

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

Striker

"The Champion"

by Fran Striker

Number: 911

Date: 8/21/51

Preston and King

Moose Heavy

Benny heavy

Slavin heavy (clerk)

Peavy apple polisher - crooked hotel owner.

Sue Ingenue

Joe Crawford ... Sue's father - straight

Marion Ingenue

Mrs West Marion's mother

Voice Bit

FILE

PROMO (Y)

"The Champion"

Annrcr; When Sergeant Preston appeared in the office of
Inspector Maynard, he was given an assignment
that would take him to a place he had never visited.

Insp; You'll be in Old Rock for the annual Weight Pulling
contest, Preston. The biggest and strongest dogs
in the Yukon will be there.

Preston; It should be an interesting assignment. Thank you,
sir.

Insp; Don't thank me too soon. You'll find the town
filled with the roughest and toughest of characters.
The cash prizes are big and there may be lots of
violence. You are to maintain order.

Annrcr; Sergeant Preston couldn't foresee that Old Rock would
be like a powder keg, ready to explode at any instant.
He didn't know that violent killers who hated lawmen
would concentrate that hatred on him.

Be sure to listen - (ETC.)

The Challenge of the Yukon

"The Champion"

by Fran Striker

Number: 911

Date: 8/21/51

(USUAL OPENING)

Annex;

The annual weight pulling contest for sled dogs was the biggest event of the year in the town of Old Rock. People came from all parts of the Yukon, some to match the strength of their dogs and compete for cash prizes amounting to thousands of dollars - others to merely watch, and bet on the outcome. It was two days before the beginning of the Old Rock contest when two hard-faced men crouched in the shelter of rocks and watched the trail from the North.

(SLIGHT WIND B.G.)

Moose;

Benny, we've been waitin' a long time. Are you sure Sue Crawford and her father will come over this trail?

Benny;

They're coming from the north - they'll have to come this way.

Moose;

Maybe they won't come until tomorrow.

Benny;

Peavy said they'd reach Old Rock today.

Moose;

Where'd Peavy get his information?

Benny; I didn't ask him. Maybe he got it from the contest committee... or maybe the Crawfords wrote and reserved a room in Peavy's hotel.

Moose; Maybe so, but -

Benny; (CUT) Moose, I don't question Peavy. I just take his orders - follow 'em out - an' collect! You do the same.

Moose; All right, Benny. All right. I was just wonderin' how Peavy could be so sure the girl's dog would win the contest.

Benny; You never heard of Rex?

Moose; I never heard of him.

Benny; During the past year, he's broken all the records for weight pullin' in all parts of the country. He should win the Old Rock contest hands down!

Moose; Peavy must be mighty sure of it to plan a game like this.

Benny; He is sure of it. He - (BREAK AS:)

(DISTANT BARKS)

Moose; Benny, I heard a dog!

Benny; So'd I!

Moose; It's over that way --

Benny; Careful! Don't show yourself 'til we're sure it's the Crawford outfit. Keep your head down.

Moose; I'll watch.

(DOG BARKS NEARER)

Benny; What d 'you see?

Moose; Man and girl comin' this way - and a big dog.

Benny; Must be the Crawfords!

Moose; Come on, Benny -

Benny; Remember I'll do the talkin'. You keep your rifle handy.

Moose; Right.

(STEPS SUSTAIN AS:)

(DOG BARKS, FADING IN)

Benny; (YELL) Hello there!

Joe; (BACK) Halloooo!

Benny; (CALLS) We want to talk to you for a minute.

Sue; (COMING IN) Quiet, Rex. Be quiet!

Joe; What's on your mind, stranger?

Benny; You called that dog Rex. You must be the Crawfords.

Joe; That's right. I'm Joe and this is my daughter Susie.

Benny; Um. I'm Benny - and this is Moose. We heard you were coming for the Old Rock Weight Pulling contest.

Joe; That's right. My daughter's the one who's entered. Now Mister, state your business - we're in a hurry to reach town.

- Benny; Well, Miss Sue, you should have no trouble winning with that dog if you can enter the contest.
- Sue; If I can enter it? I am enteted.
- Joe; If you're talking about passing the qualifying trials--
- Benny; I was talkin' about the entrance fee.
- Sue; It's paid. I sent it in a month ago with my entry blank. I have a letter from the committee acknowledging --
- Benny; There's another kind of entrance fee, Miss.
- Joe; (SHARP) What're you gettin' at?
- Benny; Better disarm him, Moose.
- Moose; Right. Stand still Crawford. I'll ---
- Joe; (ANGRY) Leave me alone!
- Sue; (ANGRY) Lower that rifle!
- (BARKS)
- Benny; Steady, Miss! Quiet that dog or I'll have to shoot.
- Sue; Quiet, Rex!
- (DOG QUIET)
- Moose; I have his rifle.
- Joe; What's the meanin' of this?

Benny; Take it easy, Crawford. We don't want to hurt you or your daughter - or your dog. All we want is the special entrance fee so your daughter can be on hand for the contest. It's five thousand dollars!

Sue; (GASP)

Joe; Five thousand dollars! Why that's -

Ben; It's only half of what your daughter'll win. The first prize is ten thousand in cash. And if you're a bettin' man, you'll win a lot more.

Joe; It's robbery! I haven't any such amount of cash - and even if I had - I wouldn't pay it.

Ben; You'll pay it, Crawford, because if you don't, your daughter and her dog won't be on hand for the contest.

Annrc; The adventure will continue in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc; Joe Crawford looked at the rifles held by Benny and Moose. He knew the men were killers. He knew exactly what Benny meant when he demanded five thousand dollars as the price to assure the appearance of Joe's daughter in the old Rock contest.

Sue; It's robbery! Your men are crooks!

Ben; That's how it has to be, Miss. When your Pa pays that "Entrance fee" we'll see that you reach Old Rock safe and sound.

Joe; I haven't the money. I --

Ben; I figured you wouldn't have that much cash. You just go on to town alone and borrow it.

Joe; I don't know anyone in Old Rock --

Ben; Jake Peavy -- he runs the hotel -- has heard about that there dog. He figures to bet heavy on Rex. I'm sure he'll stake you to be sure Rex is in the contest.
(FADING) You just go to the hotel and talk to Peavy --

Annrc; Benny and Moose were armed and sure of themselves. Joe Crawford, disarmed, had no choice. He listened to Benny's instructions, then went on alone to try go raise five thousand dollars to assure the safety of his daughter. It was the next day, after darkness had fallen -- when Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King approached the town. It was the Mountie's first trip to Old Rock, but he had heard about the place from Sergeant Meade. It was this friend who had told him about the people who lived in a small, neat house on the outskirts of town.

(SNEAK IN WIND, B.G.)

At Sergeant Meade's request, he stopped at ~~XXXXX~~ the house and rapped on the door. The door was opened by a girl of twenty.

(DOOR OPENS)

Marion; You're here at last! I -- (BREAK) Oh! You -- you're not Sergeant Meade.

Preston; No. My name is Preston.

Marion; I saw your uniform - and I expected Sergeant Meade.
So - (LAUGHS) Forgive the mistake .

Preston; Of course. Are you Miss West?

Marion; Yes. Marion West.

Preston; Sergeant Meade asked me to tell you he has another
assignment and can't be in Old Rock as he had planned/

Marion; I'm sorry. Won't you step inside? Please do.

Preston; Thank you. () Wait right here, King.

(ONE BARK, STEPS IN AS:)

(DOOR CLOSES)

Marion; Mother, this is Sergeant Preston. He is here
instead of Sergeant Meade.

Mrs. W; How do you do, Sergeant Preston. I trust nothing
has happened to Harry Meade?

Preston; He's fine. He has another assignment.

Mrs. W; Won't you sit down?

Preston; Thanks.

Mrs. W; Are you to be in town for the pulling contest?

Preston; Yes.

Mrs. W; I'm glad there'll be a policeman on hand. So many
rough men come to Old Rock for the contest - there
are always fights.

Preston; I hope King and I'll be able to maintain order.

Marion; King?

Preston; My dog. You saw him at the door.

Marion; Oh yes! And speaking of dogs, Rex is to be here!

Preston; I've heard of Rex. I'm looking forward to seeing him. Who is entered in the contest with Rex?

Marion; A girl named Sue Crawford. She owns Rex.

Mrs. W; I heard that her father reached town last evening, but his daughter and the dog weren't with him.

Preston; Do you know where Crawford is staying?

Mrs. W; At the hotel, I suppose.

Preston; I think I'll go there. I'd like to meet him.

Mrs. W; Sergeant Preston, when Sergeant Meade is in Old Rock he rooms with us. We'd be honored if you, too, would accept what hospitality we can offer.

Preston; Thank you, Mrs. West. That's very kind of you. I'd like to stay here, but it's a little far from the center of town. I'd better stay at the hotel.

Mrs. W; You'll not like the owner.

Preston; No?

Marion; Jake Peavy is a hateful man! He bullies half the people in town - and licks the boots of the other half.

Mrs. W; And he hates dogs!

Preston; Um. Then I'm sure I'll not like him.

Marion; He may not let King stay in the hotel.

Preston; I could leave King in the open behind the hotel, but he and Peavy might have an argument — I don't want any trouble of that sort. I — I wonder if I might accept your hospitality in part — and leave King ^{in the unused kennel} behind your house.

Mrs. W; Indeed, Sergeant, bring him inside. Marian and I are very fond of dogs. We'll do our best to make him contented.

Marion; He may not let King stay in the hotel.
Preston; (GETS UP) Thanks, Mrs. West.

Preston; I could leave King in the open behind the hotel, but
(TWO STEPS, DOOR OPENS)

Preston; Here, King.

(SHARP BARK)

Come in, boy.

(DOG IN, DOOR CLOSES)

Marian; Oh he's beautiful!

Marion; He may not let King stay in the hotel.

Mrs. W; And so strong looking!

Preston; King, shake hands with Miss West and her mother.

(WHIMPERING)

Marian; Oh you beautiful thing! Mother, isn't he gorgeous?

Preston; I'm going to leave you here for a while, King. I'll be back later to feed you.

(FADE IN B.G. ROOM NOISES)

Announcer; The lobby of the Old Rock Hotel was filled with people who had come to town for the Weight Pulling contest. Some came with contesting dogs in the hope of winning cash and prizes - some came to buy or sell sled dogs -- some came to bet - and many merely to watch the contest and enjoy the excitement. In one corner Jake Peavy - owner of the hotel - sat with Joe Crawford, whose face was drawn with worry and fatigue.

Joe; I'm sure obliged to you, Mr. Peavy. I don't know where I'd raise five thousand dollars in cash - if it weren't for you.

Peavy; Here's the agreement I've drawn up, Crawford. It's short and simple.

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Joe; I'll sign it. I -- (BREAK) Hey, this says I assign the prize money to you --

Peavy; That's right. You are acting as the agent for your daughter. It is perfectly legal, inasmuch as she is under age.

Joe; But the prize is ten thousand dollars. I'm borrowin' only five --

Peavy; Unless your daughter wins, Crawford, you'll be unable to repay me. Isn't that right?

Joe; With Rex, Sue is sure to win.

Peavy; Nevertheless, I am taking the risk that I'll not get back my money. So I have made out the agreement ~~that~~ saying you'll repay double if Sue wins - and nothing if she loses.

Joe; B -- But all the prize money -- it means we have our trip for nothin'!

Peavy; You told me your daughter's life was at stake.

Joe; Th -those critters would kill her - I know they would.

Peavy; You're free to seek financial help from another source if you don't like my terms.

Joe; I - I couldn't get the cash from anyone else.

Peavy; Well, of course you have an alternative. There's a Mountie over there near the door. Go and tell him your daughter and Rex have been captured on the trail, and are being held until you pay five thousand dollars.

Joe; No no! I - I don't dare call on the law for help!

Peavy; Why not?

Joe; I - I can't do it. I can't take the chance. Those crooks would kill my daughter if I went to the law. I - I'll take your deal. I'll sign that agreement.

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Peavy; Here's your cash.

(SCRATCHING SIGNATURE)

Joe; Here's your paper, Peavy.

- Peavy; How are you going to get the money to the men who are holding the girl and the dog?
- Joe; Mr. Peavy, I can't tell you how I'm to get it to them, but I - I got my instructions.
- Peavy; You'd better get that money out of sight, Crawford! The Mountie's coming over this way. He might get curious.
- Preston; (COMING IN) I'm told that your name is Peavy.
- Peavy; That's right, Sergeant; I'm Jake Peavy - the owner of the Old Rock Hotel - and at your service, sir.
- Preston; I'm glad to hear that. I'd like a place to sleep.
- Peavy; Well, sir, we're full up. (QUICKLY) But I'll make room for you! Yes sir! Yes indeed! (FORCED LAUGH) I'll always make room for the law!
- Preston; Aren't you Joe Crawford?
- Joe; M - M - me?
- Preston; Yes.
- Joe; Uh - yeah. Yeah. That's my name. Joe Crawford.
- Preston; My name's Preston. I'm glad to know you.
- Joe; (FALTERINGLY) I - uh - I'm glad to know you, Sergeant Preston.
- Preston; I'd like to talk to you, Crawford. I like dogs. I'd like to hear about Rex.
- Peavy; (LAUGHING) I guess everyone's heard about Rex, eh Crawford?

Preston; Peavy, will you see about a room for me?

Peavy; Oh. Yeah -- sure thing -- right away. (FADES)

Preston; I'll sit here and talk to Crawford. (SIT DOWN)

(ROOM NOISES UP AND UNDER:‡)

Annrc; As Peavy crossed the floor, he was uneasy -- with the presence of a Mountie in his Hotel -- but pleased with the successful manner in which his plans were developing. He motioned to the clerk behind the hotel desk -- beckoning him to the inner office.

Peavy; Close the door, Slavin.

(DOOR CLOSSES, CUT ROOM NOISES)

Slavin; There'll be no one watchin' the desk while I'm in here, Mr. Peavy.

Peavy; That's all right. I want to talk to you.

Slavin; How'd you make out with Crawford?

Peavy; Fine. I gave him the cash, and I have an assignment of the ten thousand dollar prize.

Slavin; (CHUCKLES) Good work, eh Boss?

Peavy; It's good, yes -- but we must watch our step/ I instructed ~~Marvin~~ Benny to have Crawford place the cash in the hollow tree near the crossroads -- some time tonight. You follow him when he goes there.

Slavin; I savvy.

Peavy; ~~XXXX~~ Get the cash and bring it back to me.

Slavin; Then we send word to Moose and Breed to turn the girl loose. Is that it?

Peavy; That's it. They'll put her on the trail for town so she'll reach here in time for the qualifying trials first thing tomorrow morning. I'll take over the desk. I have to find a place for the Mountie to sleep. You keep Crawford in sight. We want to be sure he does the right thing with my money. (FADE OUT CHUCKLING)

Annex; While Peavy talked to Slavin, Sergeant Preston asked Joe Crawford a number of questions about his daughter and Rex. He gave no sign that he was curious and dissatisfied with the answers to those questions -- but finally --

(ROOM NOISES, B.G.)

Joe; (FADING IN) -- -- so you see, Sergeant, I'm expectin' my daughter and the dog will be here some time between now and --

Preston; (CUT IN) Just a minute, Joe.

Joe; Huh?

Preston; Let's start over.

Joe; Why - er - uh - uh - what do you mean, Sergeant?

Preston; Your statements don't hold together.

Joe; M - My statements?

Preston; In explaining why you came here and why your daughter isn't with you - and in telling me where the dog Rex is, you've contradicted yourself several times.

Joe; (ACTING OFFENDED) Now see here --

Preston; The stakes in that contest are high -- and a lot of money has been bet on the outcome.

Joe; What about it?

Preston; (EFFORT) Let's take a walk.

Joe; A -- a walk?

Preston; Come on. We'll see how the weather is.

(STEPS SUSTAINING AS:)

Slavin; (SLIGHTLY BACK) You going somewhere, Mr. Crawford?

Joe; Well I --

Preston; (CUE IN) We'll be back presently.

(FEW STEPS AS:)

Joe; Now look here, Sergeant --

Preston; Wait 'til we're outside.

Peavy; (BACK) Hey there, Sergeant Preston! I've found a room for you. If you want to look at it, I'll --

Preston; In a little while, Peavy.

Slavin; (COMING IN) If you're going to take a little walk, I'll be glad to go along and show you the town.

Preston; I want to talk to Crawford privately.

Slavin; Oh.

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

(CUT ROOM B.G.) (SLIGHT WIND B.G.)

Preston; (CUE) Let's have it, Crawford.

Joe; I - I don't know what you're getting at, Sergeant.
I -

Preston; I saw Peavy hand you some money. You have it in
your inside pocket.

Joe; Well - I - I - uh - er - that is -

Preston; I don't like Peavy. He looks like a man who'd try
to fix a contest.

Joe; (QUICKLY) No no!

Preston; Why did he give you money?

Joe; Please, Sergeant Preston - please don't ask me questions
I - I -- You have to take my word for it. There's
nothin' dishonest between me and Peavy.

Preston; Why did he give you the money?

Joe; I can't tell you! I - I can't, that's all there is to
it! I can't say a word. If you think I've been paid
to throw the contest, that's not it. Rex will be in
that contest - and Rex'll win! I'd bet on Rex myself
if I had money.

Preston; You have money - the money Peavy gave you.

Joe; But I - I -- oh gosh. Let me go. Let me go back
inside!

Preston; (FIRMER THAN EVER) Where is your daughter? Where is Rex? Why did Peavy give you money? (PAUSE) Joe, you need a friend. Trust me. Tell me the truth.

Joe; I - I -- all right. I'll tell you the true facts. But - but you can't do anything about 'em. If you so much as make a move, my daughter will be killed. They're holdin' her for hostage - and Rex with her.

Preston; Where?

Joe; I don't know.

Preston; Tell me the whole thing.

Joe; (FADING OUT) It happened yesterday - on the trail from the south. Two critters called Moose and Benny stopped us - (TRAIL OFF)

Anner; During the walk, Joe Crawford told the Mountie about his meeting with Moose and Benny - the capture of Sue and Rex - and his agreement with Jake Peavy. When he had finished, Sergeant Preston thought for several minutes before he spoke.

(WIND B.G.) (STEPS SUSTAINING)

Preston; Joe, those men must have been very sure you'd get the cash from Peavy. Otherwise, they wouldn't have taken the risk of capturing your daughter.

Joe; Well - I did get the cash.

Preston; Also, they must have known when to expect you on that North trail. Who knew when you'd arrive in Old Rock?

- Joe; The contest committee knew we'd be here - but I didn't tell anyone just what day we'd arrive.
- Preston; Did you reserve a room in the hotel?
- Joe; Oh sure. I wrote two weeks ago, reservin' two rooms so's we'd have 'em last night.
- Preston; Then Peavy knew you'd arrive yesterday.
- Joe; So he did.
- Preston; I'm wondering if Peavy is behind the plot.
- Joe; Well, if we win, he stands to make five thousand dollars -
- Preston; And more, if he gets the cash you pay the men who are holding your daughter and the dog.
- Joe; Sergeant Preston, I have to take the five thousand to the hollow tree like I told you. If I don't have it there for those crooks, Sue and Rex won't be back in time for the elimination contests tomorrow. They - They might not be back at all-
- Preston; Joe, didn't you pay the entrance fee for the contest?
- Joe; Sure I did.
- Preston; ~~Now you have to take the money you pay the men who are holding your daughter and the dog.~~
~~Now you have to take the money you pay the men who are holding your daughter and the dog.~~ If your entry qualifies by being one of the ten strongest dogs, you may enter the finals.
- Joe; That's right.

Preston; ~~if you see me you may enter a different~~
~~address.~~

~~Joe;~~ ~~Just what I want to~~

Preston; I'm thinking of a plan, Joe. We'll have your daughter and her dog back for the final contest without paying that five thousand dollars! Furthermore, we'll capture the crooks - including Peavy, if he's involved!

Joe; You said Sue and Rex would be back for the final contest! That's the day after tomorrow! What about the trials tomorrow?

Preston; My dog King is with friends near the edge of town. He hasn't been seen by anyone except Mrs. West and her daughter. He'll qualify *But he will not compete in the finals. I'm sure that when the judges hear what happened, they'll let Rex compete in place of King.*

Joe; B - But - who'll handle your dog?

Preston; I'll ask Marion West to do it. She'll wear a parka. The hood will conceal most of her face. I hope she'll be mistaken for your daughter.

Joe; I - I don't savy your plan -

Preston; I'll need a lot of help from you, Joe. You'll have to trust me - and do exactly as I say.

Joe; But what about this five thousand dollars?

Preston; You'll return that to Peavy. I'll watch the hollow tree and see who comes for the money.

Joe; If - if anything goes wrong - they'll kill my daughter-

Preston; I said you would have to trust me.

Joe; (SIGHS) All right -

Preston; Go back to the hotel, and give Peavy back his money.
(FADE OUT) Tell him you want to call off the agreement.

Anner; Though Joe was dubious, he agreed to follow Sergeant Preston's instructions. Accordingly he acted as if he hadn't a single worry when he returned to the hotel and went into the cafe. He acted gay and light hearted. His mood baffled Slavin, who had been watching him. Finally, Slavin went into Peavy's office.

(DOOR CLOSES)

Slavin; Boss -

Peavy; What is it, Slavin? Did you bring the cash from the hollow tree?

Slavin; No, Boss. It wasn't there!

Peavy; Not there! Are you sure?

Slavin; Yeah, I'm sure. I lost track of Crawford when he went out with the Mountie. I waited 'til he got back, then went to the tree for the cash.

Peavy; Benny told Crawford the cash would have to be in the tree by nine o'clock.

Slavin; It was after ten when I went there. And Boss, you should see Crawford! He's in the the cafe right now, ~~he's~~ havin' the time of his life!

(DOOR OPENS) (CLOSES AS:)

Joe; (BACK) Hi there, Peavy!

Slavin; Crawford!

Peavy; Hello, Crawford.

Joe; (COMING IN) Is it all right to talk in front of Slavin?

Peavy; Of course. He's my assistant manager.

Joe; Well, I won't need that cash, so I brought it back to you. () There it is. Five thousand dollars. I'd like to call off our agreement and tear up the paper I signed.

Peavy; Oh! Well, have you found your ---

Joe; (CUT IN) I can't answer questions, Peavy. I just want to tear up that paper, that's all. Sergeant Preston said if you were going to hold me to the deal, I should let him know.

Peavy; You told the Mountie about your - er - difficulty?

Joe; Yes! Now about tearin' up that paper ---

Peavy; Well - uh - of course we'll tear it up. It's right here in my desk. I don't want any arguments -

Annrc; Crawford read the agreement, tore it up and stuck the pieces into his pocket. After he had left the office, Peavy turned to Slavin and said -

Peavy; What could I do, Slavin? I don't want trouble with a Mountie.

Slavin; I don't blame you, Boss. What do you make of the situation?

Peavy; I don't know. Maybe Preston has found where Moose and Benny are holding the girl and dog - or maybe the girl has escaped --

Slavin; Think I should go to the hideout and find out?

Peavy; Um - no. I think we'd better wait, Slavin. Wait and see if the girl and dog show up at the elimination trials tomorrow.

Annrc; The day of the contests was clear and cold. Crowds jammed close to the roped off area where each dog in turn was harnessed to a weighted sled. Officials added weights until a dog had pulled its maximum and then another contestant took his turn.

(FADE UP AD LIB, B.G., THEN UNDER)

Annrc; Peavy and Slavin were slightly apart from the crowd.

Slavin; Boss, I haven't seen anything of the Crawford girl.

Peavy; Crawford doesn't seem to be worried. Look at him over there with the Mountie.

Voice; (BACK, SHOUTING) Next Contestant - number nine - Entered by Joe Crawford.

Peavy; They're calling for the Crawford dog.

Slavin; Now we'll know for sure whether the girl got away.

(HEAVY BARKING BACK, APPROACHING)

Peavy; (GASP) Slavin! Slavin, look! There come the girl and dog!

Crawford; (SLIGHTLY BACK, SHOUTING) Here he comes! Make way now and you'll see a real dog!

Adlib; (STIR)

Annrcr; From everyone there came murmurs and comments of admiration as a slim girl in a heavy parka with a hood that concealed her head and most of her face led a great, powerful dog into position for the trial. No one in the community had ever seen Sergeant Preston's King, so everyone mistook the dog for Rex. Joe Crawford did his best to maintain a carefree exterior in accordance with Sergeant Preston's plans, but his heart was heavier than ever and his voice showed deep concern.

Joe; Sergeant - if - if this plan of your's doesn't work --

Preston; Steady, Joe. Don't let down.

Joe; Your dog's ready.

Marian; (SLIGHTLY BACK) All right -- ~~the~~ boy! Pull!

Adlib; (CROWD B.G.)

Annrcr; Preston had seen Slavin look in the hollow tree on the preceding night for cash that Joe Crawford was to leave. Knowing by this that Slavin was working with the abductors, the Mountie had kept a close watch on the man during the trials. When Slavin moved away, Sergeant Preston waited for a moment, then followed. Just then a cheer rose from the crowd --

Adlib; (CHEER)

Voice; (BACK) Number nine has pulled more than any of the others so far -

Joe; (SHOUTS) Pile more weight on that sled!

Annrc; While additional poundage was placed on the sled, King turned his head in the direction his Master had gone. He wanted to follow, but he was in harness with a job to do. He pulled a heavier load, then one still heavier, and all the while he was determined to go after his master as soon as he was free.

Adlib; (FADE OUT CROWD B.G.)

Annrc; Meanwhile, Sue Crawford and the men who had captured her were in an isolated cabin in the woods. The girl's hands were tied, and her dog Rex was chained in the woodshed. Moose looked at his watch and said--

Moose; The trials are just about over by this time. Looks like you and Rex missed out on 'em, Miss!

Sue; You crooks are going to lose more than Dad and I! You're going to lose your freedom as well as the five thousand dollars you hoped to collect! You're going to jail for this!

Moose; Yeah? Well -

Benny; Shut up, Moose. Don't argue with her.

Benny; Benny, why didn't we have word from the Boss that the cash had been paid?

Benny; How do I know?

Moose; Do you think Crawford wouldn't pay it/

Ben; Wait 'til Slavin gets here. Then we'll know.

Moose; Is he comin'?

Ben; Yeah, look out the window. I just saw him comin'
thru the trees. Open the door for him.

Moose; (FADING BACK) All right, but I don't see why he
can't open the door for himself.

(DOOR OPENS, SLIGHT WIND, SUSTAIN)

(CUE) Hi, Slavin!

Slavin; (COMING IN) Moose, are you and Benny all right?

Moose; Sure -

Benny; We're all right, Slavin.

Slavin; Well, how did the girl get - (BREAK) She's here!

Benny; Of course she's here!

Slavin; Where's her dog?

Benny; The woodshed - right beyond that door. He's chained.

(STEPS AS:)

Slavin; I'll see for myself.

(JERK DOOR OPEN) (DOG SNARLS)

Ben; What about it, Slavin? You and Peavy knew the girl
and the dog were here.

Slavin; I just left Old Rock, and they were both there at the
trias .

Moose; They chouldn't have been!

Ben; That dog was at the trials?

Slavin; No. Not that dog. You sure this is Rex?

Ben; Of course!

Slavin; Joe Crawford had another dog, and a girl at the trials. Now what d'you suppose -

Preston; (BACK) Hello, Slavin!

Adlib; (FAST STIR OF SURPRISE)

Moose; A Mountie!

Slavin; Preston!

Sue; Help me, officer! They captured me!

Ben; Boys, get your guns!

Preston; (EFFORT) Want trouble, eh?

Annecr; Moose was the first to pull a gun -- he fired!

(SHOT)

(BREAK)

Annecr; Our adventure will continue in just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL)

Annex; Gunfire rocked the cabin in the woods. Moose fired as Sergeant Preston's gun cleared the holster. The Mountie felt a blow that numbed his arm. His gun, struck by the bullet, spun thru the air. Before another shot could be fired, Preston charged at Moose and rammed a left fist into the stomach.

(SCUFFLE)

Moose; (GASP)

(FALLING BODY)

Annex; Moose went down gasping.

Adlib; (FIGHT)

Annex; Slavin leaped on the Mountie from behind while Benny reached for his throat with fingers like steel bands.

Ben; I'll finish him!

Slavin; Choke him, Benny! Cut off his wind!

Preston; (STRUGGLING)

Annex; Sue, helplessly bound, watched the battle wide-eyed. With a superhuman effort, Preston broke free and shot a blow to Benny's chin.

(BLOW)

With his back to the wall, Preston fought both Slavin and Benny, ~~the mountie was completely back again. The mountie kept slipping and~~ Preston's strength was ebbing fast, ~~and~~ and Moose was getting to his feet to add his weight to the assault on the Mountie ... Then suddenly -- help came.

(BARKS AND SNARLS)

Ad lib; (CRIES OF:) The dog!
 Lookout! (ETC.)

Anncr; King leaped thru the door like a furry streak. He
 charged Moose who was nearest -

Moose; (CRY OUT)

Preston; Take 'em, King!

(SCUFFLING, FIGHTING, SNARLS, ETC.)

Anncr; King was a fighting fury. Moose stumbled and fell.
 The dog turned on Benny -

Ben; (YELL OF FEAR) Take him away!

Sue; Get him, boy!

Anncr; When Slavin dropped his guard for an instant, Preston
 mustered his remaining strength into one smashing blow
 to the chin -

(BLOW)

Preston; (EFFORT) That should do it -

Sue; Good work!

(FALLING BODY)

Anncr; Slavin went down, unconscious before he hit the floor.
 The Mountie snatched a gun from Slavin's holster and
 took charge of the situation.

Preston; All right, King! That does it, boy!

Ben; (YELLS) Call off this dog!

Preston; Down, King! On guard.

(SNARLS)

Sue; Thank goodness you came, Sergeant! These crooks captured my dog and me -

Preston; I know about it, Miss Crawford. That's why I'm here. I'll hold a knife. Can you press that rope against it?

Sue; Yes, of course. I'll free my wrists. Don't take your eyes off those men! They're desperate!

Preston Keep an eye on 'em, King!

(GROWLS)

Ben; How'd you find this place?

Preston; Slavin showed the way.

Moose; Slavin, you fool!

Slavin; Aw shut up.

Sue; A man in town hired them - his name is Peavy --

Preston; Yes, Miss Crawford, we have four men to jail for this game. Your father is waiting for you -

Sue; He's all right?

Preston; Perfectly all right. As for the contest - a place in the finals is reserved for you. King took Rex's place today.

Sue; King! Oh what a wonderful dog!

(BARKS, BACK)

Preston; Careful, Miss Crawford! (LAUGHS) Rex seems to be jealous.

Sue; Poor Rex. I'll release him at once.

Preston; You three - face the wall while I handcuff you. Then we'll start to town to pick up Peavy. Before the finals begin tomorrow - this case will be closed!

theme.