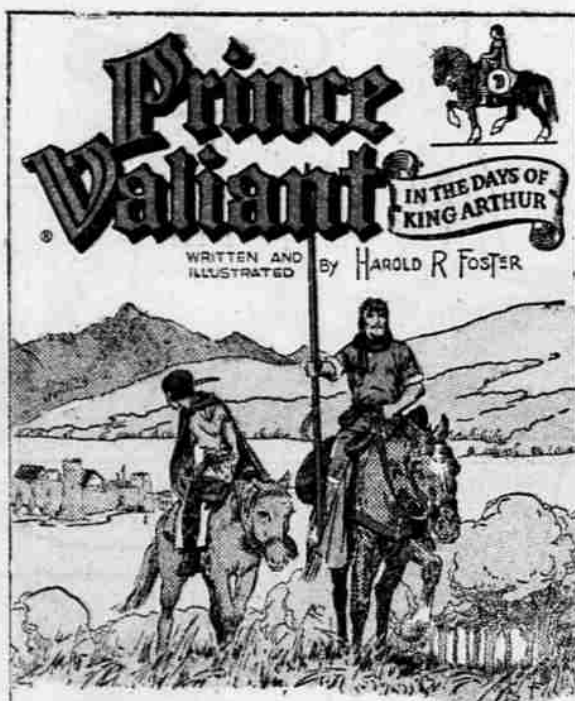
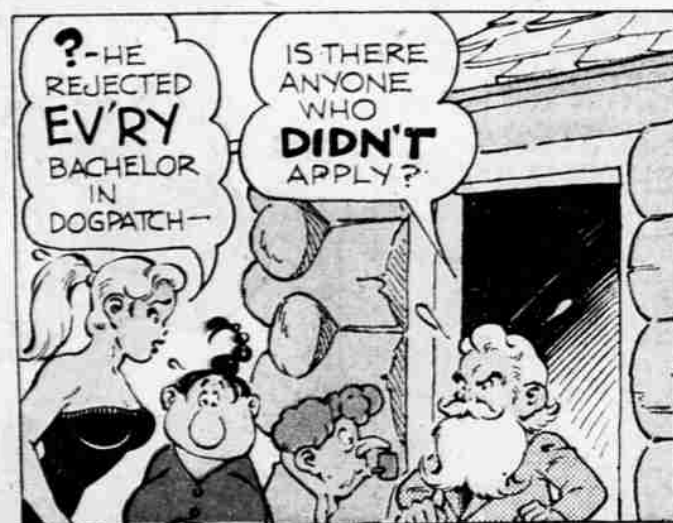
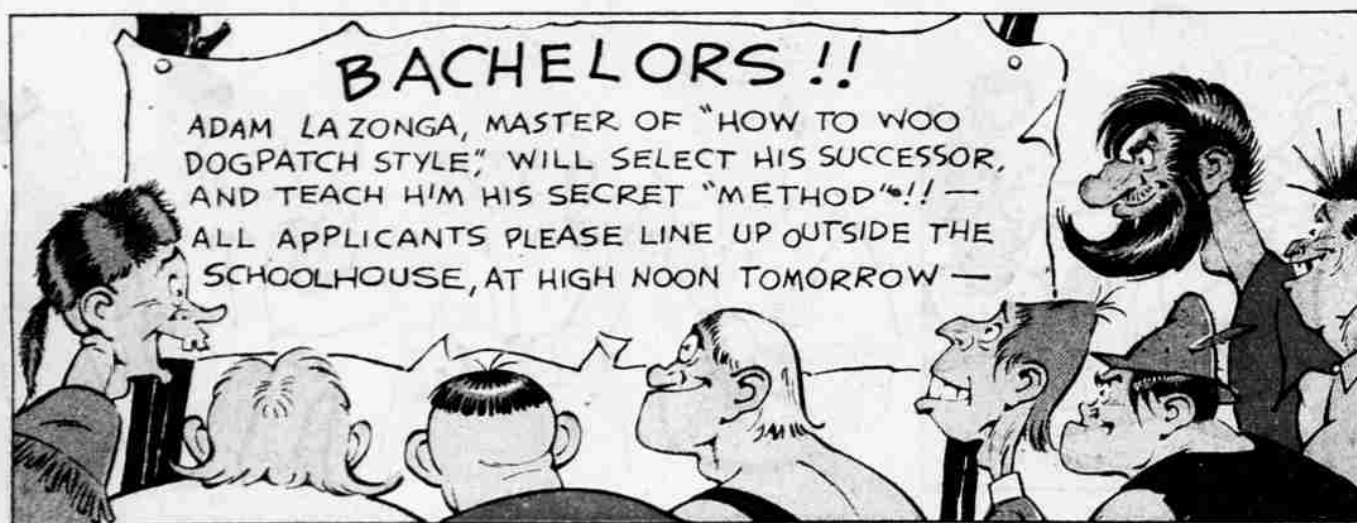


LIL ABNER

The Lil' Red-faced Schoolhouse!! by AL CAPP



Our Story: AND SO SIR GAWAIN IS RESCUED FROM DUNRANCE VILE BY CID, A HUMBLE JONGLEUR, CLOWN AND JUGGLER, AND THEY RIDE AWAY FROM OSWICK CASTLE WITH PART OF THE KING'S TREASURE.



AT THE TEMPLE RUINS THEY JOIN RUY AND SIR WALDOC, AND CID PUTS OFF HIS RAGS AND ONCE AGAIN BECOMES PRINCE VALIANT. THEN THEY RIDE OUT OF WALES. EXCEPT FOR A JOUST WITH SOME ERRANT KNIGHTS AND A RATHER MESSY AFFAIR WITH A BAND OF BRIGANDS, THE JOURNEY IS UNEVENTFUL.



AT CAERLON THEY FIND SIR BEATON SUFFICIENTLY RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS TO RIDE. HERE THE GROUP BREAKS UP; SIR BEATON, WALDOC AND RUY TO RIDE TO CAMELOT THE EASY WAY, BUT VAL AND GAWAIN TO TAKE SHIP ACROSS THE BRISTOL CHANNEL TO GO BY A MORE ADVENTUROUS ROUTE.



THEY RIDE THROUGH COTSWOLD HILLS, AND NOT ONCE DO THEY COUGH LANCE OR DRAW SWORD. THE BOREDOM BROUGHT ON BY THIS LACK OF EXERCISE IS DISPELLED BY AN INNKEEPER. "WELCOME, NOBLE SIR. I SUPPOSE YOU RIDE TO THE GREAT TOURNAMENT AT HAMLIN GARDE?"



"WHY, YES!" ANSWERS GAWAIN READILY, "WE NEED THE EXERCISE AND WILL TAKE THE PRIZE.... AT LEAST I WILL!"



THEY SIT LATE OVER THEIR WINE THAT NIGHT AND VAL IS QUIET, SMILING. FINALLY GAWAIN SAYS:-- "BY THAT SILLY LOOK ON YOUR FACE I KNOW YOU'RE THINKING OF AN EQUALLY SILLY PRANK. WHAT IS IT?"



"I WAGER THAT I WILL TAKE MORE PRIZES THAN YOU," GRINS VAL. "MORE PRIZES!" ECHOES GAWAIN. "THERE IS BUT ONE GRAND PRIZE, UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU WISH TO COMPETE IN ALL THE EVENTS WITH THE LESSER FOLK!" VAL ONLY SMILES. NEXT WEEK--Repeat Performance.