

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

*Striker*

"The Man Who Feared Dogs"

by Fran Striker.

Number: 906

Date: Aug. 9, 1951

*Done*

Preston and King

Lafferty ..... constable, straight

Swamper ..... small guy - pathetically eager  
to please.

Ma ..... Matronly - runs a boarding house

Taggart ..... heavy #1

Lefty ..... heavy #2

Hawk .....heavy #3

Voice .....Bit

Voice 2 .....Bit

**FILE**

PROMO (Y)

"The Man Who Feared Dogs"

Annecr; Sergeant Preston reported to headquarters for orders from Inspector Maynard.

Insp; Sergeant Preston, you nearly captured the Curley Taggart gang in Dawson.

Preston; But I failed, sir.

Insp; Even if you had been successful, Taggart himself would have remained at large, and there wouldn't have been a shred of evidence against him.

Insp; There's never any evidence to connect him to his gang.

Insp; I'd rather see Taggart in jail than all the other members of his organization. He's in White Falls right now. Go there and get him - with evidence to convict!

Preston; I'll try, sir. I'll do my best.

Annecr; Sergeant Preston knows a strong organization protects the notorious Curley Taggart. He anticipates problems in this new assignment, but he can't foresee the grim peril that threatens not only himself, but also his dog King and some of his best friends. Be sure to listen -- (ETC.)

The Challenge of the Yukon

"The Man Who Feared Dogs"

by Fran Striker

(New page 1)

Number: 906

Date: 8/9/51

(USUAL OPENING)

Annct;

It was mid-afternoon when Jim Lafferty came out of the White Falls cafe. He was accompanied by a small self-effacing man known as Swamper Grundy.

(WIND, B.G.) (STEPS SUSTAINING)

Lafferty was the Constable in White Falls, and one of the few men in whom Sergeant Preston had implicit confidence.

Swamp;

Why're you takin' me to your house, Constable?

Laff;

I could take you to the office, Swamper, but my home's closer. I'm making out some reports, and I'll need statements from you.

Swamper;

What about?

Laff;

You were the one who reported that Curly Taggart was in White Falls.

Swamper;

That's right. I saw the critter in the cafe.

Laff;

I told Sergeant Preston about it, and he wants me to send a report to Dawson.

Swamper;

Where is Sergeant Preston?

- Laff; He went to Dawson for a day or so.
- Swamp; Why didn't he arrest Curly Taggert?
- Laff; If Taggert leaves town he'll be followed. We've made arrangements for that.
- Swamp; But I thought Preston wanted Taggert. The last time he was at the boardin' house, he told Ma Ogden he'd give a year's pay to capture Curly Taggert!
- Laff; He meant that he wanted to capture Taggert with evidence to convict him.
- Swamp; Humph. Everyone knows Taggert's a crook -- and the leader of a gang.
- Laff; Knowing it and proving it in court are two different things.
- Swamp; Wasn't the bank in Dawson robbed by Taggert's gang?
- Laff; Sergeant Preston thinks those thieves were working for Taggert. He went to Dawson in the hope of getting details about the stolen cash.
- Swamp; I heard the Sergeant was in Dawson at the time of the robbery.
- Laff; He was. He and King nearly captured the thieves. In fact, King got a grip on one, but another knocked out the dog with a gun barrel. Others slugged Preston from behind. That's how the crooks escaped.
- Swamp; No wonder the Sergeant's so eager to jail that particular gang.

(STEPS BREAK, RESUME AS:)

Laff; Here's my place. Come on, we'll go thru the back yard.

Swamp; All right. I - (BREAKS)

(STEPS STOP AS:)

(SCARED) Hey, Constable Lafferty! You - you -

Laff; What's wrong, Swamper?

Swamper; Th -there's a big dog over there in the run.

Laff; (LAUGHS) 'Course there is. Sergeant Preston left King with me while he went to Dawson.

Swamp; Is - is that King?

Laff; Sure is. () What's wrong with you? You're hangin' back like that dog had the plague. He won't hurt you if you come thru the yard.

Swamp; I - I don't know about that. I - I'm afraid of dogs.

Laff; He can't get out of the run until I let him out. Come on, Swamper. There's nothing to be afraid of.

Swamp; Well I am afraid, and for good cause! Dogs snarl and growl and want to bite me -

Laff; That's because you're afraid and they know it. When a man is afraid, he gives off a scent that makes dogs angry. If you can learn that dogs are friends, you'll not be afraid. Then dogs will treat you differently! Come along, now/

Swamper; G -gosh - he - he's a mighty handsome lookin' dog -

Laff; Do you want to go over to the run and get a good look at him?

Swamp; Well - uh - would you go with me?

Laff; Sure. Come on.

(STEPS) (BARKS, BACK, FADE IN AS:)

Swamp; (SCARED) Oh-h-hh golly! He's barkin' at us!

Laff; (LAUGHS) He's simply saying "Hello."

Swamp; Are - are you sure he won't bite me?

Laff; Of course I'm sure. He's a friend, Swamper. (CALLS)  
Hello there, King.

(BARKS)

(EFFORT) I'll let you out of the dog run so you can meet a friend of mine. (EFFORT) There you are, fellow. Shake hands with Swamper Grundy.

(WHIMPERS)

Swamp; He - he's holdin' out his paw.

Laff; Take it, Swamper.

Swamp; He - he doesn't snarl and growl at me -

Laff; Why should he?

Swamp; (PLEASED) Look, he's lettin' me hold his paw! G-gosh, King, you -you're the first dog that's ever been friendly -

Laff; You see, Swamper, there's no reason to be afraid of dogs.

Swamper; King, you're the most wonderful dog I ever saw!  
I wish I had a steak bone for you —

Laff; He wouldn't take food from you, Swamper. If you  
want to do something for him, bring him inside and  
brush his coat. He likes that.

Swamp; Will he come inside with us?

Laff; Sergeant Preston's trained him to heel. He'll  
walk right beside us if I give the word.

Swamp; Golly — I heard that he was smart and it sure is  
true. (PLEASED CHUCKLE) He seems to like me, too,  
Constable.

Laff; He knows you're a friend. Come on, King.

Swamp; Come on, big fellow.

Anncr; Neither Swamper nor the Constable suspected that Curly  
Taggart was nearby with a loaded rifle intent on  
shooting the great dog King. Taggart came from behind  
some buildings across the street from the Constable's  
house and moved to a position so he could see the dog  
standing at the open door of the Constable's home.  
He brought the rifle to his shoulder and was about  
to fire when Swamper Grundy saw him and cried out —

Swamp; (CRY OUT) It's Taggart! He's going to shoot!

Laff; (CRY OUT) Look out!

(WILD BARK & SHOT)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

(COMMERCIAL)

ADLIB SNARLS AND GROWLS

*Dodged and*  
Anncr; King<sup>^</sup> charged a split second before Taggert fired his rifle. The bullet brushed the fur of the great dog's back. Taggert knew there was no time for a second shot. He tried to use his rifle as a club, but King dodged, then leaped with the force of a battering ram.

Taggert; (C.Y. OUT IN FEAR)

Anncr; Taggert stumbled and fall. He tried to draw a knife, but King sized his wrist in jaws that were like a vise.

Taggert; (ADLIB SHOUTS OF RAGE AND FEAR) Leggo. Leggo me!  
Let me up. Call off this dog!

Laff; (COMING IN) Good work, King! It's all right, boy.  
I have him covered!

Swamper; Taggert was goin' to kill him! Let me at that crook!  
Let me deal with Taggert.

Laff; Steady, Swamper! You too, King. Down, boy!

KING SUBSIDES.

Taggert; That- that dog should be shot -

Laff; That's only your opinion, Taggert. Get up! I'll take that knife. You have some explaining to do. Why were you trying to shoot King?

Taggert; He's vicious! He once tried to kill me!



Laff; King's never tried to kill anyone. Could it be that you knew the dog could identify one of the men who robbed the bank in Dawson?

Taggert; I don't know what you're talkin' about.

Laff: I didn't expect you to admit it. (O) Come along, Taggert.

Taggert; Where?

Laff: Jail.

Taggert; You can't jail me for takin' a shot at that dog!

Laff; No? Well I'm going to.

Swamper; It was attempted murder! That's what it was.

Laff; I'm holding you until Sergeant Preston returns. Let us say I'm holding you for investigation - or on suspicion of robbing the Dawson bank.

Taggert; I didn't have a hand in that an' no one can prove I did!

Laff; Get going.

Taggert; I wont do it!

(SHARP SNARL AND GROWL)

Taggert; (FEAR) Keep that dog away from me!

Laff; He'll not bother you - in jail!

-BREAK-

Annex; It was mid-afternoon of the following day when Sergeant Preston returned from Dawson and went directly to the office of Constable Lafferty. King was there to meet him -

JOYFUL BARKING

Laff; (LAUGHS) He's mighty glad to see you, eh Sergeant?

Preston; I'm glad to see him. ( ) I've missed you, big fellow!

CHANGE TO WHINES AND WHIMPERS

King; T here now - take it easy. I've only been gone for a couple of days.

Laff; Sounds like King's trying to tell you about his narrow escape.

Preston; Narrow Escape? (ASIDE) Quiet, King. Calm down.

KING SUBSIDES

Laff; Curly Taggart took a shot at your dog.

Prest; He did?

Laff; King and Swamper Grundy were in my house. King was at the open door. Taggart came from behind a shed and sighted a rifle. King charged so quickly that Taggart missed. I locked him up.

Prest; Is he in jail now?

Laff; Yes.

Prest; You mean to say he shot at King while you were right there to see it?

Laff; That's what he did. He must have been desperate. Surely he knew he'd be in a bad spot if he killed your dog.

Prest; There can be only one answer to such a move.

Laff; What's that?

Prest; Taggart must think he's in a more dangerous spot with King alive, than he'd be in if he shot my dog.

Laff; Um.

Prest; I told you, Lafferty, that King could identify at least one member of Taggart's gang.

Laff; The man he nearly caught at the Dawson bank robbery?

Prest; Yes. Taggart probably <sup>FEARS</sup> ~~realizes~~ that if one of his men is caught, he'll squeal on the others and give the law evidence to put Taggart himself in jail - for keeps.

Laff; Taggart's in jail right now.

Prest; Yes, but he can't be held there long.

Laff; How did you make out in Dawson?

Presy; I have the numbers of some of the paper money that was stolen. If it is found it can be identified.

Laff; I'd sure like to see you make a case against Taggart.

Prest; If I could locate that gang- - -

Laff; No idea where the hideout is?

Prest; Not the slightest.

Laff: Sergeant - if Taggart is kept in jail, perhaps some of his men will hear about it and come to try to break him out. If we were watching, we could capture them - maybe find stolen money that could be identified -

Prest; No, Lafferty. It wouldn't work. Taggart knows King can identify one and possibly more of the members of his gang. He's probably given his men strict orders to stay out of town - as long as King and I are here.

Laff; There must be some way to outsmart that crook.

Prest; There must be. If we could only find it. I -- (BREAK)

Laff; (PAUSE) What were you going to say?

Prest; (THOUGHTFULLY) I may have an idea. Lafferty, did you say that Swamper Grundy was in your kitchen with King?

Laff; Yes.

Prest; He's always been afraid of dogs.

Laff; That's right. But ~~when he met King, it was just as if he had never known him before.~~ King won him over. He thinks King is the most wonderful thing on four legs.

Prest; I wonder if I might count on Swamper to help me -

Laff; He'd give you his right arm if you wanted it. He thinks a lot of you, Sergeant.

Prest; Does he still live at Ma Ogden's boarding house?

Laff; Yes.

Prest; I'm going to talk to Ma Ogden. If she'll cooperate, I'll talk to Swamper. With both of them helping, we may get the goods on the Taggert gang! ( ) King-

BARKS

Want to take a walk to call on Ma Ogden?

BARKS

Laff; (LAUGHS) No doubt about it-

Prest; Then come along!

BARKS, FADING OUT.

Annrc; Ma Ogden was a genial, pleasant-faced woman of middle age who ran a boarding house in White Falls.

BARKS, ADLIB

She was hearty in her welcome of both King and Sergeant Preston.

Ma; Yes/siree! It's mighty good to see you both.

Preston; Thanks, Ma Ogden. It's good to see you.

Ma; I hope you're hungry, Sergeant Preston. I've got hot pie fresh from the oven.

Preston; I'd like a piece - but first there's something more important.

Ma; (LAUGHS) Now, now, Sergeant - what's more important than a piece of my pie?

Preston; My job.

Ma; Of course it is, but - (BREAK) I do declare. You're serious, aren't you?

Preston; I've never been more serious. I have a tough assignment and I'd like to count on your help.

Ma; You know you can count on me, Sergeant. Sakes alive, lad, if there's anything I can do, you've only to say the word.

Preston; I want your help and the help of Swamper Grundy. I knew I could count on you and I'm equally sure of him. Now here is what I want- - (FADE)

Annex; Sergeant Preston talked for some time in a low voice while the widow listened carefully and nodded from time to time. When he had finished, and thanked the woman for her promise to aid him, the Mountie spent an hour with Swamper Grundy. Then he returned to the constable's office and told Lafferty his plan. Lafferty listened, chuckled, and agreed that the plan to trap Curly Taggart might be successful.

That evening Lafferty took food to the jail for Taggart-

Laff; Your supper, Taggart.

Taggart; I don't want it. Take it away. I want to get out of this jail. You've no right to hold me here. You -

Laff; Take it easy, Taggart. You'll be out in due time.

Taggart; Where's Preston? I want to see him. I'll tell him a few things about law. I know my rights. File a charge and give me a day in court, or let me go!

Laff; Your day is coming.

Taggert; Where is Preston? When is he comin' back to town?

Laff; He's back.

Taggert; Then why doesn't he come here?

Laff; He's in no hurry to talk to you, Taggert. I told him how you tried to shoot his dog. He figures you should spend a long time in jail for that.

Taggert; Not without a trial! I know my rights.

Laff; You tell the S<sup>er</sup>geant what your rights are. Meanwhile, I'm leavin' this food. I'll slide it through the slot in your door and you can eat it or leave it.

Taggert; I wont eat!

Laff; Suit yourself. You'll probably be mighty hungry before you eat a meal outside that cell.

Taggert; (HOWLING RAGE) This isn't right. Let me out of here. Where's the justice in this town! You can't treat me like this. Neither can Preston. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ For all you know, my rifle went off by accident! It's up to you to prove otherwise! I said prove otherwise - beyond a shadow of doubt.

(BARKING OUTSIDE)

Laff; Quiet down, Taggert. I hear someone outside.

Taggert; A dog!

Laff; Sounded like King.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK)

Preston; (BACK) King, you wait outside.

(BARK BACK, & DOOR CLOSSES)

Laff; (CLOSE) It's Preston. Looks like he's arrested Swamper.

Preston; (BACK) Go ahead, Swamper.

(STEPS APPROACHING AS:)

Swamper; (FADING IN) Please don't jail me, Sergeant Preston!  
Please don't lock me up.

Preston; Jail's the place for a thief, Swamper.

Taggart; Sergeant Preston. I want to talk to you!

Preston; I heard you were in there, ~~SWAMP~~ Taggart.

Taggart; It's illegal! I demand --

Preston; Save it! I'll get to you in a few days. I want to ask questions about the bank robbery in Dawson - and a few other crimes. () Constable, here's another prisoner for you.

Laff; So I see. What's wrong, Swamper? What did you do?

Swamper; I - I didn't mean nothin' wrong - I - I took some cash from the till at the cafe, but I would've paid it back, honest I would.

Laff; You stole some money?

Swamp; Well I - I - that is --

Preston; Put him in there with Taggart, Constable.



Laff; If you say so, Sergeant. Taggart, you get over in the corner. I'm unlocking the door.

(UNLOCKING DOOR)

Preston; You cover them while I handcuff the prisoners together.

Taggart; (RAGING) Handcuff us! No! No! You can't do that!

(DOOR OPENS)

Preston; Taggart, I haven't forgotten that you were in jail several years ago and that you escaped two or three times before you finally served out your sentence. If you try another escape, you won't get far, because Swamper Grundy will slow you down.

Swamp; Please don't handcuff me to that crook! It's bad enough bein' in the same cell with him!

Preston; Sorry, Swamper, but this way Taggart won't be able to get away —

Laff; Unless he takes the Swamper with him.

Tagg; No one puts handcuffs on prisoners when they're in a cell! You can't do it, Preston!

Preston; Taggart, the law gives a policeman a great deal of latitude in the Yukon Territory. () I'll take that arm!

(SLAP ON HANDCUFF)

Now you, Swamper!

(SLAP ON ANOTHER)

There.

7/31/51

Taggart;           Preston, when I get out of here --

Preston;           That may not be for some time, Taggart, unless  
your friends come to town and break the door.

Taggert; Oh-h-h! So that's it! You think you're usin' me to bait a trap for my pals! Well it wont get you anything! I'm not even admittin' I got any pals! See ?

Prest; You must have been trying to help someone when you shot at my dog.

Taggert; Who says I shot at your dog?

Prest; I haven't time to discuss it with you, Taggert. Lock the door, Constable.

Laff; Right!

SLAM AND LOCK DOOR

Swamper; Wait! Please don't leave me handcuffed to this crook! Please don't leave me here.

Prest; (FADING) Come on, Constable. They'll be safe until we're ready to question them further.

Laff; (FADING) Right.

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSES BACK.

CLOSE - JINGLE OF HANDCUFFS.

Swamper; (WHINES) First time in my life I was handcuffed - an' in jail too! I - I wasn't meanin' no harm. I wouldn't of kept his dog - I- I just wanted to borrow him for a while. I -

Taggert; Shut up, Swamper.

Swamp; From now on, for the rest of my life, I'll be a fugitive from justice. After I escape from this jail, I'll have to stay in hidin'. I'll be forever dodgin' the law--

Taggert; A pack of dodgin' an' hidin' you'll do! Before you think of dodgin' the law, you'd better think about gettin' out of this calaboose. And before that, you've got these iron bracelets to worry about.

JANGLE HANDCUFFS.

Swamp; (STILL WHINING) If only he hadn't put these things on me.

Taggert; They're on me just as much as they're on you.

Swamp; Even these -- it wouldn't be so bad if Preston'd left the key <sup>to the handcuffs</sup> somewhere handy.

Taggert; (BEGINNING TO SHARPEN) What're you talkin' about?

Swamper; The jail door don't bother me - an' neither would the handcuffs if the key was where someone could reach it.

Taggert; Listen, Swamper - why don't the jail door bother you?

Swamper; I have a friend, Taggert! I have a mighty good friend, an' she'll never let me stay in jail. Not by a jugfull.

Taggert; Why you talkin' about ?

Swamper; I'm not tellin' all I know! You just wait an' see what happens.

Taggert; You're just talkin' big! What girl would help you escape from jail!

Swamper; It's not a girl, exactly.

Taggert; You said, "She."

Swamper; Well - it's a woman.

Taggert; Older'n a girl, eh?

Swamper; Yes!

Taggert; Are you talkin' about Ma Ogden?

Swamper; How'd you know?

Taggert; Are you?

Swamper; Well - uh -

Taggert; Speak up, you little - (EFFORT)

JANGLE CUFFS AS

Swamper; (PAIN) Ouch! Don't yank my arm like that. The handcuff hurts.

Taggert; Are you tryin' to tell me that Ma Ogden is goin' to help you escape from this jail?

Swamper; Y- yes. She told me to let Preston arrest me - because it'd be easier than tryin' to outrun him. She said she'd come in the night an' let me out. I wont be missed until morning - an' by that time I'll have a good head start. ( ) B-but I never figured on bein' handcuffed.

Taggert; Swamper, you needn't worry about the handcuffs.

Swamper; I can't leave while I'm shackled to you.

Taggert; We'll leave together.

Swamper; No No -

Taggert; It's more important to me to get out, than it is to you. At worst you'd get only a short jail term for tryin' to steal a dog. Maybe ten days or so - but me, well, Preston's got it in for me. He'll find charges of one kind or another to keep me here for three or four months.

Swamper; B-but-

Taggert; Now listen, Swamper. I have a friend who'll cut off these bracelets. Your friend lets us out of jail an' my friend lets us out of irons. That's fair enough, isn't it?

Swamper; W-well -

Taggert; What's more, you spoke of the worry of stayin' in hidin' from the law. I'll show you a fine place to hide out. (FADE OUT) We'll travel together, the two of us - you an' me - -

Annecr; (CROSS FADE) Taggert brought his powers of persuasion to bear on Swamper Grundy and finally persuaded the little man to travel as a partner. From then on there was little conversation. Into Taggert's face there crept a look of cunning. Then he and Swamper dozed until midnight. Taggert was roused by the creaking of the outer door - -

CLOSE JANGLE OF CUFFS

Taggart; (LOW) Hey, Swamper!

Swamp; (ROUSING) Huh? What is it?

Taggart; Wake up. Someone's comin'!

Swamp; (LOW, TENSE) Maybe it's Ma Ogden.

Taggart; It is! Look thru the bars of the door-

Annrc; Ma Ogden approached softly in the dim light of a turned down oil lamp.

Ma; Swamper. You poor critter. I've come as I promised.

Swamper; Ma! Did you bring a key?

Ma; I told you I would!

Swamper; How'd you get it?

Ma; Easy. I invited Preston and the constable to my place for a special meal of my cookin'. Then I brought out the checker board. The two of 'em are playin' checkers. Lafferty's coat was on a hook, so I took the key out of the pocket. I'll have it back before he misses it.

UNLOCKING CELL.

I wouldn't do this for anyone but you, Swamper.

Swamper; Where's King?

Ma; With Preston, of course.

OPEN DOOR.

Ma. There you are, Swamper.

Swamper; Thanks, Ma. I'll never forget this.

Ma; Hold on. Taggart can't leave!

Taggart; Oh yes I can.

Ma; No--

Swamper; He has to, Ma. We're handcuffed together!

Ma. I - I didn't figure on this! I - I don't want to let a man like Taggart out-

Taggart; You've got no choice. Come on, Swamper. Let's travel!

※BREAK※

Annrc; Taggart fairly dragged Swamper from the cell. He paused only long enough to <sup>look for</sup> ~~take~~ his gun <sup>in</sup> ~~the~~ constable's desk, <sup>Unable to find the weapon, he</sup> ~~then~~ went into the night and hurried out of town.

WIND BG. FOOTSTEPS SUSTAINING

Annrc; Wind rushed from the north, beating at the faces of the fugitives and clearing snow off rocky ground that showed no footprints. Swamper was quickly out of breath from the fast pace ..

Swamper; (BREATHLESS) I- I c-can't go so fast -

Taggart; Come on, Swamper. We've got to put a lot of space between us and the town before daybreak.



Swamper; (BREATHLESS) Y-you think they'll start after us at daybreak?

Taggart; They'll start as soon as they find us gone. That'll be when the constable brings breakfast.

Swamper; Dp - do you think they'll find us?

Taggart; Once we reach my friends, we'll be all right. Don't you worry. We'll have sleds and fast dogs to travel with. We'll keep ahead of the law.

FADE OUT WIND)

Annex; Swamper staggered on through the remaining hours of darkness. When he thought he must drop from sheer exhaustion, he saw a small fire gleaming in the grey dawn.

WIND. SOFTER. STEPS SUSTAINING.

Taggart; There's the camp, Swamper! (YELL) Hey, boys!

Swamper; (BREATHLESS) I - I see several men -

Taggart; My pals!

Lefty; (BACK) Hey boys! Wake up. It's the boss!

Annex; In another moment Taggart and Swamper were in a camp that was sheltered from wind and snow by overhanging rocks on the side of a cliff. Six men were in the camp. They quickly grasped the situation and one produced a file -

STEPS HAVE STOPPED.

ADLIB: (BACKGROUND MURMURS)

Taggart; Get to work with that file.

START FILING. SUSTAIN AS -

Lefty; How'd you get handcuffed to this half pint critter?

Taggart; Preston thought he'd play it smart. He jailed me.  
Figured you boys would come to release me.

ADLIB: (MUTTERS)

Taggart; He thought his dog would identify at least one of you.

Lefty; Namely, Mel

Taggart; Yeah, Lefty. You.

Lefty; Did you kill that dog?

Taggart; No!

Lefty I wish you had, Boss! That dog'll never forget he had  
a hold of my leg at the bank in Dawson - an' he'll never  
forget he got a rap on the head for it!

Hawk; I said you wouldn't get the dog.

Taggart; Never mind showin' how smart you are, Hawk. Get that  
handcuff off.

STOP FILING.

Hawk; It's filed nearly thru. I think I can break it.  
(EFFORD)

SNAP STEEL.

Taggart; That did it! Good work. Now get set to travel.

Swa, per; Hey, how about filin' this bracelet off my wrist!

Taggert; I'm not forgetting you, Swamper. () Boys, load the sleds and hitch the dogs. As soon as we're ready to start, I'll take care of Swamper.

Swamper; (TENSE) What do you mean by that, Taggert?

Taggert; I'm sorry, Swamper, but we can't take you with us - and I can't risk leavin' you. You might be found, and tell about me travelin' with these men.

Swamper; What 're you going to do with me?

Taggert; We'll have to shoot you!

BREAK.

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

COMMERCIAL.

Annrc; Taggert held a gun on Swamper while the other members of the gang loaded three sleds and hitched three teams of strong dogs. Then, when everything was ready to start on the trail, Taggert said-

Taggert; Now, Swamper, this is it.

Swamper; Please, Taggert. Please don't kill me! You'd never of been free if it hadn't been for me.

Taggert; I'm grateful to you. Does that make you feel any better?

Swamper; You promised to let me travel with you.

Taggert; In my business a man makes lots of promises he can't keep.

Swamper; Please leave me alive. I promise I won't say anything about you bein' with these men! I won't tell about loadin' all that cash on the sled --

Taggert; I can't take chances, Swamper. You'd break your word, the same as I broke mine. Now --

(SHOT BACK)

Taggert; (YELL OF PAIN)

Adlib; (SURPRISE)

Annrc; While Taggert stared at a broken arm, the rest of the gang was unbalanced by the surprise of a shot from behind a nearby rock. The next instant a dog appeared.

Adlib; (MORE EXCITEMENT)

(KING APPROACH, SNARLS AND BARKS)

Annrc; Sergeant Preston was not far behind the great dog. ~~The~~ King charged toward Lefty, <sup>as</sup> Constable Lafferty came from behind the rocks, holding a revolver in each hand.

Swamper; It's King!

Taggert; And Sergeant Preston!

Lefty; That dog's comin' for me! Get him! Get him!

Preston; If anyone goes for a gun I'll break ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> arm!

Hawks; You won't get me, Preston! I'll --

(TWO FAST SHOTS)

Hawks; (YELLS IN PAIN)

Annex; Sergeant Preston's bullet sent the outlaw's gun spinning from his hand .. while Constable Lafferty fired from his position near the rocks.

Laff; Those shots were just a warning! You're covered! All of you!

Annex; Meanwhile, King had closed in with a final leap at Lefty -

Lefty; (CRY OF PANIC)

Annex; Lefty fell. In a flash the mighty dog was over him, guarding him with fangs exposed.

Preston; You men, drop your guns!

Adlib; (SURRENDER)

Preston; Keep an eye on them, Lafferty. () Are you all right, Swamper?

Swamper; Sure thing, Sergeant. I'm all right. Just tired from a mighty long walk.

Preston; We were waiting behind that rock, but we didn't want to move until the sleds were loaded. Wanted to be sure everything was packed.

Swamper; I was mighty scared for a time. I thought for sure Taggart would drill me before you stepped in.

Preston; King, let that man up. He'll be taken care of.

(LOW GROWL)

Lefty; That - that dog -

Preston; On your feet, Lefty!

Lafferty; We'll take care of him, Sergeant.

Preston; Swamper, did you see what they did with their loot?

Swamper; Sure did. It's on that sled right there!

Taggart; (SNARLS) You double crossing little - -

Swamper; You shut up, Taggart! This whole thing was a plan to get you and your gang! I was workin' for the law from the time I was locked in jail!

Taggart; Of all the -

Lafferty; That'll do, Taggart!

Taggart; What about my arm!

Lafferty; We'll dress it before we take you to town. (SLIGHT LIFT) What'd you find there, Sergeant Preston?

Preston; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Stolen cash - and some of it checks with the numbers from the bank at Dawson. (COMING IN) I think we've found the loot from several robberies. ( ) Swamper, you've done a fine job.

Swamper; Gosh, Sergeant Preston, I was proud to work with you and King.

Lafferty; Swamper, you've earned yourself a reward.

Swamper; I don't want a reward for helpin' my friend King!

Preston; You'll find a use for it. You might share it with Ma Ogden.

Swamper; I'll do it!

Lafferty; Any question about having evidence against these crooks, Sergeant?

Preston; Not the slightest. We'll be able to tie them into several crimes — and Taggart along with them. Lafferty, I'm sure we'll be able to report to headquarters that *This case is* ~~several cases are~~ closed!

theme