet brought against the company have been obscured by time, and are not really important today. The upshot of it was that Abner's Beef House was led to the slaughterhouse; it is not recorded how many Abner's locations actually made it to the operating stage before the axe fell. However, since the Lum's half of the chain had been operating for some 20 years with no complaint filed, the ruling was that those restaurants could continue their franchising.

Lum's continued throughout the 1970's and into the early 1980's, even at one point operating a location at the legendary corner of Hollywood and Vine in Los Angeles. By 1984, the company was in bankruptcy, no doubt feeling the squeeze from the proliferation of fast food chains (other highway stalwarts, such as the venerable Howard Johnson's, also fell from power at this time). Bruce Blalock, the manager of the Lum's franchise in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, obtained permission to continue using the name after the company's demise, so, to our knowledge, the Gatlinburg Lum's was the last surviving part of the chain. (If any of our members know of Lum's locations that still exist, please write and let us know.)

Blalock took it upon himself to redesign the Lum's logo. Apparently equating "Lum" with "lumberjack," his advertising featured a miniature Paul Bunyan lookalike promoting the restaurant's wares. The redesigned menu looked rather like it might have if Lum Edwards himself had created it; the various headings bore names such as "Delumscious Sandwiches," "Delumful Dinners," "Sclumpcious Seafoods," "Lumlitious Soup & Salad," and that favorite beverage, "Lumonade." The NLAS lost contact with this final location sometime in the past ten years, but it is now a fact that indeed the last remaining Lum's has gone to that great restaurant in the sky.

The Lum's Restaurants were undoubtedly the most widespread of all the L&A-related roadside businesses, but they were not the only ones. Join us next time as we examine just how many Jot 'Em Down Stores (both authorized and unauthorized) have opened their squeaking doors to the public over the years. We'll be waitin' on the front porch for you!

- Tim Hollis



Menu from the last remaining Lum's location, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 1985.





(The following LUM AND ABNER episode was distributed to stations affiliated with the Keystone Network in February 1945. It was intended to be heard completely independently from any storyline currently in progress.)

(MUSIC: Opening Theme)

ANNCR: And now, let's see what's going on down in Pine Ridge. Well, it's a fine February day in Pine Ridge, and as we look in on the little community we find the old fellows in their Jot 'Em Down Store and Library, straightening things up in preparation for another busy day. Cedric Weehunt is just entering... LISTEN:

(SOUND: DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES)

ABNER: Come in...

CEDRIC: Oh, what a beauty day!

ABNER: Oh well, howdy, Cedric... what kin we do fer you today?

CEDRIC: Oh, nuthin... not a thing... I cain't stay, gotta be on my way..

ABNER: (laughs) Wherbouts you goin' in sich a resh?

LUM: Yeah, what's this resh yer in, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Well, I cain't stay, I jist wanted to stop in long enuf to let you fellers look at me.

ABNER: Look at ye?

CEDRIC: Yup.

ABNER: Why, we've saw you before, Cedric. Hunnerds of times..

CEDRIC: Yeah, but today I'm diffrunt.

ABNER: Diffrunt?

CEDRIC: Yes mom, don'tcha notice it?

ABNER: Well, let's see... turn around ther.. no, I cain't tell no diffrence in ye... can you, Lum?

LUM: No, I don't bleave I can... that's yer same suit, and ye ain't got a new haircut... that's plain ta see.

ABNER: Yeah... well, tell us Cedric, what's diffrunt about ye?

CEDRIC: Well, today I'm a actor.

ABNER: (pause) A actor?

CEDRIC: A ACTOR, yes mom. Boy! (Laughs)

ABNER: Well, I do know.

LUM: Wherbouts you actin' at?

ABNER: Is they some big show in town? I ain't heerd nuthin 'bout it.

CEDRIC: Well, hit's gonna be over at the schoolhouse tonite.

ABNER: Oh..

CEDRIC: Hit's a George Washington paygent, I bleave that's whut Miss Emaline called it..

ABNER: George Washington's paygent?

LUM: Oh yeah, I know 'bout that... today's George Washington's birthday.

ABNER: Well!

LUM: An' they're havin' a big to-do over ther at the schoolhouse tonite. The scholars er puttin' on this play.

ABNER: Oh, I see.. I see. You mean you and yer little chums in the fourth reader er puttin' on this play, Cedric?

CEDRIC: No mom, the whole school's puttin' it on.

ABNER: Oh.

CEDRIC: Oh, they's kids from ever grade in it.

ABNER: I doggies, that must be a purty big affair.

CEDRIC: Oh, yes mom, clean up to the eighth reader.

ABNER: Well I do know, them big boys huh?

CEDRIC: Yes mom, them great big fellers.

ABNER: Hm!

CEDRIC: I'm the main feller in it, too.

ABNER: The main feller?

CEDRIC: Yes mom, the main head feller. I start it off and I end it up.

ABNER: Oh, well good fer you, Cedric! Law me, I never knowed you was good at junk like that..

LUM: No, we never knowed you had actin' talents, Cedric. Proud to hear that.

ABNER: Yessir, that's good.

CEDRIC: Oh, I'm a actor. A AC-TOR.

ABNER: Well, when did you say this was gonna be.. tonite?

CEDRIC: Yes mom, tonite. An' we're havin' a big dress

ree-hearsal fer it right now, that's why I cain't stay.

ABNER: Oh.. well, here then, you better be gittin' on over to the schoolhouse..

CEDRIC: Yes mom, 'cause they cain't even start till I git ther. I'm a actor, boy!

ABNER: Well, air ye gonna wear a costume an' all that, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Mom?

ABNER: You gonna wear a costume of some kind in this play?

CEDRIC: Oh well, that part's got me stumped a little bit. I don't know what sorta costume I orta wear fer this.

ABNER: Well, didn't Miss Emaline tell ye what yer sposed ta wear?

CEDRIC: No mom, she never.

ABNER: I doggies, you cain't be in a play lessen you wear a costume, that's the main idee of gittin' in a play, Cedric, gittin' ta dress up fancy.

LUM: Shore, an' ye orta have it on now fer this dress ree-hearsal yer goin' to. That's what a dress ree-hearsal means. Everbody dresses up in their costumes and they act it all out jist like they're goin' to do when they put it on in front o' the audience.

ABNER: Put their costumes on in front of the audience?!

LUM: No, put the play on in front of the audience..

ABNER: Oh... doggies, I was gonna say, I....

LUM: Nobody tole you what kinda costume to wear, Cedric?

CEDRIC: I don't recollect it if they did.

ABNER: Well, they more'n likely tole ye and you jist never heerd it, Cedric... wern't payin' no tention. You better put on some kinda outfit, now, er you're gonna look outa place over ther. Whut air ye sposed to be in this play, Cedric?

CEDRIC: I don't know.. jist a feller, I think.

ABNER: Well let's see then...

LUM: Wait, if you're the main feller in this play, you must be George Washington hissef.

ABNER: That's right, shore! Is that who you air, George Washington?

CEDRIC: No mom, I'm Cedric Weehunt.

ABNER: No, I don't mean yer REAL name..

CEDRIC: Oh, Grover Cleveland?

ABNER: No, I mean who're you gonna be in this play, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Oh... well let me think now... hm.. hmmm... you

shore it ain't Grover Cleveland?

ABNER: Naw, couldn't be him... er could it, Lum?

LUM: No, George Washington was way ahead o' Cleveland's time..

ABNER: Yeah, musta been. Well, you must be Washingtons then, Cedric. So you better git dressed up like him, I reckon.

CEDRIC: Well I don't think I know how ta do that though.

ABNER: Huh?

CEDRIC: I ain't zackly shore what kinda clothes he wore.

ABNER: Well, I don't know mysef, pertickler... I know he wore knee britches with buckles on 'em, I think. He never knowed much about boats, I seen a pitcher of him standin' up in one one time, crossin' the ice.. ennybody that knows much about boats ain't gonna git out in the middle of no river and stand up.



CEDRIC: I saw that on a calendar down at the barber shop.

ABNER: Yeah, he was goin' acrosst the river to git a dollar he throwed acrosst ther.

LUM: What dollar?

ABNER: Oh, a dollar he throwed acrosst the Potomacs River er sompin' like that. Then I seen a pitcher of him in a boat..

LUM: Oh, that wuz a battle he wuz in, he wasn't goin' after the dollar.

ABNER: Well, he wuz in a boat standin' up, I know that ain't smart. I seen that in Pearl's history book. I fergit jist zackly how he wuz dressed, though.. he had on one o' them three-cornered hat things, sorter.

LUM: Oh, he wore a purty fancy coat, too, I know that. Had a lacy collar on it an' a ribbon tied on the back o' his hair.

ABNER: That's right, sorter a pigtail ee-fect, ther.

CEDRIC: Wait a minit here, I ain't gonna wear no hair ribbons an' lace collars. I know that.

ABNER: Huh?

CEDRIC: I tole you, I'm sposed to be a feller in this play, not a girl.

ABNER: Well that's all right, Cedric, fellers wore them kinda clothes back in them days.

CEDRIC: They did?

ABNER: Why shore they did!

CEDRIC: I don't know if I'm gonna rig mysef up like that er not... I'm feard I'd be the laughin' stocks o' the whole town.

ABNER: No you won't, no sich a thing, Cedric. Law me, all the fellers in that play'll be dressed the same way.

CEDRIC: They will, huh? How kin they tell us apart then?

ABNER: Well, you look different, Cedric.. I'd know you any place, you could put on any kind of a mask and I'd know you by the way you walk. You wanna be a actor, don'tcha, an' look right?

CEDRIC: Yes mom, I shore do.

ABNER: Well, if yer the head man in this play, you cain't let 'em down over ther, Cedric.

LUM: That's right, Cedric, that's one o' the ole Eddards sayin's I say: "The show has got to go on."

ABNER: Yeah, Lum's right, Cedric.

CEDRIC: All right, but I don't know how I'm ever gonna fix myself up thataway.

ABNER: Well, I don't nei... wait a minit, maybe we kin hep you out a littul, Cedric.. we got a few odds and ends aroun' the store here, we kin fix you up to wher you'll look enuf like George Washingtons fer the ree-hearsal, leastways.

LUM: Yea, shore we kin. I don't know if we kin find any knee bitches fer ye. Maybe you kin jist roll yer overhauls up to the knees ther, an' maybe we kin find a coupla buckles to tie on. That'll give the same eeffect.

ABNER: Yeah, that's a good idee... roll yer britches legs up ther, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Yes mom...

ABNER: That's the time! Roll 'em up! Now let's see, whut kin we use fer buckles around here?

LUM: I grannies, I know sompin we kin use! Ain't that red band coat o' yourn still hangin' up back ther in the feed room?

ABNER: When I useta march and lead the band, you mean?

LUM: Yeah..

ABNER: Yeah, but you cain't make buckles outa a coat, Lum.

LUM: I don't mean that, I mean Cedric kin wear that too. I know Washington wore a red coat sometime.. I know somebody did back ther anyway.

ABNER: Well, good! Good, git it out then. Might be a littul small fer him, but I don't reckon that'll matter none. They'll jist think George has growed...

LUM: (faded) You recollect jist zackly wher it's hangin'?

ABNER: I don't know, hit's back ther in the feed room sommers, you'll find it hangin' on a nail ther.

CEDRIC: Do I hafta have mah pants rolled up this way, Mr.

Abner? I'm gonna ketch the newmonies, I'm done feerd. Hit's cole outside.

ABNER: Well Cedric, you won't ketch the newmonies, you'll be alright. Looky here now, Cedric, look over this way.. here's our hair ribbons right over here.. you see one in ther you like speshul good?

CEDRIC: Mr. Abner, do I hafta wear a hair ribbon?

ABNER: If yer gonna be George Washingtons you do, Cedric. Now looky here now, here's a littul number that'd look pretty good, Cedric. This is sorter a red and yellor plaid. How do you like thaten?

CEDRIC: Purty all right, but I think I like that Mary Jane bow ther better. That's the kind Clarabelle wears..

ABNER: Well, thissen'll look better on you, Cedric.. Thissen is a better size fer you. Gotta git George lookin' fancy, you know.

CEDRIC: Don't know how that's gonna look on me, though.

ABNER: Hit'll look fine! Wonder if ye orta carry a hatchet? I know George general toted one around so's he could chop down cherry trees...

LUM: (fading in) I found the coat all right, an' look what else I found here.. a can o' gold paint!

ABNER: Gold paint?

LUM: Yeah, we kin jist paint buckles on his britches an' shoes too, an' hit'll look like he's wearin' genuine imitation gold buckles, too.

ABNER: Well, good fer you, Lum! Here, gimme the can, I'll start paintin' right now.

LUM: No, I better paint

the buckles on. You git out a small sack o' flour ther.

ABNER: Sack o' flour?

LUM: Yeah, jist a little one.

ABNER: Well, Washington never toted around no sacks o' flour, did he?

LUM: He ain't gonna tote this, we're gonna pour it on his hair.

ABNER: HUH?

CEDRIC: MOM?

LUM: Well hurry up, don't jist stand ther! Cedric's gotta git over to that dress ree-hearsal!

ABNER: All right, I'll git it, I still don't see what fer, though...

LUM: Well we gotta make him look like he's got powdered hair. All them colony fellers powdered their hair. Stand still, Cedric, so's I kin paint these buckles on straight.

CEDRIC: Yes mom.





ABNER: What brand o' flour, Lum?

LUM: Hit don't matter. Ther, Cedric, I bleave them air purty fair lookin' buckles. Now then, slip on this coat an' see how it fits ye.

CEDRIC: Yes mom...

ABNER: Here's th' flour, whadda I do now, jist throw it on hiz head?

LUM: No, wait a minit.. wait a minit.

ABNER: Huh?

LUM: How does that coat feel, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Purty good, but I don't bleave I kin use mah arms now. I gotta be able ta use them, ya know.

ABNER: Well, you kin use jist little bitty tiny gestures when yer ree-citin, Cedric.

CEDRIC: Ree-citin?

ABNER: Ready fer th' flour now, Lum?

LUM: Yeah, jist sprinkle it on hiz head ther. Don't pour it too fast, now.

ABNER: Yeah, alright, I'm doin' it..

CEDRIC: (sneezes and gasps)

ABNER: Oh, scuse me, did it git in yer face, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Yes mom.

LUM: Yeah, watch that, Abner. Sotter rub the flour in hiz hair so's hit'll look good an' white.

ABNER: Yeah, I'll have him lookin' like Grandpaw Masters, here.

LUM: Did you pick out a hair ribbon fer him?

ABNER: Yeah, that red an' yellor one right ther.

LUM: Oh yeah, that's a goodern. Here, let me tie it on him.

ABNER: Have I got the hair good enuf now, Lum?

LUM: Yeah, yeah that's fine.

ABNER: Looks like a ghost.

LUM: Git a coupla them lace doilies we got in stock, we kin put them around hiz neck inside o' his coat collar ther. Stand still, Cedric, so's I kin tie this.

CEDRIC: Scuse me.

LUM: Yer hair ain't long enuf fer me ta make a pigtail out of it, sos's I gotta tie this up a littl higher than I'm sposed to, but I reckon hit'll be alright.

ABNER: Here's the doilies, whadda I do now, jist wrop 'em around his neck, Lum?

LUM: Yeah, sorter fluff 'em out so's they'll look like a lacy collar.

ABNER: I git the idee, I'll do it...

LUM: Now... ther you air, Cedric, yer all fixed up. If I do say so myself, ye don't look bad.

ABNER: No you don't, Cedric..

LUM: You better hurry on over ther now.

CEDRIC: Yes mom. Well, I'm shore much obliged to you fellers...

ABNER: That's all right. Have ye got yer lines all learnt, Cedric?

CEDRIC: Mah lines?

ABNER: All that stuff yer sposed to say in th' play.

CEDRIC: Oh, I don't say nuthin in it.

ABNER: Well, whaddaya do, then?

CEDRIC: Well see, I take holdt o' that crank ther an' I wind the curtain up to start off, an' then I wind it down agin whenever hit's over.

ABNER: Fer the land sakes, you mean we got you all dressed up like that jist to crank that curtain up an' down?!

CEDRIC: Yes mom, but I better hurry up now, 'cause they cain't do a thing without me... I'm the main head actor... Boy!

(MUSIC: Playoff)



The SECRETARY'S DESK

Well, here we go with another new year in the madhouse that is laughingly referred to as the Executive Secretary's office. It's time to wrap up a few odds and ends left lying around before we get on with the rest of 1996.

When we produced our in-depth look at *Lum & Abner Abroad* in the December 1995 issue, an important bit of trivia completely escaped our notice... but, better late than never (HUH?). As we said in that article, this cinema stinker was filmed in Yugoslavia during a period of time ending in January



Lucille Ball & friends in Europe, 1955.

1955. The producer and director of *Abroad* was one James V. Kern. What's so odd about that, you say? Well, nothing, except that Kern was also one of the rotating directors on the *I Love Lucy* series at the time, and soon after his return from Yugoslavia, plans began to formulate for a storyline that would take the *Lucy* cast on a fictitious tour of Europe!

The "Lucy & Ricky Abroad" episodes began airing in December 1955, and one wonders if Kern's unfortunate experiences with L&A in Yugoslavia might have had some influence on them. Since the *Lucy* episodes were not actually filmed in Europe (the cast never left the Desilu studios in Hollywood), Kern did not have to deal with the production barriers and culture shock experienced by Lauck & Goff; is it possible that Kern was using these episodes to show what he could have done with the L&A project, had so many problems not come up? We may never know whether the same director taking the Ricardos through European adventures being the same one who handled L&A's trip abroad has any significance at all, but it is certainly something to think about!

Something else to think about: it looks like a record number of L&A-related events are observing anniversaries during 1996, and all of them will be covered thoroughly in this year's issues of the *Journal*. Chet & Tuffy's hometown of Mena, Arkansas, will celebrate its 100th birthday this fall; this spring marks the 60th anniversary of the town of Waters becoming Pine Ridge, Arkansas, as well as the 50th anniversary of L&A's final RKO motion picture, *Partners In Time*. In November, we will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of our late friend Clarence Hartzell's debut as Ben Withers! Many of these events will also be part of this year's convention in Mena on June 22, so begin making your plans NOW to attend!

Now, the mail hack just came in from the county seat, so let's check in with one of our younger members, Janet McMurrin of Harrison, Arkansas. She always keeps us updated on the "doin's" in her part of the world, and this time is no exception:

"L&A are regaining popularity in the Ozarks!" she reports. "Last summer, our Harrison radio station played an Arkansas events ad which told about the L&A Days in Pine Ridge. After the ad, the announcer (Marc) mentioned how he enjoyed L&A, and remembered playing them on the radio station. When I heard that, I wrote them a note telling them I was a L&A fan and would like for them to play L&A again. Marc mentioned my note and said they were checking into it, but it was so long ago I had almost forgotten the incident when they started playing L&A again in October!"

"I was still hearing L&A on my Yellville station, but I didn't tell Harrison that! Unfortunately, both stations are playing the same series, only a few programs apart. However, I think the L&A audience has been broadened quite a bit. Marc talked to a lady one day who said she had a complaint about L&A. Marc said he couldn't understand that. The lady said L&A were so interesting that she couldn't get her work done while they were on! This is definitely L&A country: so many folks know about them, and L&A are alive and well here in the mountains of Arkansas!"

We are always glad to get reports like that... and by the way, if you would like to follow Janet's example and try to talk your local radio station into carrying the syndicated L&A series, the place to contact is Program Distributors, 403 W. Parker Road, Jonesboro, AR 72401. Just remember, our NLAS Tape Library might be a great source for obtaining your own recordings of the episodes, but nothing can take the place of the listenership that builds up when the shows are heard as they were originally intended... over the air, one episode at a time!

Have a great 1996!

- Tim Hollis
Executive Secretary



The 100th anniversary of Mena, Arkansas, will be one of the events celebrated at this year's Convention on June 22.

READY OR NOT... HERE IT COMES!

THE 12TH ANNUAL NLAS CONVENTION

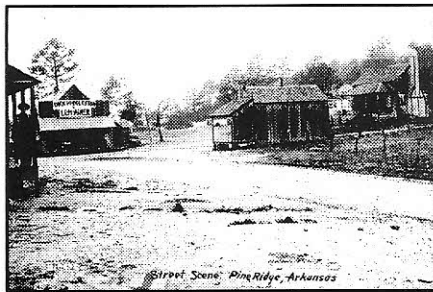
***BEST WESTERN LIME TREE INN
MENA, ARKANSAS***



JUNE 22, 1996



FEATURING:



**PINE RIDGE'S
60TH
ANNIVERSARY!**



**MENA'S
100TH
ANNIVERSARY!**



**PARTNERS IN
TIME'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY!**

**Guest speakers
to be announced
later**



**Reserve your
room now! Call
(501) 394-6350**