

LI'L ABNER

Too young to go steady -

BY AL CAPP

BEHOLD!! - OH LUCKY 100 BRIDES-TO-BE!! HERE COMES YOUR HUSBAND-TO-BE, **ABDUL THE INDESCRIBABLE** - IN ALL HIS DAZZLING SPLENDOR!!

PORE SOUL!!

SNAP!!

SH!! - NO ONE IS SUPPOSED TO NOTICE THERE IS ANYTHING ODD ABOUT HIM!!

SHECKS!! - THAR HAIN'T NOTHIN' ODD 'BOUT HIM!!

HE GOT 'CURVATURE O' TH' SWINE,' THASS COMMON AMONGST PIGS, IN DOGPATCH!!

AH KIN FIX IT, EASY!! - AH DONE IT, **MILLYUNS O' TIMES!!**

OH, LOVELY FLOWER FROM SAVAGE AMERICA!! - OUT OF GRATITUDE, I WILL GRANT YOU YOUR DEAREST WISH!!

NATURALLY, IT WOULD BE THAT I SEND HOME THE OTHER 99, AND MARRY YOU!!

CONTRARIWISE!! MARRY T' OTHER 99 - AN' SEND ME HOME!!

WHAR YO' BIN, FO' TH' LAST COUPLE O' WEEKS?

AH ALMOST GOT MARRIED!!

WAL, DON'T LET TH' DISAPPOINTMENT BREAK YORE HEART, SON. AT 15, IT COULDN'T O' BIN MORE'N A CHILDISH CRUSH!!

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

Our Story: THE WHITE KNIGHT IS DECLARED VICTOR IN THE GRAND MELEE AND GIVEN THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE WHOM HE MAY TO A JOUST. TO THE SURPRISE OF ALL HE RIDES TO THE COURT OF CHAMPIONS AND CHALLENGES PRINCE VALIANT!

ARMED AND MOUNTED THEY MEET IN THE CENTER OF THE LISTS. "UPON WHOM DO I SHATTER THIS LANCE?" ASKS VAL. "WILLIAM VERNON OF LYDNEY," ANSWERS THE YOUTH, "AND MAY THIS SPEAR HOLD FIRM!"

THEN THEY SALUTE THE KING AND TAKE THEIR PLACES, AWAITING THE SIGNAL. VAL IS NOT A MIGHTY CHAMPION LIKE LAUNCELOT, GAWAIN OR PELLINORE, BUT HIS HORSEMANSHIP AND DEADLY ACCURACY PLACE HIM AMONG THE CHAMPIONS.

AT THE FIRST CHARGE BOTH LANCES ARE SHATTERED, AND VAL IS AWARE THAT HIS UNTIRED OPPONENT HAS BEEN TRAINED BY A MASTER.

ON THE SECOND COURSE BOTH LANCES ARE AGAIN BROKEN, BUT THIS TIME WILLIAM SUDDENLY SHIFTS HIS AIM. FROM THE CENTER OF VAL'S SHIELD TO HIS HELMET. VAL GETS THE SHIELD UP IN TIME, BUT THE POINT CATCHES IN THE SHIELD'S RIM.

WITH HIS SHIELD ARM NEARLY PARALYZED BY THE OFF-CENTER BLOW, VAL CHARGES INTO THE THIRD AND FINAL COURSE. AGAIN BOTH LANCES SPLINTER! A DRAW!

BUT A STRANGE THING HAS HAPPENED... THE WHITE TUNIC IS RED WITH BLOOD, AND WILLIAM, SWAYING IN HIS SADDLE, FALLS TO THE FIELD!

NEXT WEEK - The Smoldering Feud.