LI'L ABNER

When McGoon Comes Over The Mountain —

BY AL CAPP

Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

Our Story: PRINCE VALIANT HELPS ALFRED BURY HIS MOTHER. SHE WHO WAS ONCE THE LOVELY MISTRESS OF VERNON FINDS REST AT LAST, AND THE HOVEL, WHERE FOR THIRTY YEARS SHE HAD PLANNED HER REVENGE, BECOMES HER FUNERAL PYRE.

THEY RIDE THE WINDY MOOR IN SILENCE. THEN ALFRED THROWS BACK HIS HEAD WITH A BITTER LAUGH. *"I AM MASTER OF VERNON WHERE ONCE I WAS A LACKEY. WHAT A SWEET REVENGE MY MOTHER PLANNED. THE NOBLE PEOPLE OF THE CASTLE MUST NOW GIVE DEFERENCE TO ONE WHO IS THEIR FORMER SERVANT!"*

"YES, SERVANT TO MY OWN UNLAMENTED FATHER, TAKING HIS KICKS AND CURSES. WILL I, FROM FORCE OF HABIT, CRINGE BEFORE MY PROUD GUESTS AND SERVE THEM AT THE TABLE?"

THERE IS A SOB IN HIS VOICE AS HE BURIES HIS FACE IN HIS HANDS. *"AND GWENDOLYN! I CAN HAVE GWENDOLYN AS MY WIFE, FOR HER FATHER CARES ONLY FOR WEALTH AND TITLE. I HAVE LOVED HER FROM CHILDHOOD, LIKE A DOG, WITHOUT HOPE. BUT NOW.....!"* AND HE PATS THE RUSTLING PARCHMENT TO HIS BREAST.

IT IS NEARLY DARK WHEN THEY REACH THE CASTLE AND ALFRED TAKES VAL'S CLOAK. *"SEE,"* HE WHISPERS, *"ONCE A LACKEY ALWAYS A LACKEY!"*

A SERVANT ENTERS TO LIGHT THE LAMPS. *"THE BOAT FROM BERKELEY HAS JUST BEEN SIGHTED,"* HE ANNOUNCES.

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WILLIAM IS PACING THE RAMPARTS ANXIOUSLY. *"OH, WHY DID THEY NOT START EARLIER,"* HE CRIES. *"IT WILL BE DARK BEFORE THEY LAND. THE BEACONS! LIGHT THE BEACONS!"*

NEXT WEEK: - The Light That Failed