

CHALLENGE OF THE YUKON

created by

Geo. W. Trendle

Airtight Frame - VT

CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE

by Fran Striker

Number: ¹³⁸ 7380

Date: FEB. 1, 1950

Striker

Doney 54

- Preston and King
- Widow Morton middle-aged
- Jennie ingenue
- Bill Andrews 29 - nice guy
- Steve Murdock ... 30 -smooth crook
- Constable Straight
- Joe heavy
- Pete Heavy

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*Lewis Bill
Voice*

Preston; Bill Andrews was convicted of murder on circumstantial evidence and sent to jail for life. Soon after he escaped, there was another killing and again all evidence pointed to Bill. I knew he had been no where near the scene of the crime, but couldn't prove it. I set a trap, hoping to catch the guilty man. I didn't suspect that there were three killers. Things moved fast when the trap was closed, and for a time I thought I would become the third victim!

Annex; Be sure to listen, etc.

The Challenge of the Yukon

by Fran Striker

CIRCUMSTANTIAL
EVIDENCE

Number: 738

Date: FEB. 1, 1950

(USUAL OPENING)

(WIND) (~~SLED WITH BELLS~~)

ON DOGS TRAVELING FAST)

Annex;

R
The heavily loaded sled moved downhill through White Pass *in toward the Yukon town of Gold Valley*. The driver of the dog team was in high spirits, *for he* had struck it rich, and ~~he~~ was on his way to civilization, with enough gold to last the rest of his life. *He didn't suspect that 3 men waited in ambush behind a big boulder.* ~~The bells on his dogs rang gaily. Neither dogs nor driver knew that death was waiting at the bend.~~

(SEVERAL SHOTS)

Voice;

(CRY OUT)

(BELLS JANGLE WILDLY)

Ad lib;

(YELLS AND SHOUTS, COMING IN) Grab those dogs!

Hang on to them!

Don't let 'em get away until we get the cargo! (ETC.)

Annex;

Three men rushed forward. Two took charge of the dogs while the third made sure the driver was dead.

(DOGS SUBSIDING)

Joe;

(AD LIBBING) Quiet down, you critters! Quiet down there! Line! Line up!

Steve: (CALLS) Hold those dogs, Joe. () How about the driver, Pete?

Pete; He's dead, I guess.

Steve; *get take his gun. Sacks +*
~~Leave him there in the snow. Get the gold sacks off the sled. I'll take the dead man's gun.~~

Pete; What about the rest of the stuff?

Steve; Pick out a couple of blankets and a parka. I might need them for ~~the~~ ^{the frame up,} evidence. Leave the rest of the supplies.

Pete; ^{the frame up -} Speakin' of ~~the~~ evidence, you had a coat button you were going to leave here.

Steve; Here it is. I'll ~~just~~ toss it on the sled.

Pete; We're leaving a lot of footprints.

Steve; ~~In this wind they'll soon be covered.~~ *will fall on them one with snow*

Joe; (COMING IN) I got the dogs under control, Steve. Now what?

Steve; I'll take the gold with me and hold it until we get ready to split.

Joe; ~~You're~~ going to town right now?

Steve; Yes. You hold the dogs here for an hour so I can get to Goldville ahead of them.

Pete; *Steve. D'you*
We'll let 'em go in one hour. Think they'll go to town?

Steve; I think so. Wherever they go, Constable Aiken will find them sooner or later - then he'll start investigating. *(Fades) I'll see you boys later.*
Break

Annotation: Leaving his companions, Steve Murdoch hurried to Goldville, where he served as the assay clerk, assay office, after opening a short time in his office, he walked across the street to the office of Constable Aiken. He + the Const. were visiting when,

(DOOR CLOSES) (STEPS. BIZ OF SITTING ETC)

Steve; (COMING IN) I hear you found Lem Atterbury.

Const; Yes. Shot thru the head. *killed instantly*

Steve; The coroner called it murder.

Const; Of course it's murder!

Steve; Where'd you find the body?

Const; Same place as we found that man a year ago! The man
Bill Andrews shot from ambush.

~~Steve; You don't say!~~

~~Const; I figure the killer hid behind the same rock!~~

Steve; Find tracks?

Const; No. They were covered. But I have a clue, Steve!
A good clue!

Steve; What's that?

Const; This button! It was on the sled.

Steve; Maybe one of Atterbury's.

Const; It's not. It doesn't match his. I think the killer
lost it when he unloaded the gold.

Steve; Un-m. That button's likely to hang the killer.

Const; *Maybe not.* Of course its only circumstantial evidence - the same
as we had against Bill Andrews. The jury didn't hang him.

~~Steve;~~ Just jailed- (BREAK OFF AS-)

Steve; (QUICK BREATH) Bill Andrews -

USUAL OPENING

WIND BG

SLED AND DOGTEAM

Anncr;

Lem Atterbury rode the runners of the sled as his dogteam ran downhill on the way from the Yukon golds to the town of Selkirk. The elderly man ~~was~~ was in high spirits

Lem;

(ADLIBBING)(SHOUTS) Git along there, Chukker, git along old Whiteface! (FADE UNDER, ADLIB) C'mon you fellers, 'tain't no time to dally - Git up, Domino, git along Babe-

Anncr;

Lem Atterbury rode the runners of the sled as his dogteam ran downhill on the way from a rugged mountain region to the Yukon town of Goldville. The elderly man was in high spirits, for he had, after disheartening years of fruitless search, at last found gold! Just ahead he saw a narrow gap where the trail was closely hemmed in by massive boulders. He didn't suspect that at this point, known as White Pass, three men waited in ambush.

Lem;

(SHOUTING) There's White Pass, fellas - after that it's not far tuh Goldville. Git along there - (FADE UNDER, ADLIBBING)

Anncr;

Without warning, the ambushers opened fire -

SHOTS.

Lem;

(CRY OUT SHARPLY)

Steve;

(COMING IN) We got him, boys! ~~YØA/XWØ~~
Hang on to the dogs!

DOGS AND SLED STOP

DOGS, ADLIB WHINES, ETC.

2

Annecr; A man named Steve Murdock hurried from behind the boulders to the sled. He was closely followed by two others -

Steve; (COMING IN) ~~My my my~~ Hold the dogs, Joe. () ~~Be/~~ Pete, you take a look at Lem. ~~Any name by my name name~~

Pete; One of us got him in the chest.

Steve; He dead?

Pete; Seems to be-

Steve; Leave him where he fell an' bring me his six-gun.

Joe; (BACK) You found the gold, Steve?

Steve; (EFFORT) Yeah. I got it.

Pete; ~~Oh~~ Here's his gun -

Steve; (EFFORT) Thanks, ^{Pete.} Now take that parka and a couple of blankets off the sled. I may need them for the frame-up.

Pete; (EFFORT) What about the rest of the gear on the sled.

Steve; (EFFORT) Leave it.

Pete; Speakin' of the frame-up, ~~my it / no / no~~ you were goin' to leave a coat button on the sled-

Steve; I got it right here. I'll leave it right here-

Joe; (BACK) Hey, Steve, we're leavin' a lot of footprints around here -

Steve; With the wind blowin' like it is, they'll soon be covered over-

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Pete; Got all the gold?

Steve; I reckon so. I'll ~~keep it~~ take it with me and hold it until it's time to divide it.

Pete; You goin' to town now?

Steve; Yes. You two stay here and hold the dogs for one hour, so I'll have plenty of time to reach Goldville ahead of them.

Pete; D'you think they'll ~~haul it~~ haul the sled to Goldville when we release 'em ?

Steve; I think so. But even if they don't, Constable Aitken will find the outfit sooner or later. Then he'll start investigating. (FADES) I'll see you boys later.

WIND UP AND OUT.

Anner; Leaving his companions, Steve Murxock hurried to Goldville where he served as the Assay clerk. After spending a short time in his office, he walked across the street to the office of ~~the~~ Constable Aiken. ~~He and the lawman were visiting when, through the window they saw a dogteam bring a driverless sled into town. They hurried lut to join the men who gathered around the halted outfit-~~

thru the window, He
saw a dog team ⁻³⁻ bring a driverless sled into
town. They hurried out to join the
(FADE OUT WIND, FADE IN DURING)
men who gathered around the halted sled.

Annecr; Steve Murdock ran an assay office in Goldville,
~~which~~ a small town not far from White Horse. He was
calling on the constable when an unguided team
came into town with a driverless sled. Men gathered
to inspect the outfit.

ADLIB: (BG OF MURMURS)

Constable; Red stains on the handles of the sled - something
must've happened to the driver.

Steve; This looks like Lem Atterbury's outfit.

Constable; So it does! You're right, Steve. It is Lem's outfit.

Steve; The last time he was in town he brought samples of
high grade ore. I gave him an assay and he said he'd
struck it rich.

Constable; Doesn't seem to be any gold on the sled.

Steve; Constable, it looks like you have a robbery and
murder on your hands!

Const. Looks at it.
(FADE OUT WIND)

Annecr; Constable Aiken emptied the sled and stored the
contents in his office. Then with his own sled
and two men to help, he set out ^{and back tracked} on the backtrail.
the sled + team of the murdered man.
In due time he returned to Goldville with a dead
man. He was at his desk, studying the dead man's
property when Steve Murdock entered the office.

DOOR OPENS.

Const; Come right in, Steve.

4

Constable; Looks that way. () I need some help. Will a
couple of you men help me unload the sled?

ADLIB: (AGREEMENT)

Const; Move everything into my office. I'll examine it
t here. Then one of you take the dogs to the
kennel.

Voice; I'll do that, Constable.

Const; Thanks.

Steve; You goin' to look for Lem Atterbury, Constable?

Const; Yes. I'll hitch up my own team and backtrack
until I find him. (FADING)

Steve; I sure hope you find the poor critter. () I'll
help unload the sled -

Const; All right, Steve. I -

Steve; (CUT IN) Hey, here's a loose button. It ^{was} just lyin'
here in a fold of a blanket -

Const; I'll take it. (FADING) Now let's get the gear unloaded-

Steve; (FADING) I want to get started on the search
for Lem as soon as possible-

BREAK

Annrc; It was late that afternoon when Constable Aiken
returned to Goldville with a blanket wrapped man on his
sled. And that evening he was working by lamplight in
his office when Steve Murdock entered -

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE.

4A

Steve; Evenin', constable.

Const; Oh, hello. Steve.

Steve; I hear you found Lem Atterbury.

Const; Yes. He'd been shot through the chest. He has a slight chance to live. I left him with the doctor.

Steve; Can he talk?

Const; A little. But he has no idea who shot him.

Steve; Where'd it happen?

Const; The same place the prospector was killed a year ago - at White Pass.

Steve; Y'don't say! That's the murder Bill Andrews is supposed to have committed.

Const; That's right.

Steve; Find any tracks - or clues?

Const; The tracks were filled in, Steve, but I did ~~find~~ think I have a clue. It's this button you found on ~~the sled~~ the sled.

Steve; Oh!

Const; It didn't come from anything that Atterbury owned, so it may have been dropped by the gunman who robbed him.

Steve; Maybe so! I - (GASP) Sakes a live!

Const; What's the matter?

Steve; Bill Andrews! I just remembered - b-but no, he- he couldn't have done it- he's my friend. I - I can't suspect him-

Steve; If Atternury dies, that button might be the evidence to hang the killer!

Const; It'll take more evidence than that, Steve. Look at all the evidence we had against Bill Andrews - ~~jury said there was~~ ~~but the judge said it was~~ but it wasn't considered sufficient to hang him. He was sentenced to life in prison.

(THOUGHTFULLY)
Steve; ~~Spanner~~ Bill Andrews -

Const; He was your friend, wasn't he?

Steve; He- he still is, Constable. We've been friends for a long time- ~~that~~ I still call on him regularly at t he ~~White Horse~~ prison in White horse- He helped m r work my claim on Spanner Creek, and after that he worked for me in the assay office.

Const; What's the matter?

Steve; Uh- uh - nothing -

Const; I most forgot. Andrews was your friend, wasn't he?

Steve; We - we've been friends for a long time. I - I still call on him at the jail in White Horse.

Const; Sure enough.

Steve; He - he helped me work my claim on Spanner Creek - and after that he worked for me in the assay office.

Const; I remember. His working in the assay office was one of the points against him. He was in a position to know who'd be likely to come thru the pass with rich pay dirt.

Steve; I - I never believed that Bill was guilty of that murder a year ago -

Const; There was a lot against him, Steve. His mitten was found near the dead man - and pay dirt in his room. He had no alibi and- ^{(I) well,} ~~(LAWYER)~~ At least he has an alibi for this ~~murder~~ ^{shooting}.

Steve; Constable - I - I'd better tell you something. You'll learn it anyway -

Const; What's that?

Steve; ^{Maybe} Bill doesn't have an alibi.

Const; No alibi? Why he's in ^{prison} jail at White Horse. You can't ~~beat that for an alibi.~~

Steve; He's not in ~~jail~~. *prison*

Const; What?

Steve; He broke out last night.

Const; Great Day! You sure of that? Why didn't I hear of it?

Steve; You were out looking for Lem when the news came in. Listen, Constable, I've ~~stuck to Bill thru thick and thin~~ because I didn't think ^{Bill} he was a killer. But now -- *Well, maybe I've been wrong, y'see,*

~~Const; You've been a good friend, Steve.~~

~~Steve; Maybe I was wrong! To make it worse, I told Bill about Lem Atterbury.~~

~~Const; You did?~~

Steve; Two weeks ago when I visited the jail. *I happened to tell him* ~~I told him~~ Lem had brought in a high grade sample of ore - and that he counted on comin' in from his claim on the first of the month with gold enough to keep him for life!

Const; *I then Bill Andrews knew when & where to strike!* ~~That's it! Bill Andrews is our man!~~

Steve; *yes - and,* Of course, there's revenge as well as robbery for the motive.

Const; Revenge?

Steve; Lem served on the jury that convicted Bill!

Const; ~~Yep!~~ You're right, Steve. We've got a strong case against Bill Andrews. ~~It'll be clinched by this button came from his coat!~~ This time, he'll hang for sure!

Steve: If you can find him!

Const; We'll find him. He'll have to hide somewhere until he can get food and clothing for the trail. Now let me think- where'd he hide? He knows the Spanner Creek region - and that's between here and White Horse - -

Steve; That's right.

Const; Do you still own that land on the creek?

Steve; Yes. But I never go there.

Const; Bill worked there for you. He knows there's a cabin on the land-

Steve; A cabin - but ^{neither} ~~no~~ heat ^{nor} or food. I can think of a more likely place on Spanner Creek.

Const; Where?

Steve Widow Martin's house. *That's right on the way to my property.*

Const; Would ~~she hide him?~~ *Mrs. Martin hide Bill?*

Steve; *I think so.* She always liked ~~Bill~~ *him - what's more,* and her daughter and Bill were mighty friendly - I think they'd hide him, especially if they didn't know about today's ~~murder~~ *shootin'.*

Const; I'll call on them.

Steve; *g'd. bye to* I'll go with you, Constable.

Const; ~~Suit yourself.~~ *Glad to have you -*

Steve; While you're talking to Mrs. Martin, I'll go on up the creek to my property and see if Andrews is hiding there.

Const; All right, Steve.

Steve; I'll take a couple of my friends in case he's armed and wants to fight. (FADING) Makes me mad when I think of the way I believed in him - the dirty killer---

(BREAK)

Meanwhile the news of the shooting had reached the nearby

Anncr; ~~Word of the murder traveled to White Horse and nearby town of Whitehorse and nearly everyone was discussing it when Sergeant Preston and his great dog, Yukon King came in from patrol. Preston~~
~~The Mountie~~ heard also about the jailbreak of the night before and decided to try to track down Bill Andrews. King ~~got the scene inside the jail and~~ *picked up Andrew's scent in the* followed it across the snow.

at first one followed the trail of prisoner and

(WIND SNEAK IN)

Though Bill's tracks had been covered, the scent was in the air for King to follow unerringly to Spanner's Creek.

(LOW GROWL)

Preston; What is it, King?

Anncr; King halted near an abandoned cabin.

Preston; Used to be a gold claim but it hasn't been worked in some time. () You're looking past the cabin, King.

Anncr; The dog was trying to tell his master that someone occupied a small ~~shed - probably one that had been used for storage, about a hundred yards from the house.~~ *storage near the cabin.*

(KING WHIMPERS)

Annor; He looked at the Sergeant - than toward the shed and whimpered softly. ~~Then~~ ^{He} advanced a few steps, paused and looked back at the moutie-

Preston; So that's it, eh King? The man we want is hiding in that shed.

(WHIMPERS)

No windows there - but he ^{could look} ~~can probably see~~ through cracks ^{between} ~~in~~ the boards. He's probably watching us. I wonder if he has a gun?

(LOW SNARL)

Chance we'll have to take. () Hold it King, I'll go ahead. You heel.

(WHIMPERS)

I said- Heel!

(STEPS SUSTAINING IN THE SNOW)

Annor; With his tail between his legs and his ears down, King advanced with the Sergeant, holding his nose close to the Moutie's left knee. ^{when} The two had covered ^{about} half the distance to the tool shed ~~when~~ Preston called -

Preston; (CALLS) Are you in there, Andrews? () Andrews! I want to talk to you.

Bill; (BACK) (MUFFLED) Stay back. Don't come any nearer or I'll shoot. I'll kill you.
(GROWLS)

Preston; (CALLS) You'd hang for that!

Bill; (BACK, MUFFLED) Get back! I can see you thru a knot hole, and I can shoot you before you get me!

Preston; *shooting me won't help you! There'd be others to track you down.*
You can't kill the whole Northwest Mounted Police ~~Force~~, and you know it, so I don't think you'll shoot me.

Bill; (NEARER, MUFFLED) Go back, I tell you! Leave me alone! (SUSTAIN AD LIBBING AS:)

Annor; Sergeant Preston didn't break his stride. Despite Bill's threats he quickly covered the remaining distance to the shack, placed one hand on the handle of his gun and kicked open the door.

(KICK DOOR OPEN)

Bill; Now see here, you —

Preston; (CUT IN) Steady, Bill.

Bill; Let me go! Let me go, do you hear!

Preston; As soon as I make sure you're unarmed. (EFFORT)

Bill; If I'd had a gun, I'd have shot you.

Preston; I doubt that!

Bill; How did you get here?

Preston; My dog followed your scent from White Horse. Who helped you get out of jail?

Bill; I'm not talking.

Preston; *There'd been another shooting*
Did you know that ~~another murder had been committed~~ *at White Pass?*
~~today?~~

Preston;

Bill;

Another murder? *shootings*

Preston;

yes. You're being hunted for it. *Sam Atterbury was shot and seriously wounded.*

Bill;

I didn't ~~kill anyone!~~ *shoot him* I've never ~~killed anyone!~~ *shot*
I don't know anything about ~~a murder!~~ *it* Why do they say I'm guilty?

Preston;

You were found guilty of murder a year ago. *The Atterbury shooting was done in the same way. Furthermore, one today was handled in the same way. Moreover, Sam Atterbury served on the jury that convicted you the dead man was on the jury that convicted you*
convicted you a year ago, so *for you* there's a double motive — revenge and robbery.

Bill;

I didn't do it, I tell you! And I won't be taken alive! (VIOLENT EFFORT)

Preston;

Steady!

(SCUFFLING FEET)

Bill;

(STRUGGLING)

Preston;

Stop fighting, you fool!

(KING BARKS)

Bill;

(STRUGGLING) I'll get loose!

Preston;

(EFFORT) King, you keep out of this! I can handle him!

Bill;

(GASP IN PAIN) Ow-w-w-ww! My arm! Don't twist it any farther!

Preston;

Then stop struggling.
~~Behave yourself.~~

Bill;

All right, all right —
(KING GROWLING)

Preston; ~~...make another break like that and I'll let King ^{out} on you.~~
~~handle the situation. Now listen to me, Bill. I~~
~~know you didn't ^{shoot} ~~kill~~ Lem Atterbury.~~

Bill; ~~Y-you know it?~~

Preston; ~~Yes. And I'm the only one who knows it. You see, I~~
~~followed your trail from the White Horse jail. I~~
~~know you came directly here. You were nowhere near~~
~~White Pass, so I know you didn't shoot~~
~~atterbury.~~

Bill; ~~Ok -~~

Preston; ~~I want to be sure you're not convicted of a second~~
~~murder.~~

Bill; ~~I should never have been convicted of the first!~~
~~I was innocent! I never killed or robbed anyone!~~
~~I was framed!~~

Preston; ~~There was a tight case against you last year.~~

Bill; ~~It was a frame up!~~

Preston; ~~By whom?~~ *Bill, I'd like to prove that. Have you
any idea who might have framed you?*

Bill; ~~No~~ How do I know?

Preston; Maybe you were broken out of jail so you could be
framed a second time.

Bill; No, No - ~~that~~ ^{that} couldn't be that. *the reason*

Preston; Then you were broken out. Someone helped you escape.

Bill; I didn't say that -

Preston; Who ^{helped you} ~~was it?~~

Bill; Now listen, I -

Preston; Steve Murdock ² wasn't it?

Bill; He-

Preston: (CUT IN) He's been the only one to call on you in jail. It's unlikely anyone else would help you.

Bill; I - I don't want to make trouble for Steve-

Preston: You came here without food. What did you plan to eat? Did Murdock promise to bring you supplies?

Bill: Please don't ask me - -

Preston; Did he?

Bill; Yes.

Preston; That's what I wanted to hear. Come on!

Bill; Y-you're taking me back to jail?

Preston; Not right away. I want to keep you hidden while I do some investigating. Mrs. Martin lives a half mile downhill. We'll go there.

Bill; No! Not there! I - I'm a convicted murderer. I can't face Jennie - I -

Preston; You haven't spoken to the girl since your trial?

Bill; ^{Wp} I - I couldn't!

Preston; Come along. You may be due for a surprise.

~~MUSIC INT.~~

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

~~COMMERCIAL~~

Anner; ~~And now to continue.~~ ^{martin} Sam ~~Morton~~ had built a good home on Spanner's Creek. When he died, he left enough gold to keep his wife and daughter comfortably. Both women welcomed Sergeant Preston and King, and were delighted to see Bill Andrews out of jail.

Bill; Jennie - y-you mean you're really glad to see me?

Jennie; Of course I am, Bill. I tried to see you in the - the jail - but you wouldn't see me -

Bill; ^{g-g'm} ~~I was~~ a convict, Jennie - a convicted killer-

Widow; Humph! Jennie and I never believed that of you, Bill.

Jennie; Of course not!

Widow; How did you get out, Bill?

Bill; I - uh -

Preston; Bill is still in custody.

Jennie; Oh -

Widow; You mean he's not free?

Preston; Not yet. ^{but} There's a chance that we might establish his innocence. That's why we came here. You ladies can help.

Jennie; How!

Widow; Just tell us what to do.

Preston; I want you to keep Bill here for a day or so while I do some investigating.

Jennie; Of course!

Preston; He's given his word he'll not try to escape.

Bill; (BITTERLY) The word of a convicted killer.

Jennie; Oh, Bill - -

Preston; It's good enough for me.

(KING GROWLS)

Widow; Your dog--

Preston; What is it, King?

Jennie; He's looking out the window. Must be someone coming up the hill.

Preston; Steady, King. I'll look.

Bill; Is someone coming?

Preston; Yes, Bill. Constable Aiken and three other men.

Bill; The constable! He's coming for me! () Hey, that's Steve Murdock with him.

Preston; Thought so.

Bill; The others are Pete Lacey and Joe Brent. They're friends of Steve.

Preston; Mrs. Morton, what's beyond that door.

Widow; A bedroom.

Preston; So In there, Bill. Stay out of sight. I'll handle this.

Bill; (GOING BACK) Whatever you say -

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

Jennie; The men have stopped outside.

Preston; Not a word about Bill.

ADLIB: (AGREEMENT)

Jennie; The constable is coming here- but the others are going on uphill. Murdock owns land above us.

Preston; I know-

RAP ON DOOR. DOOR OPENS.

Constable; Howdy, I- (SURPRISE) Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Come in, Aiken.

Constable; Well now, I didn't expect to find you here!
Howdy, Mrs. Morton - and Jennie-

ADLIB: (GREETINGS)

DOOR CLOSES

Preston; When I reached White Horse I heard the news.

Constable; You mean, the jailbreak?

Preston; *Yes* That ~~is~~ and the murder! I suppose you figured Andrews would try to hide out here with his friends?

Constable; That's right. (CHUCKLES) Guess you figured the same and got here first, eh?

Preston; Where ~~did~~ ^{are Steve} Murdock and those others going?

Constable Oh they went on to Murdock's place. We figured Bill might try to hide out there. Steve is finally convinced that he's a killer.

Jennie; Oh no!

Constable; Yes he is, Jennie. It took a lot to turn Steve Murdock against him. We'll have an airtight case against him when he's tried for Lem Atterbury's murder.

Widow; Where did that happen?

Jennie; When was he killed?

Constable; Early this morning in White Pass. That's why Bill broke out of jail last night. He knew Lem would come thru the Pass today with a load of pay dirt.

Preston; How did he know it?

Constable; Lem had an assay made a couple of months ago. He told Steve he'd come in today with all the gold he could collect. He wanted to catch the first boat for the States.

Preston; *Did* Steve pass the news to Bill?

Constable; Yes. *He happened to mention it* A couple of weeks ago, when he visited the jail.

Preston; That's not much evidence, Constable.

Constable; There's more, Sergeant. This button was found on Lem's sled. When we find Bill Andrews, we'll see if it matches the ones on his ~~uniform~~ ^{coat.}

Jennie; (GASP) Mother--

Widow; What's the matter with you, Jennie?

Jennie; Oh kt- it's just that I- I can't - I wont believe Bill is a murderer!

Preston; You see, Constable, Bill still has friends.

Cobstable; Yeah. () Well, I guess you'd have found Andrews if he was hiding here. I'll go up to Steve *Murdock's* property and see if he's there.

Preston; I'll wait here, Aiken. Stop on your way back and let me know what you ~~find~~ *learn*.

DOOR OPENS. WIND.

Constable; I'll do that. Goodbye, all.

ADLIB: (GOODBYES)

DOOR CLOSES. CUT WIND.

Jennie; Mother! Sergeant Preston! That button came from Bill's coat!

Widow; I saw it, Jennie. For a minute I thought you'd give Bill away.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK)

Preston; (BACK) Come on out, Bill.

Bill; (COMING IN) I heard everything. That button did come off my coat.

Preston; And it was found in the dead man's sled. You weren't hear the sled, so it must have been placed there to frame you.

Bill; But who -

Preston; Only one man could have taken that button off your coat, Bill. The man who helped you escape from jail.

Bill; Steve Murdock!

Preston; Yes. The man who told Aiken he was finally convinced that you were guilty.

Bill: He - he must have wanted to frame me. That's why he helped me escape! Why he told me to hide at the abandoned shed, ^{He knew} ~~where~~ I'd have no alibi -
 () And he could have framed me the last time too!
 (FADING) He could have left my mitten at the scene--
 he could have-- (TRAIL OFF)

Annex; Bill Andrews was stunned by the realization of Steve Murdock's duplicity. During the next hour he and Sergeant Preston discussed the situation. Then when the constable was seen returning from the Murdock claim, Bill was once more hidden in the bedroom.

DOOR OPENS. WIND.

Preston; Come right in, Aiken.

Constable; (CALL BACK) Wait there, Murdock. I'll just be a minute.

Steve; (BACK) Right.

DOOR CLOSSES. CUT WIND.

Constable; Sergeant, we found things at the Murdock place.

Preston; Yes?

Constable; Bill wasn't there - but he'd been there. We found tracks. Two men and a dog. I was wondering if you--

Preston; (CUT IN) Find anything else?

Constable: This .

Jennie; What is it?

Constable A tobacco sack. It has Bill's name written on it in pencil. Inside there's a couple of ounces of gold dust. My guess is that it'll prove up the same quality as the gold from Lem Atterbury's claim.

Preston; Where was it?

Const; On the floor of a tool shed. Looked like Bill dropped it in his rush to get away.

Preston; *And* You're ~~he~~ sure Bill was in the tool shed?

Const; Well - there was evidence to show it. Cigarette butts on the floor - made the way Bill always made 'em- and--

Preston; Aiken, that tobacco sack was left in the shack after Bill had left.

Const; Eh? () Oh-h-h. So you were there!

Preston; What did Murdock think of the tracks in the snow?

Const; He figured Bill saw someone coming and lit out. I had a hunch the tracks were yours, but I couldn't tell if you were with Bill- or trailing him.

Preston; We were together. I brought him here.

Const; H ere?

Jennie; Yes, here.

Preston; (CALLS) Come out, Bill.

DOOR OPENS, BACK.

Constable; So there you are.

Bill; (COMING IN) That's right, Constable.

Preston; Aiken, Bill did not kill Atterbury. I know that for a fact. And I'm beginning to think he was innocent of the other murder.

Bill; I wonder if all that evidence could have been framed!

Preston; We'll try to prove it. I'll outline a plan as quickly as possible.

BREAK

Annrc; Sergeant Preston talked rapidly and his plan won the instant approval of the constable. Then Aiken left the Morton house and returned to Goldville, ~~and~~
~~Steve Murdock and the other men.~~

That evening found Murdock alone in his home in town. His reading was interrupted by a rap on the door. He was surprised to see Bill Andrews!

Steve; Bill! You here, in town?

Bill: I need help.

Steve; I went to the shack on Spanner's Creek, but you weren't there.

Bill; I had to clear out. ^{I saw} A mountie ~~was~~ coming toward your place. He must have suspected I'd hide there.

Steve; You ^{were lucky} ~~managed~~ to get away from him.

Bill; I've got to keep on the move. I need food and supplies. And I need some money.

Steve; (GUARDED) Have you heard anything about Lem Atterbury?

Bill; How could I hear about anyone? I've had to keep under cover. What about him?

Steve; Never mind. It's not important. I'll help you, Bill.

Bill; Thanks, Steve. I knew I could count on you.

Steve; Come back here in an hour and I'll have food and supplies for the trail as well as snowshoes.

Bill; In an hour!

Steve ^{yo} You can find a place to hide for that long.

BREAK FADE IN SOFT WIND

Annrc; Leaving Murdock's house, Bill joined Sergeant Preston, KING and the constable who were waiting ^{a short distance away} ~~not far off~~.

Bill; He'll fix a pack for me.

Preston; And make sure of an airtight frame up! That's what I'm counting on.

Const; I guess there's nothin' we can do but wait.

(FADE OUT WIND)

Annrcr; Steve made hurried preparations. From a cupboard he took a gun, a parka and some blankets that had belonged to the dead man. Then one of the stolen sacks of gold. He wrapped the gold inside the blankets and made a tight bundle. Next he hurried to a nearby cafe where he knew he could find Pete and Joe. He brought them back to his home and told of Bill's visit.

Steve; ... and he'll be back here in a few minutes to get that bundle. You two wait in the other room. When he gets into the parka and ^{has} the blankets tied to his back - shoot him. Shoot to kill.

Pete; Here?

Steve; Yes. I'll say he came here, ^{thinking I was alone, and} demanding ^{ed} food and waving a ~~gun at me.~~ ^{I'll say he threatened me with a gun, and} He thought I was alone. You two shot him and saved my life.

Joe; Does he have a gun?

Steve; I'll put this one of Lem's in his hand-

Pete; Good.

Steve; The parka and blankets were Lem's and some of the stolen gold will be found inside the blankets.

Joe; It'll be ^{an} air tight ^{frame up}.

Steve; I hate to give away some of the gold - but it'll be worth while to keep us in the clear.

Pete; When do we split what's left?

Steve; Tomorrow.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Steve; (CUE) He's here. Get into the next room!

Joe; (FADING) Come on, Pete.

Steve; I'll let him in.

STEPS. DOOR OPENS. WIND.

Steve; (CUE) Hello, Bill!

Bill; Steve, did you get the things I asked for?

Steve; I sure did. They're right on that table. Come on in and try on your parka.

Bill; We'll all come in - you crook!

Steve; Huh?

Constable; He said we'd all come in.

Steve; Aiken!

Const; Yes! And Sergeant Preston!

Steve; A mountie!

Preston; Back up, Murdock!

(STEPS IN. DOOR CLOSE. CUT WIND AS)

Steve; Now see here - Bill, what's this mean?

Bill; It means you're thru!

Preston; Open that bundle, Constable. We'll see what's there!

Steve; (SUDDEN EFFORT) Oh no you-

Preston; (CUT IN) (EFFORT) Hold it!

(SLAP) (GUN FALLS)

Const; That was a fool move, Murdock. You should know better than to pull a gun on Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Leave it on the floor. Keep back, Murdock.

Const; I'll examine the bundle - Look here, Sergeant, the parka!

(HANDLE PARKA)

It has Lem Atterbury's name on it.

Preston; How do you account for the possession of it, Murdock?

Steve; I'm not talking.

Const; These are Lem's blankets, too! And there's something wrapped inside of them!

Preston; What is it?

Const; A sack - it's heavy -- feels like gold!

Preston; That's what I'd hoped for. How do you account for that gold, Murdock? And for Atterbury's blankets and his parka?

Steve; I told you I'm not accounting!

Preston; You killed Atterbury, and you tried to frame Bill Andrews! You didn't overlook a single opportunity to add to the evidence against him. That's what we counted on when we sent Bill here tonight to ask for help.

Steve; Oh so that's it! It was all a put-up job! You figured on getting me for a murder charge! Well let me tell you this! All you've done is to sign your death warrant!

Const; Don't talk like a fool.

Steve; Fool, am I! You'll see. Come on in, boys!

Joe; (BACK) We've got them covered.

Pete; (BACK) Get your hands up! Drop that gun!

(GUN FALLS)

Bill; It's the two who went to Spanner's Creek with Steve!

Preston; Constable, it looks as though we have three killers instead of one.

Joe; We'll keep them covered, Steve. See if they ^{have} ~~we~~ got anymore guns.

Steve; Wait 'til I get Lem's gun. (EFFORT)

Preston; So you stole his gun too, eh?

Steve; This is it, Lawman.

Preston; Don't you suppose your guns will be heard?

Steve; Sure and when people come to find out about the shooting, I'll tell 'em you followed Bill Andrews here. Andrews got both of you, and we got Andrews.

(BARKS OUTSIDE)

Joe; There's a dog outside!

Preston; And look who's at the door!

Pete; Who -?

Joe; -Huh?

Steve; (CRY OUT) Look out!

Preston; (MIGHTY EFFORT) Take 'em!

(CRASH OF TABLE)

AD LIB: (YELLS AND SCUFFLE)

(COUPLE OF SHOTS)

(KING AD LIB SNARLS AND BARKE OUTSIDE)

ANN-R; Sergeant Preston had moved so the table stood between him and the three who held guns. He acted ^{with lightning speed} when the ^{clawed} outlaw cast a split second glance toward the door, ^{he} up-ended the table ^{against} in the faces of Steve and his companions, then charged while they were off balance. In an instant Bill and Aiken joined the fight.

Steve; (AD LIBBING) I'll get you, Mountie! I'll kill you! I'll kill all three of you!

Preston; (EFFORT) ^{not while I hold your gun hand!} Drop that gun or I'll break your wrist!

Steve; (EFFORT) ^{I'll get free} No you won't!

(FIGHT SUSTAIN AS:)

Annex; It was a hand to hand fight with no quarter given and none asked. A fight with death the penalty for losing. ~~The odds were even until Preston got one hand free and drove it like a sledge hammer to Steve Murdock's jaw!~~ ^{then saw the chance to drive fist}

(BLOW) (FALLING BODY)

Preston; That should hold you!

Bill; (CRY OUT) Preston!

Annrcr; Bill was down! Joe had lost his gun but gripped a knife. It was poised for the death blow. As the blade descended toward Bill's throat, *Preston fired* ~~a gun spoke sharply --~~

(SHOT)

Joe; (SCREAM)

Annrcr; The outlaw's hand went limp. He dropped the knife and stared stupidly at his helpless, broken arm while Bill scrambled nimbly to his feet.

Preston; What about you, Aiken?

Const; (EFFORT) I'll take this one!

(BLOW)

Const There.

Pete; (GASP)

(KING AD LIB BARKS AND SNARLS OUTSIDE)

Preston; (BREATHING HARD) That does it!

Bill; That dog outside!

Preston; It's King. I'll let him in.

(QUICK STEPS AS:)

Const Keep those men guarded.

(DOOR OPENS)

(KING IN BARKING, THEN WHIMPERING & WHINING)

Const Take it easy, King. *The fight's over!* There's nothing for you to do. Just look 'em over boy, and see if you approve.

you just keep an eye on the prisoners!

Const; (CHUCKLES) King will be sore because he wasn't in on that fight.

Preston; A have a job for King to do. Give me that sack of gold.

Const; Here.

Preston; Here, boy, get the scent of this bag and see if you can tell me where it came from.

(KING WHIMPERING)

Joe; (SOBS) MY arm's broken! Can't you do something?

Preston; We'll give it attention before we move you.

Steve; (GROANS)

Preston; Murdock is regaining consciousness. You better keep him covered.

Const; I'll put handcuffs on him and Pete.

Lill; Look at King! He's sniffing of that cupboard.

Preston; In here, eh King? Thanks, boy.

(OPEN CUPBOARD)

(CUE) Well!

Bill; More sacks of gold!

Preston; And Bill, they didn't all come from Lem Atterbury!

Const; Sergeant, do you think --

Preston; Constable, I'm sure this solves the murder of a year ago.

Joe; (WHIMPERING) We didn't ^{take} ~~have~~ no part in that job! Murdock handled that one alone!

Bill; Did you hear that, Sergeant! Did you hear that? He said Murdock killed that man!

Preston; That's right, Bill.

Bill: Sergeant *you're going to be a free man!*
that means — oh geez —
 (KING WHIMPERING) *it means all the*
would to me —

Paco: I'm sure Jimmy Morton will be as pleased as you are.
~~Don't feel put out, King. You've done your part. Your~~

~~bark outside the door was a big help, and you found the gold, so we can say that the murder of a year ago is solved, and Bill is cleared. And in addition to that this case is closed!~~

MUSIC: Theme

Bill: We — we'd both be everlastingly grateful to you, Srag.

Paco: We all owe a big debt to King — if he hadn't barked outside the door at just the right time — this case might not have been closed!

Theme