

8 PAGES

Eugene Register-Guard

LANE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER

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SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 1952

Little Orphan Annie

I GET A FEELIN'! FOLKS IN THIS PLACE AREN'T 'ZACTLY UNFRIENDLY--BUT THEY SURE AS RAIN AREN'T EFFUSIVE, IF THAT MEANS WHAT I THINK!

I FIGGER THEY'RE SCARED O' WHY UNCLE DAN'S COME BACK, AFTER THIRTY-FIVE YEARS--OR SOME ARE SCARED--TH' REST JUST FEEL UNEASY--

THE YEARS PASS SWIFTLY--BUT THE ROOTS OF CHILDHOOD ARE DEEP AND ABIDING--ESPECIALLY, THE BITTER ROOTS--THEY NEVER DIE!

WHEN HE LEFT, HE WAS A FLAT BROKE KID--WHAT COULD HE DO, EVEN IF HIS DAD HAD BEEN RAILROADED TO PRISON AND HIS MOTHER AS GOOD AS MURDERED?

BUT NOW, HE CAN DO PLENTY--HE'S WORTH NO TELLIN' HOW MANY MILLIONS THAT HE MADE TH' HARD WAY--IF HE IS HERE FOR TROUBLE--WELL--HE CAN BE AWFUL BAD NEWS!

I DON'T MIND FOLKS NOT MAKIN' A FUSS OVER ME! GIVES US A CHANCE TO PROWL 'ROUND AND SEE THIS PLACE--DOWN TOWARD TH' SHORE, F'RINSTANCE--

SURE PRETTY--OLD ORCHARD--TINY LITTLE CEM'TERY OVER THERE--AND THOSE TWISTED OLD TREES--GET PLENTY WIND HERE, RIGHT OFF TH' SEA!

HEY! LOOKIE! AHEAD OF US ON TH' PATH! I HEARD HE'S CALLED LIMPY LEM--THAT'S A MEAN NAME TO GIVE ANYONE--

EVER'BODY'S PICKED ON HIM SINCE HE WAS LITTLE--LIVES ALONE--FISHES--DOES ODD JOBS--THEY SAY HE'S CRAZY AS A PINK HEARSE--

WHADD'YUH KNOW! NEVER GUESS THERE WAS A PATH UP THAT CLIFF--STEPS--CUT IN TH' ROCK--

THERE! HE'S GONE! MUST BE A CAVE! GEE! NOT BAD! SURE LIKE TO SEE IT CLOSE SOMETIME--

THAT KID--ALONE--SAME AS I ALWAYS WAS--DAN'S NIECE--DAN USED TO MAKE 'EM STOP THROWIN' STONES AT ME--ONLY FRIEND I EVER HAD--BACK AT LAST--MAYBE NOW THERE'LL BE A WAY I CAN HELP HIM--MAYBE--

HAROLD GRAY

6-8-52