

lum and abner radio show

Lum and Abner Radio Show: A Nostalgic Journey into Classic American Comedy

lum and abner radio show holds a special place in the annals of American radio history. As one of the most beloved and enduring radio programs of the 1930s and 1940s, it offered audiences a delightful blend of humor, small-town charm, and relatable characters. If you've ever wondered what made this show a staple of early broadcast entertainment or how it influenced comedy in the years that followed, dive in as we explore the legacy and appeal of the lum and abner radio show.

The Origins of the Lum and Abner Radio Show

The lum and abner radio show was created by Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, two talented comedians who brought to life the fictional town of Pine Ridge, Arkansas. Both Lauck and Goff were native Arkansans, and their intimate knowledge of rural life infused the show with an authentic, down-to-earth feel. They wrote and performed all the characters themselves, showcasing their versatility and comedic timing.

The show debuted in 1931 and quickly garnered a dedicated following. It was initially broadcast on local stations before gaining national syndication, spreading the charm of Pine Ridge and its quirky inhabitants across the country. Audiences were drawn not only to the humor but also to the sense of community and warmth that radiated from each episode.

Who Were Lum and Abner?

Lum Edwards and Abner Peabody, the two main characters, were proprietors of the Jot 'em Down Store, a general store that served as the social hub of Pine Ridge. Lum was the more practical and level-headed of the duo, while Abner often found himself in comical predicaments due to his naivety and well-meaning but bumbling nature. Their dynamic created a perfect comedic balance, and listeners could relate to their friendship, mishaps, and the everyday happenings in their small town.

Why the Lum and Abner Radio Show Captivated Audiences

During the Great Depression and the years surrounding World War II, Americans sought comfort and escapism through entertainment. The lum and abner radio show provided just that with its gentle humor and nostalgic portrayal of simpler times. Here are some reasons why it resonated so deeply:

- **Relatable Characters:** Lum and Abner weren't celebrities—they were everyday folks with relatable struggles and joys, which made listeners feel connected.

- **Small-Town America:** The show celebrated rural life, which was familiar to many Americans, especially those living outside urban centers.
- **Light-hearted Comedy:** Unlike some of the more slapstick or highbrow comedies of the time, this show offered a warm, homey humor that was gentle and inclusive.
- **Community Feel:** The recurring cast of characters and the sense of place made listeners feel like they were part of Pine Ridge's extended family.

The Impact of Regional Dialects and Storytelling

One of the standout features of the lum and abner radio show was its use of regional dialects and storytelling styles that reflected Southern and rural speech patterns. This authenticity added to the charm and humor, giving listeners a vivid sense of place and cultural identity. The show's writers skillfully balanced caricature with respect, avoiding stereotypes and instead celebrating the uniqueness of the characters' speech and mannerisms.

Legacy and Influence of the Lum and Abner Radio Show

The influence of the lum and abner radio show extends beyond its original broadcast years. It helped shape the format and style of later radio comedies and set a precedent for character-driven, situational humor that many television sitcoms would later adopt.

Transition from Radio to Film and Television

Lum and Abner's popularity led to several film adaptations in the late 1930s and early 1940s, where Lauck and Goff reprised their roles. These films helped cement their legacy and introduced the characters to new audiences. Although the transition to television was less prominent, the show's spirit lived on in the small-town sitcoms of the 1950s and beyond.

Preservation of Episodes and Modern Access

Thanks to dedicated fans and archivists, many lum and abner radio show episodes have been preserved and are available online today. This accessibility allows new generations to experience the humor and storytelling that captivated listeners nearly a century ago. For those interested in vintage radio, the show offers a fascinating window into American culture and entertainment during a transformative era.

Tips for Enjoying the Lum and Abner Radio Show Today

If you're new to classic radio comedies or looking to deepen your appreciation for Lum and Abner, here are some tips to enhance your listening experience:

1. **Listen with Context:** Understand the historical backdrop—the Great Depression and pre-television era—to appreciate the show's themes and humor fully.
2. **Focus on Character Interactions:** The charm lies in the relationships and dialogue, so pay attention to the nuances in speech and timing.
3. **Explore Related Media:** Watch the film adaptations and read about the creators to get a broader picture of the show's cultural impact.
4. **Join Online Communities:** There are forums and groups dedicated to old-time radio where you can share insights and discover rare episodes.

The Cultural Significance of Small-Town America in Lum and Abner

One of the enduring appeals of the Lum and Abner radio show is its celebration of small-town American life. At a time when urbanization was accelerating, the show painted a picture of community values, neighborly kindness, and simple pleasures. This nostalgic portrayal resonates with listeners who yearn for a sense of belonging and slower pace amid today's fast-moving world.

The Jot 'em Down Store wasn't just a backdrop; it was a symbol of connection, commerce, and shared stories. The interactions between Lum, Abner, and the townsfolk created a microcosm of American society, emphasizing themes of friendship, honesty, and humor in the face of everyday challenges.

How Lum and Abner Reflect Broader Social Themes

Beyond comedy, the Lum and Abner radio show subtly addressed issues relevant to its time—economic hardship, community resilience, and the importance of mutual support. These themes made the show more than just entertainment; it was a comforting narrative that reinforced positive social values during uncertain times.

Why Lum and Abner Still Matter in Today's Media

Landscape

In an era dominated by fast-paced digital content and high-budget productions, the lum and abner radio show reminds us of the power of storytelling rooted in simplicity and character. It's a testament to how humor, when grounded in genuine human experience, remains timeless.

For enthusiasts of classic radio shows and those curious about the origins of American comedic traditions, lum and abner offers rich material. It's also a valuable study in how media can shape and reflect cultural identity, providing lessons for creators and audiences alike.

Whether you're tuning in for the first time or revisiting old favorites, the lum and abner radio show continues to charm with its wit, warmth, and enduring portrayal of small-town life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Lum and Abner' radio show about?

The 'Lum and Abner' radio show is a classic American radio comedy series that follows the humorous adventures of two store owners, Lum Edwards and Abner Peabody, in the fictional small town of Pine Ridge.

When did the 'Lum and Abner' radio show originally air?

The 'Lum and Abner' radio show originally aired from 1931 to 1954, becoming one of the longest-running radio comedy programs of its time.

Who were the main actors behind the characters Lum and Abner?

Chester Lauck and Norris Goff were the main actors who created and portrayed the characters Lum Edwards and Abner Peabody, respectively.

Why is the 'Lum and Abner' radio show considered significant in American radio history?

The show is significant for its portrayal of small-town rural life with humor and heart, influencing later rural-based comedies and providing a nostalgic glimpse into 1930s-40s America.

Are there any surviving recordings of the 'Lum and Abner' radio show available today?

Yes, many episodes of 'Lum and Abner' have been preserved and are available through archives, old-time radio websites, and some commercial collections.

Did 'Lum and Abner' have any adaptations beyond radio?

Yes, 'Lum and Abner' was adapted into several feature films during the 1940s, and the characters also appeared in comic strips and other media.

Additional Resources

Lum and Abner Radio Show: A Nostalgic Journey into America's Golden Age of Radio

lum and abner radio show stands as one of the most enduring and beloved programs from the golden age of American radio. Originating in the early 1930s, this show carved a distinctive niche in the realm of radio comedy, blending humor, small-town charm, and relatable characters that resonated deeply with audiences across the United States. As a cultural artifact, the Lum and Abner radio show offers valuable insights into early radio entertainment, rural American life, and the evolution of broadcast media.

Origins and Historical Context of the Lum and Abner Radio Show

The Lum and Abner radio show was created by Chester Lauck and Norris Goff, who also starred as the titular characters Lum Edwards and Abner Peabody. The program debuted in 1931 and quickly gained popularity for its portrayal of the fictional town of Pine Ridge, Arkansas. This setting was inspired by the creators' own experiences growing up in small, rural communities, allowing the show to authentically capture the nuances of rural American life during the Great Depression era.

Unlike many other radio programs of the period that focused on urban or high-society settings, Lum and Abner's small-town backdrop made the show uniquely relatable to a broad swath of listeners, especially those living outside metropolitan areas. The show combined situational comedy with gentle satire, often poking fun at local politics, community gossip, and the quirks of its characters without resorting to cynicism or harshness.

Character Dynamics and Storytelling

At the heart of the Lum and Abner radio show were its two protagonists: Lum, the affable but sometimes bumbling store owner, and Abner, his equally well-meaning but often confused partner. Their interactions with the citizens of Pine Ridge—ranging from the town's mayor to the local sheriff—created a rich tapestry of comedic scenarios that felt both intimate and universal.

The storytelling was episodic yet fluid, featuring recurring characters and ongoing subplots that allowed listeners to develop attachments over time. This narrative style was somewhat innovative for its day, as many radio comedies relied on standalone episodes rather than serialized storytelling. The gentle humor and lack of overt slapstick also distinguished Lum and Abner from contemporaries, appealing to listeners seeking more subtle and character-driven comedy.

Production and Broadcast Evolution

Initially broadcast on regional radio stations, the Lum and Abner radio show eventually found its way onto national networks such as NBC and CBS. This transition expanded its audience significantly and cemented its status as a staple of American radio entertainment. The show's production values were modest but effective, relying heavily on voice acting, sound effects, and minimalistic musical cues to evoke the ambiance of Pine Ridge.

One of the notable aspects of the show's production was its reliance on live broadcasts, a common practice in the early days of radio. This format added a layer of authenticity and immediacy but also demanded precise timing and performance skills from Lauck and Goff. Over time, as recording technology improved, the show transitioned to pre-recorded episodes, allowing for greater control over editing and sound quality.

Comparisons to Other Radio Comedies of the Era

When placed alongside other iconic radio comedies such as "Fibber McGee and Molly" or "The Jack Benny Program," the Lum and Abner radio show stands out for its rural focus and character-driven narratives. While many shows of the time leaned heavily on broad humor or celebrity personas, Lum and Abner's appeal was rooted in its depiction of everyday people facing familiar challenges with warmth and humor.

This distinction contributed to the show's longevity but also limited its crossover appeal to urban audiences, who sometimes viewed the rural setting as quaint or outdated. Nevertheless, the show's influence can be seen in later sitcoms that focus on small-town life, demonstrating its role as a precursor to this genre.

Legacy and Cultural Impact

The Lum and Abner radio show left a lasting imprint on American culture, influencing both radio and early television comedy. The characters of Lum and Abner became archetypes for the lovable, if somewhat naive, rural Americans, a trope that has persisted in various forms throughout popular media.

The show also contributed to the preservation and celebration of rural Americana at a time when urbanization was accelerating rapidly across the United States. By capturing the rhythms, speech patterns, and social dynamics of small-town life, Lum and Abner provided a valuable historical snapshot that continues to be studied by scholars of media and culture.

Modern Reception and Availability

Today, the Lum and Abner radio show enjoys a niche but dedicated following among classic radio enthusiasts and historians. Many episodes have been preserved and digitized, making them accessible through various online platforms and classic radio archives. This accessibility has helped

introduce new generations to the program and has sparked renewed interest in early radio comedy.

While some modern listeners may find the pacing slower and the humor gentler compared to contemporary standards, the show's charm and historical significance remain undeniable. Moreover, the Lum and Abner radio show serves as an educational resource, illustrating how radio functioned as a primary entertainment medium during the early 20th century.

Key Features of the Lum and Abner Radio Show

- **Character-driven comedy:** Focused on the interactions of relatable small-town characters rather than slapstick or celebrity humor.
- **Rural setting:** Depicted life in Pine Ridge, Arkansas, providing an authentic portrayal of rural America during the Depression era.
- **Live broadcast origins:** Performed live with minimal production, emphasizing voice acting and timing.
- **Serialized storytelling:** Recurring characters and ongoing storylines encouraged listener loyalty and engagement.
- **National reach:** Transitioned from regional broadcasts to major networks like NBC and CBS, expanding its audience.

Pros and Cons from a Contemporary Perspective

From a modern standpoint, the Lum and Abner radio show offers several advantages and limitations worth noting:

- **Pros:**
 - Rich cultural documentation of early 20th-century rural America.
 - Strong character development and warm, gentle humor.
 - Influential in shaping later small-town sitcoms and comedic archetypes.
 - Accessible archival material for enthusiasts and researchers.
- **Cons:**

- Pacing and production values may feel dated to some modern listeners.
- Humor and references can be subtle, requiring contextual understanding.
- Limited appeal outside of audiences interested in nostalgia or historical media.

The Lum and Abner radio show remains a seminal example of how radio shaped American entertainment and culture during a transformative era. Its enduring appeal lies in the authenticity of its characters and the warmth of its depiction of small-town life—qualities that continue to resonate with listeners who seek a window into the past.

Lum And Abner Radio Show

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lum and abner radio show: Lum and Abner Randal L. Hall, 2007-12-01 In the 1930s radio stations filled the airwaves with programs and musical performances about rural Americans—farmers and small-town residents struggling through the Great Depression. One of the most popular of these shows was Lum and Abner, the brainchild of Chester “Chet” Lauck and Norris “Tuffy” Goff, two young businessmen from Arkansas. Beginning in 1931 and lasting for more than two decades, the show revolved around the lives of ordinary people in the fictional community of Pine Ridge, based on the hamlet of Waters, Arkansas. The title characters, who are farmers, local officials, and the keepers of the Jot ‘Em Down Store, manage to entangle themselves in a variety of hilarious dilemmas. The program’s gentle humor and often complex characters had wide appeal both to rural southerners, who were accustomed to being the butt of jokes in the national media, and to urban listeners who were fascinated by descriptions of life in the American countryside. Lum and Abner was characterized by the snappy, verbal comedic dueling that became popular on radio programs of the 1930s. Using this format, Lauck and Goff allowed their characters to subvert traditional authority and to poke fun at common misconceptions about rural life. The show also featured hillbilly and other popular music, an innovation that drew a bigger audience. As a result, Arkansas experienced a boom in tourism, and southern listeners began to immerse themselves in a new national popular culture. In *Lum and Abner: Rural America and the Golden Age of Radio*, historian Randal L. Hall explains the history and importance of the program, its creators, and its national audience. He also presents a treasure trove of twenty-nine previously unavailable scripts from the show’s earliest period, scripts that reveal much about the Great Depression, rural life, hillbilly stereotypes, and a seminal period of American radio.

lum and abner radio show: Radio Program Openings and Closings, 1931-1972 Vincent Terrace, 2015-06-08 The openings and closings to radio programs of all types, from comedies (Blondie, The Jack Benny Program, Lum and Abner) to mysteries (Inner Sanctum Mysteries, The Black Chapel) to game shows (Can You Top This?, Truth or Consequences) to serials (Second Husband, Bachelor's Children) to crime dramas (The Falcon, Enigma Crime Clues, The Green Hornet,

Mr. and Mrs. North) to westerns (Gunsmoke, Wild Bill Hickok, Hawk Larabee) that were aired between 1931 and 1972, are included in this work. Each entry has a brief introductory paragraph that provides information about the storyline, principal cast, sponsors and air dates. Commercials have been included if the programs were under regular sponsorship. Includes three appendices (sponsors; slogans and jingles; and World War II announcements) and an index.

lum and abner radio show: The South and Film Warren G. French, 1981

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lum and abner radio show: Negotiating a Perilous Empowerment Erica Abrams Locklear, 2011-07-19 Negotiating a Perilous Empowerment blends literacy studies with literary criticism to analyze the central female characters in the works of Harriette Simpson Arnow, Linda Scott DeRosier, Denise Giardina, and Lee Smith.

lum and abner radio show: The Andrews Sisters H. Arlo Nimmo, 2007-05-01 The Andrews Sisters, the legendary singing trio of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s are the most successful female singing group in history and were the world's top selling group until the Beatles arrived. Of the 605 songs they recorded, 113 charted. They also made 18 movies, appeared regularly on radio and television, and entertained three generations of GIs. Based on extensive research, unpublished letters, and interviews with family, friends, and colleagues, this book documents not only the lives and work of the Andrews Sisters but also the popular culture spanned by their long careers. The book contains a complete discography of their released, unreleased, and solo recordings, including recording dates, record numbers, and accompaniment. Also included are a filmography and documentation of their radio and television appearances.

lum and abner radio show: Ain't That a Knee-Slapper Tim Hollis, 2010-07-27 There was a time when rural comedians drew most of their humor from tales of farmers' daughters, hogs, hens, and hill country high jinks. Lum and Abner and Ma and Pa Kettle might not have toured happily under the Redneck marquee, but they were its precursors. In Ain't That a Knee-Slapper: Rural Comedy in the Twentieth Century, author Tim Hollis traces the evolution of this classic American form of humor in the mass media, beginning with the golden age of radio, when such comedians as Bob Burns, Judy Canova, and Lum and Abner kept listeners laughing. The book then moves into the motion pictures of the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, when the established radio stars enjoyed second careers on the silver screen and were joined by live-action renditions of the comic strip characters Li'l Abner and Snuffy Smith, along with the much-loved Ma and Pa Kettle series of films. Hollis explores such rural sitcoms as The Real McCoys in the late 1950s and from the 1960s, The Andy Griffith Show, The Beverly Hillbillies, Green Acres, Hee Haw, and many others. Along the way, readers are taken on side trips into the world of animated cartoons and television commercials that succeeded through a distinctly rural sense of fun. While rural comedy fell out of vogue and networks sacked shows in the early 1970s, the emergence of such hits as The Dukes of Hazzard brought the genre whooping back to the mainstream. Hollis concludes with a brief look at the current state of rural humor, which manifests itself in a more suburban, redneck brand of standup comedy.

lum and abner radio show: The Concise Encyclopedia of American Radio Christopher H. Sterling, Cary O'Dell, 2010-04-12 The Concise Encyclopedia of American Radio is an essential single-volume reference guide to this vital and evolving medium. Comprised of more than 300 entries spanning the invention of radio to the Internet, this reference work addresses personalities, music genres, regulations, technology, programming and stations, the golden age of radio and other

topics relating to radio broadcasting throughout its history. The entries are updated throughout and the volume includes nine new entries on topics ranging from podcasting to the decline of radio.

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lum and abner radio show: Mountaineer Jamboree Ivan M. Tribe, 2014-07-11 Jamboree! To many country music fans the word conjures up memories of Saturday nights around the family radio listening to live broadcasts from that haven of hillbilly music, West Virginia. From 1926 through the 1950s, as Ivan Tribe shows in his lively history, country music radio programming made the Mountain State a mecca for country singers and instrumentalists from all over America. Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper, Little Jimmy Dickens, Hawkshaw Hawkins, Red Sovine, Blaine Smith, Curly Ray Cline, Grandpa Jones, Cowboy Loy, Rex and Eleanor Parker, Lee Moore, Buddy Starcher, Doc and Chickie Williams, and Molly O'Day were among the many who came to prominence via West Virginia radio. Wheeling's WWVA jamboree, first broadcast in 1933, attracted a wide audience, especially after 1942, when the station increased its power. The show's success spawned numerous competitors, as new stations all over West Virginia followed WWVA's lead in headlining country music. The state also played an important role in the early recording industry. The Tweedy Brothers, Frank Hutchison, Roy Harvey, Blind Alfred Reed, Frank Welling and John McGhee, Cap and Andy, and the Kessinger Brothers were among West Virginians whose waxings contributed to the state's reputation for fine native musicianship. So too did those who sought out and recorded the Mountaineer folksong heritage. As Nashville's dominance has grown since the 1960s, West Virginia's leadership in country music has lessened. Young performers must now seek fame outside their native state. But, as Ivan Tribe demonstrates, the state's numerous outdoor festivals continue to keep alive the heritage of country music's mountain mama.

lum and abner radio show: Radio Voices Michele Hilmes, 1997 Looks at the history of radio broadcasting as an aspect of American culture, and discusses social tensions, radio formats, and the roles of African Americans and women

lum and abner radio show: Forsyth County Annette Bramblett, 2002 The northern Georgia reaches were once home to the Cherokee Nation, who, as early as 1731, lived among the fertile lands and were linked to other native inhabitants by a meager trading path. The first European settlers and traders, arriving in 1797, introduced agriculture to the area, as families established homes and farms along the Georgia Road. Forestry thrived, necessitating mills and factories, while the poultry industry and high-quality cotton attracted waves of new settlers. The county's scenic splendor has drawn people away from urban centers, appealing to new residents and visitors with a relaxed and rural beauty. Today, Forsyth County proudly boasts of its recognized status as the nation's fastest growing county. Originally the home of significant amounts of gold, particularly through the Dahlonega Gold Belt and the Hall County Gold Belt, Forsyth County prospered as settlers quickly commanded the area. The costs may have outweighed the gains at times, however, and hardships befell the county through racial tension, economic trials, and extreme population fluctuations. Nevertheless, the county has persevered, and its people have shown both strength of character and spirit. Including new and unpublished data, this book explores the important advances in education, economy, and historic preservation in Forsyth County, as well as the tragic events

related to the expulsion of the African-American population in 1912 and the Brotherhood Marches in 1987.

lum and abner radio show: A Place Called Peculiar Frank K. Gallant, 2012-12-27 From Smut Eye, Alabama, to Tie Siding, Wyoming, this pop-culture history offers a well-written and highly entertaining survey of America's most unusual place-names and their often-humorous origins.

lum and abner radio show: On the Air John Dunning, 1998-05-07 A wonderful reader for anyone who loves the great programs of old-time radio, this definitive encyclopedia covers American radio shows from their beginnings in the 1920s to the early 1960s.

lum and abner radio show: The Original Amos 'n' Andy Elizabeth McLeod, 2015-07-11 This critical reexamination of Amos 'n' Andy, the pioneering creation of Charles Correll and Freeman Gosden, presents an unapologetic but balanced view lacking in most treatments. It relies upon an untapped resource--thousands of pages of scripts from the show's nearly forgotten earliest version, which most clearly reflected the vision of its creators. Consequently, it provides fresh insights and in part refutes the usual blanket condemnations of this groundbreaking show. The text incorporates numerous script excerpts, provides key background information, and also acknowledges the show's importance to radio broadcasting and modern entertainment.

lum and abner radio show: For the Trees Sharon M. W. Bass, 1981

lum and abner radio show: Other Voices, Other Towns Caleb Pirtle III, 2012-07-10 Other Voices, Other Towns has, in reality, taken Caleb Pirtle III a lifetime to write. During the thirty years he has been writing about travel across this great land, he spent much of his time listening to those whose paths he crossed. Pirtle collects people. He collects their stories. He is firmly convinced that everyone who has ever walked across the street has a great story to tell if only someone will take the time to listen. Pirtle has recorded many of them in Other Voices, Other Towns. The sketches, the anecdotes, the tales they tell, the memories they have stored, their lessons of life make you feel better or make you want to cry. Their stories are filled with disappointments and with inspiration: The blind man who tends his beehives in the Smoky Mountains and knows that someday I'm going to where the mountains are higher and prettier and you don't get bee stung. The rancher who bought a whole town because it had a beer joint, and he could get a drink any time he was thirsty. The woman who built a major university on the strength of a dime. The grieving father searching for the best little girl in the world. The vagabond who became a great writer because he flunked grammar and could not enroll in college. The last man on the mountain, the last survivor on an island, the last woman strong enough to tame though not civilize the Okefenokee Swamp. The teacher who taught history in school by singing the lessons he had written as songs. The men who created Lum and Abner. The scientist digging for clues to prove a space ship had crashed in the backyard of Aurora, Texas. The performer who rescued the abandoned remains of a crumbling theater. The actor who figured out that a theater ticket was worth a mess of greens or a gallon milk during the Great Depression. The old con artist and wildcatter who defied the odds and discovered a great oilfield. The politician who had one cause, passed it in the legislature, and went home because there were no other bills that concerned him. The fishermen who stumbled across pearls in a landlocked lake. The girl singer who rode in a small RV behind the star until she became the star. The sad journey down the trail of broken promises. And the greatest worm fiddler of them all. For Pirtle, other voices in other towns, have all been joined together to form the traveler's story.

lum and abner radio show: The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture Melissa Walker, James C. Cobb, Charles Reagan Wilson, 2014-02-01 Volume 11 of The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture examines the economic culture of the South by pairing two categories that account for the ways many southerners have made their living. In the antebellum period, the wealth of southern whites came largely from agriculture that relied on the forced labor of enslaved blacks. After Reconstruction, the South became attractive to new industries lured by the region's ongoing commitment to low-wage labor and management-friendly economic policies. Throughout the volume, articles reflect the breadth and variety of southern life, paying particular attention to the region's profound economic transformation in recent decades. The agricultural section consists of 25

thematic entries that explore issues such as Native American agricultural practices, plantations, and sustainable agriculture. Thirty-eight shorter pieces cover key crops of the region--from tobacco to Christmas trees--as well as issues of historic and emerging interest--from insects and insecticides to migrant labor. The section on industry and commerce contains 13 thematic entries in which contributors address topics such as the economic impact of military bases, resistance to industrialization, and black business. Thirty-six topical entries explore particular industries, such as textiles, timber, automobiles, and banking, as well as individuals--including Henry W. Grady and Sam M. Walton--whose ideas and enterprises have helped shape the modern South.

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