

SEXTON BLAKE IN THE CASE OF THE CLOTHING ROBBERIES

THANKS TO SEXTON BLAKE AND LARRY O'GORMAN THE POLICE CORNER THE BLACK MARKET GANG AT THE EMPIRE MILL - BUT THE CROOK BOSS, WITH SOME OF HIS MEN, MANAGE TO ESCAPE - THINKING THEY HAVE SHOT SEXTON BLAKE DURING THE SCRAP -



WE'VE GOT MOST OF THE GANG AND SAVED THE CLOTH, BUT THE BOSS HAS GOT AWAY!

IT'S A PITY, BUT I'VE GOT A LINE ON HIM. NOW, LISTEN - THEY THINK I'M DEAD AND DONE FOR, SO LET THEM GO ON THINKING IT - CARRY ME OUT, ON A STRETCHER!



CRUMBS, SOMEBODY'S COPPED A PACKET - WONDER WHO IT IS!

IT'S SEXTON BLAKE - AND HE'S DONE FOR HEARD A COPPER SAY SO!



NEXT DAY, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS -

MR. JARVIS TO SEE YOU, SIR?

HE'S THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!

HAVE HIM IN, THEN I'LL HIDE IN THE CUPBOARD!

BEGORRA, IT WAS MESELF THINKIN' I'D COULDN'T LET HIM SEE US TALKING TO A DEAD MAN!



GOOD MORNING MR. JARVIS - WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?!

THERE ARE RUMOURS IN THE TOWN THAT MR. SEXTON BLAKE, THE FAMOUS DETECTIVE, WAS SHOT LAST NIGHT IN THE EMPIRE MILL IF THAT IS TRUE, SIR, IT IS A CALAMITY!



BUT MR. JARVIS BETRAYS HIMSELF - THE RING HE WEARS WAS LAST SEEN BY SEXTON BLAKE AND LARRY ON THE HAND OF THE BOSS CROOK.

CHEER UP, MR. JARVIS - I'M STILL ALIVE AND KICKING. WE WANT THE CROOKS TO THINK I'M DEAD. YOU SEE, I HAVE A LINE ON THE BOSS AND I'LL GET HIM BEFORE THE DAY IS OUT!

BEJABERS, HOW RIGHT YE ARE, MISTER BLAKE - BUT DON'T TELL ANYBODY. MISTER JARVIS, DHARLINT!

INDEED I WON'T - BUT SINCE YOU ARE ALIVE, MR. BLAKE - WELL, I WON'T WASTE ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME!



REMEMBER - NOT A WORD TO A SOUL, MR. JARVIS - IT WON'T BE LONG, NOW, BEFORE I CORNER THE WHOLE GANG AND RECOVER THE STOLEN CLOTH!

I HOPE YOU WILL, MR. BLAKE - GOOD BYE AND GOOD LUCK - I'M VERY BUSY, SO I MUST HURRY!



DID YE SEE THAT RING? BEJABERS, HE'S THE BOSS OF THE GANG, SO HE IS!

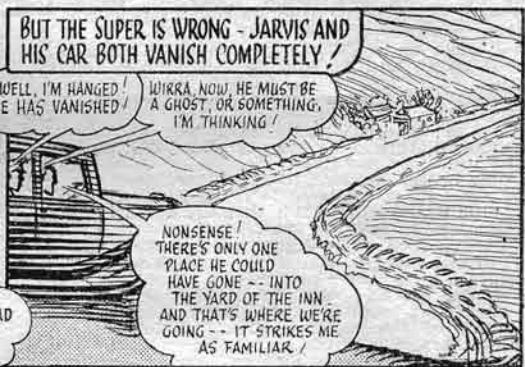
YES! COME TO MAKE SURE I WAS DEAD - NOW HE KNOWS I'M ALIVE AND HE'S YANICKING - JUST AS I WANTED HIM TO DO - WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, SUPER, AND WE'LL HAVE A SQUAD OF YOUR MEN CLOSE HANDY!

I'LL FIX THAT FOR YOU, MR. BLAKE!



SEXTON BLAKE'S CAR FOLLOWS JARVIS OUT OF TOWN

OCHONE, WE'LL LOSE HIM OVER THE HILL IF YE DON'T STEP ON IT, MISTER BLAKE!



BUT THE SUPER IS WRONG - JARVIS AND HIS CAR BOTH VANISH COMPLETELY!

WELL, I'M HANGED! HE HAS VANISHED!

WIKKA, NOW, HE MUST BE A GHOST, OR SOMETHING, I'M THINKING!

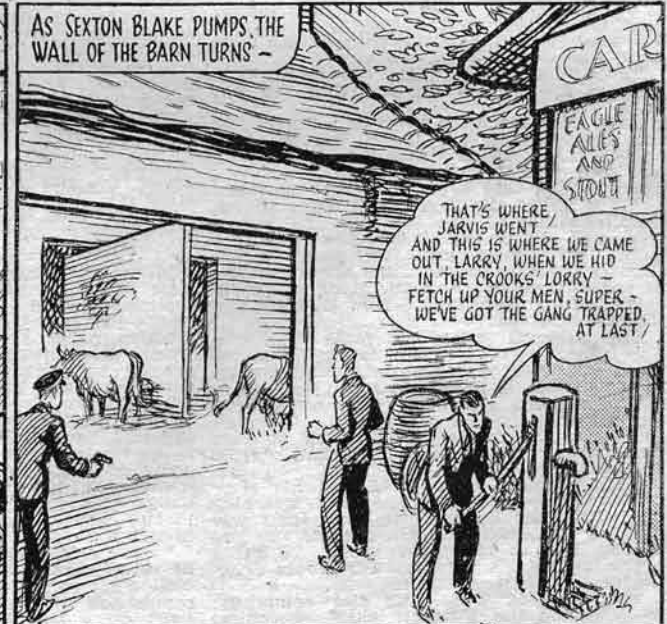
NONSENSE! THERE'S ONLY ONE PLACE HE COULD HAVE GONE - INTO THE YARD OF THE INN - AND THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING - IT STRIKES ME AS FAMILIAR!



BUT HE COULDN'T HAVE COME IN HERE! WHERE'S THE CAR?

YE COULDN'T HIDE A BIKE IN HERE, AND THERE'S NO CLUE TO HIM AT ALL, AT ALL!

ARE YOU SURE? LOOK AT THIS PUMP - NOT A SIGN OF WATER BUT THE HANDLE IS QUITE POLISHED AS IF IT IS OFTEN USED. I'LL TRY A SPOT OF PUMPING!



AS SEXTON BLAKE PUMPS THE WALL OF THE BARN TURNS -

THAT'S WHERE JARVIS WENT! AND THIS IS WHERE WE CAME OUT, LARRY, WHEN WE HID IN THE CROOKS' LORRY - FETCH UP YOUR MEN, SUPER - WE'VE GOT THE GANG TRAPPED, AT LAST!

(Next week - The secret of the inn!)