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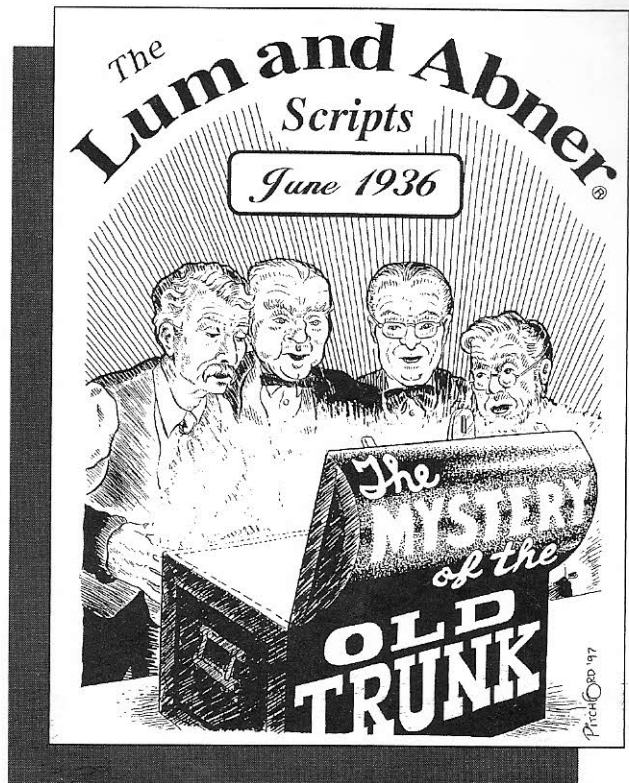
# NEW LUM & ABNER® SCRIPT VOLUME AVAILABLE!

Right on schedule, here is the latest in our ongoing series of books reprinting the unrecorded *Lum and Abner* scripts of the 1930s. This new volume is entitled *The Lum & Abner Scripts, June 1936: The Mystery of the Old Trunk*.

What happens when Lum finds a mysterious old trunk in his attic, left there by some long-ago owner of the house? What does the trunk contain? Is it valuable? Who is the rightful owner of the trunk? How will Squire Skimp try to get his clutches on it? You can read all about it here!

The scripts contained in this volume comprise L&A's first rendition of their lengthy story concerning the Hempstead heirs. You will realize from the listings in the NLAS Tape Library that they repeated this storyline in 1947, and then again (in a very abbreviated form) in 1954. *June 1936: The Mystery of the Old Trunk* contains a detailed analysis comparing the various versions of this story... what changes were made, why they were made, and so forth.

There are still a few copies left of the preceding volume in this series, *May 1936: The Perils of Lum*. Each volume is \$5.00, and may be ordered from the Executive Secretary at 81 Sharon Boulevard, Dora, AL 35062.



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# THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 1997

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**THE NATIONAL  
LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

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**Cover:** Chet Lauck and Norris Goff (standing) make like a vintage 1890-style tintype in honor of the marriage of Gene and Nancy Baker (seated), 1946. (Courtesy of Nancy Baker)

All illustrations are from the NLAS Archives, except as follows. Page 4, top R: Forrest Owen; Page 4, bottom L: Nancy Baker; Page 5: Forrest Owen; Page 6, all: Nancy Baker; Page 7, Top L: Pamela Swanson; Page 7, top & bottom R: Wilson Corley; Page 11, top R & L: Scott Lauck.

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# Gene Baker

## SPEAKING

You will recall that in the August 1996 issue of the *Journal* we presented the career of L&A's longest-running announcer, Lou Crosby. Lou's immediate successor, Gene Baker, is probably the second most familiar announcer for *Lum and Abner*, and for that reason we felt that he himself deserved a closer look here.

Most of the biographical info on Gene Baker that we have at our disposal comes from two sources. The October 26, 1947, issue of *RADIO LIFE* magazine presented an abbreviated story of his career up to that point; some 22 years later, radio historian Frank Bresee conducted an in-depth interview with Baker for his syndicated *Golden Days of Radio* series. (The Bresee interview can be heard on [Tape #283](#) in the NLAS Tape Library.) Between these two sources, plus additional invaluable input from Baker's widow, Nancy, a fairly complete picture of his place in radio and L&A history can be created.

Little is known about Baker's early life, but he did relate to Bresee the story of how he got into radio, presumably in the early 1920s: "I was 16 years old, and had just joined a troupe of actors to go out and do a play called, incidentally, *It Pays To Advertise*. We had been out about four weeks to disastrous audiences... I mean nobody came to see us! We were about 45 miles from home, but I wouldn't give up. I took the play up to a radio sta-

tion and said, 'Would you like to have us do a play on your station?'

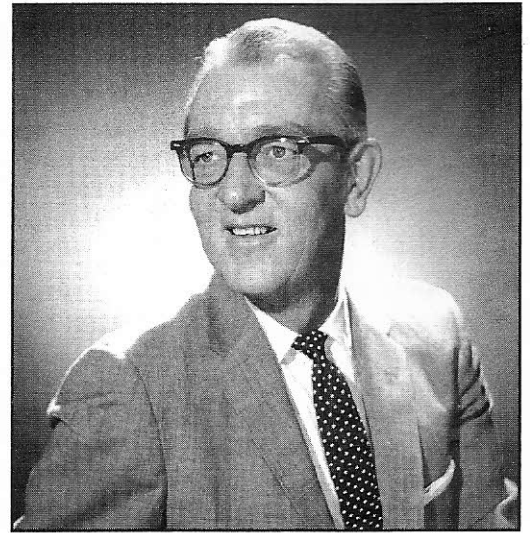
The fellow said, 'Well, how long does it take?' And I said, 'I don't know, we've never timed it; two or two and a half hours I guess.' He said, 'Well, it doesn't really matter, I don't have anything else to put on anyway.' So we went in on Wednesday and did the play... for as long as it lasted... and as I was walking out of the studio, he said, 'Young man, you have a nice voice; would you like to be a radio announcer?' I said, 'What's that?' He said, 'There's one over there.' I said, 'You mean the fellow in that glass thing?' 'Yes.' 'The one sitting down?' 'Yes.' 'I'll take the job!'"

Baker eventually worked his way to Chicago, which was then the broadcasting center of the country. He announced for many of the shows that originated there, including the still-running soap opera *Guiding Light*. Possessing a talented singing voice, Baker was also featured in his own show, *Songs of a Dreamer*. Later, during his Hollywood years, he sang and narrated on a show known as *Your Hymn For Today*, on which he was accompanied by part-time *Lum and Abner* organist Irma Glen.

Baker's association with the Pine Ridge pair came about because of his position as a staff announcer for Wade Advertising, the agency that handled the Miles Laboratories/Alka-Seltzer account. As we related in our past issues, in 1944 Wade Advertising decided to replace the freelancer Lou Crosby with one of their own announcers, and laid-back Lou was shown the door. Gene Baker made his debut on *Lum and Abner* on September 25, 1944.

When Frank Bresee asked Baker to reminisce about his L&A days, Baker was only too happy to elaborate. "I was the announcer on that show for four years, much to my woe!" he began. "They were two of the world's greatest practical jokers. They had done the show so many times that they could do it asleep, they could do it awake, they could do it and not even be there. The only thing that kept them alive was 'Let's bedevil the announcer; let's make it tough for him; let's have fun with Baker.'" (Lauck & Goff were known to maintain this routine with each of their announcers!)

Baker continued: "The awful thing was when the rings would go on and I would say, 'Now it's time for *Lum and Abner*, brought to you by the makers of Alka-Seltzer,' and I would go into the commercial. And I would be looking all over the studio because there would be NO Lum and Abner in the studio!! Now,



**CHET LAUCK AND NORRIS GOFF KEEP GENE BAKER AT BAY AS THEY CONGRATULATE HIS NEW BRIDE NANCY, 1946.**

we had a standby program in case they didn't show up, which was a program of organ music. And Ralph Emerson, God rest his soul, was then the organist and he would be fumbling around the organ trying to get the standby program ready. I would be stretching the commercial as long as I could, waiting for a door to open or something, and just as I finished the last word of the commercial, they'd both walk in... they had been standing outside the door, waiting for the very last minute just to see what I'd do!"

It seems that not all of the pranks were on the announcer, though. Baker explained, "You know, they had a gag between themselves. They used to take off from the script; Lum would get an idea, and he'd go away on an ad-lib journey all by himself. Many times he'd get out there, and couldn't get back. He didn't know how to get back into the script, and Abner would just sit across the table and shake his head NO, because they had a rule that the fellow who left the script had to get back, and if he couldn't get back, they just ended the show wherever it was."

No one ever said that being a *Lum and Abner* announcer was easy: "They lit my script with matches, they poured water down my pants, they tied my shoelaces together, and one time I ended up doing a very serious commercial completely in the nude!" revealed Baker. A couple of years after the Bresee interview, someone asked Tuffy Goff to confirm this particular story. Goff's response was a hesitant, "Well... yes. That is true. We had never seen Gene that way before, so while he was doing the commercial we thought we'd take a look." While on the subject of practical jokes, we asked Nancy Baker if her husband ever attempted to retaliate for any of the humiliation L&A put him through. She replied that he never did, for one simple reason: Lauck and Goff were the bosses, and while it was perfectly acceptable for them to pull their tricks on announcer Baker, it would not exactly have been according to protocol for him to respond in kind.

But one should not get the wrong idea about Lauck & Goff's personal feelings. Jokers they were, but they could also display a genuine concern and affection for their coworkers. Nancy Baker remembers what happened when she and Gene decided to get married: "We eloped to Mexico one Sunday night, drove until about 3:00 a.m., found a place that was open, and got married (with my \$20... Gene had paid for dinner and had \$12). We drove back to Los Angeles, got the things from my apartment moved, then to Gene's, changed clothes, and Gene went to do *Lum and Abner* with me tagging along. I don't remember how L&A found out, but they had the studio take pictures of the four of us... and they are the only wedding pictures we have!" The

Bakers made up for their hasty Mexican wedding a few months later, when they staged a repeat of the ceremony in the back yard of L&A organists Ralph & Elsie Mae Emerson.

The purpose of most of Lauck & Goff's pranks, of course, was to try to get Baker to break up on the air. Displaying remarkable fortitude, Baker would invariably manage to keep a straight face... except once. On the broadcast of May 20, 1946, Bob Hope appeared on the show as L&A's guest, but the famous wisecracker was not content to remain within the body of the program. While Baker was reading the closing commercial, Hope and the boys were joking around in the background (doing goodness knows what else), and for once Baker set up a chuckle. This was only worsened when Hope rushed up to the microphone and barked into it, "Gimme some Nervine, I'm playing Philadelphia!" With this show biz inside remark, Baker was sent into hysterics, managing to gasp out, "I hope not!"

*RADIO LIFE* reported another such incident: "Recently Nancy brought baby Karen into the control booth to watch Pop do the *Lum and Abner* commercials. Halfway through, Gene looked up, saw his nearly-bald youngest with a blue ribbon tied around the few wisps of her hair, staring button-eyed and open-mouthed at him through the booth glass. The rest of his advertising, Gene admits, was barely intelligible, and as he joined his wife and family after the broadcast, another announcer, Charles Lyon, called appropriate comment across the stage: 'That's all right, Karen,' he encouraged the Baker baby, 'you just keep coming to a few more broadcasts and smiling at daddy like that, and I'll arrange to walk into the studio as he walks out.'" (We might mention here that Charles Lyon had been the very first national announcer for *Lum and Abner*, handling their NBC network debut in July 1931.)



**L&A PRODUCER FORREST OWEN SAYS HE WAS TRYING TO BE ARTISTIC WHEN HE TOOK THIS MOODY PHOTO OF GENE BAKER.**

Gene Baker remained with *Lum and Abner* until the boys and Miles Laboratories parted ways in September 1948. It wasn't long, though, before he was a fixture on another Wade Advertising production, *Queen For A Day*, starring "Jaaaaaaack Bailey!!" *Queen For A Day* had already been running for some five years when Baker joined the cast in 1950, but after that he remained with the daily game show for an incredible 15 more years! In the interview conducted by Bresee, Baker remarked, "Working with Bailey was a little bit different; you never knew exactly what he had in mind. I would stand to the side, and every once in a while I would hear him say, 'Baker, come here,' and from there on it was up for grabs, because I didn't know what he was going to do."





**JACK BAILEY (LEFT) AND GENE BAKER PREPARE TO CROWN ANOTHER QUEEN FOR A DAY.**

Just so he wouldn't be lonely for his L&A days, the practical jokes continued among the *Queen For A Day* staff. "I don't know why it is, but the fellow who's making the money for everybody, actually... the announcer... is always the one they want to have fun with," Baker griped good-naturedly to Bresee. "After all, I'm the fellow who has to face the client the following morning!"

Part of Baker's responsibility on *Queen For A Day* was to come out before the show and do the audience warmup, to get everyone in the proper jolly mood. Like any job done on a daily basis, even this task became a mechanical procedure for Baker: "Once you've done it 4000 times," he said, "you come out, you see the audience and start looking them over, and you're thinking about your gas bill and a few other things, and you automatically go through the same warmup each day, the same jokes, you get the same reaction, and you wait for them. You don't really stop to listen anymore."

Even in the days before the famous 1950s game show scandals, the *Queen For A Day* staff was obsessed with upholding the integrity of their daily contest to find the most unhappy woman in the audience. "This happened to me several times," said Baker: "I would be stopped outside a theater, and the lady would say, 'Mr. Baker, can I talk to you for a moment?' I would never let her get any further than, 'I'm coming to the show today,' and I'd ask her for her ticket number. She would give it to me, and I would immediately go inside, look up the producer, and say, 'Throw that ticket out; the lady talked to me before the show.' We were that honest!"

In his later years, Baker became something of an elder statesman of the radio industry; during the 1960s and 1970s he gave lecture tours on various subjects; among his topics were *I Can Laugh At Myself...Almost* ("an amusing and dramatic lecture on one man's career in a business that has no guide lines"), *Are You Really Ready For Television?* ("an analytical look at what sponsors and networks are offering you, the viewer"), *The Magic Eye Casts Its Spell... Good or Bad?* ("an attempt to awaken in the listener the feeling that he or she can and should become a part of what they watch every day and night"), and *One Man's Journey* ("the exciting and sometimes poignant story of one person's struggle with work, life, marriage, and ultimate success or failure").

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**GENE BAKER WITH IDA LUPINO, ONE OF SEVERAL CELEBRITIES HE INTERVIEWED IN HIS LATER YEARS.**

He also conducted a series of interviews with celebrities for a television series sponsored by the Department of Health, Education, & Welfare. Among his interviewees were Robert Stack (an old skeet shooting crony of Lauck & Goff's), Richard Crenna, Jean Renoir, Jimmy Durante, Walter Brennan, Ida Lupino, and Gene Kelly.

Unfortunately, Gene Baker did not live quite long enough to become a part of the NLAS; according to his wife, Baker died of a massive stroke on August 12, 1981.

In the *Lum and Abner* episodes that are syndicated today, and most often available on tape, Lou Crosby and Gene Baker are the two primary announcers that are heard. (Earlier ones, such as Carlton Brickert, and later ones, such as Bill Ewing, are heard less frequently.) While Crosby and Baker had dramatically different styles of announcing, both of them served as that vital link between the listener and the world of Pine Ridge... and for that role alone, each deserves credit far beyond what is normally given.

- Tim Hollis



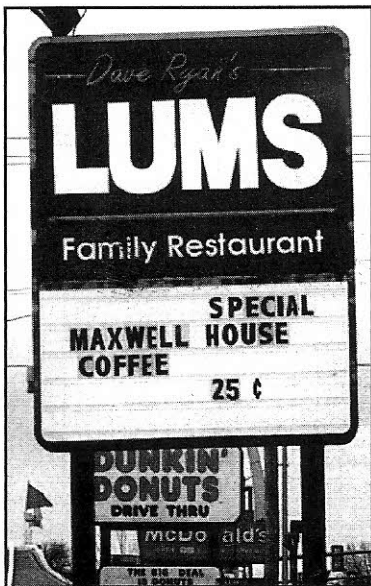
**THE PUBLICITY SHOT USED FOR GENE BAKER'S LECTURE TOURS DURING THE 1960S AND 1970S.**



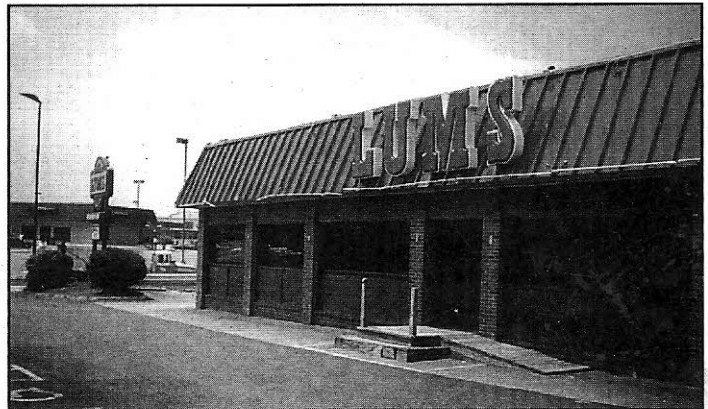
Well, folks, we have tried several times to bring this series of articles to an end, but like some sort of monstrous creature in a low-budget horror movie, it refuses to stay dead. Seemingly every time we think we have finally exhausted the subject, more information comes in that needs to be included. Moreover, judging from the mail response that has come in to NLAS headquarters, this has proven to be one of the most popular features *The Jot 'Em Down Journal* has ever published!

This time, we have further updates on the chain of Lum's Restaurants that we expounded upon in the February 1996 issue. If you will recall, in that issue we erroneously reported that all locations that were once part of that chain, which indirectly (and illegally) tried to capitalize on L&A's name recognition, had gone defunct. A couple of issues later, with the help of several NLAS members, we were able to publish a short list of Lum's locations that were still in business; not as part of the chain, which did indeed go bankrupt in 1982, but as independent eateries that continue to operate on their own.

We have heard from a Ms. Pamela Swanson, who is the marketing director for the three Lum's that still operate in Peoria, Illinois, and the one in Pekin, Illinois. She reports: "When Lum's nationally went bankrupt, we purchased the right to the Lum's name and continued our independent operation. Originally known as 'Dave & Ernie's Lum's,' we are now 'Dave Ryan's Lum's.' Ernie moved on to pursue other interests 12 years ago. Dave is still actively involved in day-to-day operations and has achieved somewhat of a celebrity status here. Our restaurants are full-service, casual concepts serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Hot



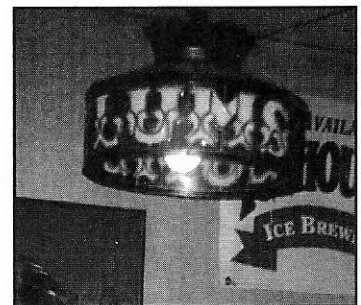
**THE PRESENT-DAY LOGO OF THE LUM'S RESTAURANTS IN PEORIA AND PEKIN, ILLINOIS.**



**THE WOODBRIDGE, VA. LUM'S RESTAURANT STILL FEATURES ITS ORIGINAL 1967 LOGO.**

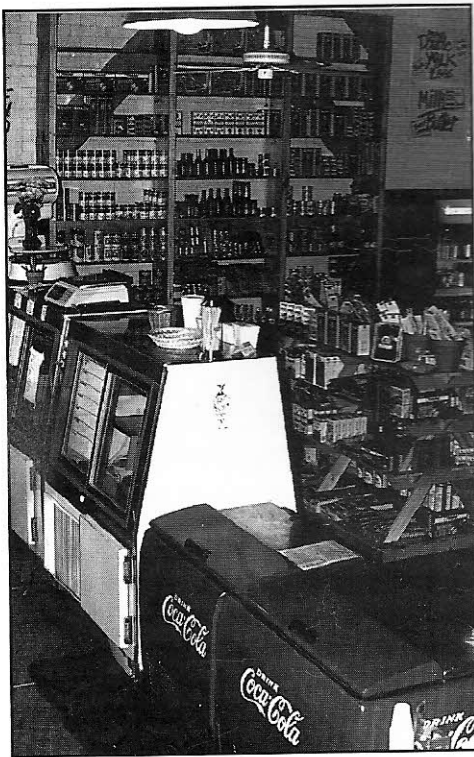
dogs have not even been on our menu for many years, and hot dogs steamed in beer are truly a nostalgic notion! Far from the last of a dying breed, we are a vibrant, successful company that never was typical of most of the Lum's franchises throughout the country."

Half a continent away, Lum's also seems to be hanging in there on the East Coast. NLAS member Wilson Corley of Stafford, Virginia, sent in the following report: "Here is the dope on the Woodbridge, VA, Lum's. It is located on the corner of U.S. Highway 1 and Gordon Boulevard. My wife and I ate lunch there and had a nice chat with the owner, Mr. Frank Elian. This Lum's was built and opened in 1967. It was on the verge of closing in 1987 when the entire Virginia company was purchased by Mr. Elian. He says he has rights to build Lum's anywhere in the state of Virginia." Mr. Corley also sent some nice photos of this location, and it is notable that the signage on the building is the same as it was during its franchise days. In the case of the Illinois locations mentioned above, their logo has been



**THIS VINTAGE LUM'S LAMP HANGS IN THE WOODBRIDGE, VA. LOCATION.**





**LEFT & RIGHT:  
THE INTERIOR OF THE  
C&M CENTRAL  
MARKET IN  
PENSACOLA, FL.  
REALLY DOES LOOK  
LIKE A MODERNIZED  
JOT 'EM DOWN  
STORE!**



totally redesigned.

Another NLAS member, M. Tamin Yurcaba of Yeadon, Pennsylvania, was passing through the Midwest and discovered yet another undocumented surviving Lum's. He writes: "This location is on the 'belt-line,' the highway

bypass through the outskirts of Madison, Wisconsin. While I did not have an opportunity to speak with the managers, the restaurant itself is attractively decorated in a country motif and located on a nicely wooded lot near Lake Monona. If you make it to the area, I would not hesitate to recommend the food or the hospitality."

Who knows how many more Lum's are still out there? We have received an unconfirmed report of a location still operating in Newark, Delaware, but have not been able to learn anything more as yet. When you take your spring vacation trips this year, keep your eyes peeled as you drive through the great American roadscape! You never know when an L&A relic will hit you right smack in the eyeballs!

△ △ △ △ △ △

Speaking of spring vacation trips, some of you might be planning to hit the beach... perhaps in Florida. If you should be passing through Pensacola, you might want to drop in on a small grocery store that boasts a most unique L&A tie-in. At first glance, the C&M Central Market would give no indication that it had any L&A connection at all, but wait... why is there a photo from *Partners In Time* hanging on the cash register? Because the M in C&M stands for Mandy Lauck, daughter of Chet Lauck Jr. and granddaughter of Chet (Lum) Lauck himself!

Mandy and her business partner, Catherine Olsen, opened their grocery and deli in November 1994. Located in the basement of Pensacola's old Sacred Heart Hospital, the store is truly as Mandy describes it: "a modern-day Jot 'Em Down Store." She says that the L&A analogy extends even to the store's co-owners: according to Mandy, she is very much the Lum half of the partnership, while Catherine is the Abner half. She also states that a Lum and Abner type of series could be built around their misadventures in running the establishment and the collection of local characters they have as customers.

Unlike the world of Pine Ridge, most of the C&M Central Market's customers are young college students and other professionals, so cold coon and collards are not exactly what they come for. Instead, the store

stocks an undeniably upscale collection of mariana, grains, pastas, imported cheeses and meats, patés, fresh produce, dairy items, herbs, whole bean coffee and ground chickory, ice cream and Italian pastries imported from New Orleans, a wide variety of wines, and imported beer. Their deli, which does a bigger business than the Meadowlark Restaurant serving Lumburgers at lunch time, specializes in fresh baked bread, curried rice salad, Mediterranean salad, takeout sandwich stuffers, homemade soup, and muffulettas.

So, if you should make it down to the Gulf Coast this vacation season, be sure to drop in to the C&M Central Market at 1010 North 12th Avenue in Pensacola, and say howdy to the female version of L&A. They'll jes' be proud ta death ta see ya!

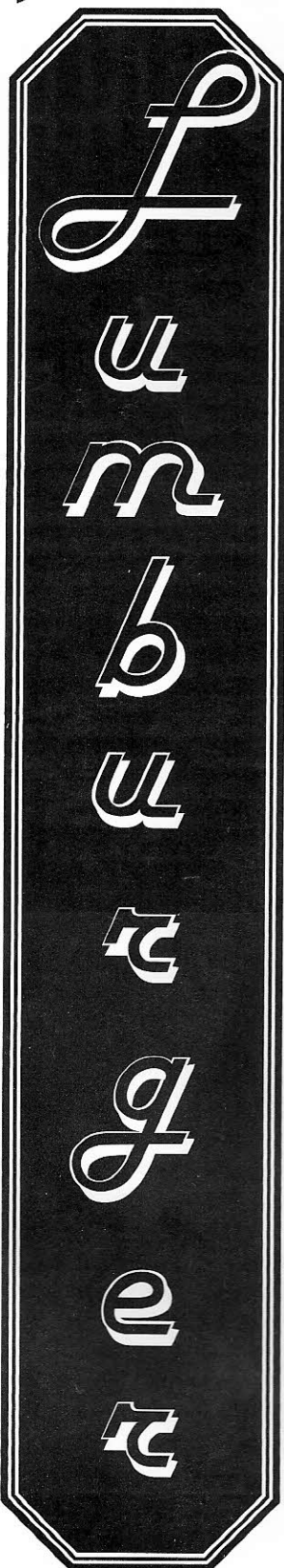
- Tim Hollis



**MANDY LAUCK, CO-OWNER OF THE C&M CENTRAL MARKET, WELCOMES ALL L&A FANS. CATHERINE "ABNER" OLSEN WAS LATE GITTIN' DOWN TO TH' STORE THAT MORNIN' AND DIDN'T GIT TO BE KODAKED.**



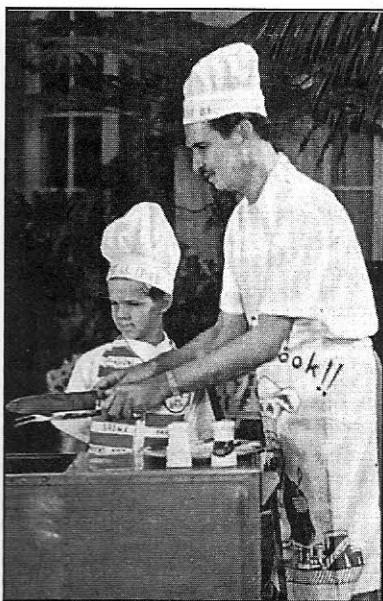
# Forever



During the first two months of 1947, the *Lum and Abner* program launched an extremely unusual publicity campaign involving a new taste thrill, the Lumburger. For the story of how this came about, we turn to a 1972 interview with Chet Lauck: "Lum & Abner opened up a little restaurant in their store and Lum, who aspired to be a big shot, discovered Lumburgers. We had a lot of fun with that; a lot of good publicity. We really wanted to figure out a good recipe for something different in the way of a hamburger to be called Lumburgers, and we got the chefs from all the leading hotels in Hollywood... Chasen's Restaurant, the Ambassador, all the big cafés, restaurants, and hotels... and we met over at Bob Murphy's over on La Cienga [sp?]; we thought together we might come up with something different. And we did! Some way to put two little patties of hamburger meat together with jelly and peanut butter in the center... sounds horrible, doesn't it? But one of the chefs came up with it, and we gave out the recipe." (At the 1985 NLAS Convention, L&A writer Roz Rogers recalled that he, his wife Dorie, and some family friends also conducted Lumburger experiments in the Rogers kitchen, trying to develop a combination of ingredients that would prove pleasing to the taste but would still be odd enough to have been devised by Lum Edwards.)

As far as the radio show was concerned, the Lumburger was introduced during December 1946. Hearing that restaurant reviewer Duncan Hines was coming incognito to inspect L&A's Meadowlark Restaurant, Lum prepared a sumptuous feast. However, in typical L&A fashion, the intended meal was served to local vagrant Willie the Boodler, and Hines received Lum's hastily thrown-together combo of hamburger and peanut butter & jelly. (Oddly, after several days of promoting Hines' visit, when the actual episode came around the voice of Hines was impersonated by L&A regular Francis X. Bushiman. We do not know why the real Duncan Hines did not play himself, as it appears that was the original intention. Perhaps he did not want future restaurateurs to recognize his voice and spoil the anonymity of his visits.)

As the radio episodes unfolded, L&A made it sound as if the Lumburger recipe were sweeping the country. Just how much of this was real and how much was a publicity stunt cannot be determined, but during the month of January they began recognizing on the air the restaurants that had written in for the recipe; a list of those locales appears on the next page. In addition to the individual eateries, it was also stated that Lumburgers were to become a menu item in Rexall drug store lunch counters nationwide and on the Kansas City Southern Railroad dining cars.



**CHET LAUCK (ALONG WITH CHET JR.) WHOMPS UP SOME LUMBURGERS AT A BACKYARD COOKOUT, 1948.**

## LUMBURGERS

### The Official Recipe

Make up two thin patties of ground round steak. Spread each patty generously with jelly, jam, or preserves and mold the two patties together with the jelly inside. By mold, we mean the patties should be blended together at the edges with the jelly filling inside. Then brown this double patty well on both sides. Split burger bun and toast to a nice golden brown. Spread bun with peanut butter and it is ready to receive the jelly-filled meat patty.

- Chester Lauck & Norris Goff

Typically, the real or imagined success of the Lumburger went straight to Mr. Edwards' head, and he began fantasizing about the various ways he could use the situation to rise to even greater fame. One of his plans was that a movie could be made about the creation of the sandwich; possible titles suggested were *Snow White & the Seven Lumburgers*, *Gone With The Lumburger*, and *Forever Lumburger*. Abner was skeptical: "You cain't make no movin' pitcher with a sanrich doin' the actin," he argued, "lessen hit's one o' them ther animalated cartoons."

Apparently the Lumburger campaign died out as quickly as it began, because by late February 1947 no more restaurants were mentioned, and the L&A storyline had moved on to other subjects. However, in guest appearances on other shows, Lauck & Goff continued to give the official recipe, and they were contributing it to various cook books as late as 1949. The formula, as it was finalized by the duo, can be found at the top of this page. Try it... if you dare... and see whether the Lumburger will ever pose a threat to McDonald's and Burger King!

- Tim Hollis



*THERE APPEAR TO BE LUMBURGERS APLENTY AT THIS PARTY AT CHET LAUCK'S RANCH! (L TO R): IRENE RICH, TUFFY GOFF, RADIO VENTRILOQUIST TOMMY RIGGS, L&A SHOW ORGANIST SYBIL CHISM, CHET LAUCK, MERCEDES MCCAMBRIDGE, AND KATHLEEN WILSON.*

The following is a list of the restaurants that were actually mentioned on the *Lum and Abner* broadcasts during January and February 1947 as having written for permission to serve Lumburgers as part of their menus. Because of poor sound quality and L&A's dialect, the spellings of some of these names had to be guessed at. It is no surprise that most of the locales were in the Los Angeles area, since those are the restaurants that Lauck & Goff would have frequented in person the most often.

If anyone living near any of these areas can locate any further information about any of these businesses actually serving Lumburgers (perhaps some advertising items might still exist), be sure to let us know!

#### ALABAMA

ANNISTON: Hobnob House

#### ARKANSAS

HOT SPRINGS: Pokey Joe's  
MENA: Ivey's Drug Store

#### CALIFORNIA

BEVERLY HILLS: Chasen's  
DEL MAR: Hotel Del Mar  
HOLLYWOOD: Brittingham's  
Tom Breneman's Restaurant  
Sardi's

The Brown Derby  
LOS ANGELES: Coconut Grove  
House of Murphy  
SACRAMENTO: Walker Inn  
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY: Charley  
Foy Supper Club  
SAN FRANCISCO: Omar Khayham's  
SANTA MONICA: Santa Monica Rod  
& Reel Club

#### COLORADO

DENVER: Manhattan Restaurant

#### FLORIDA

MIAMI BEACH: Lord Carlton Hotel

#### ILLINOIS

WINNETKA: The Ivy Nook

#### LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS: Antoine's  
Arnold's  
SHREVEPORT: Carter's Café

#### MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON: Boston Town House

#### MEXICO

MEXICO CITY: Hotel Reforma

#### MICHIGAN

DETROIT: Hotel Book-Cadillac

#### MINNESOTA

MINNEAPOLIS: Café Exceptionale

#### MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY: California Restaurant  
PERRYVILLE: Ewald's BBQ  
ST. LOUIS: Chase Hotel

#### NEVADA

CARSON CITY: Senator Coffee Shop  
LAS VEGAS: Hotel Last Frontier

#### NEW YORK

NEW YORK: Waldorf-Astoria Hotel

#### OHIO

CINCINNATI: Hotel Netherlands  
COLUMBUS: Seneca Hotel

#### TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS: Hotel Peabody

#### TEXAS

AUSTIN: The Bar-B-Q Pit  
DALLAS: Adolphus Hotel

#### WASHINGTON, DC

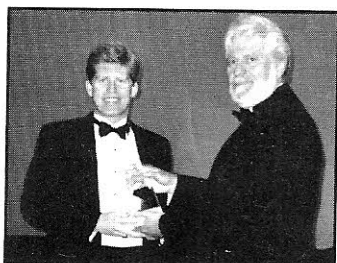
Occidental Restaurant

#### WISCONSIN

CHETEK: Griddle Café  
MILWAUKEE: Eugene's



# “AND NOW...”



**SCOTT LAUCK (LEFT) RECEIVING LUM & ABNER'S AWARD FROM TV PRODUCER HARRY THOMASON.**

...let's see what's going on in today's world of *Lum and Abner*!

Well, over 40 years after the radio program's demise, over 15 years after the deaths of Chet Lauck and Norris Goff, *Lum and Abner* continues to be honored. On September 26, 1996, the first Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame banquet was held in the grand ballroom of the DoubleTree Hotel in Little Rock. The purpose of this event was to announce the

inductees into this newly-created Hall of Fame for those who have brought fame and recognition to their native state of Arkansas.

Of course, such a collection of entertainers could not omit Lum and Abner, so our two old friends were proudly inducted into the stellar lineup. Accepting on their behalf were Chet Lauck Jr. and his son Scott, who should both be familiar to most of you who have attended our recent annual conventions.

From the Hall of Fame ceremony program: "The dream of an Arkansas Entertainers Hall of Fame was first voiced more than a decade ago, and in the ensuing years this dream has wended its

way over and around the obstacles, faced and bounced back from the rejections, and rejected the naysayers. At first the Hall of Fame was to be simply a recognition of those Arkansans in country music, but it soon became clear that that was too limiting. This state has produced a wealth of talent in all fields of entertainment, and not to acknowledge that would be not to acknowledge the richness of this diverse state."

Lum and Abner will find themselves in good company in this Hall of Fame: among others who, like them, received the honor posthumously were Patsy Montana, silent movie cowboy Bronco Billy Anderson, Dick Powell, Charlie Rich, and Alan Ladd. Living inductees include Jimmy Driftwood, Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, and CBS-TV producer Harry Thomason. The NLAS extends its congratulations to these and all of the others who have joined our old friends L&A in this most prestigious honor!

- Tim Hollis



**CHET LAUCK JR. & HIS WIFE KAREN AT THE HALL OF FAME BANQUET.**

## THE SECRETARY'S DESK

A new year always brings a new influx of material into the "Zekatif Seketerry's" crowded office, so before we get too far into 1997, let's clear out some of the interesting bits that have been hanging around from 1996.

If you have the cable TV network American Movie Classics (AMC), you have probably discovered for yourself their wonderful weekly series *Remember WENN*. This show actually began running about a year ago, and it has been making a big hit with all of the nation's old-time radio organizations. We too can heartily recommend this show! While it has no direct connection with L&A, it does such a good job of recreating life in a 1939 radio station that our old friends Chet & Tuffy would feel right at home in it. Part comedy, part drama, and part documentary, about the only word to describe it would be to call it a "docu-dramedy."

The regular cast features no big celebrity names; inasmuch as it is produced in New York, we must presume that most of these actors come from the legitimate stage. Some of them are obviously meant to represent real radio personalities: there is a versatile voice man who is heavily patterned after Mel Blanc, and a handsome leading man who could represent every romantic

radio lead from Don Ameche to Les Tremayne. The creator of the show, songwriter Rupert Holmes, is reported to be a prodigious fan of old-time radio. We do not know just what he thinks of *Lum and Abner*, but his love for the medium and the era shine through clearly. At the time this issue is going to press, the show can be found on AMC on Saturday nights, but you should check your local listings for the exact schedule.

We have a new Honorary Member who is more than deserving of that title. Gene Hamilton was the announcer during L&A's 1932-34 series for the Ford dealers of the Midwest; his smooth tones can be enjoyed on the two 1933 L&A episodes on Tape #270 in the NLAS Tape Library. Retired from broadcasting since 1975, Mr. Hamilton and his wife currently reside in Arizona, and he was extremely happy recently to learn of the existence of the NLAS. We are looking forward to learning more about this early period in L&A history, and we will be bringing you any new information here.

Have a great 1997, and plan to join us in Mena for our annual convention (our first two-day affair) on June 20 & 21!

- Tim Hollis



**GENE HAMILTON, 1933**

**Hit's A-Comin'!**

**THE 1997**

**NATIONAL LUM & ABNER<sup>®</sup> SOCIETY**

**CONVENTION**

**JUNE 20-21**

**MENA, ARKANSAS**



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NEWLY-DISCOVERED  
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LUM & ABNER FILM  
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**SPECIAL GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE**