

TIGER ISLAND

A New Serial by Gouverneur Morris

SYNOPSIS: The big game hunter, Harvey Bowers, is chasing a cargo of wild animals to Singapore. His assistant is Ivy Green, animal trainer from a defunct circus. Both Bowers and Flint, radio operator of the S. S. Boldero, are in love with Ivy. Ivy really favors Bowers' effort to land their construction into personal matters.

Chapter 15 DARK PLOT

BOWERS is incorrigible. He says: "Suppose you liked me a million times more than you do?" "Suppose I did!" "I wonder what would happen." "Nothing. I assure you. You'd better count sheep." Then Bowers in a complaining voice: "I'm not doing any harm. I'm just trying here for a second. I wish I could see you for a thinking." "Why?" "I always thought you were pretty; but today when you were talking to the big tiger you were so kind and understanding. I got to thinking that maybe you were beautiful. So if I got to see you for a second I could be sure, couldn't I?" Ivy is not in the least interested in the conversation. She wants to go to sleep, and she remarks with petulance: "This makes five nights in a row that you haven't stopped chattering." Flint, if he had been eavesdropping, would have been comforted. It was obvious that Bowers' suit, if it were a suit, was not making any progress.

Curiously enough, Flint, about to be a partner in an act of barratry, did not consider himself an ineligible suitor. An insurance company was a cold impersonal machine. Stealing from an insurance company wasn't like stealing from a person. The insurance company itself was probably a great thief. Men had shipped goods on the Boldero and these goods would perish, but what of it? The goods were insured. The shippers would not suffer. The barratry once committed and insurance collected, Flint would be a man of independent means. He might not be as rich as Bowers, but he would have plenty. He would be distinctly eligible. He would be a great catch for a girl like Ivy.

The barratry was to be accomplished without any loss of life. He had gone into that many times with Wong Bo. There mustn't be any mistake about it, no slip-up anywhere, no accidents. It was one thing to play a huge practical joke on an insurance company. It was quite another thing to have blood on your hands. When the time came, the Boldero would be cracked open in mild weather on a sunken reef. To guard against the possibility of her remaining afloat until help came and being salvaged, her sea-cocks would also have been opened. While he himself broadcast the news of a ship in distress at such and such a crossing of latitude and longitude, the ship's boats would be got overboard and provisioned. There would be room for everybody.

FLINT had arranged with Wong Bo that Ivy and Bowers should not be in the same boat, but Ivy and Flint would be in the same boat and if that boat did not come ashore upon a part of the Borneo coast far removed from the point at which the boat containing Bowers came ashore, it would not be Flint's fault. If the present days were hard for him to bear, and especially the present nights, he looked forward to days and nights of heavenly propinquity and high romance. One afternoon Bowers brought all his guns and rifles on deck in their solid leather cases for a general cleaning and overhauling. The glitter of handsome weapons drew first Flint's attention and later Wong Bo's. Ivy, who was making herself a dress, something decent to go ashore in, was also interested.

But her interest was resentful. Those were the things that men killed with for pleasure. If Bowers had been a Turk and his weapons a harem of beautiful women he could not have loved them more dearly or with more solicitude. The great enemy of modern weapons is the power which makes them weapons. More particularly is this the case with rifles. After firing your rifle, you may clean it until the inside of the barrel an dthe rifling shines like a mirror, but today or two later when you look through the barrel there are symptoms of corrosion.

"Why do you like to kill things?" said Ivy. "Would you like me better if I didn't?" he asked. "Lots better," said she. "In that case," said Bowers, "I don't like to kill them as much as I did."

Ivy chuckled. A radiogram from Sinbao was Flint's excuse for joining them. The guns themselves were an excuse for any man's remaining awhile. The radiogram was from McLeod in answer to one Bowers had sent.

"DELIGHTED ANIMALS WELL CARRY ON." There had already been a message from Van Reuter to say that McLeod was out of danger.

There is something lacking in the man who takes no interest in weapons, especially when they are works of art. Flint's eyes shone with a boyish enthusiasm, he seated himself cross-legged on the deck, and the two men talked guns and Ivy was forgotten.

Bowers had five rifles and three shotguns. He explained that the double-barreled elephant-rifle had been purchased to help a friend out of a financial hole. It had cost a fearful sum even secondhand, but Bowers had never fired it.

He had never killed an elephant and he was never going to, and furthermore if it should happen that his life depended on killing an elephant, that particular rifle was obsolete. It was too much like a cannon. An ordinary army rifle was plenty heavy enough.

IT DIDN'T matter so much how hard you hit an elephant, as where you hit him. Bowers did most of his killing with a double-express of about .20 caliber. He put it together and offered it to Flint, who handled it almost with adoration, feeling the balance, putting it to his shoulder and squinting along the sights. "That's plenty big enough for tigers and elephants and small enough for antelope and deer. Nice balance, hasn't it?"

It was at this moment that Wong Bo, drawn by the gleam of metal, joined the group. He fanned himself and remarked that the rifle was "Heap nice."

"What does a gun like this chap cost?" Flint asked. "I think," said Bowers, "that it cost just one hundred and twenty guineas."

"How much you say?" asked Wong Bo. "About six-hundred dollars gold," said Bowers.

Wong Bo's eyes swept the heap of gun-cases. "Other guns all same?" he asked. "Well," said Bowers, "they don't give guns away, or if they do, I never heard of it."

It is possible that if Bowers had not exposed his weapons and made their value known, the course of events would have been different, but eight guns worth perhaps an average of five hundred dollars apiece represented a handsome sum of money.

It is possible that up to that moment, so far as Wong Bo's plans were concerned, Bowers' life was reasonably safe. But the value of the guns had altered the Chinaman's plans and he returned presently to ask a question and to go on his way again.

"How often you make clean?" he asked. "Oh," Bowers said, "I'll look them over again in ten days or two weeks, maybe not until we get to Singapore. They are in perfect shape."

To Wong Bo this was an exceedingly satisfying statement, and that same night, with the help of the cabin boy and a pass-key, he stole the guns from their cases, wrapped the parts in greasy cloths and stowed them in his own quarters.

Bowers had said that he would not examine his weapons for another ten days, but it was possible that for some reason or other he might have occasion to move the cases, and the lightness of the cases would reveal the fact that he had been robbed. Wong Bo did not want the trouble that shows its face in the open.

He and the cabin boy carried the cases to the Boldero's disorderly machine shop and weighted them with odds and ends of metal from broken tools, an old file or two, some short lengths of iron pipe, and a vast number of spoons of copper wire.

Wong Bo makes his savage plan, tomorrow.

STATE BAR HITS SHYSTER TACTICS, BRAND NEW HEAD

EUGENE, Ore., Sept. 10.—(AP)—Oregon State Bar association, in final session here late Saturday, took a vigorous stand against unscrupulous and unethical practices such as "ambulance chasing," whether committed by attorneys or not, in a resolution directed primarily as a commendation of the activity of the district attorney of Clackamas county.

It was brought out that the men indicted in Clackamas county were not attorneys, but the association members were vigorous in their denunciation of illegal practices of this sort by anyone.

The association elected James T. Brand, circuit judge at Marshfield, as president for the coming year, and Eugene Oppenheimer, Portland, was named vice-president. Arthur D. Platt, Portland, was re-elected treasurer, and John G. Wilson, Portland, was re-elected secretary. Members of the executive committee will be elected by mail ballot September 17.

The new deal, or a new economic order by whatever name it may be called, was held to be an absolute necessity at the present time by Albert J. Harno, dean of the University of Illinois law school, who was the speaker at the banquet of the two organizations. Further, Dean Harno declared that the necessity for the type of action now being carried out by President Roosevelt was recognized and planned out by a President Hoover back in 1929.

HITLER CONDEMNS WOMENS EQUALITY

NURNBERG, Germany, Sept. 10.—(AP)—The idea of woman's rights in politics was condemned today by Chancellor Hitler as "a product of decadent Jewish intellectualism."

The German leader derided the mingling of women in political matters in a speech to 2,000 women politicians. They were Nazi organizers here for the party convention and they applauded his statements energetically.

Hitler told them: "Liberalism has a large number of points for women's equality. The Nazi program for women has but one; that is a child. 'While man makes his supreme sacrifice on the field of battle, woman fights her supreme battle for her nation when she gives life to a child. The conception of so-called woman's equality is a product of decadent Jewish intellectualism.'"

Teacher's Ouster Upheld PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 10.—(AP)—Dismissal of Martha K. Baldwin, a teacher in Wiltaker school, was upheld today by the board of directors of school district No. 1, Portland. The board of directors recommended the ouster of Mrs. Baldwin after Miss Baldwin had received a hearing on Rice's charges.

PORTLAND WOMAN BILKED AT ALTAR, ASKS ANNULMENT

PORTLAND, Sept. 10.—(AP)—Elizabeth Lee Hailey Froemke, Portland society girl, today pushed action to seek an annulment of her marriage to Maynard Froemke, held in jail here on fraud and check charges. Miss Hailey filed in circuit court here Saturday for the annulment. She is a former president of the Portland Junior league.

The young woman in her annulment complaint, charged that Froemke, who described himself as a wealthy and prominent official in a Canadian banking system, had thus fraudulently misrepresented himself, whereas he was unemployed, without funds, and had a criminal record in Cleveland and Oakland.

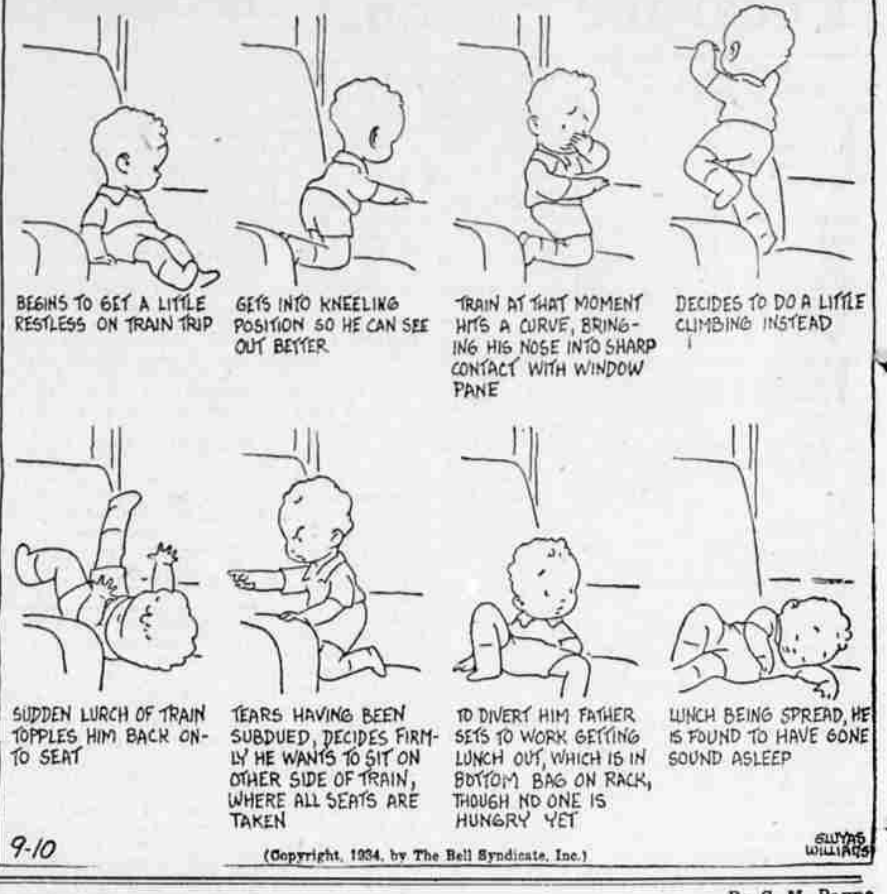
Froemke had gained entry to some of Portland's best homes and most pretentious society circles by representing himself as a Bank of Toronto branch manager and a Princeton graduate of impeccable family connection. Last Monday he and Miss Hailey were married in Vancouver, Wash.

Week's Accident Toll SALEM, Ore., Sept. 10.—(AP)—The weekly report of the state industrial accident commission for the week ending September 6 listed three deaths out of a total of 568 accidents among Oregon industries.

GUNS Repaired and Cleaned. Expert work. Medford Cycle, 23 N. Fir.

TRAVELING

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



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S'MATTER POP—



TAILSPIN TOMMY—"Bailing Out"—Under Difficulties!



BEN WEBSTER'S CAREER—No—and Without Thanks!



THE NEBBES—A Bird In The Gilded Cage



BRINGING UP FATHER



Aged Farmer Gored To Death By Bull

MOUNT VERNON, Wash., Sept. 10.—(AP)—Joseph Cherain, 72, farmer, was gored and trampled to death today by a bull which escaped from a pen. Cherain was attempting to drive the animal back into the enclosure on his farm at Clear Lake. His wife ran to his assistance, but he died 13 minutes after being attacked.

Pine Cut Quota Due

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 10.—(AP)—The Western Pine association, lumber code administrator for this district, announced today that fourth quarter production quotas for the western pine division are expected soon. The quotas are being determined by the code authority.