

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

"THE KLONDIKE QUEEN"

by Fran Striker.

Number: 626

Date: March 16, 1949

26

Preston and King
Peavy schemer
Carlake His partner
Jack Madison ... straight -25-29
Madison His father, invalid
Dan Constable -straight
Joe Barkeep, small part
Indian Small part
Voice Small part

P in rest - mary +
Jack
sully out

P + C
conspire to
freeze out
Jack + mary

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annor; Jack Madison and his ^{you w} father had gone to the Klondike with high hopes but bad luck and hardship had dogged their activities. Their cash was nearly gone. Hack's ^{wife} father had become an invalid and Jack himself had finally been ^{given up} forced to abandon work on his mine, the Klondike Queen. He didn't know that two men worked there secretly.

(SNEAK IN PICK AXE)

Carslake and Peavy went into the mine night after night to work by lantern light. They were deepening a side tunnel.

Carslake; Hold the light a little closer to the wall.

(BIZ OF LANTERN) (LIGHT TAPS WITH PICK)

Peavy; (A BIT TENSE) Hey, Carslake, that rock looks different from the rest.

Carslake; (TENSE) Hold that light steady.

Peavy; There's color in there -see?

Carslake; (CHUCKLES) Yeah, I see it.

Peavy; Wha -what's it mean?

Carslake; Peavy, it means we've got gold!

Peavy; Carslake - you sure of it? You dead sure?

Carslake; Do you know anyone that savvies mineral better than I do?

Peavy; No, but-

Carslake; I knew all along that Jack Madison's vein hadn't
~~run out! I knew he'd have struck the mother lode~~
 if he'd kept going through the fault.

Peavy; But he didn't! And now we've found it! Carslake,
 is it a rich vein? You sure we got the mother lode?

Carslake; Just a minute ---

(FEW LIGHT TAPS WITH PICK)

(CUE) Hold that lantern closer, Peavy.

Peavy; Yeah, sure thing, Carslake. Anything you say.
 Is this all right?

Carslake; (MUTTERING) Fine ---mighty fine --- Richer than
 it was before Madison lost it. It's the richest
 vein I've seen!

Peavy; Then we're rich! Carslake, we're rich!

Carslake; Just a minute, Peavy. Maybe you forget that this
 isn't our tunnel. It still belongs to Jack Madison.

Peavy; Um - that's so. But we'll buy it from him, that's
 what we'll do! We'll buy it.

Carslake; He won't sell.

*wants to cash to
his try in sell that
rest*

Peavy; Sure he will. He thinks this mine has petered out. He ~~abandoned~~ it.

Carslake; He'll suspect something if we try to buy it. Chances are, he'll come here and look around. Then he'll see where we've been working.

Peavy; Maybe so. We'd better ~~cover the~~ work we've done so he won't notice it.

Carslake; He won't do business with us anyway, Peavy. Not after the way we cleaned him on that other deal.

Peavy; Oh, that.

Carslake; Yeah, that.

Peavy; He was pretty sore about that deal.

Carslake; Sure he was! Who wouldn't be sore? How would you feel if someone took all your savings on a gold mine that had been salted?

Peavy; Maybe I could make him think my conscience bothers me after that last deal-

Carslake; Your conscience! (LAUGHS)

Peavy; Well, it's worth a try. I happen to know he needs cash and needs it bad. His father is a sick man. Jack wants to take him away from here.

Carslake; Go ahead and try.

Peavy; If Madison won't sell, I've got another plan.

Carslake; Maybe you'd better try that one first.

Peavy; No, I -I don't want to, Carslake.

Carslake; Why not?

Peavy; I've got nothing against Jack Madison. He's all right. I'd hate to see him put to death by savages.

Carslake; Savages?

Peavy; Indians. That's what my other plan will mean. I'll call on him first thing in the morning and see if he'll sell out. If he won't --well -- one way or the other, Carslake, we're going to have this gold!

(BREAK)

Annor; The following morning was like all other mornings in the small cabin where Jack Madison lived with his father. Jack fixed breakfast and carried it to Big Jim's bedside, then later cleared away the dishes.

Madison; I never thought I'd see the day that Nickory Jim Madison would be too weak to get out of bed!

Jack; You'll be all right, Dad. Just as soon as we get enough saved up to take you away from this country and --

Annor; The following morning was like all other mornings

Madison; Son--e small cabin where Jack Madison lived with

Jack; Yeah?

Annor; The following morning was like all other mornings

Madison; Don't talk like that. I know how things stand.

Jack; What do you mean?

Jack; You'll be all right, Dad. Just as soon as we get enough saved up to take you away from this country

Madison; I know you don't ~~get~~ enough by panning the stream to do any more than buy grub. I know you can't get ahead, son. Don't try to fool me.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Jack; (EAGERLY) The door. I'll see who it is.

(QUICK STEPS) (DOOR OPENS)

Peavy; Hello, Madison.

Jack; Peavy!

Peavy; Mind if I step in for a minute?

Jack; You're not welcome in this house!

Madison; (SLIGHTLY BACK) And that goes double for me!

Peavy; Just a minute. Please listen to me.

Jack; Talk fast, then get going!

Peavy; It's about that deal we had --- that property you bought from me and Karlake.

Jack; What about it?

Peavy; Jack, I didn't know your Klondike Queen mine had petered out. I didn't know you'd abandoned it.

Jack; Oh you didn't eh?

Peavy; No. I thought you were getting rich. When Carlake suggested that we unload some worthless land on you, I figured you could afford a loss.

Jack; What about it, Peavy?

Peavy; I didn't know we were taking every cent you had.

Jack; Well you know it now.

Peavy; Yeah, and I'm downright sorry. I want to do something about it.

Jack; Then take back the land you sold us and return our cash.

Peavy; Well, I -I can't do that, Jack. I'd like to -but -

Jack; (PAUSE) But what?

Peavy; Well, you see Carslake has most of the cash and he's not like me. He don't have a conscience.

Jack; Humph.

Peavy; I've got to get cash from him and he'd never buy back the land we sold you.

Jack; I reckon not.

Madison; (SLIGHTLY BACK) He knows it's not worth a dime!

Peavy; That's it, Mr. Madison. (GET SHREWD) But here's something he doesn't know. He doesn't know how the Klondike Queen has petered out. He thinks the mine is worth something. Now if you'd sell it cheap I could get back all you lost.

Jack; I thought you and Carslake are pals.

Peavy; We are!

Jack; And you're ready to double-cross him on our account?

Peavy; Jack, it's my conscience. I -

Jack; Listen, you scheming polecat, it's no go!

Peavy; But Jack--

Jack; I did business with you once. That was enough.

Peavy; You need cash, don't you?

Jack; Vamoose!

(DOOR CLOSSES HARD)

Jack; (MUTTERS) Wants to buy the Klondike Queen, eh?
Maybe I'd better have another look at that tunnel.

Madison; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Son, do you think there's any
chance that Peavy was sincere?

Jack; If he was he wouldn't have brought Carslake here
with him.

Madison; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Is Carslake here?

Jack; Yeah, I can see him thru the window. Peavy has
joined him over there next to the creek.

(FADING IN RUNNING STREAM)

Carslake; You didn't make out at all, eh Peavy?

Peavy; No.

Carslake; I didn't think you would.

Peavy; Carslake are you sure you covered all the signs
that we'd worked in the Klondike Queen?

Carslake; Yes.

Peavy; Madison will probably go there to see why I wanted it.

Carslake; You said you had another plan--

Peavy; I have. It'll be mighty rough on Madison, but he had
his chance.

Annecr; When Jack Madison investigated his mine, he found it just as he'd left it. All signs of recent digging had been removed. Carslake had been clever in concealing the work he'd done with Peavy. During the next few days, Jack saw nothing of the schemers. He dismissed them from his mind and devoted all his time and energy to panning the nearby stream for a meagre existence. He didn't know that his enemies had left the community to lay plans for his death.

(BREAK)

(FADE IN DOG BARKING)

On his regular route Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King came into the small community of Oxbow and stopped as usual at the home of his friend Constable Dan Emery.

(DOOR OPENS)

Dan; Sergeant Preston, by golly, I'm glad to see you!

Preston; Hello, Dan.

Dan; And King, too. Howdy, boy. How's everything on the trail?

(2 BARKS)

(LAUGHING) I guess that's my answer.

Preston; How are things in Oxbow, Dan?

Dan; First-rate, first-rate. But come on, step inside. No need to stand out here. Come along, King. You, too.

(DOG BARKS AS:)

(STEPS INTO HOUSE) (DOOR CLOSES)

Dan; I've got something to show you, Sergeant.

Preston; What is it?

Dan; This here.

Preston; A tobacco pouch?

Dan; (CHUCKLES) Yep, but it's the heaviest tobacco you ever hefted. () By the way, are you heading north from here?

Preston; Yes, why?

Dan; In that case you're elected to deliver this here pouch. Lift it.

Preston; Heavy. () Gold?

Dan; Yep. Nuggets.

Preston; What's the story behind it, Dan.

Dan; It was left here by a stranger.

Preston; This much gold is worth several hundred dollars. Strangers don't hand out money like that. What did he look like? Don't you know him? Did you ever see him before?

Dan; I never saw him before and at first sight, I was sort of set against him. He had a shifty look, and his eyes were mean and close-set --that is, until he got to talkin'. (CHUCKLES) As I listened to him, his looks seemed to improve.

Preston; Let's have the story.

Dan; Well he stopped here and asked for a meal. I fed him and we got to talking. He asked me if I ever traveled north. I told him now, then he asked if I knew of anyone who was likely to be travelin' north. I told him there was hardly a week went by that someone didn't stop off here on the way to the gold hills. (FADES) He seemed real pleased with that.

Peavy; (CROSS FADE) So you can find someone going north? Well I'm going to leave it to you, Constable to find a man you can trust to take a little package up to Red Nose Pass. That's just about two days from here.

Dan; What sort of package are you talking about? And why do you want me to ask favors of pilgrims who pass this way heading north?

Peavy; I'll tell you why, Constable. It's because you could make a sick old man and his son a mighty happy pair of men,

Dan; How 's that?

Peavy; I'll tell you. Did you ever hear of Jack Madison?

Dan; No.

Peavy; Well, he lives ~~the~~ near Red Nose. Lives there with his father who's a sick man. Bed rid.

Dan; ~~The~~ In the gold hills, isn't it?

Peavy; Yeah. Jack Madison owned a likely lookin' mine.

Dan ; I see.

Peavy; I thought he was rich. I put over a crooked deal and took some money from him. Oh I'm ashamed of it, Constable. I'm downright ashamed, and I want to make good what I did. You see, I didn't know Madison's claim had petered out and that I took his last cent.

Dan; Well -golly -I - I don't see what I can do.

Peavy; I'm getting to that, Constable. I'm a rich man now. I don't look it, but it's true. I'm rich. I struck it rich in the Valley of the Spirits.

Dan; Oh that's east of here.

Peavy; Yep. I tried to give Jack Madison some cash, but he wouldn't take it. Then I tried to tell him where he might strike gold and he wouldn't listen. He's mighty proud, and on top of that, he hates me.

Dan; Uh-huh.

Peavy; Now here's what I want you to do. You send this sack of gold nuggets to Jack Madison. Don't say anything about me --

Dan; All right.

Peavy; You can just say that an old friend sent it. Tell him there's a lot more where these came from in the Valley of the Spirits. Understand?

Dan; I - I guess so.

Peavy; I'm trusting you, Constable. Don't let me down.
(FADING OUT) I'll never rest unless I know that
Jack Madison and his old father are taken care of.

Dan; (FADING IN) So he went away and left me with
the gold nuggets.

Preston; And he didn't give his name?

Dan; No.

Preston; Did he say where he was going?

Dan; Nope.

Preston; I wonder if he's telling the truth.

Dan; Golly, it sounded like the truth. Why would he
leave the gold if his story weren't true?

Preston; I don't know. I think I'll check up on him.

Dan; You know, Sergeant, I'd like to go with you.

Preston; Fine, Constable. Why don't you come along?

Dan; I expect I could leave town for a few days.

Preston; I don't know why not.

Dan; I've heard considerable talk about that Valley
of the Spirits, but I never heard of there
bein' any gold around that part of the country.
(CHUCKLES) If there is gold there, I'd sure like
to know about it.

(BREAK)

Annex; Peavy was confident that his plans would work out satisfactorily, but Carslake was slightly dubious.

Peavy; I tell you, Carslake, we've got nothing to worry about.

Carslake; I wish I could be sure that Oxbow Constable would find an honest man to take that gold up to young Madison.

Peavy; He'll see that Madison gets it. Don't worry about that. If Dan Emery can't find someone to deliver the gold he'll take it up to Red Nose himself.
(CHUCKLES) I sure gave him a story.

Carslake; You think Madison will believe that the gold came from the Valley of the Spirits.

Peavy; Sure he will -- if I know human nature -- and I think I do.

Cars; Well let me in on the rest of the plan.

Peavy; The rest? I thought you savvied.

Cars; No.

Peavy; Jack's been bit hard by the gold bug. When he hears about the valley of the Spirits, he'll go there pronto.

Cars; So will the man who delivered the gold, and for that matter, so will the Constable.

Peavy; Let 'em, that's all right. They can all go there and they'll all get the same treatment from the Indians. They'll all get killed.

Cars; Killed?

Peavy; Yep. Not many people know it, but that valley's an Injun burial ground. Redskins are on the watch both day and night and if they see anyone diggin' — disturbin' the bones of the ancestors, they'll close in fast.

Cars; So that's it.

Peavy; It's a dead sure bet that Madison will go there and as soon as he starts diggin' he'll be a dead pigeon.

(BREAK)

Annrcr; Sergeant Preston and the Constable accompanied by King headed east to visit the Valley of the Spirits before delivering the pouch of gold to young Jack Madison.

(WIND)

A mournful wind sighed thru the valley. The ground was wet and soggy from melting snows and in several places the soft earth showed signs of having recently been turned. The entire area was studded by great boulders. It was an eerie place, especially in the gathering twilight.

(KING WHINES AND WHIMPERS)

Preston; What's the matter with you, King? Don't you like this valley?

Dan; I can't say as I like it any too well, Sergeant.

Preston; It certainly doesn't look as if a man could find much gold around here.

Dan; It's not gold bearing ground if you ask me.

(LOW GROWLS)

Preston; What's the matter with you, King?

(WHIMPERS)

Dan; He's looking at that rock over yonder.

Preston; All right, King, if you want to go ~~now~~ there, go to it, boy. Go on. See what it is.

(KING BARKS, FADES FAST)

Dan; Great guns, look at that dog travel! He's sure on the way to something.

Indian; (BACK) (CRY OUT WILDLY)

(KING BACK SNARLING AND BARKING)

Dan; Sergeant Preston, look! Look what King found hiding behind that rock!

Preston; (SHOUTS) Hold him, King. We're coming.

(BREAK)

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

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc; And now to continue our story. In the Valley of the Spirits, Sergeant Preston and the Constable, Dan Emery found no sign of gold bearing earth, but King flushed from hiding a painted Indian who had been watching the intruders from behind a rock.

(KING GROWLING)

Preston; All right, King. Down, boy.

(KING SUBSIDES)

Dan; By thunder, Sergeant, that redskin had an arrow drawn from his quiver. I'll bet he'd have let us have it if King hadn't acted!

Indian; You leave - Indian not make trouble.

Preston; Who are you?

Indian; Me guard.

Preston; You were going to shoot us with an arrow.

Indian; Not shoot; only watch. You dig burial ground, you die. You not dig, Indian not hurt.

Preston; Burial ground? Is that what this is?

Indian; That right.

Dan; What are you doing here?

Indian; Me guard. Other guard in Valley. Guard here all time.

Preston; I see. You Indians have guards here to shoot anyone who digs into the ground. Is that right?

Indian; That right.

Preston; Dan, I wonder if the man who left that gold with you wanted to do Jack Madison a favor or send him to his death.

Dan; Gosh, I'd like to know!

Preston; He certainly lied about finding gold here in the valley of the Spirits.

Dan; He sure did. What do you think we'd better do,
Sergeant?

Preston; I think we'll play right into his hands.

Dan; How do you mean?

Preston; You take that pouch of gold to Madison. Give it
to him and tell him how you got it, and then we'll
see what happens.

(BREAK)

Annor; Sergeant Preston and King remained out of sight
while the Constable went to the Madison house near
the community of Red Nose. Jack and his father
were wide-eyed with surprise when they emptied
the pouch on a table.

(NUGGETS TO TABLE)

Jack; Dad, it is gold!

Madison; Must be a couple of hundred dollars there.

Jack; Look here, Constable, can't you tell me more about
the man who left this gold with you?

Dan; Sorry, son, but I've told you all I know. He was
just an ordinary looking critter. Nothing outstanding
about him.

Madison; I wish you'd gotten his name.

Dan; I asked for it, but he wouldn't give it to me.

Madison; I grubstaked a number of men when I could afford it.
Maybe one of them has taken this way to repay me.

Dan;

Jack; Constable, you said this came from the Valley of the Spirits.

Dan; That's what I was told, Jack. That's all I know about it.

Jack; I'd sure like to go there and stake a claim.

Madison; I never heard of gold coming from the Valley of the Spirits.

Jack; Neither did I, Dad, but if this is a sample, it's worth looking into.

Dan; Tell you what, Jack.

Jack; What's that?

Dan; You want to go to the Valley of the Spirits. How would it be if I went along?

Jack; Swell. The only thing is --I hate to leave Dad alone.

Madison; I can manage for a day or so. I've said all along it wasn't necessary for you to do everything around the house. I can get up for a little while at a time. You just go ahead, Jack. Go and find that Spirit Valley gold and stake your claim.

Dan; I know where it is, Jack. I can show the way.

(BREAK)

Annrc; Carslake and Peavy were in Red Nose when Jack and the Constable bought a few supplies then set out toward the southeast.

Carslake; (LOW) There they go, Peavy. Looks like your scheme is working out.

- Peavy; (CHUCKLES) And they're cārrying a couple of spades for digging.
- Carslake; The Constable is traveling with Jack. I wish it was someone else.
- Peavy; Well as long as the Constable has dealt himself a hand, he'll have to take what comes.
- Carslake; How soon are we going to call on the old man?
- Peavy; We've got to wait until he gets word his son's been killed.
- Carslake; Um-m. That might be quite a while.
- Peavy; We can afford to wait, Carslake. (CHUCKLES) We can afford to wait.
- Annccr; Peavy and Carslake waited in the community of Red Nose during the week that followed and then Sergeant Preston came into town from the southeast with his dog team and his sled. The sled was heavily loaded, but the contents were concealed by bearskins. He stopped at the cafe, inquired about the way to Madison's house, and then pushed on.

(CAFE B.G.)

The plotters hurried to the same cafe and talked to the bartender.

- Peavy; Joe, tell me what was that he said about Jack Madison?
- Joe; He said he had him on the sled.
- Peavy; If that's the case his head and face were covered. I wonder if something happened to young Jack.

Joe; I got the idea that the Mountie had found Madison dead.

Peavy; The poor critter.

Carslake; Peavy, I'm sorry for Jack's father. This'll hit him mighty hard. Maybe we should go and call on the poor old man.

Peavy; That's a good idea, Carslake. Maybe we can do something for him. Maybe we can help him out in some way. Let's go to his place right away.

(SHORT BREAK)

(RAP ON DOOR)

Madison; (CALLS) Come in.

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

Oh -it's you, Peavy.

Peavy; Madison! You're up and around! You feeling better?

Madison; Yep. What do you want?

Peavy; Look here, Madison, Carslake and I want to talk to you. We heard that you -er -well -have you heard from Jack?

Madison; I reckon you must've heard that my boy was brought home.

Carslake; Yes we did, and we're mighty sorry, Madison. Mighty sorry.

Madison; Have a chair.

Peavy; (SITTING DOWN) Thanks. () Madison, I -I don't hardly know where to begin ---I know you hate me for that swindling deal-

Madison; (SIGH DEEPLY) I don't hate anyone any more, Peavy.

Peavy; I'm glad to hear that. () Is -uh -is that -uh -

Madison; Yep. That's my boy, over there under the blanket.

Peavy; (SIGHS) My -my. () Do you want us to ~~take~~ ^{GO TO NORTH} ~~the~~ RIDGE
FOR THE Coroner? ~~what we should do to him?~~

Madison; Sergeant Preston will let the coroner know.

PEAVY; OH, I WONDERED WHERE THE MOUNTIE HAD GONE,

Carslake; Madison -Peavy and I swindled you-

Madison; Oh well. (SIGHS) Money don't mean much.

Peavy; Nevertheless, you've got to have cash to live.
I don't suppose Jack located a gold mine where
he went --

Madison; Nope.

Carslake; Look here, Madison, maybe this is a poor time to
talk business, but we've got to work fast.
There's a newcomer in town. I can unload that
Klondike Queen mine on him.

Madison; What good's the Klondike Queen?

Carslake; The newcomer don't know that it's worked out.

Peavy; Carslake and I want to return the cash we swindled
you out of.

Madison; Why don't you buy back that no-account land you
sold me and my boy?

Carslake; There's no tunnel on that land. The Klondike Queen
really looks like something.

Madison; You want to buy it?

Carslake; Yes. You see, we can resell it right away.

Madison; B-but it's not mine to sell. It's Jack's.

Peavy; You're Jack's only relative, aren't you?

Madison; Y-yeah -

Peavy; Then the Klondike Queen is yours! That is, unless your son left a will giving the property to someone else.

Madison; Jack never had a will-

Carslake; Madison, I have fifteen hundred dollars. That's more than we took away from you.

Madison; It -it's hard for me to think of business, Carslake--

Carslake; I realize that. But the fact is, we've got to get the tunnel right away to take advantage of the chance to sell it to the newsomer we mentioned. If we wait -we may miss the chance.

Madison; Oh well --I reckon I may as well take your offer.

Peavy; That's good judgement, Madison.

Madison; We'll have to have a witness, won't we?

Peavy; I'll go and get some men from the cafe.

Madison; While you're gone, Peavy, I'll get the papers all ready.

Peavy; Good. I'll be back in a little while. Come on with me, Carslake.

Carslake; See you later, Madison.

Madison; Wep. I'll be here.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES)

(CHUCKLES)

Annex; Big Jim Madison watched thru a tiny window until Peavy and Carslake were out of sight, then --

Madison; You can come out now.

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

(STEPS APPROACH AS:)

Annex; Sergeant Preston came from a small woodshed at the rear of the building.

Preston; I heard them, Madison. Now it's easy enough to see thru their plan.

Madison; Those ornery buzzards! They didn't wait long to pounce on Jack's property! You said I should hear what they had to say and be agreeable.

Preston; You did just right. () You can come out from beneath that blanket now, Jack.

Jack; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Good. It's a lazy job being a corpse, but I don't like it. () By the way, Sergeant, where did you leave your dogs?

Preston; They're out of sight in the nearby woods. King's watching them. () You'll have to resume the role of a corpse when Peavy and Carslake return with witnesses, Jack. Meanwhile, we'll get a Bill of Sale for the Klondike Queen prepared.

Jack; Those polecats! They knew they couldn't buy it from me so they connived my death figuring they would deal with Dad.

Madison; I wonder why they want that worked out mine.

Jack; That's what I want to know.

Preston; That's what we're going to find out.

(BREAK)

Annex; It was about an hour later when Big Jim saw Peavy and Carslake returning with men who would act as witnesses to the exchange of property. Jack resumed his position beneath the robe on the bunk and Sergeant Preston returned to the woodshed. When four men entered the cabin, Big Jim was apparently alone with the body of his son. He showed the Bill of Sale he had prepared.

Madison; It's all ready to sign as soon as I see the color of your cash.

Carslake; Here's the cash. Fifteen hundred dollars. Count it.

Madison; (SIGHS) All right. I hope you witnesses understand that I'm not sayin' Peavy and Carslake will get anything out of the Klondike Queen.

Joe; You're not gettin' much for it either, Madison.

Voice; Fifteen hundred dollars. Humph!

Madison; Carslake and Peavy are doin' this out of sympathy for me. Isn't that so, Peavy?

Peavy; That's right, Jim. You can get back to the States with the cash after burying your son.

Madison; I guess the fifteen hundred dollars is all here.
I'll sign the paper.

(WRITING)

Peavy; Joe you and Jake can sign as witnesses and then
the deal will be closed.

Joe; It won't take me long to scrawl my name.

Madison; Here's the pen and ink, Joe.

(WRITING, FADING OUT)

Annex; When the signatures of the witnesses had been fixed
to the Bill of Sale, Peavy and Carslake left big
Jim and went with the witnesses to celebrate what
they considered a smart deal. The following morning
found the plotters at the Klondike Queen.

(DIGGING IN B.G.)

They went to work, removing the worthless dirt they'd
used to conceal their previous discovery. They
shoveled furiously without pausing to rest. Sweat
rolled down their faces. In the light of several
lanterns, their eyes burned with eagerness to reach
the mother lode. Finally Carslake threw down his spade--

(STOP DIGGING)

(TUNNEL EFFECT:)

Carslake; We got it, Peavy! There's the lode!

Peavy; Gold! Gold, Carslake, and it's ours --

Carslake; All ours!

Peavy; A fortune if it's worth a cent! (LAUGHS) Madison will be fit to be tied when he hears of this

Carslake; We'll just tell him that the deal I counted on fell through so we decided to come back and look the tunnel over and found this lode.

Peavy; That's it. (CHUCKLE) Maybe we'll give him a little more cash - just to show him how generous we are.

Preston; (BACK) Did you say "Generous?"

Carslake; (GASP) What the-

Peavy; It's Sergeant Preston!

(STEPS COMING IN AS:)

Carslake; What are you doing here?

Preston; I wondered why you were so eager to buy the Klondike Queen. You knew there was gold here. You couldn't deal with Jack, but you were sure you could deal with his father.

Preston; Pretty smart, aren't you, Mountie?

Preston; You planned to murder Jack Madison.

Peavy; Try and prove that!

Preston; You sent him to the Indian's burial ground.

Carslake; We didn't send him there! He went on his own hook!

Preston; You knew he'd go there. () Come in here, Constable.

(STEPS COMING IN)

- Peavy; Constable!
- Dan; (COMING IN) Yep, I'm right here.
- Preston; Is this the man who left the pouch of gold with you?
- Dan; He's the one all right.
- Carslake; You -you went with Jack Madison to hunt gold in the valley.
- Dan; The Indian's didn't kill me.
- Peavy; All right, Sergeant Preston. Suppose you're right. What are you going to do about it? We've bought and paid for this tunnel and we've got a Bill of Sale here to show it.
- Preston; Perhaps that Bill of Sale won't mean much when the truth is learned.
- Peavy; Who's going to tell the truth?
- Preston; I am.
- Peavy; (EFFORT) Guess again.
- Carslake; Hey, Peavy, put the gun down!
- Peavy; Not on your life. Take the Mountie's weapons, Carslake, and then the Constable's. We're taking no chances on losing this deal.
- Preston; Don't try it, Carslake.
- Peavy; Go on do as I tell you. We're going to herd these two in one of the old tunnels and leave 'em there. We'll seal 'em in with blasting powder.

Preston; You can't get away with murder.

Peavy; You'll see what I can get away with.

Preston; For the last time, Peavy, put that gun away.

Peavy; (LAUGHS) You going to try and make me?

Preston; (CALLS) You know, Peavy, I rather hoped you'd threaten me in front of the Constable as a witness. Now we have a charge that can put you two in jail.

Peavy; (LAUGHS) Ain't it too bad you won't leave this tunnel to do that! I -

Carslake; (CRY OUT) Peavy, look!

(KING COMES IN FAST, SNARLING)

Peavy; That dog!

Preston; Take him, King!

Ad lib; (CONFUSION)

Ann cr; King raced past the Constable and Sergeant Preston and charged at Peavy, leaping beneath the gun and striking the plotter with overwhelming force.

Peavy; Lookout! Lemme up! Don't let that dog get me!

Preston; All right, King. I have him covered.

(KING SUBSIDES)

Jack; (COMING IN) I had a hard time holding King, Sergeant Preston. (LAUGHS)

Carslake; Jack Madison -you!

- Jack; You bet it's me. King and I were back a little distance watching this whole performance.
- Preston; Get up, Peavy.
- Jack; And get out of my tunnel.
- Peavy; It's our tunnel! We bought it!
- Jack; You bought it from my Dad, and it wasn't his to sell.
- Carslake; It was! It was!
- Jack; It would have been except for the fact that I'm still alive. Now get out.
- Peavy; You can't get away with this, Jack! You can't get away with it, I tell you! We'll fight this through the courts.
- Preston; You'll have a fight in court all right, Peavy, but you'll be fighting for your freedom, and you can't win. Constable Emery and Jack Madison both witnessed the way you pulled a gun on me and planned to kill a Mountie.
- Dan; And if you ask me, Peavy, we can make that charge stick fast.
- Peavy; That dog! If that dog hadn't come here, we'd have gotten all three of you!
- Preston; If King hadn't been on hand, Peavy, we'd have used a different method. You couldn't win. One way or another we'd have gotten you so we could say this case is closed.

(KING BARKS)

THEME