

LANE COUNTY'S HOME NEWSPAPER  
EUGENE, OREGON, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 1962



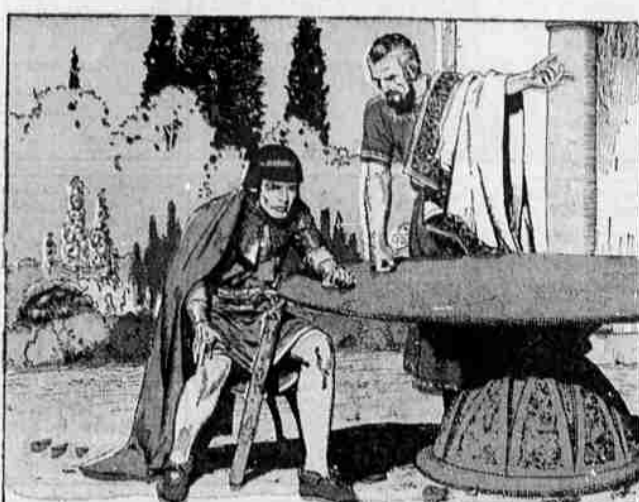
**Our Story:** PRINCE VALIANT FOLLOWS HIS SON TO THE HOME OF MARCUS SEVERUS WHO HAS PROMISED HIM AID. THE LITTLE BLIND GIRL TAKES ARN TO THE GARDEN TO LISTEN TO HIS WONDROUS TALES AND HER FATHER SEATS VAL ON THE PATIO.



"MY MISSION IS SIMPLE. UNLESS THE ROAD THROUGH GAUL IS OPENED, CHRISTIAN BRITAIN WILL BE CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF CHRISTENDOM. KING ARTHUR REQUESTS AID FROM THE EMPEROR OF ROME."



"YOU WILL NEVER DELIVER YOUR PETITION," SAYS MARCUS QUIETLY. "THE EMPEROR IS SURROUNDED BY FAWNING POLITICIANS, EACH SEEKING HIS FAVOR, WHO AMONG THEM WOULD RISK HIS POSITION BY INTRODUCING SO UNPLEASANT A SUBJECT AS AID? ROME CANNOT EVEN PROTECT ITS OWN WALLS!"



"OUR LEGIONS COULD NOT PREVENT THE GOTHS FROM CROSSING THE MIGHTY RHINE. HOW COULD THEY BE EXPECTED TO HOLD A NARROW RIBBON OF ROAD? THE GOTHS HAVE SPREAD OVER EUROPE, OTHER TRIBES FOLLOW AND THIS FORWARD MOVEMENT EXTENDS AS FAR BACK AS THE BALTIC."



"ROME IS DOOMED! WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR HER? THE POPULACE STARVES, THE WEALTH AND POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF A SELFISH FEW. BEYOND OUR BORDERS BARBARIAN CHIEFTAINS ALREADY GAZE OUR WAY."



"MY MISSION THEN IS A FAILURE AND IT IS SAD NEWS I MUST BRING TO MY KING."



A LOOK OF SADNESS COMES TO THE GIRL'S SIGHTLESS EYES AS ARN BIDS HER FAREWELL. "BE PATIENT," HE SAYS, "FOR I SAIL IN A VIKING DRAGONSHIP FAR TO THE NORTH, WHERE THE WILD GEESSE GO. IF CHANCE BRINGS ME THIS WAY AGAIN I'LL HAVE MANY NEW TALES TO TELL."

NEXT WEEK - New Plans

## Dennis the Menace

by Hank Ketcham

