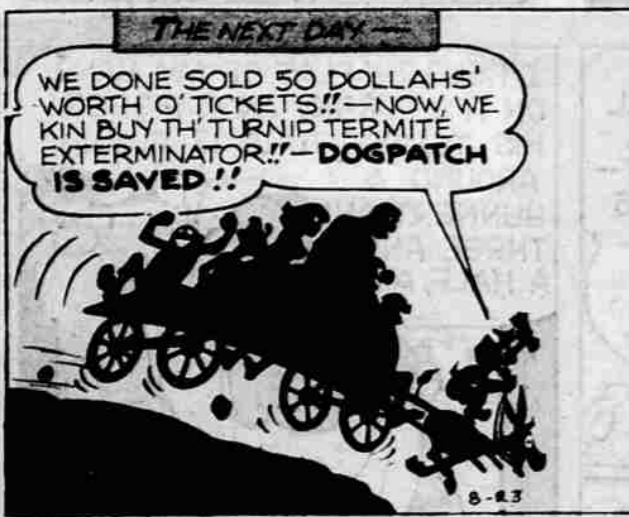
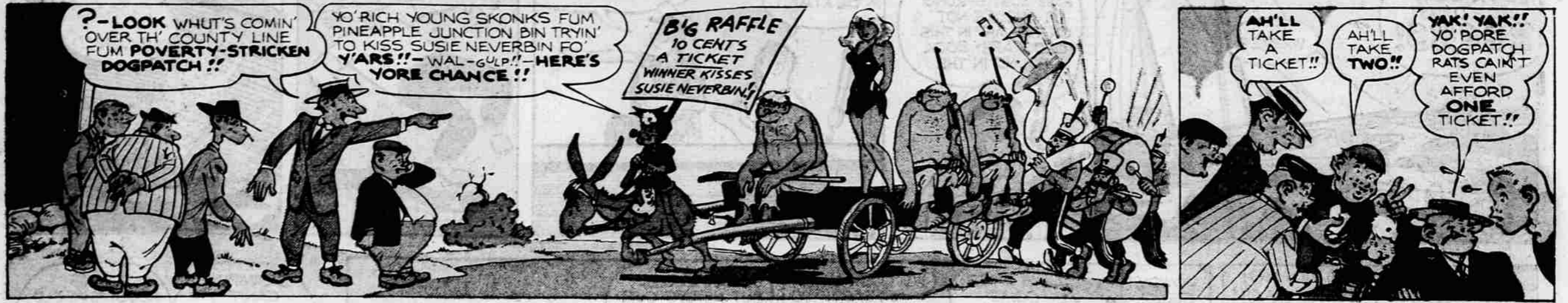


LI'L ABNER *The Thundering Herd* by AL CAPP



Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HAROLD R. FOSTER

Our Story: KING ARTHUR IS SENDING PRINCE VALIANT TO SUBDUDE THE OUTLAWS OF LITHWAY FOREST. INSTEAD OF AN ARMY VAL TAKES BUT ONE COMPANION, THE FAMOUS OUTLAW (AND THE KING'S BEST SCOUT) HUGH THE FOX. DAY AFTER DAY THEY FARE NORTHWARD THROUGH THE DIM FORESTS.

AS THEY NEAR LITHWAY THEY BECOME MORE CAUTIOUS. "THAT FOLIAGE ON YONDER LIMB LOOKS UNNATURAL, SIR VALIANT. POKE IT WITH YOUR LANCE," SAYS HUGH.

AS THE SHARP POINT EXPLORES THE BOWER THERE COMES A CRY OF PAIN, AND TWO OUTLAWS DROP TO THE GROUND, AND EACH HOLDS A NET.

THEN A SCORE OF MEN RUSH FROM THEIR HIDING PLACES WITH WEIGHTED NETS WHICH THEY USE WITH SUCH SKILL THAT VAL AND HUGH ARE CAUGHT ERE A SWORD CAN BE DRAWN.

THEY ARE LED DEEP INTO THE FOREST WHILE THE EXCITED OUTLAWS TRY TO ESTIMATE THE VALUE OF THE GOLD AND JEWELS IN THE HILT AND SCABBARD OF 'THE SINGING SWORD.'

THEY REACH THEIR CAPTORS' LAIR AND VAL IS AGHAST AT THE HATRED SHOWN TOWARD HIM. 'OPPRESSOR OF THE POOR, THEY CALL HIM, 'SLAVE-MAKER, ROBBER, TORTURER, KILLER' AND OTHER NAMES. HE STANDS SILENT, WONDERING WHAT MIGHT BE THE CAUSE OF THEIR ANGER.

ONLY WHEN ONE OF THEM ATTEMPTS TO DRAW 'THE SINGING SWORD' DOES HE SPEAK: "DON'T DRAW THAT BLADE!" HE THUNDERS.

NEXT WEEK - The Curse of the Sword.