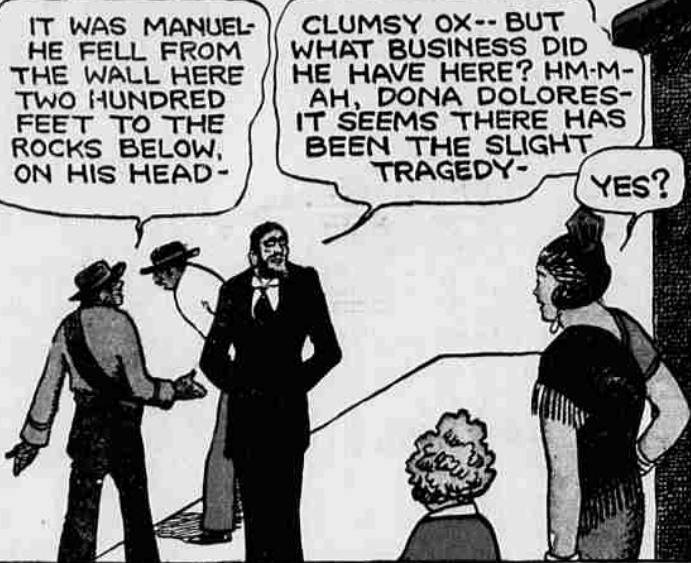


Little Orphan Annie

IN HER CAPTIVITY ANNIE HAS ONE TRUE FRIEND, BUT NOT EVEN ANNIE MAY KNOW HOW FAR THAT FRIENDSHIP HAS CARRIED DONA DOLORES, HOW MUCH SHE HAS RISKED----



IT WAS MANUEL- HE FELL FROM THE WALL HERE TWO HUNDRED FEET TO THE ROCKS BELOW, ON HIS HEAD-

CLUMSY OX-- BUT WHAT BUSINESS DID HE HAVE HERE? HM-M- AH, DONA DOLORES- IT SEEMS THERE HAS BEEN THE SLIGHT TRAGEDY-

YES?



YES- FROM THIS WALL, SO NEAR YOUR QUARTERS- PERHAPS YOU HEARD A SCUFFLE IN THE NIGHT?

A SCUFFLE? NO- I HEARD NO SCUFFLE- BUT WITH MY CHARGE SECURED, I SLEEP MOST SOUNDLY.



AH, WELL- IT IS OF LITTLE MOMENT- HE WILL NOT BE MISSED-



BUT DONA-- THAT WAS MANUEL WHO WAS GOING TO TELL AXEL WE'RE FRIENDS AND GET US KILLED-

YES- HE PROMISED NOT TO TELL, IF I WOULD PAY HIM- THAT IS RIGHT-



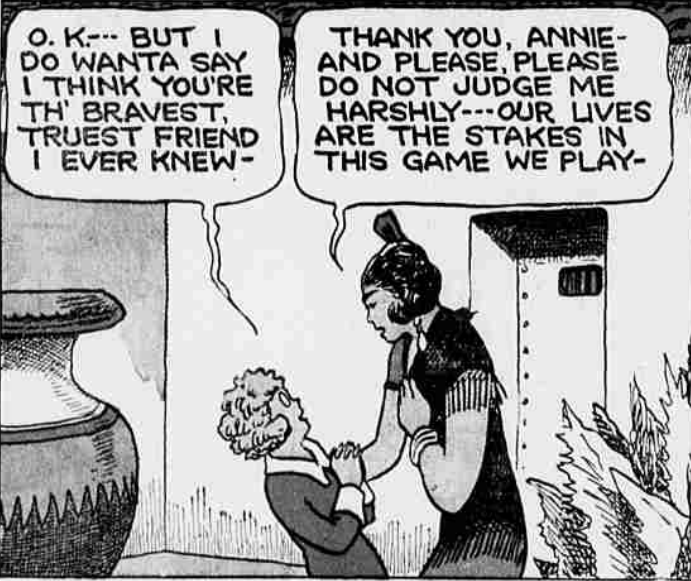
BUT MANUEL WOULD HAVE TAKEN ALL MY MONEY, AND THEN TOLD ANYWAY, AND WE WOULD HAVE DIED-- INSTEAD, MANUEL IS NO LONGER WITH US-

I KNOW- BUT I HEARD HIM COME LAST NIGHT-



I THOUGHT YOU GAVE HIM THE MONEY AND HE WENT AWAY- I DIDN'T HEAR HIM MAKE A SOUND-

NO- I KEPT MY MONEY BUT HE WENT AWAY- YES- LET US SPEAK OF IT NO MORE, LITTLE ONE-



O. K.-- BUT I DO WANTA SAY I THINK YOU'RE TH' BRAVEST, TRUEST FRIEND I EVER KNEW-

THANK YOU, ANNIE- AND PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT JUDGE ME HARSHLY-- OUR LIVES ARE THE STAKES IN THIS GAME WE PLAY-



IN SUCH A GAME ONE MUST PLAY FOR KEEPS-- OR THE GAME IS OVER FOREVER-- I MAY NOT SLEEP WELL, BUT AT LEAST I AWAKE-

GEE, DONA- I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR ANYTHING YOU HAD TO DO IT-

WHILE A FEW MILES AWAY IN A MOUNTAIN PASS ARE THOSE WHO AXEL BELIEVES ARE STILL TEN THOUSAND MILES AWAY-



SEE THAT INDIAN LOOKOUT- THEY'VE GOT SENTRIES ALL AROUND-

WE COULD WORK IN, PICK OFF THE SENTRIES AND RUSH THE PLACE-



BUT IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS MURDERING ANNIE- NOPE- NO SENSE IN THAT, BOYS-

ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO GET INSIDE TO ANNIE IN SOME WAY-

YES- WE WILL DRAW LOTS FOR IT-



NO- THAT'S MY JOB- IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY-

THAT SENTRY- HE WOULD BE BUT A STEP FROM THAT BUSH BEHIND HIM-

YOU'LL GET PLENTY SENTRIES LATER, MY CUT-THROAT FRIEND-

Maw Green



HA! HA! LOOK AT OLD HAWKINS DRAGGIN' THAT WHEEL-BARROW AROUND BEHIND 'IM----



WHAT'S YER LOONEY IDEA, HAWKINS? D'YUH IMAGINE YE'RE A HORSE PULLIN' A CART?



WHY DON'T YE SHOVE IT IN FRONT OF YE, SAME AS ANY SINSIBLE WAN WOULD BE DOIN'?



WY? WY DO HI PULL IT BEHINT ME INSTEAD O' SHOVIN' IT?



BECAUSE HI 'ATES TH' SIGHT O' TH' ORN'RY THING!

5-21-39

HAROLD GRAY