

JUNE 1997



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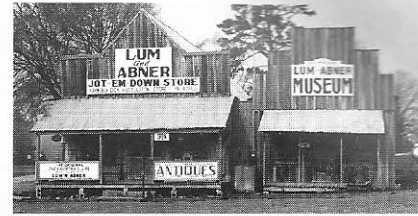
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NEWS FROM WISTFUL VISTA

You may remember that several years ago our member **Charles Stumpf** co-wrote what is to date the most definitive history of L&A's radio contemporaries, *Fibber McGee & Molly*. Charles has informed us that only a few copies of the book, entitled *HEAVENLY DAYS*, remain available.

This book is a must for any devotee of the McGees, but you might be surprised to find a number of crossover references to Lum & Abner as well. Some are quite amazing, as a matter of fact!

Charles says that while they last the remaining copies of *HEAVENLY DAYS* are \$15.00 postpaid. Send orders to **Charles Stumpf**, P.O. Box 1274. Conyngham, PA 18219.



The Jot 'Em Down Journal, Volume 13, Number 6 (Whole Number 78), June 1997. 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

JUNE 1997

**THE NATIONAL
LUM AND ABNER SOCIETY**

Zekatif Ossifers

PRESIDENT
Donnie Pitchford

VICE-PRESIDENT
Sam Brown

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Tim Hollis

Cover: Chet (Lum) Lauck and Norris (Abner) Goff visit with the great W. C. Fields, who (somewhat surprisingly) was one of their biggest fans. This meeting took place in 1937 after one of Fields' recurring bouts with alcoholism, thus accounting for his unusually thin appearance.

All illustrations are from the NLAS Archives, except as follows. Page 4: L&A Museum; Page 5, top: Mandy Lauck; Page 5, center: UALR Archives; Page 5, bottom: L&A Museum; Page 6, top: Jerry Hausner; Page 6, center: Harriet Lauck; Page 6, bottom: UALR Archives; Page 9, right: L&A Museum.

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Plans for the upcoming Charley Weaver Day

Still Available:

We still have a few copies of our two latest releases in the series of books reprinting the original Lum and Abner scripts of the 1930s:

MAY 1936: THE PERILS OF LUM - Lum almost ends up marrying the Widder Abernathy, and then risks losing Evalena's affections forever!
(Only a very few copies left)

JUNE 1936: THE MYSTERY OF THE OLD TRUNK - L&A have another adventure on their hands when they discover a locked chest in the attic of Lum's house.

Volumes are \$5.00 each, and may be ordered from the Executive Secretary at 81 Sharon Blvd., Dora, AL 35062.

(Our next release, **JULY 1936: THE GREAT BICYCLE RACE**, will debut at the NLAS Convention in Mena, and will be offered to *JOURNAL* readers in our August issue!)

LUM AND ABNER® IN THE NEWS

REPRINTS OF PAST LUM & ABNER ARTICLES

In January 1937, Chester Lauck and Norris Goff and their families made the big move from Chicago to Hollywood, from which location the LUM AND ABNER broadcasts would originate for the rest of the show's run. The June 1937 issue of RADIO STARS magazine contained a feature article about their move, which turned out to be one of the most erudite, well-written, and (with a few exceptions) accurate articles ever published during their time on the air. Through the courtesy of the Lum & Abner Museum, we are pleased to bring you the complete article here, in observance of its 60th anniversary.

How Lum and Abner have influenced the characters of their creators, Chester Lauck and Norris Goff

Pine Ridge Goes Hollywood

by LESLIE EATON

"As a man thinks, so he is." If that is not an "old Ed'ards" saying, it ought to be! For their way of thinking has created not only *Lum and Abner* and all the folks at Pine Ridge, but it quite definitely has influenced and developed the personalities of Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, authors and interpreters of these familiar skits.

It is not only that these characters have become so familiar and dear to their creators that they sometimes are inclined to forget they are merely fictional, but they have identified themselves so completely with their respective roles that sometimes they are not sure where Lauck leaves off and *Lum* begins, or how much of Goff goes into his characterization of *Abner*. Day in and day out, they live and think and talk and act *Lum and Abner* and their friends, and it is hardly to be wondered at that the line between actor and role becomes less and less distinct.

Not that Goff is slow of wit or Lauck absorbed in small affairs,

by any means. They remain two personable young men, quite different in appearance and dress from the overalled farmers they portray. They are keen and witty and highly imaginative, and their clever impersonations have brought them success beyond the dreams of anyone in Pine Ridge, but their wider travels and broader contacts have developed and strengthened their fundamental ideals, not altered them. And they retain a simplicity of outlook, an honesty of mind that is typical of the small-town people they love. And gradually, almost without realizing it themselves, the once mythical Pine Ridge has shaped their characters, and its imaginary inhabitants have directed and controlled their very dreams and ambitions.

"We weren't either of us born on a farm," Lauck explained, "but we've talked about them so much that we'd like nothing better than to own one."

"I'd like to have a nice horse farm," Goff concurred.

It was this desire for broader pastures, for a more open life than was possible in a Chicago apartment, that brought these two to California.

Perhaps you wouldn't think of Hollywood as offering anything in the way of rural life. You might think, hearing that *Lum and Abner* were broadcasting from the movie city, that they had "gone Hollywood," whatever that implies, and were separating themselves widely from the dear traditions of Pine Ridge, Arkansas.





"I doggies, Lum, I shore am wore to a frazzle after runnin' these here eighteen bases!"

But bear in mind that the boys had to be governed in their choice of location by their work. And Hollywood offered them not only sunshine and the out-of-door life they longed for, but ideal facilities for their broadcasting. Nowadays their broadcast for the East and Middle West is four-thirty in the afternoon and for the Pacific Coast, at eight-fifteen. That means that their work can be concentrated between four and eight-thirty o'clock. They have an office near the NBC studios and, between shows, work on their script for the following day, with the assistance of their pretty secretary, Velma McCall. (Velma incidentally, recently was given a few lines to read... the first voice not Lauck's or Goff's to be heard on that program.) The rest of the day and evening is their own, giving them plenty of opportunity to enjoy their new homes, play golf and otherwise take advantage of the warm climate.

Within two weeks of coming to Hollywood, the boys had found homes and established their families in them. Chester Lauck (who is *Cedric Weehunt* and *Grandpappy Spears* as well

as *Lum*), rented a lovely place in Beverly Hills, where he now lives with his wife and two little girls.

Norris Goff (who is *Dick Huddleston* and *Squire Skimp*, in addition to *Abner*), found a ranch outside Hollywood, which is a long step nearer his ideals than the apartment which was home before.

"We feel as if we'd been let out of a cage!" Lauck laughed.

And who wouldn't, with swimming pools, tennis courts, citrus groves and what not, in one's own backyard!

"Don't think we didn't like Chicago," he went on quickly. "We loved it... I'd like to be there right now. I miss the *Cubs*, for just one thing! And I miss Lake Delavan... we both have boats, you know, and we haven't found a good place for them here... they are small speed boats, not suitable for the ocean, of course. But we love it here, too, and we thought it was foolish not to go where we could get sunshine and outdoor life, as long as we could afford it."

Just as *Pine Ridge* is "a little wide place in the road" and



Lauck and Goff share a horse laugh or two with fellow Arkansas comic Bob Burns.

Mena, the boys' home town, a city and the county seat, so Hollywood is just another pretty place in which to live. The fact that movies are made here, and that the world at large imagines it as a rather hectic spot, has not prevented the boys from seeing it as an overgrown country town, with much to offer in the way of the quiet life they love.

"The people are grand... you expect them to be different, maybe, but they aren't. They are just the same as in Chicago or Mena or anywhere. And we have so many friends here. Bob Burns and Don Ameche, for instance... Don used to live in the same apartment house with us in Chicago, and now Goff's place is right next to his."

Overhearing Lauck and Bob Burns exchange reminiscences is like listening in on one of their programs. "Did you know... have you seen... do you remember... Amaryllis Jones, Sadie what's her-name, that girl with the yellow pig-tails?" And with a drawling twang that grows richer as the talk goes on!



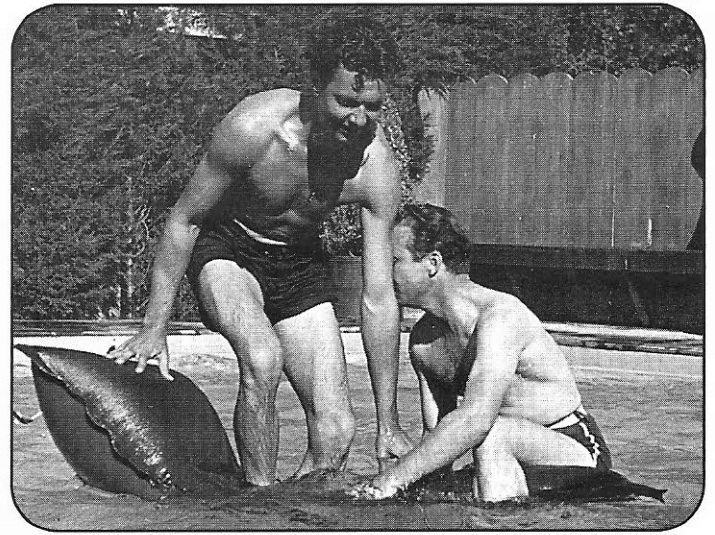
The Lauck & Goff families arrive in California, January 1937!

**L to R: Elizabeth, Gary, & Norris Goff,
Harriet, Shirley, Nancy, and Chet Lauck.**

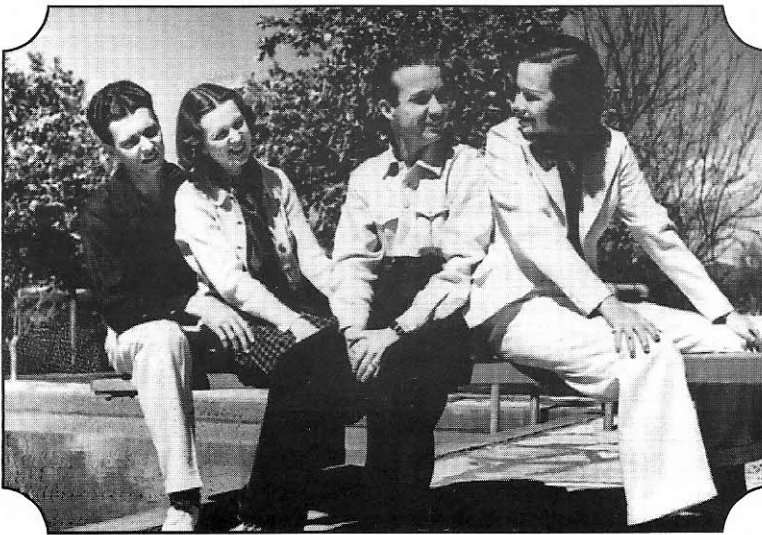
"Back home" takes on a deeper meaning to us all, as time and space widen between us, but it seems that Lauck and Goff... and Robin Burns!... are more fortunate than most, for their home town and their past are ever with them, an integral part of their lives and of themselves. We cannot all turn our memories into a livelihood... perhaps that is why the little glimpses they give us on their program have, in addition to humor and homely philosophy, a certain nostalgic charm.

As a landed proprietor, Lauck has a big house, a swimming pool in the rear and an acre of fruit trees... orange, lemon, tangerine, kumquat, avocado. And Goff (who is "Tuffy" to his intimates) has fourteen acres, a swimming pool, of course, a tennis court, a horse and... less usual on a Hollywood "ranch"... hens and a cow and calf. The cow has obliged them with four gallons of milk a day and the hens provide fresh eggs for breakfast. Also, we must not forget the parrot or the Great Dane and the dachshund!

Evidently the odd combination of dogs appealed to Chester Lauck, for he provided his family with a cocker spaniel and a St.



Chet and Tuffy keepin' cool in the pool. Swimming and water sports were among their favorite pasttimes.



Chet & Harriet Lauck, Tuffy & Liz Goff pose poolside for some publicity photos.

line of business. Both had been to college. Lauck had studied commercial art and had edited a small magazine in Texas, before returning to Mena, and, after some time in a local bank, became manager of an automobile finance company. Goff was helping his father run a wholesale grocery business and the boys, who had known each other since childhood, went about together and fell into the habit of helping with such local entertainments as were put on by the Elks and the Lions Club.

They both possess a keen sense of humor, as well as insight into the natures of the people they knew and dealt with. So, when they had an opportunity to go on the air in Hot Springs, they devised a brief skit based on the hill folk they had come in contact with. It was in April 1931 that *Lum and Abner* thus came into being, but the two boys, busy at their respective jobs next day, were far from guessing what a momentous occasion that had been.

Like a snowball rolling down hill, that first broadcast led

Bernard!

"There is nothing very startling about our lives," Lauck commented. "It is all very simple, but we have a big time, enjoy life a lot..."

"We admire and love that type of character," Goff explained, "and the simple life they represent. You might not think it, but we would be perfectly contented to live just that sort of life."

Mena sounds a far cry from Hollywood, but they were unanimous in extolling its charms... if either suffers by comparison, it is Hollywood!

The cross-section of life and the people they present on their program are intimately known to them from long association in their boyhood days and from later thoughtful study and careful interpretation. They present them with all their foibles, but they never mock or make fun of them.

The program itself came about almost accidentally. The boys had enjoyed amateur theatricals, but had expected to live the same sort of life that their friends did, to follow some more usual



Power Lunch: Lauck & Goff with Dennis Morgan (seated) and publicity agent Harlan Hobbs (standing). The fellow with the sunglasses looks like an unemployed Secret Service fellow!

to nine more and the boys suddenly were confronted by the startling idea that they might have hit upon something with real possibilities. A vacation, time out for some intensive thinking, seemed in order. Radio was young and alluring. An audition in Chicago was the next step, and, before they had really made up their minds, they found themselves signing a contract.

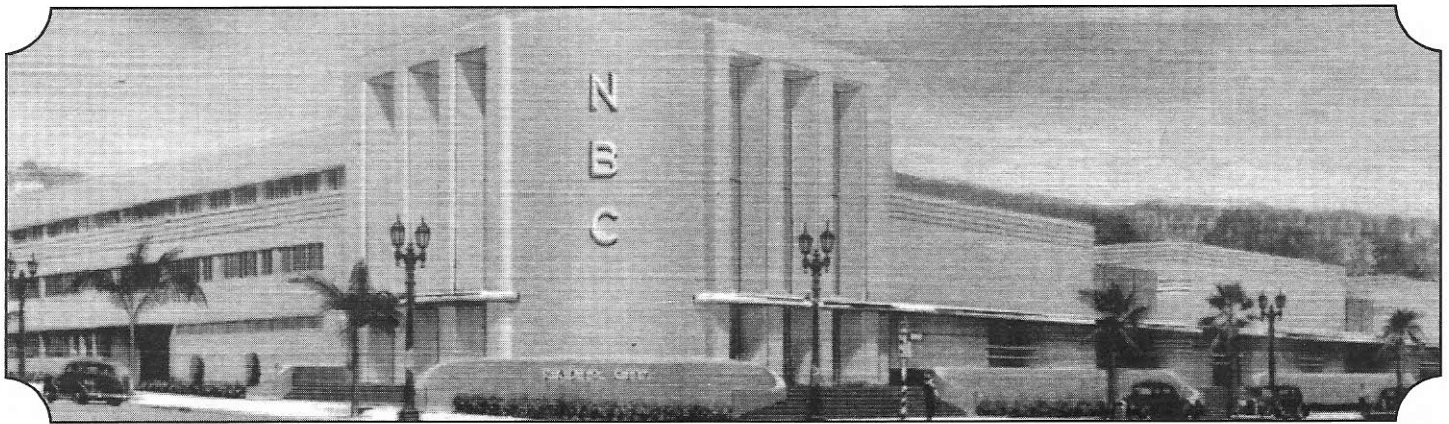
Their early experiences were not too successful. They had a succession of sponsors and, for one reason and another, though *Pine Ridge* and the little coterie which gathered at the *Jot 'Em Down Store* were very popular with their fans, the program still was restricted to the Middle West. It was not until the latter part of 1934 that, though the interest and efforts of the late Mr. Horlick, they were put on a Coast-to-Coast hook-up and became familiar to fans from Maine to Florida, from New York to Hollywood.

Chicago had become home, with the Laucks, whose household includes two lovely little girls, Shirley Mae and Nancy, and the Goffs, with their baby boy, Gary, established in beautiful apartments on Lake Michigan. Their wives were Arkansas girls, both

things they like, to dress well and to give their wives and children security as well as pleasure. They like to have a good time, as anyone does, but they see that good time in terms of being together, of playing golf, of swimming and boating and riding, and perhaps risking a small bet now and then at Santa Anita. They'd like to travel.

"But we are not in any hurry," Lauck grinned. "As long as anyone wants to hear about *Lum and Abner* and their doings, we won't get far away!"

Of course, being in the movie capital, they have given some thought to the making of a movie. But not just any movie... they won't make one at all, unless the right vehicle can be found. Something that will present *Pine Ridge* and its inhabitants as they really are, as they are portrayed to you over the air. They would not risk spoiling the illusion that has been so carefully created, destroying the picture fans have built of these likable, amusing people. Because they take their work seriously and regard their program not merely as comedy but as an interpretation of one kind of American life.



dark-haired and pretty, both quiet, both well content to follow where their husbands led. Like the boys, they have been completely unspoiled by their increasing affluence. Each runs her big house the way they were taught back home. They like to shop at the Farmers' Market and come home laden with fresh vegetables and fruit.

"Probably spend a whole lot more than they would if they shopped by phone," is Lauck's amused, husbandly comment. Naturally, all of them enjoyed their introduction to Hollywood and a taste of Hollywood's famed night life. They had to go to the Clover Club, the "Troc," the Brown Derby, to see their favorite movie stars near to.

But otherwise Hollywood has had no more effect on them than Chicago. Nor is it likely to. They retain their Arkansas twang, almost that way of speaking, though naturally not so noticeably as for *Lum and Abner*. More important, they retain that way of thinking, that deep sense of values.

"Naturally, our way of life has been changed and we've been changed by our experiences," Goff said. "Just as anyone is changed who travels, who meets a lot of people. But fundamentally, we are the same, like the same things, have the same ideals."

They are essentially conservative, putting their money by in the form of annuities and not living extravagantly, not doing anything for show. They thoroughly enjoy being able to have the

And because, in a sense, like *Frankenstein*, they have built something that has grown to tremendous proportions and that in a very real, though entirely pleasant sense, controls their lives. They feel they owe a debt not only to their fans but to their own creations. *Lum and Abner* are near and dear to their hearts, and hardly less real than the actual *Dick Huddleston*, who is the only real-life character in their skits. And the others seem equally as real, so much so that neither Lauck nor Goff can visualize doing anything to disrupt the picture they have created. Just as Waters, Arkansas, the little town which they picked as a locale for their stories, changed itself to *Pine Ridge* in fact as well as fancy, so their fictional townspeople live their similar lives, share their problems and their small adventures.

And whether in Chicago or Hollywood, Lauck and Goff live likewise and imagine themselves as really being landowners in *Pine Ridge* or Mena... "back home"... where, perhaps, they will live again some day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the same issue of RADIO STARS in which this article appeared, there was also published a letter from one Dorothy Pinnick of East Gary, Indiana. This housewife wrote: "Whom do I like? Why, doggone, it's LUM AND ABNER! They're radio's greatest comedians. I like 'em so well that I'll take on all comers interested in a LUM AND ABNER Fan Club." We don't know what ever became of Mrs. Pinnick, but her idea was just about 47 years ahead of its time!

The Resumé of Mousey Gray

Recently, NLAS members James and Janet McMurrin of Harrison, AR, decided that it would be interesting to see what it would look like if Pine Ridge's jack-of-all-trades Mousey Gray decided to submit his resumé for possible employment. We present here the McMurrins' whimsical version of the resumé of one Llewellyn Snavley "Mousey" Gray; see what position YOU think he would be qualified for!

12/18/42 - 01/06/42:

Mill worker, Walt Bates' Sawmill; attended the boiler.

Taught how to tie different knots for Friendly Ranger Boys' Club of Southeast Dubuque, Iowa, for one summer.

12/30/41 - 01/09/42:

Boxer

01/15/42 - 01/15/42:

Delivery boy, Jot 'Em Down Store

02/26/42 - 03/02/42: Air

Raid Nightwatchman

03/27/42 - 03/27/42:

Detective, aka Opeartor XW9

05/04/42 - 05/04/42:

Clerk, Dick Huddleston's Store

05/19/42 - 06/09/42:

Poet, Greeting Card Dept., Eddards and Eddards Publishing Co.

05/26/42 - 05/29/42:

Author, *The Mysaterious Disappearance of Evelyn Ermatrude*

06/09/42 - 06/09/42: Co-

Owner, Eddards and Gray Publishing Co.

07/06/42 - -7/06/42:

Babysitter

09/07/42 - 09/10/42: Travel Agent

11/05/42 - 11/05/42: Waiter, Luke Spears'

Restaurant

11/30/42 - 07/20/43: United States Army

09/01/43 - 09/01/43: Clerk, Ed Beckley's

Drug Store

02/09/44 - 02/09/44: Interpreter

07/17/45 - 07/17/45: Deputy

01/24/46 - 01/24/46: Second for Lum in duel



TEACHER:

Taught Woodcraft and Pathfinding at Camp Kitchegumy on Lake Okeebogee for two summers.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Editor for Young Men's Saturday Afternoon Bicycle Club's Love Advice Column in Iowa.

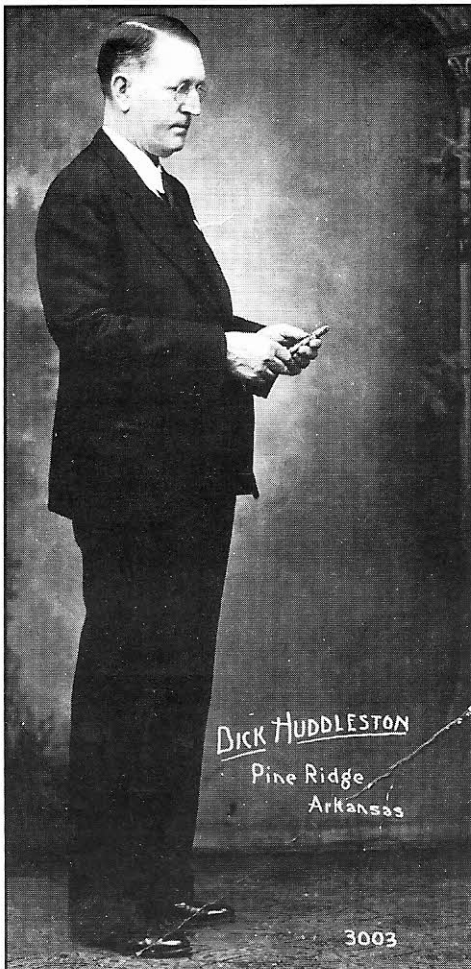
Ran projection machine at summer camp on lake in Iowa.

INTERESTS, HOBBIES, AND AWARDS:

Owl lover; ventriloquist; love advice counselor; acted in Merchant Marines play; originator of Wonderful World Apartments, also Old Folks' Home and Investment Idea; member of Young Men's Saturday Afternoon Bicycle Club, the Friendly Indians, Sons of the Lady Blacksmiths, and the Epworth League.

PINE RIDGE

Revisited



Many years ago, back in the very second issue of THE JOT 'EM DOWN JOURNAL (October 1984), Pine Ridge historian Kathy Stucker penned an overview of how the Dick Huddleston Store evolved from its original function to that of a memorial to L&A, and how the Lum & Abner Museum came to be. Realizing that the NLAS has increased several hundred fold since that time, and inasmuch

as many of you may be visiting Pine Ridge for the first time at this year's NLAS convention, we hereby reprint Kathy's 1984 account of the goings-on "down in Pine Ridge."

The folks here in the REAL Pine Ridge are very pleased to know that there is so much interest being rekindled in the MYTHICAL Pine Ridge. We'll keep you posted on what is happening here now, and fill in the blanks in the history of the Jot 'Em Down Store, as we write periodic articles for our good friends in the National Lum and Abner Society.

First, a quick review. In 1909, Dick Huddleston, an up-and-coming businessman in Waters, Arkansas, built a large general merchandise store in the middle of town, and got his supplies and groceries from a Mr. Goff's wholesale business in Mena, 20 miles west. Later, Mr. Goff's son Norris (but everyone called him "Tuffy"), and his friend Chet Lauck, did many of the deliveries. Young Chet's father owned the bank and sawmill in Mena, so he had family business to check on along the route too. Often, the two would be hours late in getting home, and still wouldn't have gotten any further than Waters because they had entertained the day away listening to and telling stories around the old pot-bellied stove in Huddleston's store. You know the rest of the *Lum and Abner* story, but do you know how close to oblivion the original Pine Ridge stores came?



Ralph McClure (left) and Chet Lauck celebrate the reopening of the Dick Huddleston Store in Pine Ridge.

By the 1960s, the heyday of radio was over, the lifeblood of the Arkansas mountains had been drained away by drought, Depression, and war, and most of the small towns and their wooden stores and homes had crumbled without a trace along the crooked roads. Dick Huddleston had remained an important local citizen, and was known as "Arkansas' Ambassador of Goodwill," but he died in 1963. His old store wasn't entirely closed, but his daughter Ethel didn't keep it open full-time because, after all, the days of general merchandise stores were dead too. In 1936, Waters had become Pine Ridge, and a few curious passers-by still stopped to gaze through the windows at the old things, but most people (including the residents of Pine Ridge) thought that everyone had forgotten about Lum and Abner.

Things began to change in 1969. Ralph and Dorothy McClure were wanting to get out of crowded, noisy California, and while visiting friends and family were scouting for a project in the middle of the country where they had each been born. It was a very happy event for all Lum and Abner fans that the

McClures happened upon the sagging, crumbling old store and decided that it needed a far better fate. They remembered Lum and Abner and were sure other people would too if they only knew there was a place to which to tie their memories. The McClures bought the old Huddleston store, restored and repaired the wooden floors and walls and the tin roof, keeping it as original as possible. They arranged what was left of the original store merchandise and fixtures in the back of the store, displayed their large collections of beautiful art glass and handsome antique guns in the front, and had gifts and souvenirs in between.

They contacted Chet Lauck, who was once again living in Arkansas, and though he had his doubts that anyone still cared about Lum and Abner, he agreed to contribute what he could to help the fledgling museum. He also contacted Tuffy Goff who, though too ill to ever visit, sent documents and encouragement.

Within a few years, as the McClures accumulated more museum displays, and more and more visitors wanted

L&A souvenirs, it became evident that more room was needed. Across the road and over the hill stood an old hay barn, but it didn't look like a normal hay barn should. It sported the familiar false front and tall windows of a turn-of-the-century store, just as the Huddleston store did, but this one was much smaller. Ethel told the McClures that indeed it had been built in 1904 and had been the general store across the street from her father's, just as on the radio program Lum and Abner's Jot 'Em Down Store had been across the street from Dick Huddleston's. It was quickly acquired, refurbished, and a full-scale museum was in the works. The shelves were filled with the old store merchandise, the walls covered with Lum and Abner memorabilia, and the floor space arranged with the cracker barrel

and checkerboard, the barber chair, the pot-bellied stove, the corn-sheller, etc. The Lum and Abner Jot 'Em Down Store and Museum had come to fruition.

Now, in Pine Ridge, Arkansas, on Lum and Abner Highway 88, you can visit the two stores, one the gift shop and the other the museum, sitting

side-by-side in a community that is no bigger than (but not much smaller than) it was in the days of Chet Lauck and Norris Goff, grocery boys... thanks to Ralph and Dorothy McClure. We'd love to visit with you!

- Kathy Stucker



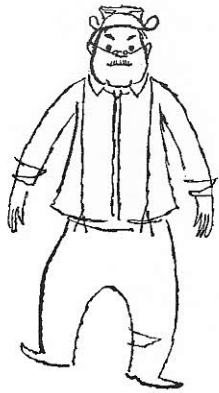
The restored Dick Huddleston Store and Lum & Abner Museum as they appear today.

We should point out here that through Kathy's tireless efforts, in December 1984 the Huddleston store and the L&A Museum were officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of their role in the origination of one of America's best-loved radio programs.

The NLAS Convention was held in the Pine Ridge fire hall in 1985 and 1986, until the need for a more adequate setting caused the move to Mena in 1987. During each year's convention, however, NLAS members are allowed plenty of time to visit the little community on their own and soak up its truly unique rural culture!

Things are Fine in Mount Idy

As you may have heard by now, the annual **Charley Weaver Day** will be held in Mt. Ida, Arkansas, the weekend before this year's NLAS Convention in Mena.



event:

Cliff Arquette was best known as **Charley Weaver**. **Charley Weaver** read his "Letters from Mama" all about the events in Mt. Ida for many years, making the town as real as Pine Ridge was to Lum and Abner fans. No one is sure which Mt. Ida he was talking about, but the happy little town in Arkansas welcomes the attention.

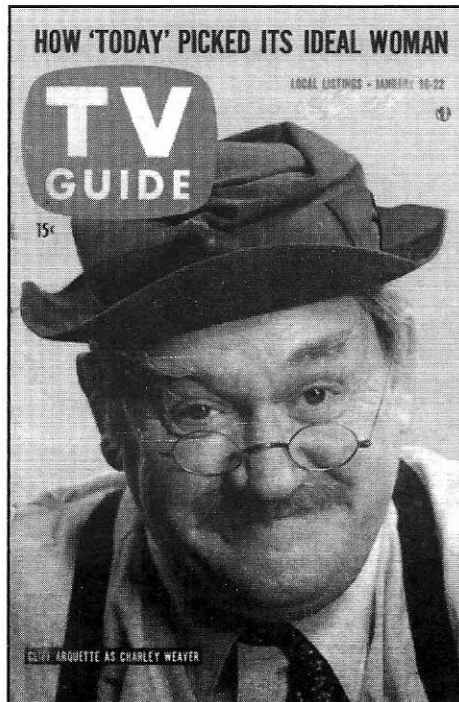
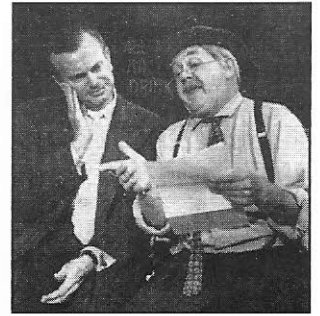
On Saturday, June 14, 1997, from 9 am to 4 pm, the Montgomery County Courthouse Square will be the site of old-fashioned fun and games, crafts and food, music and merriment. Mt. Ida is on U.S. Highway 270, 40 miles west of Mena. We hope that many of you Lum and Abner fans can spend both weekends in Montgomery and Polk Counties.

Charley Weaver will again read the news, but this time it will be **CHARLEY WEAVER JUNIOR**. **Lewis Arquette** is helping preserve the memory of his father by recreating the character for both young and old fans. Charley Junior also sings to his own banjo accompaniment, and will be asked to take part in other special events. He will be easy to find in a special location near the Mt. Ida Chamber of Commerce booth.

Artisans with their ARTS &



CRAFTS will fill the 45 booths situated under the shade trees. The Ouachita Craft Guild members sell their wares, and invite many other craftspeople to join them. The crafts include those made with wood, fabric, glass, stone, and all other materials imaginable.



The local chapters of the Kiwanis Club and Eastern Star will sell Southern-style food to be enjoyed while you sit down to visit with Charley Weaver and other fine folks. The area is famous for its fried pies, a real Southern delicacy, but they will just be the conclusion to a hearty barbecue meal. The **FUN AND GAMES** will include a dunking booth, live music, activities for children, and more things being scheduled as time draws nearer. Local organizations sponsor booths offering information and services, including a **FREE HEALTH SCREENING**.

The centerpiece of the Town Square is, of course, the Courthouse itself. It is on the National Register of Historic Places, so do not ignore it as you take in the small-town atmosphere of Mt. Ida. The population of the town is less than 1,000, but it is still the largest town in the county!

Montgomery County is in the middle of the Ouachita Mountains, and both the Ouachita River and Lake Ouachita run through its borders. It is a beautiful area for fishing, camping, hiking, and looking at scenery. Mt. Ida is only 35 miles from Hot Springs National Park, which offers museums and shopping. Plan to spend some time with us.

For more information on **CHARLEY WEAVER DAY IN MT. IDA**, contact Kathy Stucker at the Lum & Abner Museum, P.O. Box 38, Pine Ridge, AR 71966, or the Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 6, Mt. Ida, AR 71957.

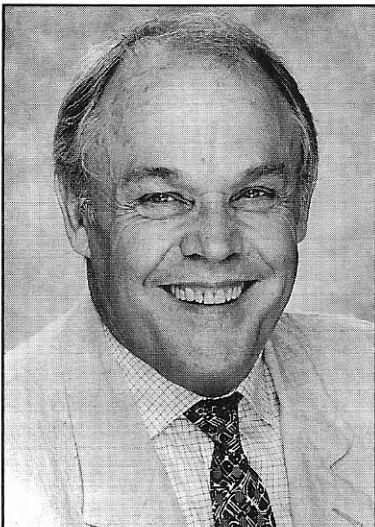


Hit's shore nuff time fer

The 1997

NATIONAL LUM & ABNER[®] SOCIETY CONVENTION

MENA, ARK. - JUNE 20 & 21



Scheduled Guest

Lewis Arquette

Since this is the last issue of the *Journal* that will appear before the annual Convention, we need to give you the schedule of activities as they stand now. Unfortunately, we are not absolutely certain which events will be unfolding at what times!

We do know that our first program of the weekend will begin around 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 20. There will be another program on Saturday morning, and a third on Saturday evening. It is possible that there may be something going on during Saturday afternoon as well. The best plan is probably this: if you show up for the first program on Friday

night, we will be announcing the times of all the other events!

Of course, we still plan to have as our guest **Lewis Arquette**, son of the late Cliff "Charley Weaver" Arquette, a good friend and co-worker of our old pals L&A. Lewis Arquette has a long list of television and movie credits himself, and, as most people know, is the father of several movie stars known to the younger audiences of today: David, Patricia, and Rosanna Arquette. He will be sharing memories of his father, and will undoubtedly be participating in this year's newly-written L&A script. Now, how do you suppose L&A and Ben Withers spent so many years around Mt. Idy without encountering Charley Weaver there? Maybe we will have to remedy that oversight!

Also planning to be with us are our chums from last year's event,



Scheduled Guests

Harlan Hobbs & Ben Combs

Harlan Hobbs and **Ben Combs**, both of whom had associations with L&A ranging from their Chicago days in the 1930s to Chet's final TV work in the 1970s. These gentlemen will be presenting still more heretofore-unknown tidbits about their L&A connections.

Do not forget that this year will mark the first (and most likely ONLY) presentation of some one-of-a-kind motion picture footage of L&A that was recently unearthed. This rare footage may be scattered throughout the various Convention programs, so you won't want to miss any of them! Also, we have learned that we will also be having a presentation by **Darl Miller** of Nevada's Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, which many of you will realize was once Chet Lauck's old ranch. Mr. Miller will give us some more insight into the ranch's Lauck days, and luckily, some of the film footage that has come to light was actually shot there, so it should be an interesting mixed-media-type program!

All Convention activities take place at the Best Western Lime Tree Inn in Mena. As we have said before, there is no registration fee or any other fee for the Convention activities, but you should call soon to make your reservations if you have not already done so. The number is **(501) 394-6350**. SEE YOU IN MENA!!