The GREEN PEA PIRATES

By PETER B. KYNE

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"WEBSTER—MAN'S MAN,"
"THE VALLEY of the GIANTS,"
Etc.

HICKS AND FLANERTY ON VENGEANCE BENT.

Synopsis.—Captain Phineas P. Scraggs of the steamer Scraggs, plying between San Francisco and Guam, runs afoul of the steamer Guam in the vicinity of the Farallones. Scraggs, who is drunk, and his supercargo proceed to be at time of the wreck/wreckage vessel. Scraggs naturally is blamed for the collision and loses his ship. Soon after, Scraggs's brother-in-law, Hiram Skabbe, but errant, a man whom nobody but Scraggs would have in the house, Nella Halloran, a mission friend, romantic, and Jack Flaherty, Mr. McGuffey, a waiter of the Gilmer type reigns in the engine room. With the assistance of Mr. Gilmer, Scraggs obtains charge of a vessel in Drogherman's wooden truck from Hardeson but to San Francisco. Mr. Gilmer, posing as Captain Magee, going patriotic in the U. S. S. passing vessel hailing the wreck. Mr. Gilmer gets word to a towing company in San Francisco that the ship salvage is a job. Scraggs, with promise of a big salvage.

CHAPTER II—Continued.

"They'll do, Jack," Gilmey thousand. Then, in his natural voice, to Scraggs. "All set, Scraggy. Guess we're ready to be pulled off. Get down in the engine room and stand by for full speed ahead when I give the word."

"Quark! starry!" Scraggs exclaimed as he disappeared through the little engine-room hatch, for the tide was now at the tip of the flood and the Maggie was beginning writhingly and daring further up the beach. Mr. Gilmey turned his stovepipe outward and shouted: "Tugboats, ahoy!"

"Ahoy!" came back in response. "All ready! Lower pressure!"

The Squarehead stationed himself at the bitts with a hawser, and Mr. Gilmey hastened to the pilot house and took his place at the wheel. Soon the lines were commenced to lift out of the sea. The Squarehead gave a warning shout whereupon Mr. Gilmey called the engine room. "Give her the gun," he commanded Scraggs. "Full ahead! Keep the mud out comin' with her, number this is the steamer Yankee Doodle. Do not come off here if you can't."

Captain Scraggs opened the throttle and while the two tugs steadily drew her off into deep water, the Maggie backed valiantly in stirts in the beach and even to continue her interrupted journey overland. She surely succeeded in stretching both hawsers taut; slowly she was drawn seaward astern first, and at the expiration of fifteen minutes' steady pulling, Mr. Gilmey could restrain himself no longer and sang out to Scraggs to stop the engine promptly. Then, calling Nella Halloran to the wheel, he hastened aft to the wheel and scrambled aft.

With no one at the wheel, the Maggie shot off at a tangent and the hawsers started immediately. In the twinkling of an eye Mr. Gilmey had cut them off, and as the ends disappeared with a swish over the stern he bent

"Scraggy," He Bawled, "Scraggy-y-y! Stop the engine! Stop the engine, you lunatic! Bring an Axe!"

getting across at Hicks and Flaherty. Hicks, who was standing on his map of Africa, had just succeeded in severing the mentality of the offensive Mr. McGuffey, when the latter's head vanished in hospital, and so grateful was he to Hicks and Flaherty for their forbearance that he arranged a banquet in their honor at Healy's for that night and treat them individually—and collectively—to a drink. Then he and forgot his aches and pains in a game of Monopoly with the two ladies, Nella Scraggs at the hands of the two gentlemen. Hicks and Flaherty, having had their fun, had failed completely to rally to the Gilmey appeal to repel the boarders, but they were sufficiently magnanimous to forget that what the Gilmey whispered. "Let's wait until she's on the beach and then we'll come back and shoot some."

They waited without having it, thereby the attention of Mr. Gilmey. Promptly at seven-thirty the tow line was shortened, whereupon Mr. Gilmey left the wheel and, with Nella Halloran, drifted across the street to meet Jack Flaherty, who was just emerging from the door of the engine room, and take him by surprise. Mr. Gilmey was the first to reach the engineer, and he was standing gazing reflectively at the Maggie's stern when Gilmey and Nella where the hawsers had chafed away the paint. Flaherty was in the act of hoisting out a bucket of water to wash off the grease when Gilmey's voice boomed in his ear:

"Jack, you're a free man! Hicks and Mr. McGuffey are ashore. Get down to the engine room and stand by for full speed ahead, just like I gave you the word."

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back to the pilot house, rang for full speed ahead, put his helm hard over and headed the Maggie in the opposite direction of Cuba, although on a matter of fact, as Mr. Gilmey knew, she could be pursued practically in any direction by both sent in the office. Apparently they were too weak with but a single thought, for the right hand of each sought the staff intended for the other's blue volume entitled "Lloyd's Register." Dan Hicks reached it first, carried it to the counter, set his navy index finger and started turning the pages in a vain search for the Ancient and Honorable Tuckahoe. Presently he looked up at Jack Flaherty.

"Jack," he said, "I think you're a liar."

"The same to you and many of them," Flaherty replied, and as he absolved. "You said she was an eight thousand-ton tramp."

"I never went so far as to say I'd been aboard her on that trip, Jack—and did cut down her tonnage about? I got the impression of a one-

Fossils Reveal History.

The fossil shells of the early invertebrates, or spineless creatures, are of great importance to geologists, for they indicate the geologic period in which the rock beds containing them were formed—in other words, the age of the rock. Each fossiliferous rock bed contains characteristic fossils, and the study of fossils has thus determined the period in which it was laid or metal. Former Director Powell of the United States geological survey once tersely explained to a congressional committee the value of paleontology by saying that it is "the geologist's clock," it, which he tells time by. Fossil shells in history when any rock bed was formed.

Gave No Promise of Greatness.

If we study the childhood of great people we shall find that many eminent men and women were noted only in their youth, and looked upon as unpromising children. The school mistress of Oliver Goldsmith proclaimed him as one of her dullest boys, and Harriet Martineau was a source of annoyance and perplexity to her parents during the whole of her young days. By reading her autobiography we see how easy it is for a gifted child, a well-intentioned child, and one anxious to do right and merit approbation to be so wholly misunderstood as to be considered a hopeless and apparently perpetual trouble to all around her, to say nothing of making life a burden to herself.

science left," Hicks defended himself.

He closed the book with a slap and placed it back on the shelf. Just then the door opened to admit no less personage than Superintendent Mellorf by, later chief engineer, first assistant engineer, second assistant engineer, oiler, fireman, watertender, and steward of the S. S. Maggie. With a brief nod to Jack Flaherty Mr. McGuffey approached Dan Hicks.

"I been holdin' for you, captain," he announced. "Say, I hear the chief of the Aphrodite's goin' to take a three months' layoff to get shet of his chronic—I mean, to visit relatives."

"Well, say, I'd like to make a chance to substitute for him. You know my record, Mac. I'm a good man in the engine room. Been second, watertender, and steward on the S. S. Maggie. With a brief nod to Jack Flaherty Mr. McGuffey approached Dan Hicks.

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"I believe it is, McGuffey