

JIM AND HIS DECISION

By H. M. EGBERT

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JIM BENNETT sat on the sand of Tan-tan Island and looked out across the sea, as he had done each day for more than a year. Everybody in Tan-tan knew Jim Bennett, and the raggedest beachcomber sneered when his name was mentioned. It was not so much the depths to which he had fallen as the fact that he had fallen so far. Three years ago he had left San Francisco to make his fortune in the South seas and had come back to marry Elsie Dale. But her father was many times a millionaire, and had other ideas for Elsie's future. Everything depended, then, on Jim's making good on the copra trading trip, in which he had sunk his little capital. At least, so far as marrying Elsie was concerned. Her father would never consent. Jim knew Jack Dale too well to hope for that. But if the trip succeeded Jim could afford to bear the old man's enmity, and Elsie had said she would. The ship was wrecked on an uncharted reef off Tan-tan. Jim saw his little capital lost. He had barely the fare home. Despair took hold of him, then the lethargy of the life in the little place. He had sunk down and down. He had at last written to Elsie releasing her—and had forgotten. He had quite forgotten by the time Elsie's letter arrived. She had told him that she was going to wait three years. If at the end of that time he did not claim her, she would feel free. But she loved him; let him remember that every day of his life. At the end of the first year Jim remembered it occasionally. He was employed in one of the island resorts. At the end of the second year he had a hazy recollection. Then he was doing odd jobs along the wharf. At the end of the third year, when he was nothing but a beachcomber, he remembered again, this time more clearly. He remembered it when the monthly vessel arrived. He expected that it would carry a letter for him. No letter had been at the post office; and yet, when Jim looked up and saw a young, athletic American, neatly dressed, with sun helmet and blue glasses, approaching him, he was sure that he had come upon business concerning Elsie. Jim looked up lazily from among the little group of fellow loafers, and wondered how any man could find the energy to walk at that gait in such a sun. The young man drew up to the group and stopped. "Any of you men know a fellow named Jim Bennett?" he inquired. The man nearest Jim nudged him lazily; the rest did not even shift their eyes from the far horizon. "I'm Jim Bennett," said Jim, rising. He saw the astonishment upon the young man's face. "Will you please come over here?" asked the stranger. He led him about fifty yards away, out of the hearing of the others. He might have saved himself the trouble, for those who were not asleep in the shade had already forgotten Jim's existence. When they stood together upon the sand the young man took Jim by the shoulders and swung him round, facing him. "Are you Jim Bennett or are you lying?" he demanded, in crisp, nervous accents. For an instant Jim felt the resentment that would have come to any normal man at such treatment; but then he remembered that he had left his manhood behind him at Tan-tan town. "I'm Jim Bennett," he answered doggedly. "What do you want with me?" The other breathed hard. "Where do you come from?" he demanded. "I must have proofs of what you say. Who is the woman to whom you are engaged?" "You mean Miss Dale, I suppose," drawled Jim, and the other let his hands drop from his shoulders and stared at him hopelessly. "Are you crazy or sunstruck?" he inquired presently. "Usually both," answered Jim truthfully. "Today, as it happens, I haven't found anyone willing to give me the price. How about you?" The young man clapped him on the shoulder. "Listen to me," he said quietly. "You must have been a man once, from all I've heard of you. I recognize you now from your photograph, although that beard makes you look quite different. Miss Dale's father is dead. He has left her his whole fortune. She wanted me to come and find you and bring you back to her. She loves you, and pride doesn't count. She knows what you must have been through, and she's going to ask you to marry her, once she gets you at her side. Understand?" Jim understood. The thought of the Dale millions at his command was paralyzing; it galvanized him into life. He looked up, to see the young man reading his face. "Here's ten dollars," he said suddenly. "No—wait!" He pulled out the pocketbook again. "Here's a hundred. Do you think you can get washed and cleaned and have a new suit and good linen on your back, ready to sail on the ship tomorrow?" Jim pocketed the money mech-

ically. "I suppose so," he muttered. "What's your hurry?" "Be quiet," said the other gravely. "Miss Dale is on board. That's why. And the best man in the world couldn't deserve your luck." Somehow the new clothes, the luxury of a bath, had put new manhood into Jim. He lay in bed early in the morning in the hotel and speculated what he would do with the Dale millions. He would go to San Francisco, of course. He would build a palace there. He would have automobiles, fine clothes, cigars, all the physical luxuries which he had been denied so long. And—he would marry Elsie at the first opportunity, to keep his hold on her. He got up and dressed. He was just about to leave the room when the young man entered. He surveyed Jim with a grimmer smile than before. "You haven't shaved off your beard," he said. "No," said Jim thoughtfully. "It looks—more manly, I think." The other looked at him in contempt. It penetrated the man's skin. Jim winced. It was the first moment of self-realization in many a year. "Why have you done all this for me?" he asked, looking at the other curiously. "Do you know, I believe—I believe you are in love with Elsie yourself." "Miss Dale from you, please," replied the other. "Yes, I am in love with her, if you wish to know it. And if I hadn't found you I think she would have married me." "Then why did you find me?" muttered Jim. The other choked down an expletive. "If you're ready," he said coldly. "we'll start right away." Jim went out with him. And now, surveyed by the curious inhabitants of the little settlement, the target of their sneering glances, Jim felt suddenly more ashamed than he had ever felt before in all his life. And for the first time he really understood the depths of his degradation. He had been a worthless beachcomber, while she had waited for him, believed in him. He was utterly worthless. He could not degrade that pure life to the level of his own. He had thought of nothing but the Dale millions, nothing at all of the love that had been true to him. Unconsciously he held his head higher and flung back the scornful gestures, the looks, the thinly-veiled jeers. They should learn some day that there was that spark of manhood in him which would kindle the old fires! He knew that his past was utterly dead. And so, walking at the side of his companion, he boarded the boat. There was a delay, a brief delay. The young man turned to him and said: "Remember, Bennett, my lips are sealed forever. You have your own future and hers to make or mar. I know her love for you, and that is why I shall remain silent. Can you honor it? Promise me that from this day forward you will strive with might and main to be worthy of her." "I promise," answered Jim humbly, and the man at his side looked at him strangely. This seemed to be a new man—he had known nothing of him. Along the deck came a white-robed figure, tripping gladly. Jim knew her at once. All his heart went out to her. Elsie had not changed a bit during those three years, except that there was more of the woman in her poise, her thoughtful eyes, and just as much of the happy girl in her smiling face. "John!" she exclaimed. "Where—where is Jim, then? And who is this gentleman?" Suddenly Jim realized that she had not recognized him. His tan, his beard, the ineffaceable marks of those three years on his face. . . . He turned a little away. "Jim died last week," he said quietly. "We didn't dare to break the news to you at once. He died—I was his friend—he wanted me to tell you." He turned and walked with steady steps to the ship's gangway, and along the wharf.

Writer Has Brief for Much Maligned Goat Because the goat is whimsical in appearance and, in its kidding state, spry and full of antics, it is singled out as an animal to be made a pet of. Therefore it is often found that people without proper facilities will attempt to keep a goat. If dogs eat vegetables how many gardens would be ruined in a day with all the dogs we have at large! Why should the goat, above all animals, be expected to "Keep off the grass" and travel in the narrow path of animal virtue? It is often said that the goat is difficult to fence against, but this is erroneous. The fence that will hold a sheep will hold a goat. The only difference is that if there is a hole in the fence depend upon the goat's wit to find it, while the sheep may pass it unseen. An ordinary milk goat, carrying a normal udder, has no desire to entangle herself in a fence; provided with proper food she will not crave the exaggerated items of fare sometimes put down as her food.—Montreal Family Herald.

Mess How this word came to describe the rather crowded meal for soldiers is uncertain since its original use was to denote the groups of four into which feast guests were divided in olden days. Shakespeare has one of his characters in "Love's Labor's Lost" say, "I confess that you three fools lacked me, fool, to make up the mess," that is, four.

4-L Hall At Westport Is Destroyed By Fire The big 4-L hall at Westport was completely destroyed by a spectacular fire which started about 2:30 a. m. Thursday morning of last week. The cause of the fire is unknown. The loss is estimated at \$15,000 and is well covered by insurance. It is expected that the building will be rebuilt.

Heavy Fine For Possession Wm. Schmeck was arrested by Marshal Kelly Christmas night in the rear of the Vista hotel for having liquor in his possession. He broke two pints on the sidewalk but one and one-half gallons in his suitcase was confiscated by the marshal. He was fined \$150 and given 10 days in jail by Judge Reasoner.

Fined For Possession Dick Hendrickson was arrested Saturday night for being drunk and having liquor in his possession. He was admitted to bail in Judge Reasoner's court for \$25. He forfeited his bail by not showing up for trial.

St. Helens Defeats Yacolt St. Helens won from Yacolt high school in basketball Thursday night, 28 to 14 in the St. Helens gymnasium. St. Helens played the Scappoose All-Stars last night.

Warren May Get Lights. With 42 persons having signed up for electric light service in Warren, it is thought that the necessary 52 demanded by District Manager C. C. Turlay of the P. E. P. Company will be secured before long, and that in a short time the entire district will be using electricity.

Notice of Call of Bonds Notice is hereby given to the holder of Bonds numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, of Sewer Improvement Bonds, of Vernonia Columbia Co. Oregon, dated Jan. 1, 1925; and redeemable at the option of the said City of Vernonia on Jan. 1, 1926, said bond No. 1 being in denomination of \$260.16 and bonds No. 2, 3, 4, 5, being in denomination of \$500.00 each. That

pursuant to said option said bonds numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, will be redeemed within thirty days from the date of this notice to-wit: On the First day of January, 1927, upon presentation to the City Treasurer of the City of Vernonia, Vernonia, Oregon.

In case any holder of any of the said bonds fail to present same at time and place mentioned herein for the redemption thereof, then the interest thereon shall cease and the City Treasurer aforesaid will thereafter pay only the amount of such bonds and the interest accrued thereon up to said first day of January, 1927.

Dated at Vernonia, Oregon, this 1st day of December, 1926.

J. C. Lindley, Treasurer  
City of Vernonia, Vernonia, Oregon

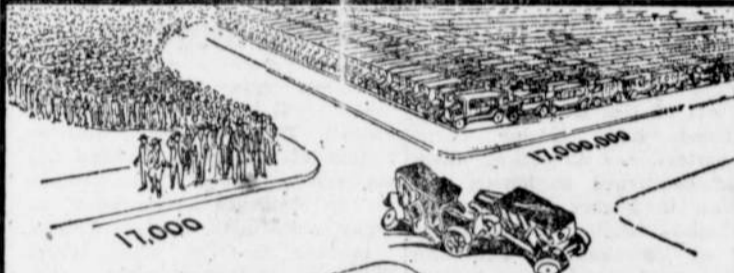
NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS Sealed bids will be received by D. B. Reasoner, City Recorder of the City of Vernonia, Oregon, at the City Hall of said City, until 8:00 P. M. December 30, 1926, and then publicly opened, for the furnishing and installation of one 25 H. P. motor and one 5 H. P. motor including all wiring, switches, couplings, and compensators for municipal water pumping plant, according to the plans and specifications on file at the office of the City Recorder at Vernonia, Oregon.

All equipment and motors to be General Electric or equal grade. No proposal will be considered unless accompanied by a certified check; or bidders bond equal to 10 per cent of the amount of the bid and made payable to the order of the City Treasurer of Vernonia, Oregon.

Dated December 21, 1926.

D. B. REASONER,  
City Recorder.

One Death Per 1000 Autos in a Year Is Record of U. S.



I Person is Killed and 28 injured annually for every 1000 Automobiles in this Country

STEWART-WARNER AUTOMOBILE SAFETY COUNCIL

ONE out of a thousand is the relationship between the annual automobile fatalities and the number of motor vehicles in this country, according to the Stewart-Warner Safety Council for the prevention of automobile accidents, which has undertaken a strenuous campaign of automobile safety and accident prevention.

And for every fatality there are at least 28 accidents serious enough to get on record. This does not take into consideration minor scrapes and bruises or people suffering from nervous shock as the result of being in an automobile accident.

To appreciate what a vast army of killed and injured is annually conscripted by the reckless motorist and careless pedestrian, a comparison may be made with American casualties in the great war. Over a third as many people are killed annually by the automobile as there were American soldiers killed on the field of battle during the entire war, while the number injured each year is nearly three times as great as the number of our boys who were wounded throughout the war.

Old World Charm Meets New World Conveniences



PLACING your house according to your lot is the privilege of the person who builds this practical dwelling of the English farm house type. The entrance is so arranged that the house may either be placed lengthwise for a thirty-foot city lot or crosswise for a 60 or 75 foot lot.

The design here calls for a combination of stucco and stained siding.

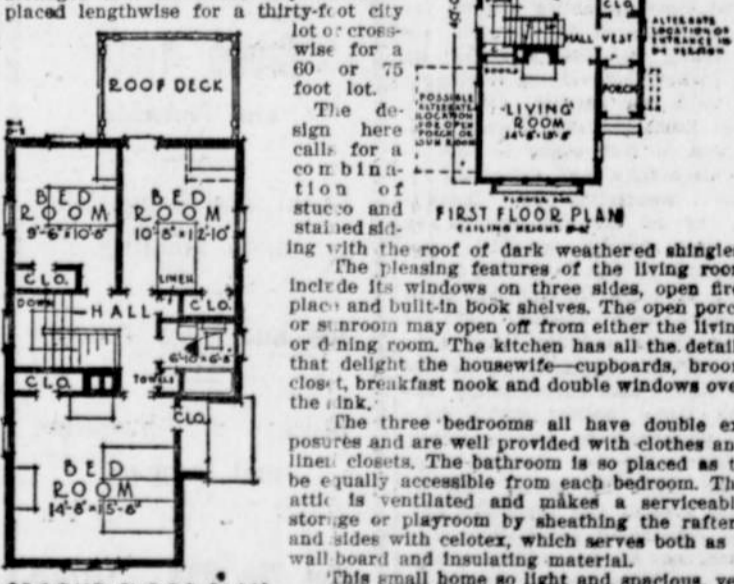
ing with the roof of dark weathered shingles. The pleasing features of the living room include its windows on three sides, open fireplace and built-in book shelves. The open porch or sunroom may open off from either the living or dining room. The kitchen has all the details that delight the housewife—cupboards, broom closet, breakfast nook and double windows over the sink.

The three bedrooms all have double exposures and are well provided with clothes and linen closets. The bathroom is so placed as to be equally accessible from each bedroom. The attic is ventilated and makes a serviceable storage or playroom by sheathing the rafters and sides with celotex, which serves both as a wall board and insulating material.

This small home so light and spacious, yet compact and adapted to doing without a servant, is a typical 1926 product. The poky, dark and poor planning would be scorned by the modern housewife who has learned to expect comfort built right into her home and to have everything planned for her convenience in working. Cold, draughty houses are also out of date. All well built houses, are insulated as this one is, with celotex sheathing on the exterior walls under the stucco. This effects a great saving in fuel in the winter and resists the intense heat of the sun in summer.

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SECOND FLOOR PLAN



ROOF DECK

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

COLLECTIONS NO COLLECTION—NO CHARGE KNIGHT ADJUSTMENT CO. We Get Results. Offices at McMinnville, Hillsboro and 502 Board of Trade Building, Portland.

—WE REPAIR— Anything in the Electric Line AND GUARANTEE OUR PLUMBING. ASPLAND PLUMBING And Electric Shop Phone MAin 193

CRAWFORD MOTOR CO. Lincoln — FORD — Fordson We can now SELL FORDS 1/4 DOWN PAYMENT BALANCE 12 EQUAL PAYMENTS GENUINE FORD 13 Plate Batteries \$15.00 BATTERY SERVICE Phone 612

State Laundry Company FOR GOOD LAUNDRY WORK We call and deliver TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS—Leave orders with S. Wells, Tailor, Phone MAin 891

FADA ATWATER KENT Fenner Radio Shop SETS - SERVICE - ACCESSORIES Battery Charging COME IN AND SEE US FOR Fada Radios Atwater Kent Radios Radio Service Savage Washers and Dryers. New and Used Pianos. Sheet Music. WE GIVE EASY TERMS

NEW SERVICE BATTERIES All Sizes Now is the time of year your battery should be kept fully charged and in tip-top shape. Your battery recharged, painted with acid-proof paint and acid adjusted, all for \$1.50 Radio batteries and others not requiring removal or installation in car. Rent Batteries, per day 25c

GOOD GILBY MOTOR CARS MOTOR Co.