The Voice of the Pack

By EDISON MARSHALL

SYNOPSIS.

Warned by his grandma that he can find no true mate among the girls of the Dee Valley who are descendants of the old mixed breed settlers, Jim Fielding goes to Montana and a job on the Bar Circle ranch. In reaching a decision to marry he has overlooked only one person, Mary Lennox, the granddaughter of a former moonshiner, the mother of twins with alien Latin blood in their veins, and the reputed illegitimate daughter of Lennox's son, "Bill," and double-dyed "Injun" Dave Adams in the Dungog, divide, and throw the valley into a feud. Jim has met Mary on the sly and has not told his folks. Then the Bill Lennox family moves into the valley and Lennox and his son and daughter Jim finds the words he has long had been born in it. By bribe and threat Lennox has driven most of "Injun" Jo Dave Lennox's kin, and his own, away, they are related to a mad mullah. Lennox believes he is a reincarnation of Genghis Khan, and plans to overthrow Soviet authority and proclaim himself Khan. Jim learns that the proclaimed mullah is one who Dave Lennox is the leader of the Lennox faction, and Jim, a former friend of the gang, has been induced to turn state's evidence.

CHAPTER III—Continued.

He looked up, and the white-eyed picture was thrown upon the retina of his eyes. The redness was gone, straight toward Dan, a gray dawn that in his sudden surprise seemed that any charging bear or elk. For there is an element of fear in all the insane, whether beasts or men, that cannot be denied or driven out. It, with a chill that seemed to penetrate clear to their bones, had overfastened the white fangs of Genghis Khan upon the throat and arms of Jim Fielding, of course they had no idea on his shoulder; and even as he stood frozated in which Lennox looked at him he saw the white eyes change impercetibly, a simpler impersonality on his face.

"Shoot, man!" Lennox shouted. "What are you waiting for?"

But Jim didn't shoot. His hand whipped to his belt, and he snatched off his thick-lensed glasses. The eyes that were revealed were tender and kindly enough. And by now the fresh and vigorous sun had risen.

All that had occurred since the animal entered had passed within a few seconds. Sometimes five seconds is just a breath; but to Jim it was time for Dan to shoot, it seemed like a period wholly without limit. He viewed it when the younger man had fallen into that strange, unnatural pose of frenzied hunger in which Lennox looked at him, he saw the change of strange impercetibleness