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For the Home and Family

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Harold C. McClure

"Home Furnishings Store" GEORGETOWN
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Fightin' Scribe

By EVANS GREY
McClure Newspaper Syndicate,
WNU Features.

THE city editor tossed me a piece of telegraph copy. "Write me a follow on this," he said. It was a story from an advance base in the Solomons. "Burke Hennessey killed six Japs with a tommy-gun," it began.

The clatter of the city room faded, and instead of the murky walls, I saw the scene in which I first met Hells Bells Hennessey a dozen years before.

It was a cold night. The north wind drifted down from the hills and through the valley. A little run-down shack was in flames, and there was a sharp odor of burning pine. The pitiful belongings of a stricken family had been carried into the bare, sandy yard, and the old folks and children were standing around shivering in their night clothes. Hennessey began talking to one of the youngsters, a boy about seven years old, "trying to hold six squirming puppies in his arms. "You like those pups pretty good?" Hennessey inquired grinning.

There was a light in Benny's eyes that wasn't a reflection from the fire. "Yes, sir," he said.

George Wilson, the relief worker, came along and gave Hennessey a



"Don't ever get in my way when I'm after a story."

shove. "Leave them alone, can't you?" he grumbled.

Hennessey placed a neat left hook expertly on Wilson's chin. Wilson went down. He stayed there, rubbing his jaw for a minute, then started yelling for the cops. The reporter yanked him to his feet and slapped him across the face. "Go on and attend to your business," he said quietly. "But remember—don't ever get in my way when I'm after a story."

The next day Hennessey was booked for fighting, but his editor bailed him out and the paper carried his account at the top of Page One. It told a lot about those people whose home had burned. How they battled for existence and how, some way, they found things that made life good—things like love for a half-dozen straggly puppies.

But Hennessey got fired. The editor told me about it. "Happened on account of the publisher's wife," he said. "She's a big nanny in this welfare society that hires George Wilson. The old dame put her foot down. So her old man sent in a memo, and there you are."

Hennessey moved around a good bit, then. He was always being kicked out, but when I went to Bluffview he was there, working on the morning sheet.

A couple of years after that Hennessey came into the office of the newspaper I was on at New Bradfield. He had about him the look by which you can always identify a tramp.

He started bragging about how well he was doing. But just at the moment he was broke, and was there anything he could do to earn a few dollars? I told him I didn't know of anything.

"Well, how about letting me have a couple of bucks so I can get something to eat and a place to sleep?" he asked.

I let him have the money, for old times' sake. About that time the old man came in and Hennessey hit him up for a job.

"I'd like to give you a break, Hennessey," the boss said, "but frankly I'd be scared to. First thing I'd know you'd jump on me, and I don't care about fighting except when a couple of other guys are doing it."

After that he'd drop in once in a while, mooch a dollar or two and move on. Once in a while he'd get work, but it never lasted long. Most guys spoke of him in the past tense, whenever there was any occasion to mention his name. "He could have been a good newspaper man," they'd say.

He dropped out of sight and nobody heard of him for a long time. Then—this yarn from the Solomons. I read the rest of it. "Hennessey, a Marine Corps combat correspondent, was assigned to accompany a patrol group and report its activities," the wire said. "He became separated from his men and, when he attempted to rejoin them, found his way barred by six of the enemy. He shot them down, completed his assignment and wrote his story, which is presented here-with."

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GREGORY

THEATRE

Friday, November 30th

"FRISCO SAL"

Suzanna Foster, Turhan Bey

Cartoon "Woody Dines Out"

Pete Smith "Sport Sticklers"

Fox News

Saturday, December 1, matinee at 3

"MURDER HE SAYS"

Fred MacMurray, Marjorie Main

Sport "Harness Races"

Novelty "Spreading Jam"

Chapter I "Zorro's Black Whip"

Tuesday and Wednesday, December 4 and 5

"LADY ON A TRAIN"

Deanna Durbin, David Ermos

Comedy "What No Cigarettes"

"Flicker Flashback"

SOON: "Valley of Decision" Greer Garson, Gregory Peck

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