

Arrowhead Frame-up.  
by Fran Striker

The Challenge of the Yukon -created by Geo. W. Trendle.

Number:

594 593

Date:

Dec 29 - '48

PRESTON

KING

(26)

Travis ..... Young fellow, straight  
McDuffy ..... His partner - killer  
Constable Jim. Straight  
Vic Daggart .. Weasel-like squealer  
Dottie ..... Ingenue  
Mrs. O'Doyle.. Middle aged Irish housekeeper  
Hendricks .... Penny-pinching old skinflint

Preston;

When I went to call on Vic Daggart, it was to be just a routine interview with a witness to a murder, but before I finished that interview, I found myself in a desperate fight, and for a time I thought it was to be my finish. This was one of the most surprising episodes in my entire career.

The Challenge of the Yukon

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(USUAL OPENING)

Anner; Jim Martin had been in the Klendike community known as Big Ridge for a very short time when he had a murder on his hands.

(DOOR BARKING, MUFFLED)

The new constable was seated at his desk when he heard the barking of a big dog.

Jim; Something familiar about that.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

It sounds like Sergeant Preston's dog, but it can't be.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK, WIND OUTSIDE)

(KING BARKING BACK)

It is!

Preston; (BACK) Hello, Jim.

(DOOR CLOSES, CUT WIND) (STEPS COME IN AS:)

Jim; Preston! Say, I'm sure glad to see you! ( ) Yes, and you, too, King. How are you, fellow?

(KING WHIMPERING, ETC.)

- Jim; I heard the bark outside. I thought it sounded like King, but it didn't seem possible. I was just going to open the door when you came in.
- Preston; We were passing through Big Ridge and thought we'd stop and see how you were making out.
- Jim; I'm glad you did.
- Preston; I understand you have a murder.
- Jim; Yes, but there's no mystery about it.
- Preston; Any idea where Travis is hiding?
- Jim; Huh? How did you know the murderer's name was Travis? And how did you know he'd skipped town?
- Preston; (SOFT LAUGH) I've been in Big Ridge longer than you think.
- Jim; When did you get here?
- Preston; Three o'clock this morning.
- Jim; Why didn't you let a fellow know?
- Preston; Didn't want to interfere with your sleep. Besides, I had some other people to talk to. () Say, Jim, they have a new girl at the dance hall.
- Jim; Dottie Taylor?
- Preston; Yes. Did she and Travis have a row of some kind?
- Jim; Not that I know of. Why?
- Preston; She told me where Travis was hiding.

Jim; I'll be with you as soon as I get into a parka.  
How far do we go? Will we need a sledge?

Preston; No. We'll not even need snowshoes. We're supposed to find Travis hiding in a cave in Whistle Canyon.

(BREAK)

(WIND FADES IN WITH WHISTLING EFFECT)

(FOOTSTEPS, SUSTAIN)

Anncr; Whistle Canyon was so-called because of a peculiar rock formation that caused the wind to whistle as it swept thru the narrow mouth. The wind was at the back of Sergeant Preston, Constable Martin, and the great dog King.

Jim; I don't see any footprints in the snow.

Preston; Footprints wouldn't last half an hour with the wind blowing like this.

Jim; That's so. () I'm not very familiar with this region. Do you know where the cave is?

Preston; Just ahead on the left side.

Jim; Oh - right over there. I see it.

Preston; If Dot Taylor told the truth, we'll find a killer there.

Jim; Travis didn't impress me as that kind of a rat.

Preston; Eh?

Jim; He seemed like a mild young fellow. I can't imagine him killing anyone.

Preston; Greed does things to men up here. I -

Jim; Look - there's Travis at the cave. He has a rifle!

Travis; (BACK) (SHOUTS) I'll get you!

(RIFLE, BACK)

Jim; (CRY OUT)

(KING SNARLS)

Preston; Get him, King!

(KING SNARLING, FADING FAST)

Travis; (BACK) (SHOUTING WILDLY) Get back! Get back!

Preston; (SHOUTING) No more of that, Travis.

(RIFLE SHOT BACK)

(PISTOL SHOT CLOSE)

Travis; (FADING IN, AD LIBBING) Look out! Look out!  
Keep off me! Get that dog away! (ETC.)

(KING FADING IN AD LIBBING SNARLS, ETC.)

Annor; Sergeant Preston's quick shot smashed the carbine  
Travis levelled at the charging dog. King made a  
mighty leap, striking Travis on the chest and  
knocking him backwards, then, fangs bared, he stood  
on guard threatening the gunman until Sergeant Preston  
reached the entrance to the cave.

Preston; (RUNNING UP) Down, King! I'll take over, boy!  
Stand guard!

(KING SUBSIDING)

- Travis; Take him off! Take him off! Those fangs-- he's ready to kill me!
- Preston; What do you think you deserve after shooting the Constable?
- Travis; Constable? No no! I didn't shoot the Constable! I - (BREAK) You -- who are you?
- Preston; Sergeant Preston of the northwest Mounted.
- Travis; You can't be! No, I can't believe it! You're not a Mountie! You -
- Preston; There's a uniform beneath this parka, and if you want more proof, you can ask the Constable. He's on the way here.
- Travis; Why - why - it is the Constable. I - I thought I'd hit that man.
- Preston; He's holding his shoulder. It looks as though you winged him.
- Travis; Thank goodness ~~for that.~~ *I DIDN'T KILL HIM.*
- Preston; (CALLS) How is it, Martin?
- Jim; (COMING IN) I took the bullet in the shoulder. I don't think it's bad. Hust knocked me down.
- Preston; I'll help you off with your parka. We'll have a look at the wound.
- Jim; I have some handcuffs-
- Preston; King will keep an eye on Travis.

- Travis; Constable, I - I didn't know it was you. I - I thought you two were killers. I - I thought you were coming here to get me.
- Preston; Where did you get that idea?
- Travis; I - I was told that the murderers-- the ones who killed Hendricks were coming here to get me.
- Preston; Hendricks?
- Jim; You killed Hendricks.
- Travis; No no!
- Jim; There's no use trying to deny it, Travis. It's an open and shut case against you. You killed Hendricks then came here to hide. When you saw Sergeant Preston and me you thought you could knock us both off, but you didn't count on King. He was too fast for you.
- Travis; That's not true! I swear it isn't.
- Preston; Where did you get the idea we were killers?
- Travis; I -- I thought the Constable - was --- w as someone else.
- Jim; (THREATENING) Oh you did, eh?
- Preston; Wait a minute, Jim. Take it easy and stop moving around long enough for me to get some antiseptic and a bandage on this wound.

Jim; (MUTTERS) You see what I mean, Sergeant. Travis doesn't look like a cold-blooded killer, but he is. He's as bad as they come.

Travis; No no! Sergeant Preston, I've heard a lot about you. I've heard that no one pulls any wool over your eyes.

Jim; (MUTTERS) Soft soap!

Travis; I - I suppose everyone who's caught says he was framed, but in my case, believe me, Sergeant, it's true.

Preston; Travis, I've heard very little about Hendricks' murder. Suppose you give me the details.

Jim; You knew Hendricks, didn't you, Sergeant Preston?

Preston; I guess everyone's heard of him. He owned a share of the general store - and a share of the cafe--

Jim; He owned a share of almost everything, including Travis' gold claim.

Preston; Is that so?

Travis; Y-yes. He grubstaked McDuffy and me.

Preston; McDuffy? Who's he?

Jim; He and Travis were partners.

Travis; We had an equal stake in the gold claim. We lived in a little cabin at the edge of town. After we had put in eight hours or so working the claim, we'd go into town and spend some time at the cafe where Dottie--  
(BREAK OFF) -- at the cafe.

Preston; Where Dottie Taylor worked, eh?

Travis; Y-Yes.

Preston; Love her?

Travis; (HEATEDLY) What has that to do with it?

Preston; I just wondered. Go on, Travis.

Travis; Well, about ten days ago, Mac busted his arm. He had to carry it in a sling, so he couldn't work on the claim. He spent most of his time in the cafe. I - I guess that's what made Hendricks kind of mad. Dottie spoke of it one evening when she sat at the table with me and Mac.

(FADE IN CAFE B.G.)

Dottie; (FADING IN) Of course, it's none of my business, boys, but Mr. Hendricks figures you two are letting him down, and after grub-stakin' you on that claim, he's pretty sore about it.

Travis; We're not letting him down, Dot.

Dot; Well, Mac isn't working the claim because he has a broken arm-

Mac; But Travis is working it for all he's worth.

Dot; That's not the way I heard it.

Travis; How did you hear it?

Dot; Mr. Hendricks said he went out the other day to see how things were coming and instead of working, you were practicing with that bow of yours.

- Travis; (LAUGHS) And Hendricks was mad about that?
- Dot; He figured you probably spent most of your time practicing with the bow and arrow.
- Travis; Why confound his hide! (LAUGHS) He was downright interested in that Indian bow. He tried a few shots with it himself. (CHUCKLING) He could hardly draw the bow. It was too strong for him.
- Dot; He told me about that. He said you're an expert with it. You couldn't be so good unless you spent all of your time practicing.
- Travis; Dottie, the next time you see Hendricks, tell him not to worry. We're working the gold claim. We're working it plenty.
- Dot; Tell him yourself. He just came into the cafe.
- Travis; (SOFT) He sees us. He's coming over to the table.
- Mac; You should have used your bow and arrow on the old skinflint when he was out at the claim, Travis.
- 
- Hendricks; (COMING IN) So this is where the two of you spend all your time! Why aren't you out working that claim?
- Mac; Hold on, Hendricks--
- Travis; Now see here--
- Hendricks; Shut up. I'll do the talking.
- (CHAIR SCRAPES)
- Dot; (SARCASM) Do sit down, Mr. Hendricks.
- Hendricks; I have.

Mac;                   What's the matter with you, Hendricks? You're mighty riled up tonight.

Hendricks;           I'm sick and tired of the way you two are stalling on the job.

BOTH:                (Ad lib) Stalling! Well, I like that!

Hendricks;           I financed the two of you with the understanding that half the claim was mine, and the other half was divided between you two.

Travis;              What about it?

Hendricks;           I provided the money. You two were to do the work. Well, you're not doing it.

Mac;                  Do you think I broke my arm on purpose just to get out of a little work?

Hendricks;           Busted arm - humph. ~~Fritterin' away your time here with this girl.~~

Travis;              How can Mac work with a busted arm?

Hendricks;           And you, Travis! You can't do a day's work without a good night's sleep. You spend most of your free time here when you should be sleepin'!

Travis;              Now see here, Hendricks--

Hendricks;           No - you see here. If that claim don't start to pay off by the first of the month, you're thru, both of you.

BOTH:                (AD LIB) Thru? What do you mean? (ETC.)

Hendricks; That's what I said. Read our agreement. I reserved the right to ~~cancel the agreement~~ <sup>buy you out for 100 \$</sup> and take over the property lock, stock and barrel, if you didn't <sup>out</sup> strike paydirt by the first of ~~the month~~ <sup>my</sup>.

Travis; Mac, did you know that was in the contract?

Mac; No, I ~~couldn't~~ make hear 'nor tail out of all them legal phrases. *fancy talk*

Hendricks; That's all I have to say. ~~Now the two of you had better get to work!~~

(FADE OUT ROOM NOISES)

(FADE IN WIND)

Travis; Hendricks left the cafe. Then Mac and I looked over our copy of the agreement, and found that he was right. He could take over on the first of the month. We'd have had all our work for nothin'.

Jim; You see, Sergeant Preston, there was strong motive for the murder of Hendricks.

Preston; Go on with your story, Travis. What do you know about the murder?

Travis; Well, I left the cafe and Mac stayed on to talk to Dottie for a while. I went to our shack and went to sleep. I don't know how long I'd been asleep when Mac came in and roused me. (FADING) I woke up with him shakin' me and talkin' mighty excited.

(FADE OUT WIND)

Mac; Wake up - wake up, Travis. You doggoned fool!

Why'd you do it?

Travis; (WAKING) Hey - Mac-- what's the idea? What's the matter?

Mac; Matter a-plenty! You've got to skin out of town in a hurry! Why did you go and kill Hendricks?

Travis; What's that? Kill Hendricks?

Mac; Travis, why'd you use that bow and arrow? Of all the stupid--

Travis; Bow --arrow--

Mac; And with Vic Daggart as a witness!

Travis; Mac - I swear I don't know what you're talkin' about. I didn't kill anyone. I've been asleep here ever since I left you and Dottie at the cafe.

Mac; You can trust me, Travis. There's no need to lie to me. I'll take care of Daggert. I'll pay him to keep his mouth shut. But you've got to get out of town and go into hiding.

Travis; Me? Hiding?

Mac; Right now.

Travis; Mac! I didn't do anything! I didn't kill Hendricks!

Mac; No no, of course not--

Travis; I tell you I - -

Mac; I've got some grub and blankets all packed and ready. Go to the cave in Whistling Canyon and hide there. (FADING) Hurry up now. Pull on some clothes and get moving!

(FADE IN WIND)

Travis; (FADING IN) Even Mac, my best friend, was convinced that I'd killed Hendricks, so I could see I'd have no chance making anyone else believe that I'd been asleep. in the cabin at the time of the murder.

Preston; Hendricks was killed by an arrow?

Travis; Yes.

Jim; That's right, Sergeant Preston. And it was one of Travis' arrows - tipped with whalebone. That's one solid point against Travis. Another is the fact that Travis was the only one who'd benefit by Hendricks' death.

Preston; Mac would benefit as much as Travis.

Jim; He couldn't handle a bow and arrow with a broken arm.

Preston; That's true.

---

Travis; I've thought it all out while I've been here hiding. I was framed for the murder of Hendricks, and I know who framed me.

Preston; You do?

Travis; Yes. That's why I shot at the Constable.

MUSIC:

Annrc; We'll continue our story in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc; Sergeant Preston and Constable Jim Martin were surprised when Travis said he knew who had framed him for the murder of Hendricks. That was why he had shot at and wounded the Constable.

Jim; Hold on, Travis! Do you think I framed you?

Travis; No no, don't get me wrong, Constable. Vic Daggert is the one. You and he are built about the same. When I saw you coming through the gap, I thought it was Daggert coming to get me --

Preston; (CUT IN) Who is Vic Daggert?

Travis; He's a dirty lying bully, and he's a killer!

Jim; That's right, Sergeant Preston. At least it's true that Daggert is a bully, and generally no good. I guess it's a pretty safe bet that he came to the Yukon to get away from the law in the States.

Preston; Travis, he's the man you mentioned a few minutes ago. According to your story, your friend Mac said Daggert was a witness to the murder.

Travis; That's a downright lie!

Jim; Daggert claims he was with Hendricks when your arrow came thru the window, striking Hendricks in the heart. He ran to the window and saw you hurrying toward your cabin carrying your bow.

- Travis; But that's not true, Constable! Daggert would say that. He'd say anything to make trouble for me. He's hated me ever since the time I knocked him down for molesting Dottie Taylor. He swore then he'd get even with me and this is his way of doing it. You've got to believe me. Do you think I'd be stupid enough to use my own bow and arrow to shoot Hendricks?
- Jim; I've got to admit it'd be an awful stupid play, Travis. On the other hand, a jury might figure you were extra smart.
- Travis; Extra smart?
- Jim; Yep. Smart enough to use your own arrow for shooting Hendricks while Daggert was with him just so's you could say that you'd been framed.
- Travis; Aw-w, Constable!
- Preston; We'd better get back to town.
- Travis; (SIGHS) I suppose you'll lock me up.
- Preston; You'll have to be locked up on the strength of the evidence, Travis. But we'll make a complete investigation, and you'll get a fair trial.
- Travis; With Daggert testifying as an eye witness?
- Preston; I'll have a talk with Daggert as soon as possible. If he's lying, I think I can find it out.
- Travis; Well, let's get going. Just one thing, Sergeant-
- Preston; Yes?

Travis; How'd you know where to find me? Did your dog track me down?

Preston; No.

Travis; Then someone told you where I'd be hiding?

Preston; There's a girl, Travis, who had confidence in you. She wouldn't believe that you were a killer, and she didn't want you to remain a fugitive. She asked me to bring you back.

Travis; Dottie?

Preston; Yes. She wants the truth to come out because she thinks the truth will clear you. Now come on. Let's get back to town.

Travis; Back to town - - and to jail.

(WIND UP AND FADE OUT)

Annrc; The short day had ended and darkness had fallen by the time Travis had been locked in jail. Then Sergeant Preston and King accompanied Jim Martin home for a splendid supper cooked by the Constable's good natured housekeeper.

(TABLE B.G.)

Jim; Have you had enough to eat, Sergeant?

Preston; That's the best meal I've had in a long time.

Jim; (LAUGHS) (GIGGLES) You hear that, Mrs. O'Doyle?

Mrs. O; (BACK) Ah, that's the thing a woman loves to hear. Faith, Sergeant, even if you're lyin', I love you for it.

Preston; (CALLS) I meant every word of it.

Jim; Mrs. O'Doyle keeps house for me.

Mrs. O; (APPROACHING) Here's a fresh pot of coffee. I figured the two of yez might be needin' it before you're through with talkin'.

(SET COFFEE DOWN)

And here's a bone, Sergeant Preston - a special one for that beautiful dog. Is it all right to give it to him?

Preston; I'll give it to him. () Look at this, King.

(KING WHIMPERING AND DROOLING)

Preston; Say thanks to the lady. It's not often you get a bone like this.

(KING BARKS)

Mrs. O; Ah, it's welcome you are, King, and I hope you like it.

Preston; Here you are, boy.

(TOSS BONE ON FLOOR)

Mrs. O; Constable Jim - about that lad you locked in jail-

Jim; Yes, Mrs. O'Doyle?

Mrs. O; I'm to fix a meal for him?

Jim; Yes.

Mrs. O; (SIGHS) My, my, I can't believe that young Travis would do such a terrible thing. That I can't. I always liked the lad.

Jim; When you have his supper ready I'll take it over to him.

Mrs. O; Is there any hurry about it?

Jim; No. Not particularly. Why?

Mrs. O; I've just put more potatoes on to boil and it'll be a time before they're ready. (LAUGHS) I underestimated what the two of yez would eat. It'd be a sin an' shame to have a good meal spoiled because of no potatoes.

Jim; (LAUGHS) All right, Mrs. O'Doyle.

Preston; Jim, this is a good time for me to go and talk to Vic Daggert.

Jim; I showed you where he lived.

Preston; Yes.

Jim; You'll probably catch him at home now. Later on he'll be in the cafe.

Preston; I want to see him at home.

Jim; Want me to go with you?

Preston; No, I'd rather go alone. The more I think about what Travis told me the more I think Daggert is holding back some true facts.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

(KING WHINES)

Jim; All right.

Preston; (EFFORT) (LAUGHS) Look at that dog. He sees me putting my parka on.

Jim; He doesn't want to leave his bone.

Preston; (LAUGHING) Torn between love and duty, eh, King?  
( ) Well you stay here, boy. I'll not need you this time. I'll be back in a little while. (FADING)  
I'll see you later, Jim.

Jim; Right.

(DOOR OPENS AND CLOSES)

(BREAK)

Anncr; Vic Daggart was alone in his one room cabin. He was running a comb through his coarse black hair preparing to go to the cafe as usual.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Vic; (GROWLS) Who in thunder could that be?

(STEPS CROSS ROOM) (DOOR OPENS)

Preston; Hello, Daggart.

Vic; Preston! What do you want?

Preston; I'll step in if you don't mind.

(STEPS IN; DOOR CLOSES)

Vic; Don't seem to matter whether I mind or not. Fact, I do mind. I was just fixin' to go out.

Preston; Sit down, Daggart. I want to talk to you.

Vic; About what?

Preston; Murder.

Vic; What do you mean by that?

Preston; The Constable told me you were with Hendricks when he was killed.

Vic; That's right. Hendricks had glass windows in his house. Travis fired an arrow right thru the window at Hendricks.

Preston; I saw the broken window. How do you know it was Travis who fired that arrow?

Vic; I ran to the window. I saw him running away.

Preston; But you didn't go after him?

Vic; No, I stayed with Hendricks to see if there was anything I could do for him, but there wasn't.

Preston; Daggart, on the strength of that story I'm arresting you for murder.

Vic; What? What's that? Now see here---

Preston; You lied.

Vic; I did not! I -- I -

Preston; Travis is an experienced archer. He'd never release an arrow without a full draw - especially if he intended to kill a man. His bow has a sixty-five pound pull. The arrow would go thru a man's body unless it struck a bone.

Vic; I - I- Now listen-

Preston; Furthermore the arrow would have made a clean hole

- Preston; Furthermore the arrow would have made a clean hole thru the window like a rifle bullet. The glass in Hendricks' window was shattered.
- Vic; You can't say I killed Hendricks! I didn't do it, I tell you! I swear I didn't!
- Preston; Then you'll hang for the man who did. The Coroner will testify as to the nature of the fatal wound. Travis' bow will be demonstrated in court. The Jury can visit Hendricks' house and see for itself the broken window. The Jury can also see an arrow fired thru another window and compare the two.
- Vic; No no! Listen, Sergeant Preston -
- Preston; Hendricks was stabbed with that arrow. It was used as a dagger. You framed Travis and you'll hang for it!
- Vic; I didn't kill him! I tell you I didn't kill Hendricks! They can't hang me for something I didn't do.
- Preston; Who did?
- Vic; I--
- Preston; (EFFORT) (HARD) Who did?
- Vic; L-L-Let go of me!
- Preston; Let's have it, Daggart. Let's have the truth. Talk now or I'll drag you into jail and lock you up!
- Vic; I'll talk. I'll talk! It was Mac.
- Preston; Travis' partner?
- Vic; Yes. Yes it was ~~McDuffy~~. He did it just like you

Vic; Yes. Yes, it was McDuffy. He did it just like you said. He used the arrow as a dagger. He stabbed Hendricks with it. He - He made me go with him. He made me tell that lie to help frame Travis.

Preston; Now w e're getting somewhere.

Vic; I'm not going to hang for something I didn't do! I'm not going to hang for what McDuffy did! It's just like you said! He stabbed Hendricks, then smashed the window .

Preston; Then hurried Travis out of town so it would appear that he was fleeing.

Vic; Yeah.

Preston; With Hendricks and Travis out of the way, McDuffy would have the gold claim for himself. ( ) Come on, Daggart, I'll put you in jail, then go after McDuffy.

Mac; (BACK) Oh no you won't!

Vic; Mac!

Mac; (BACK) You yellow livered squealer! Get 'em up, Preston. Don't go for that gun.

Preston; I should have heard you opening that door behind my back.

Mac; (ADVANCING) I heard you talkin', so I opened it real quiet.

Vic; Mac, you got here just in time.

Mac; I came to pay you off, Daggart. Now you'll come in handy. You can help me swear that Travis killed this Mountie.

Preston; You can't get away with that one, McDuffy. Travis is in jail.

Mac; Oh no he's not. I turned him loose. He's gone to the cabin to get a gun. (LAUGHS) He thinks he's going to meet me here to get the truth out of Vic Daggart. He'll get here just in time to get the blame for shooting Preston.

Vic; I'll back your story, Mac! I'll back it. We'll get Travis this time.

Preston; Daggart, you fool. Don't you realize that Mac came here to kill you? He didn't know I'd be here. He was going to shoot you and let Travis take the blame.

Vic; And you were going to take me to jail and get me strung up. *McDuffy*

Preston; McDuffy, you're not the first one who's pulled a gun on me and I don't think you'll be the last.

Mac; Don't figure you can talk and stall until Travis gets here, Preston, because you can't. I'm letting you have it right now.

Preston; (SUDDEN EFFORT) Yes?

(GUN SHOT) (SCUFFLING, AD LIBBED THRU:)

Vic; (CRY OUT) Look out!

Mac; Why you- (GRUNT) (AD LIB STRUGGLES)

Annex; Sergeant Preston ducked and charged like lightning, but he didn't duck quite far enough. McDuffy's bullet grazed his shoulder, numbing his right arm. He grabbed the killer by the knees and the two went down. Preston's left hand closed around McDuffy's gun with a grip that was like a bear trap.

Mac; (STRUGGLING) Vic! Vic! Pull him off so I can use the gun!

Vic; (STRUGGLING) I'm tryin' to.

Mac; (STRUGGLING) One shot - that's all I need. Hit him on the head! Grab him around the neck! Get him away from here so I can fire!

Vic; (STRUGGLING) I'm tryin' to.

Annex; Vic clawed and tore at Sergeant Preston trying to get a grip around his throat or a chance to hit him on the head, but the Mountie was adept at rough and tumble fighting. He and McDuffy were on the floor rolling and thrashing. McDuffy trying to bring the gun to bear, and Preston hanging on while he did his best to keep away from Vic.

Vic; (CRY OUT) I can't get hold of him! He's huggin' you too close!

Mac; (CRY OUT) (STRUGGLING) One shot - One shot will fix him!

(SCUFFLING SUSTAINING)

- Anncr;           The odds were two against one -- more than that --  
Preston's right arm was partially disabled from  
the bullet that had creased his shoulder.
- Vic;             (GASPING) I'll get him in a second.
- Anncr;           Preston knew that it was merely a matter of time--  
a matter of seconds. The terrific strain was  
telling. He felt his grip grow weaker, and then  
he heard a shout beyond the door that Mac had left  
open.
- Jim;             (BACK) Hang on, Preston! Go on, King! Get him!
- Preston;         (CRY OUT) King!
- (KING COMES IN FAST, SNARLING)
- Anncr;           The mighty dog charged thru the door and leaped at  
the struggling men with the force of a battering ram.
- Ad lib;          (CRIES) That dog!  
Look out!  
Get away! (ETC)
- Preston;         (CRY OUT) Take him, King!
- Anncr;           Preston released McDuffy's wrist and rolled aside.  
Then King's strong jaws clamped down.
- Mac;             (SCREAMS)
- Jim;             (COMING IN) I've got 'em covered!
- Preston;         All right, Jim, so have I. Down, King. I'll take  
over, boy. () On your feet, Daggart, and get your  
hands up. You too, McDuffy.

Jim; (SURPRISED) Why it's McDuffy.

Preston; That's right, Jim.

Jim; Great Day, I expected to find Travis here.

Preston; McDuffy let Travis out of jail. He told him to go home and get a gun. Travis was to be here in a few minutes. McDuffy planned to kill Vic and frame Travis for another murder, but when he found me he decided I'd be the one to die.

Vic; Listen, Sergeant, let me talk-

Preston; You can talk in court, but it won't do you a bit of good. You and McDuffy will hang for Hendricks' murder.

Mac; If that dog hadn't got here-

Jim; These two killed Hendricks? Then Travis was right.

Preston; He was right about Daggart, but he trusted his partner, McDuffy. He expects to come here- meet McDuffy and force a confession out of Daggart. He'll be surprised when he learns the truth.

Jim; (CHUCKLES) Looks to me like it's a good thing King made a mistake.

Preston; Mistake?

Jim; Yeah. You see, I let King walk along with me when I took supper to the jail for Travis. The lock was busted and Travis was gone.

Preston; McDuffy let him out.

Jim;

I didn't stop to figure out how he got out. I wanted to get after him before he got very far. King sniffed around and acted like he found a trail, so I told him to go ahead and follow it. I told him to find Travis for me. (CHUCKLES) Instead he brought me here.

Preston;

It was McDuffy's trail he followed.

Jim;

That's what I say. You got the wrong trail, King, old boy.

(KING BARKS)

Preston;

King disagrees with that, Jim, and so do I. I'd say King picked the right trail. And because he did, we'll have good news for Travis when he gets here. We can tell him he's a free man -- that this case is closed.

(KING BARKS)

MUSIC: Theme