

a fanzine for Krazy KAT

#2



That'll give you an idea... And that is the actual size of the daily strip--in the book at least. The lettering is neater than the original... You'll notice in the last panel one of Herriman's gimmicks--the moon that looks like a spoon. Sometimes--usually, in fact--it bears so little resemblance to the moon that you can't figure it out at all.

Also evident is another Herriman trick: unless it is demanded by the plot, the background, and sometimes all visible props will shift from weird to incredible. Usually they are plateaus, and weird plants, but there is little end to them, or their outerness. Herriman manifests a tremendous imagination here, one that taken in such large doses as in this book, will stun a person with any imagination of his own.

* Any incoherence to this page/issue must be attributed to the fact
 * that I am at the same time listening to Ellington's suite, A DRUM
 * IS A WOMAN. ("There, at the edge of the clearing: a girl; her face
 * is pretty and childlike. The rest of her is pretty too--but not
 * childlike..." "The stage is set...we await the rising of a curtain
 * that is not down...or even there..." "It's early morning, and the
 * sun, a neon rose lollipop is drawn up over the horizon..." Not strict-
 * ly sic, since it's hard to get it all down as the Duke tells it,
 * and you can't see the expression in his voice as I hear it. The
 * imagery is sometimes weird, but completely imaginative--like the
 * scenery in Krazy Kat, in fact. The two go together nicely...

At this point I'm wondering how I can fill up the rest of this, and those to follow. No doubt I'll think of something—I always do...

How it is, I do not know, but it seems that Dell decided to muscle in on a good thing. Along 1951 (during Sixth Fandom...) Dell began publishing a quarterly comic called KRAZY KAT.

It was pretty kool at that. The drawing style was not Herriman's, but at least wasn't the usual stylized Dell type. Sort of a cleaner Herriman style, incorporating some of, but not most, of the features of the old characters. Krazy retained his/her long nose. The main characters, Krazy, Ignatz Mouse, and Offissa Pupp, and one subsidiary one, Mrs. Kwak Kwakk are retained, but Kolin, who Made the Bricks is gone, as are Ignatz' wife and three mice, and Joe. Stork. (Yes, that period after 'Joe' should be there.)

An attempt has been made to retain the moving landscape and the weird country-side, but now it resembles something a Disney hack turned out in his spare time.

Some of the cleverness has been retained. The original strip had the cleverest writing ever to grace the comic-pages of any American Newspaper. Not merely clever ideas and plots, but really 'highbrow' clever dialogue.

In the original strip, Krazy leaves His Majesty's English in shambles. While an attempt is made to carry this trait into the comic, it is inconsistent and unsuccessful. I suppose that Dell's editors felt it would corrupt their lily-white readers' language to be shown too many poor examples.

Still, the Dell writers & artists must have read the original well, for gags are purloined for several of the single-page strips on the covers. And if the one on the backcover of #504 (Dell numbered every comic produced in one series, if it wasn't published on a monthly or bimonthly schedule--KRAZY was quarterly for the first five issues, and then irregular. I think #504 is the sixth issue.) wasn't swiped, it should've been.

I have, in the Dell series, #s 2,3,4,5, and #504. I know others were published after #504, and I need #1. Anyone have copies to sell or trade? I was originally attracted to the comicbook before I know of the strip, so the book isn't too bad...

An example follows of the writing in one strip (original Herriman):

Krazy: "What a blissful occupation it is to be a Vestal Wergin and burn sweet incense to the gods of love."

Caption(s): "Krazy Kat" is now holding down a "Vestal Virgin" job in the enchanted oak forest ((consisting of one tree)) and is here seen chaste, and full of wistful purity burning frankincense and myrrh to the dieties who control the destinies of hearts. That the gods may be further propitiated, "Krazy" lifts up a voice laden with Katlike vestal virginity. ((to be continued...))

This is A FANZINE FOR KRAZY KAT #2, and is STILL being published by that kraven koward, Ted E. White. Beware, for there is more yet to come!