

THE TIGER TRAIL

by Edison Marshall

Illustrations by PAUL FREHM



WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE

Dr. Long is visiting Southley Downs, to which he is conducted by Ahmad Das an Oriental. There he meets Mr. Southley, whom a detective friend, Alexander Pierce, had told him to watch, and his son Ernest Southley. Mr. Hayward and his son Vilas, and then Josephine Southley, whom he had seen faint on the train. Josephine tells him the story of Southley Downs and its ghost, which is not the ghost of a human being but of a tiger.

Dr. Long has a quarrel with Vilas Hayward over Josephine, and finds that the Haywards have a strange authority over the Southleys. He is ordered to leave Southley Downs. The rain prevents him leaving at once. Dr. Long and Ernest go out on the road in the rain looking for the tracks of a tiger that Ernest says are there.

They find the tracks. Later Ernest and Dr. Long see a prowling creature in the hall of Southley Downs. This frightens the elder Hayward, who also sees it. Ernest begins to feel that Ahmad Das is perpetrating some devilry.

The elder Hayward is later found dead, his neck broken as if by a giant's blow.

The coroner and police arrive in order to investigate.

Because of the murder, Dr. Long must remain at Southley Downs. All the persons there are questioned by Inspector Freeman.

Dr. Long becomes jealous of the love he believes to exist between Vilas Hayward and Josephine. During the course of investigations of the crime Dr. Long becomes suspicious of a man named Robin. He determines to watch him.

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY.

long legs, and fairly seemed to fly—straight for the marsh at the bottom of the hill.

"Stop, Robin!" I shouted at him. "Stop at once!"

He only increased his speed. I never saw a man run faster. I was in good condition, and I gave him the best I had. He hadn't the chance to elude me that he had in our previous encounter earlier in the evening. The moon was out now.

He splashed across a pond of shallow water at the base of the hill. Possibly he thought I would not follow him here. But he was to be disappointed. No water was deep enough to throw me off now. I was going to find out his connection with the crime if I had to follow him to the mainland across the swamp.

But at once he splashed out of the pond and circled back up the hill. I was soaked to the knees, but I gave it no thought. Of course he couldn't run so fast up the steep slope, nor could I. And my breath was coming in great sobs as I approached the house.

He swung about the great structure, and I dipped far enough to one side to watch. I saw him slip into the postern door that led to the library.

Twenty seconds later I entered the same room. Evidently he hoped to elude me in the maze of rooms. But he had forgotten one thing. His boots—the same boots that had left the telltale track beside the rock—were splashed with mud and water. They made a trail across

the rugs and hardwood floor of the library. And they turned into the den.

Once more the drama of Southley Downs had shifted to this little room. Once more I stood at its threshold. And I had a curious sense of portentous developments that would come to pass within its doors.

Southley and Josephine were standing up near the same table that had figured in the drama of the previous night.

"Close the door," Southley told me.

"But where is that man Robin? I saw him rush in here. And I know he has something to do with this mystery."

"Robin? You mean the man who helped me in the power-house?"

A large blue portiere hung at the side of the den, and out of the cor-

ner of my eye I saw it waver. No wind blew it. And then, looking straight. I saw the ends of white fingers that clutched its folds.

"Mr. Southley, the man is behind that curtain now!"

Then the man behind the curtain answered me himself.

"Oh, old Doc Long!" came a familiar voice. "You're the most persistent devil!"

There is only one person in the world that calls me "old Doc Long." The hope of hearing his voice

about this cursed house of the Southleys was dead in my breast. It was the voice of the man I had longed for, whose keen mind and able hands would so quickly bring light where there was shadow.

He pulled the curtain aside, the gray eyes laughed at me. I saw through the disguise at last, and marveled at my blindness heretofore. Of course it was no one but my old and trusted friend, that world-famous detective and fisherman, Alexander Pierce.

After we had got through pounding one another on the back and roaring out what a pleasure it was to meet again I began to put a few questions to the great detective. And all the time I marveled at his disguise.

"But why didn't you let me in on it?" I demanded, just a little hurt. I saw laughter in his eyes, but his face remained grave.

"You were doing so well without me, doc," he replied. "And the way you chased me through the mud—it was rich, my lad! What a persistent devil you are! Miss Southley—if ever this young man gets on your trail, you'll never be able to

shake him off."

"Miss Southley already knows that," I commented. "And look at my trouser legs—my best dinner clothes. You are a trifle wet yourself."

"These beautiful boots protected me." Then he grew serious. "Besides, Long—among your many talents I'm afraid you can't claim to be an actor. Just a look—a word—

might have given me away. It was much better that you devote your attention to the excellent work Inspector Freeman has been doing. And as to the reason why I came in disguise—I don't believe the time is quite ripe to divulge it. I assure you that it served my ends very well."

(Continued next week)

CHARTER NO. 3774		RESERVE DISTRICT NO. 12	
REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE			
FIRST NATIONAL BANK			
AT HEPPNER, IN THE STATE OF OREGON, AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON JUNE 30TH, 1928.			
RESOURCES			
Loans and discounts, including rediscounts, acceptances of other banks and foreign bills of exchange or drafts sold with indorsement of this bank			\$ 521,118.74
Overdrafts, unsecured			618.12
U. S. Government securities owned:			
Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. bonds par value)	\$25,000.00		
All other United States Government securities (including premiums, if any)	27,450.00		52,450.00
Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc., owned			73,999.94
Banking House, \$20,000.00. Furniture and fixtures, \$6,873.50			26,873.50
Real estate owned other than banking house			51,294.10
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank			58,229.74
Cash in vault and amount due from national banks			293,694.94
Amount due from State banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States (other than included in two items above)			14,464.74
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank			531.26
Total of last three items above		\$308,490.94	
Miscellaneous cash items			2,261.02
Redemption and with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer			1,250.00
			\$1,102,513.20
LIABILITIES			
Capital stock paid in		\$ 100,000.00	
Surplus fund		10,000.00	
Undivided profits		11,699.50	
Circulating notes outstanding		23,550.00	
Amount due to State banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States		523.15	
Certified checks outstanding		46.10	
Cashier's checks outstanding		20,300.06	
Total of last three items above		\$20,850.30	
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve (deposits payable within 30 days):			
Individual deposits subject to check			498,355.30
Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed)			20,000.00
State, county, or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or surety bond			117,496.62
Other demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve		\$637,136.90	
Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve			1,284.98
Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):			
Savings deposits (including time certificates of deposit other than for money borrowed)			299,112.40
Total of time deposits subject to Reserve		\$299,112.40	
Letters of Credit and Travelers' Checks sold for cash and outstanding			145.00
			\$1,102,513.20

Saving Doesn't Mean Being "Tight"

Nor does saving mean niggardliness about money matters. Saving simply means that you are buying success on the time payment plan. It simply means that you are planning intelligently to get the things you want, when you want them and as you want them.

That answers the question of "Why save, after all?" But here are further answers to that question. A cash reserve gives you greater resourcefulness. It gives you the advantage of being able to purchase wisely. The opportunity to make valuable strategic moves in business—in making investments. The feeling of greater confidence—in everything you do—that puts new power into your efforts.

Come in and talk it over. We'll be glad to have you—and you'll find the visit profitable.

Farmers & Stockgrowers National

Heppner Bank Oregon

CHARTER NO. 11007.		RESERVE DISTRICT NO. 12.	
REPORT OF CONDITION OF THE			
Farmers and Stockgrowers National Bank			
At Heppner, in the State of Oregon, at the Close of Business on June 30, 1928.			
RESOURCES			
Loans and discounts, including rediscounts, acceptances of other banks and foreign bills of exchange or drafts sold with indorsement of this bank			\$296,858.50
Overdrafts, unsecured			817.17
U. S. Government securities owned:			
All United States Government securities (including premiums, if any)		\$ 8,000.00	
Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc., owned		5,759.88	
Furniture and fixtures		2,919.27	
Real estate owned other than banking house		2,331.15	
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank		24,501.42	
Cash in vault and amount due from national banks		92,810.14	
Amount due from State banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States (other than in last two items above)		225.00	
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank			868.78
Total of last three items above		\$93,903.92	
Miscellaneous cash items			1,072.52
			\$441,963.63
LIABILITIES			
Capital stock paid in		\$ 50,000.00	
Undivided profits		4,823.24	
Certified checks outstanding		2.00	
Cashier's checks outstanding		218.43	
Total of last two items above		\$220.43	
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve (deposits payable within 30 days):			
Individual deposits subject to check			293,004.83
Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed)			2.99
State, county, or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or surety bond			7,700.00
Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve		\$300,707.82	
Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):			
Savings deposits (including time certificates of deposit other than for money borrowed)			86,212.14
Total of time deposits subject to Reserve		\$86,212.14	
			\$441,963.63
State of Oregon, County of Morrow, ss:			
I, E. D. Hallock, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.			
E. D. HALLOCK, Cashier.			
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of July, 1928.			
CORRECT—Attest:		J. W. REYMER,	
(SEAL)		J. D. FRENCH,	
My commission expires May 31, 1931.		J. G. THOMSON,	
		Directors.	

In some way that I was yet to find out, he was involved in the problem of Southley Downs. He had washed the blood from the rock on the hillside. He had eluded the inspector and myself in the chase in the darkness. Now I had found him with Southley working upon the engine in the power-house—and yet they had seemed merely to be examining it, rather than at work. I remembered that neither of them had held tools in their hands, or even seemed to have any tools with them.

I was suddenly deeply suspicious of this man Robin. I remembered that he had volunteered his services to the negro Sam, and that looked as if he had business of his own at Southley Downs. His excuse for coming seemed somewhat trumped up. Besides, he looked his part too well. He was too perfect an example of a certain type of squatter. He had an English accent, and I had been watching all through my visit at Southley Downs for the intrusion of some one with such an accent.

Roderick, of whom Alexander Pierce had told me, who evidently had not yet put in his appearance, had lived long years in England. The names were somewhat similar, too; and I had heard before of that peculiar trait of human nature that influences a man against giving up his own name altogether. The alias he adopts is usually somewhat similar to his own name.

I made a feint of going back to a book. Southley seemed relieved. He left me in a moment and joined his daughter in the den. Vilas had gone to his room, and last as it was among the many, breathless corridors of the great house, I could imagine it was the last place in the world he had really wished to go. I drew my chair up to the great dormer window that overlooked the power-house. And I didn't see one word of the type beneath my eyes.

The hill was swept by moonbeams. There was a silver path across the face of the swamp, leaping over to my eyes. I waited possibly five minutes. And then I saw Robin emerge from the power-house.

For a long minute he waited in the shadows, and my suspicions leaped to a certainty. Then I saw him steal away toward the edge of the marsh.

A minute more and I was out in the darkness too, trying to shadow him. I tried to keep to the less open part of the hillside and yet not lose sight of my quarry. He walked slowly at first, and I shortened the distance between us to one hundred yards. As yet I had no reason for thinking he had seen me. His form was perfectly visible in the moonlight, but I had kept mostly in the shadow. But all at once he increased his pace.

I walked faster, too. My quarry broke into a slow trot. It was impossible that I could run behind him and still keep out of sight. So I made a furious dash toward him at top speed.

For a moment I thought I would overtake him before he saw me; but when I had covered half the distance between us he began really to run. He straightened out his

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WHEN you build it is always a comforting thing to know that the building materials you buy are going to be up to specifications. Cheap, flimsy construction usually goes hand in hand with poor quality materials. Safeguard your building by letting us know what you require and we will work with you to see that your interests are well protected. We are headquarters for all dependable building materials and can also help you select a good, reliable contractor. Tell us what you plan to do—we can and will give you helpful advice.

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That empty, gnawing feeling at the top of the stomach will disappear; that anxious, nervous feeling with heart palpitation will vanish, and you will again be able to take a deep breath without discomfort.

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