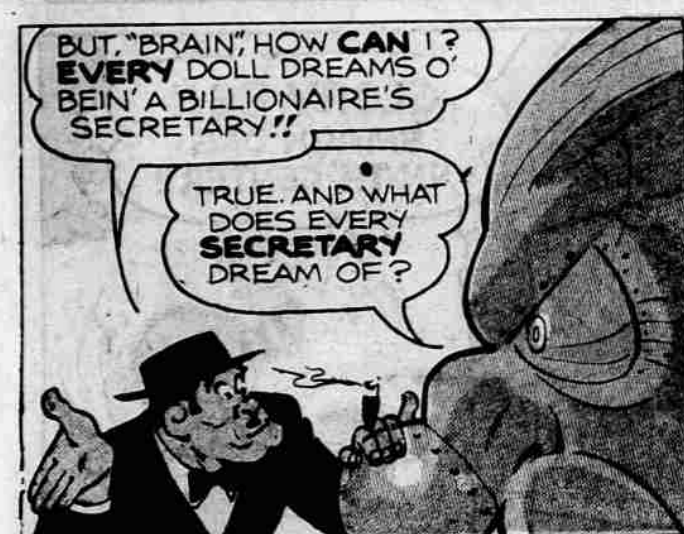


LI'L ABNER

His Monster's
Voice —

by

AL CAPP



Prince Valiant

IN THE DAYS OF KING ARTHUR

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY HAROLD R. FOSTER



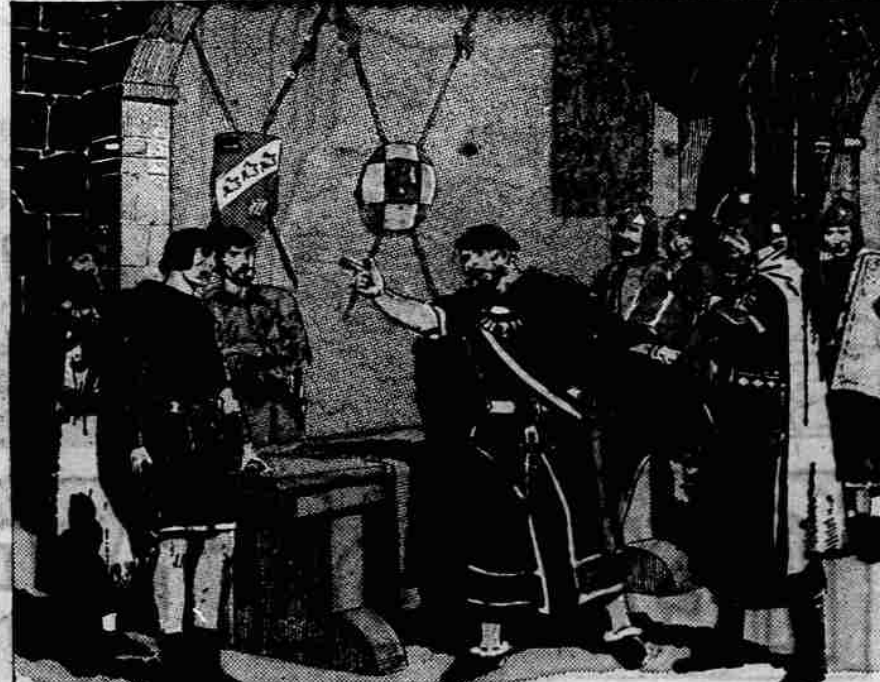
Our Story: KING ARTHUR HAS SENT PRINCE VALIANT TO CLEAN OUT A NEST OF OUTLAWS, BUT VAL HAS GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THEY ARE ONLY REFUGEES FROM THE INJUSTICE OF THEIR MASTER, THE EARL OF LITHWAY. HUGH THE FOX AWAKENS HIM BEFORE DAWN.



"SEE, SIR VALIANT, THE NOBLE HOLSIG SEEMS TO BE IN A GREAT HURRY TO DELIVER HIS TAX MONIES TO THE KING. HE IS LEAVING IN SECRET WITH TWENTY MEN-AT-ARMS. DO YOU SUPPOSE THE OUTLAWS WILL ATTACK SUCH A FORCE?"



BUT THEY DO... APPARENTLY. FOR ERE NOON HOLSIG IS BACK SHOUTING THAT HE HAS BEEN ROBBED OF THE KING'S MONEY. ONLY TEN MEN RETURN WITH HIM.



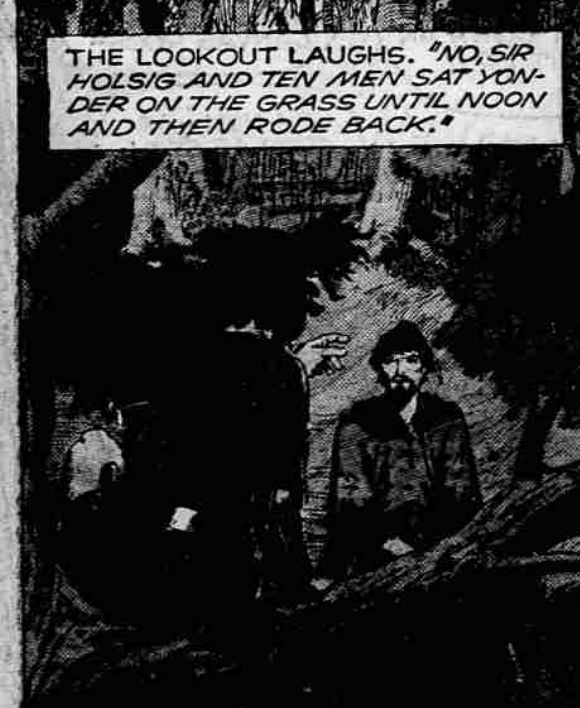
"NOW YOU SEE, SIR VALIANT," ROARS THE EARL OF LITHWAY. "TWICE THOSE WILD CRIMINALS HAVE STOLEN THE KING'S TREASURE. GO AT ONCE TO THE KING AND ASK FOR AN ARMY TO HANG THEM ALL. I'LL COMMAND THE ARMY!"



HOLSIG CLAIMS THEY FOUGHT BRAVELY AND LOST TEN MEN, YET THE HARDY SURVIVORS SHOW NO WOUNDS, NO BLOODSTAINS. "I THINK I WILL GO FOR A RIDE," SAYS HUGH WITH A WINK. "MY HORSE NEEDS EXERCISE."



SO HUGH RIDES INTO THE FOREST CARRYING A GREEN BRANCH, THE SIGN OF PEACE, AND IS MET BY A SCOUT, AS THE OUTLAWS HAD PROMISED. "DID SIR HOLSIG AND TWENTY MEN RIDE THIS WAY?" ASKS HUGH.



THE LOOKOUT LAUGHS. "NO, SIR HOLSIG AND TEN MEN SAT YONDER ON THE GRASS UNTIL NOON AND THEN RODE BACK."



"BUT TEN OTHERS TOOK THE ROAD BACK TOWARD HOLSIG'S FIEF AND THE TREASURE WENT WITH THEM."

NEXT WEEK: The Earl's Justice.