

Striker

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

"Golconda Claim"

by Fran Striker.

Number: 936

Date: 10/18/51

Preston and King

- Sagebrush old timer
- Tennessee old timer
- Constable strai ght
- Slade Heavy #1
- Barlum Heavy #2
- Lefty Heavy #3

FILE

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PROMO (Y)

"Golconda Claim"

Annrcr; When Sergeant Preston reported for orders, he knew by the grim expression on the face of Inspector Maynard that serious trouble was brewing.

Insp; Sergeant Preston, there's been a murder near the town of Nugget.

Preston; Shall I go there?

Insp; Yes. A new vein of gold has been found in the old Golconda mine. The fight for stock is going to be a battle royal!

Preston; You said there had been a murder - -

Insp; It may be only the first of many - unless you get immediate control of the situation.

Preston; I'll start for Nugget at once!

Annrcr; Crooks who killed to seize a gold mine - will kill again to hold it. Sergeant Preston learns that these crooks will kill even a member of the Northwest Mounted Police to keep their stolen gold!

Be sure to listen - - (ETC.)

CHALLENGE OF THE YUKON

by Fran Striker

Number 936

Date 10/18/51

GOLCONDA CLAIM

(USUAL OPENING

Annrcr; Sergeant Preston was traveling north from the town of Nugget with the great dog, Yukon King. As he rounded a bend in the mountain trail he saw two men struggling near a small cabin. Both men were grey-bearded and their movements were slow and stiff as they wrestled in the snow.

Preston; I wonder what's going on there, King?

BARKS

Annrcr; Suddenly one of the men broke free, leaped back and drew a pistol from his belt.

Preston; (SHOUT) Hold your fire - () Get him, King!

KING FADES FAST, BARKING.

Annrcr; King leaped ahead and Preston followed on the run.

Preston; (RUNNING)(SHOUT) Don't shoot, I tell you! Hold your fire.

Annrcr; The old man ignored the command. He fired.

SHOT. BACK.

Annrcr; Then King leaped, siezed the gun arm and brought the "greybeard" down.

KING, BACK, SNARLING. FADING IN A SELL

Tenn; (FADE IN ADLIB HOWLS) Leggo me. Call off this dog.

Anncr; The second old man was untouched by the bullet. He reached for the gun in his holster, but before he could draw, Sergeant Preston closed in.

Prest; (EFFORT) I'll take that gun.

Sage; (EFFORT) No, No, let me shoot that flap-eared old goat! He shot at me. I got a right to shoot at him.

Tenn; (HOWLING) Call off this dog. Get me out o' this!

Prest; All right, King. That'll do, boy.

KING SUBSIDES.

Sage; Now listen, Mountie, this here is a private argument.

Prest; When you start vshooting at each other it's time to interfere.

Tenn; (EFFORT)(GASPING) Humpin' Juniper- that dog weighs more'n I do -

Prest; Are you hurt?

Tenn; N-no - I - I guess not - Where's my gun.

Prest; Right there where you dropped it. Leave it alone. I'll take charge of it for the time being. () King-bring that gun to me!

KING SOFT SHORT BARK

Sage; Tennessee, that dog is smarter'n you are!

Tenn; Doggone, Sagebrush, if I get another shot at you -

- Prest; Thanks, King. () These guns are alike.
- T enn; Yep. They're Navy Colts.
- Prest; Old cap and ball revolvers. I haven't seen one like these for a long time.
- Tenn; They're mighty good. I can drive a nail at fifty yards with that there gun.
- Sage; Humph! Hear him talk. Tennessee, you've never been able to hit me with that gun - an' you've fired at mighty close range.
- Tenn; I never aimed to hit you - you old goat. If ever I tried to hit you, Sagebrush, I'd- -
- Pres; Tennessee and Sagebrush. The constable in Nugget told me about you two. You've been fightin' for a long time, but you never hurt each other.
- Tenn; We-l-l l
- Pres; Sagebrush, you were drawing your gun. Did you intend to shoot Tennessee?
- Sage; Aw-w I reckon I'd o' fired high - same as always.
- Pres; I see. (CHUCKLES) Do you both live in this cabin?
- Sage; No. That's my cabin. Tennessee lives over that way beyond the hill. He came here to steal game from my trap line. I saw him thru the window.
- Tenn; No such thing! I didn't come steal! I just came because I didn't catch anything in my traps an' I wanted to see if you'd done any better.

Pres; How did your feud begin?

Sage; Tennessee sold me a lot of stock in the Golconda Gold Minin' Company. He swindled me! That stock was downright worthless!

Tenn; You only paid five dollars for the whole shebang. There was a pile of fancy stock certificates there. You- -

Pres; Tennessee, where did you get the stock?

Tenn; I won it in a poker game. A gent staked it against my five dollars. I won it, an' all I wanted was the five dollars in cash - so I sold it to Sagebrush.

Sage; Swindled me! He knew it was no good or he wouldn't of sold it so cheap.

Pres; Did you think you were getting valuable stock for five dollars?

Sage; Uh- well - -

Pres; You thought you were getting a bargain from your pal. Didn't you?

Tenn; Sure he did!

Pres; The truth is, neither of you wants to hurt the other. You like each other and you want to be friends, but neither will make the first move.

Tenn; He called me a swindler!

*Tom - Chinook claim stock
Saw Cabin*
*Sam - Saw
+ Cash,*

Sage; He sold me worthless stock.

Pres; You're both too big to hold a grudge. Now shake hands.

Tenn; Well - u h--

Sage; Suits me.

Pres; That's more like it.

Tenn; Sagebrush, I- I'll give you back that five dollars--

Sage; No such thing. That stock may be worthless but it's mighty fancy an' it makes me feel rich to handle it an' count it. Come on inside, Tennessee, an' you too, Sergeant. I'll make a batch o' flapjacks the way old Tennessee always like 'em.

Pres; That sounds first rate! Here are your guns!

Tenn; (LAUGH) I never would of shot you, Sagebrush -

Sage; (LAUGH) You old galoot, I knew all the time you were only bluffin' - same as I was- (FADES)

BREAK

Annrc; Sergeant Preston and King enjoyed a meal with the two old men, examined the worthless stock, then left the cabin. At just about that time, two men dismounted from their horses at the entrance to a tunnel in a hillside. It was the abandoned ~~Goleonda~~ ^{Chinook} ~~Washoe~~ mine. A man came from within the tunnel to meet the new arrivals.

HOOF CLIMPS IN BG

Lefty; So've I !

Barlum; Come on. I've got a lamp just inside the entrance.

STEPS SUSTAIN

TUNNEL EFFECT THRU

Watch your step now, there's rocks all over the floor of this tunnel.

Slade; If you're right, Barlum, we wont have to bother with any ~~confidence~~ ^{skin} game! With the shares we own, we can reorganize the ~~Coleconda~~ ^{Chinook} company.

Barlum; The men who dug this tunnel ~~just missed~~ ^{gave up just before} strikin' the pay dirt. Here it is!

STEPS HALT.

Slade; Um.

Barlum; Take a look at ~~this~~ ^{one!} ~~Slade!~~ Did you ever see richer pay dirt?

Slade; (LOW WHISTLE)

Lefty; Looks good to me. We'll be rich! ~~We'll be rich~~ ^{Just as I said,} ~~without peddlin', worthless stock!~~ ^{slade, we can reorganize the company!}

Slade; ~~Um - just one thing -~~ ^{yeah - but we've got to control the company and} we don't own enough shares to ~~control the Coleconda.~~ We'll have to find some more of the stock and buy it up. ~~It may be hard to find.~~

~~Lefty:~~ ~~Barlum:~~ No it won't, Slade. I know where there's a lot of it.

Slade; You do? Where?

~~Lefty:~~ ~~Barlum:~~ Tom Janner. I heard him It belongs to an old prospector called Sagebrush. ~~Talkin about it this morning while I was in~~ I heard about him in Nugget. He lives near there town. If we get his stock we'll have control.

Slade: Do you know where he lives?

Lefty; How much of the stock does he have?

Barlum; I don't know, Lefty, but I've heard he has a lot of it.

Slade; We don't need much to give us control.

Lefty; Let's hope we can buy the old man's share as cheap as we bought the rest.

Slade; We'll get it at our price - or take it away from him! Do you know where he lives, Barlum?

Barlum; I can find the place.

Slade; How long'll take us to get there?

Barlum; If we start now, we'll be there tonight.

Slade; Then saddle your horse and let's go.

BREAK.

Annor; A few minutes later the three schemers left the Golconda tunnel and rode hard to the vicinity of Sagebrush's cabin. They dismounted not far from the place.

HOOF'S STOPPING.

Slade; There's a light in the window.

Barlum; The old gent must still be up.

STEPS SUSTAIN AS

Lefty; I sure hope we can persuade him to sign over that stock to us.

Slade; Leave that to me.

Lefty; Goin' to rap on the door?

Slade; Yeah.

STEPS HALT. BAP ON DOOR.

Sage (MUFFLED) Who's there?

Slade; (CALLS) Friends of yours, Sagebrush!

DOOR OPENS.

Slade; Mind if we step inside?

Sage; Why you callin' yourself friends? I don't know you.

Slade; We'll get acquainted fast. Come in, gents.

STEPS IN AS -

Sage; Now see here. I - -

Slade; Close that door, Barlum.

DOOR CLOSES.

Slade; Sagebrush, you own some Golconda mining stock.

Sage; What's it to you?

Slade; I came to buy it from you.

Sage; Tain't for sale. () Hey you - stop snoopin'!

Slade; My friends are looking for the stock. Where is it?

Sage; None of your doggoned business! You tell your friends to stay out of that chest an' stop snoopin(-

DRAWER BACK

Barlum; (MACK) Here's the stock!

Slade; Good! Bring it here, Barlum!

Sage; (EFFORT) By Juniper- -

Lefty; (HARD) Take it easy!

Sage; A gun! Why you -

Lefty; Shut up or I'll spkit your head with it!

Barlum; (COMING IN) There's enough shares to give us control.

Slade; Get this, Sagebrush. We want that stock. You sign it over to me, and I'll give you fifty dollars - cash.

Sage; Not by a jugful!

Slade; You know it's worthless.

Sage; Then why you buyin' it? Worthless or not, I wouldn't sell to you at any price!

Slade; In that case, we'll have to get rough with you.

Lefty; Should I slap him with this gun?

Sage; No no, wait - (CANNY) You say- you'll pay me fifty dollars?

Slade; Sure thing. Just sign the stock over to me.

Sage; Well- I - I reckon I may as well. Just let me get my eyeglasses - (FADING BACK) They're here on the shelf -

Annrcr; Lefty held his gun steady, and all three of the men watched as old Sagebrush reached for a shelf above his head. His fingers closed on the butt of his old Navy Colt. He turned fast and there was a report --

(GUNSHOT) (GUN FALLS)

Lefty; (CRY OUT)

Slade; (YELL) Grab him!

(FAST STEPS)

Annrcr; Barlum and Slade hurled themselves on the old man before he could cock his gun and fire again.

(AD LIB STRUGGLE)

Slade; (EFFORT) Don't kill him! We need his signature!

Annrcr; They tore the gun from the old man's fingers and backed him against the wall - -

Sage; (HOWLS) Ornery crooks!

Slade; I'll watch the old man. You see about Lefty.

Annrcr; Lefty was staggering. He collapsed against the table that held the lamp.

(BUMP TABLE)

Barlum; Look out, Lefty!

(TABLE CRASHES) (LAMP FALLS &
SMASHES)

13.

(DOOR OPENS)

Preston; Constable, I want to talk to you.

Const; (BACK) Come in, Sergeant Preston. You too, King.

(BARK ONCE)

(DOOR CLOSSES) (STEPS CROSS FLOOR AS:)

Preston; On my way from Gopher Creek, I found the ruins of Sagebrush's cabin.

Const; Yes. It burned to the ground last night.

Preston; I talked to Jim Collins.

Const; He's the one who brought word about the fire. He went to the cabin when he saw the flames. He ~~realize~~ realized there was nothing he could do, so he came here. I went out the first thing this morning with three men, including the doctor.

Preston; And arrested Tennessee!

Const; That's right.

Preston; On what charge?

Const; Murder. And I must say, I wasn't surprised. Tennessee and Sagebrush have been enemies for a long time.

Preston; They were not enemies yesterday afternoon. In fact when I left those two old men, they had buried the hatchet. They were the best of friends.

Const; There's ample evidence to support a murder charge.

Preston; What's the nature of that evidence?

Const; We found the body in the ruins.

Preston; Sagebrush's?

Const; Recognition was practically impossible, but it must have been Sagebrush. No one else would have been in the cabin. The doctor examined the corpse and stated that he hadn't died in the fire.

Preston; How did he die?

Const; He was shot and Tennessee's the one who shot him!

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

(COMMERCIAL)

Anncr; Sergeant Preston found it hard to believe the Constable's statement that Tennessee had shot and killed his old friend Sagebrush.

Preston; Tell me the details, Constable.

Const; Well, as soon as I learned that Sagebrush had been shot, I went over the ridge to the place where Tennessee lives. He was at home - and said he knew nothing of the fire. He claimed that he had gone to bed early and slept straight thru until daybreak.

Preston; Did he tell you that he and Sagebrush had made up?

Const; Oh yes. But I found his gun, and one shot had been fired.

Preston; I saw that shot fired yesterday.

Const; Tennessee told me about that, but of course, he could easily have reloaded after that shot you saw - and fired again last night to kill Sagebrush.

Preston; Isn't it likely that he would have reloaded again if he had killed the old man?

Const; He might have.

Preston; Did you find his footprints near the cabin?

Const; There were no footprints near the cabin. The heat had melted the snow.

Preston; I see.

Const; Beyond that point, there were just the hard-packed trails that didn't show footprints.

Preston; Did you arrest Tennessee?

Const; I brought him in for questioning. Held him while the doctor made a more complete examination of the body - - then I had evidence for a murder charge.

Preston; Yes?

Const; The bullet that killed the old man came from a ball and cap revolver.

Preston; I see.

Const; There aren't many of those guns around here, Sergeant Preston. In fact, I know of only two. Tennessee and Sagebrush owned them. Doesn't it seem to be a clear cut case of murder?

Preston; Yes - it seems to be.

Const; Who else would have any reason to kill poor old Sagebrush? He didn't have an enemy in the world -- outside of Tennessee.

Preston; Tennessee was not an enemy, Constable. Tennessee was an old friend.

Const; But those two --

Preston; I know. They'd been feuding for years -but they thought the world of each other.

Const; I can find a dozen people who heard them threaten to blow each other's brains out - and several who saw them fire at each other at different times.

Preston; They did fire at each other --

Const; Well -?

Preston; Is Tennessee here?

Const; Yes. He's in the cell.

Preston; I'd like to talk to him.

Const; This way.

(CHAIR BACK)

Preston; Come on, King.

(SHORT BARK) (STEPS AS:)

Preston; I want to find out how King reacts when he sees your prisoner.

Const; In here -

(DOOR OPENS)

Const; (CUE) The cell is over there beyond that barred door. () Here's someone to see you, Tennessee.

(A FEW STEPS AS:)

Tennessee; (COMING IN) Sergeant Preston --

Preston; Hello, Tennessee.

Tennessee; And King -

(SHORT FRIENDLY BARK)

Tennessee; (CUE) Oh Sergeant, he - he's gone. Sagebrush is gone!

Preston; I heard about it Tennessee.

Tennessee; Poor old Sagebrush - I -- I never thought anything like this'd happen to him. I - I'm downright glad we got together - before it happened.

Preston; Tennessee, the Constable thinks you killed Sagebrush.

Tennessee; I didn't do it.

Const; Then how do you account for the fact that your gun was used?

Tennessee; (SIGHS) I don't know. I can't account for anything at all.

Preston; What did you and Sagebrush do after I left you yesterday?

Tennessee; Aw-w -- we just talked for a spell - talked about old times in the States - an' about the scrapes we'd be into - an' then -- then --

Preston; Then what?

Tennessee; We talked of movin' into the same cabin again, like we used to live. I was goin' to move back in with Sagebrush.

Preston; Oh.

Tennessee; When it started to get dark, I went home. Went to bed, an' that's all I know until this mornin' when the Constable an' some other men came to the door an' said that - that Sagebrush was -was gone.

Const; And killed with your gun.

Tennessee; I don't see how anyone could o' snuck into my cabin an' stole my gun without wakin' me. I've never been such a sound sleeper - -

Const; Tennessee, you're putting on a mighty convincing act, but - it isn't going to save you. The evidence will hang you!

Tennessee; (SIGHS) It don't matter.

Const; Confound it, why don't you confess.

Tennessee; (FIRE) I'll tell you why I don't confess. It's because I didn't kill my pal! I'm not afraid of hangin'. I don't care what happens to me - but I want to see the man who shot old Sagebrush pay in full. If I confess, the case'll be closed! You stop thinkin' of me as the killer, an' look around! Someone else killed Sagebrush! Find that skunk an' hang him!

Const; Now listen --

Preston; That's enough, Constable.

Tennessee; Sergeant Preston, don't let someone get away with the murder of my pal!

Preston; We're going to make a thorough investigation, Tennessee. We'll see you again.

(STEPS) (DOOR OPEN & CLOSE)

Preston; Well, Constable - now what do you think?

Const; Well - it's hard to believe that old man is guilty. If it weren't for the feud - and the fact that Sagebrush was killed by a Navy Colt -- () What do you think?

Preston; Most murderers give off a scent that is obnoxious to King. I've seen King face more killers than I can count, and in every case, he's shown a ^{VIOLENT} ~~strong~~ dislike --

Const; He seemed friendly to Tennessee.

Preston; Yes. He did.

Const; Then you think the old man is innocent?

Preston; I can't believe he's guilty. I'm going back to that cabin, Constable, and look around!

Annex;

Unlike the Constable, Sergeant Preston was convinced that someone other than Tennessee had committed the murder. Because of this, he cast in ~~expanding~~ expanding circles around the ruins of the cabin.

With King at his side he paid particular attention to each of the trails in the snow. There were thin paths in the direction of neighboring cabins; a hard-packed trail to Nugget, and another leading north. ~~And then~~ ^{finally} - he found tracks of three horses-

(KING WHIMPERING)

Preston;

~~King, these tracks lead directly to the place where the snow is melted around the cabin.~~ Three horsemen came from the northeast, and returned in the same direction.

(KING WHIMPERING)

Annex;

King knew that the scent of a friend still hung in the air. He whimpered and made several starts along the hoofmarks in an effort to tell his master that someone they both knew had gone that way.

(KING WHIMPERING)

Preston;

King, are you trying to tell me the men we want went that way? (SLIGHT LAUGH) No -- you couldn't possibly know that. () I wonder where those men came from - and where they went. There's nothing over that way except some old abandoned gold claims -- including the Goldonda mine.

(KING WHIMPERS)

Preston;

You may be merely playing a hunch, King - but we're going to act on it. We're going to follow these tracks!

(BARKS, FADING)

Anncr;

Slade and Barlum had taken Sagebrush to the tunnel of the Golconda mine and had worked for hours using persuasion and force, but the stubborn old man refused to sign a transfer of title to the stock certificates. When he finally collapsed from sheer exhaustion he was tightly bound and left to sleep. The outlaws also slept for several hours. When they wakened they renewed their efforts.

Slade;

I'll make you a final proposition, Sagebrush. You've seen the gold in this tunnel. You have an idea of what it's worth. Sign over your stock certificates to me, and I'll cut you in for a one third share of all we make.

Barlum;

That's right, Sagebrush. Lefty's dead. We'll give you his share.

Sagebrush;

I know better'n to believe anything like that! As soon as you have my signature, you crooks will kill me!

Slade;

We'll kill you if you don't sign.

Sagebrush;

Go ahead! Go ahead an' kill me. Maybe you think you can forge my name to those certificates, but you can't do it. You don't know what my handwritin' is like!

Barlum;

There must be some way of softening him up.

(BARK, FAR BACK)

Slade; What's that?

Barlum; Sounds like a dog.

Slade; Look out the mouth of the tunnel and see.

(COUPLE OF STEPS)

Annor; Barlum hurried to the mouth of the tunnel a few paces away and looked down the hillside. He saw Sergeant Preston crossing the valley with King trotting ^{just} ahead.

Slade; (SLIGHTLY BACK) See anyone?

Barlum; Yes. A Mountie. He seems to be following the tracks of our horses.

Sagebrush; (CHUCKLES) Sort o' puts you in a bad spot, eh Slade!

Slade; Shut up you old goat!

Barlum; (COMING IN) There's only one thing to do.

Slade; Put your gun away!

Barlum; But Slade -- if this old man tells the Mountie our names ---

Slade; We can't shoot him until we get his signature!

Barlum; Then what'll we do?

Slade; Gag him and drag him far back in the tunnel where he can't be seen or heard. You stay there with him to make sure he keeps quiet. I'll handle the Mountie.

Barlum;

I hope you can do it.

Slade;

I'll try. If I can't handle him, you'll be in a position to get the drop on him. (ASIDE) Here, use this to gag Sagebrus h.

Barlum;

(ASIDE) Thanks.

Slade;

Gag him good and tight, then drag him back where he can't be seen.

Anncr;

A few minutes later found the bruised and battered old man far back in the dark tunnel, beyond the reach of light that spilled thru the entrance. He was helplessly bound and gagged, and Barlum was at his side with a gun held ready. Presently, Sergeant Preston appeared at the tunnel's mouth. Slade stood to greet him.

Slade;

Well, Sergeant. Welcome to the Golconda mine.

Preston;

How do you do. My name is Preston.

Slade;

Glad to shake your hand, Sergeant Preston. Me, I'm Hogen -- Jake Hogen.

Preston;

Hogen, eh?

Slade;

Yep. Say, that's a fine dog.

(SNARL)

Preston;

Steady, King! () Careful -- Hogen.

Slade;

I was just going to try to make friends with him.

(DOG SNIFFS & WHIMPERS)

Preston;

He's not always friendly to strangers. Have you been here long?

Slade; Not very.

Preston; I thought this place was abandoned.

Slade; It was, but three of us got stuck with some stock in the Golconda, and thought we'd come here and look around.

Preston; Three of you?

Slade; Sure. You saw the tracks of our horses, didn't you?

Preston; Yes. Where are the horses?

Slade; Over yonder in an old shed.

Preston; And your friends -- where are they?

Slade; Deep in the tunnel - looking it over.

(KING WHIMPERS & WHINES)

Anncr; King caught a familiar scent inside that tunnel. It was the scent of a man he had met as a friend. He tried to tell his master by whining and whimpering and looking toward the dark rear of the tunnel.

Preston; Quiet, King. Take it easy, boy.

Slade; What's the matter with that dog?

Preston; Maybe he doesn't like tunnels. () Hogen, I'd like to talk to your ~~firm~~ friends.

Slade; They're a long way back in the tunnel. I can tell you anything you want to know.

Preston; When did you come here?

Slade; A few days ago.

Preston; Then, did the three of you leave?

Slade; You know we did, Sergeant. You saw our horses' tracks goin' in both directions. We headed southwest, then came back.

Preston; Where did you go?

Slade; Now see here - I don't see as that's any of your business.

Preston; A murder has been committed, Hogen. That's my business.

Slade; A murder!

Ann-cr; Sergeant Preston waited to see what the other man's statement would be. King, having been ordered to keep quiet, decided to carry the investigation further on his own account. Silently he moved away from the entrance where his master stood, and walked slowly back in the tunnel - - following the scent he knew ---

Preston; Do you know anything about a murder - Hogen?

Slade; No! Of course not!

Preston; Your tracks lead directly to the cabin where a man was killed - and back here.

Slade; $\frac{1}{2}$ (ANGRY) Are you accusing me of murder?

Preston; Not yet. When I make the accusation, I'll make the arrest.

Slade; (SLIGHT LAUGH) Sorry I flared, Sergeant Preston.
I can easily prove that my friends and I had no
part in a murder. Just pick up that saddlebag
and look inside it.

Annrcr; As Sergeant Preston glanced at the saddlebag on
the floor, Slade whipped out his gun --

Slade; Get 'em up!

Preston; (SURPRISED) Eh -?

Slade; That's it! Caught you off guard, eh?

Preston; Not exactly - Hogen. You see, I had no intention
of drawing my gun until you made the first move.

Slade; Well I've made it!

Preston; It condemns you.

Slade; Now you just stand still while I cut that lanyard
and take your gun. Make a sudden move and it'll
be your last.

(SUDDEN WILD SNARL) (BACK IN CAVE)

Barlum; (BACK, ECHO) (WILD YELL OF FEAR)

(SUSTAIN AD LIB SNARLS, BACK, ECHO)

Slade; (STARTLED) What the -

(SHOT, BACK, ECHO)

Preston; (EFFORT)

Annrcr; Preston charged in the instant that Slade turned toward the commotion in the rear of the tunnel. One hand slapped aside Slade's gun - while the other, made into a fist jabbed into the stomach -

Slade; (GRUNTS, GASPS)

Annrcr; The stomach blow doubled over Slade - and as his face came forward, Preston met it with a right cross to the chin --

(SMASHING BLOW)

Annrcr; It was a knockout blow that dropped Slade.

(SHOTS & SNARLS, AD LIBBED BACK,
FADING CLOSER AS:)

Preston; (YELL) Coming, King!

(RUNNING STEPS AS:)

Annrcr; The Moutie paused only long enough to kick Slade's gun away - then raced toward the rear where he could hear King's fighting snarls ~~unrelentless~~ punctuated by gunfire. As Preston neared the scene of battle, he heard a new cry -

Barlum; (COMING IN) (SCREAM IN PAIN & FEAR) Leggo - let go -- lenme go - take off this dog - help! Help me!

(STEPS HALT)

Annrcr; It was dark. Preston had to work by sound and instinct. His hand touched one man - and found ropes. Then he located Barlum -

Preston; All right, King! I have him!

(WHINING)

Preston; Go back and stand guard. I'll be with you soon!

Barlum; (WHINING) That ~~ing~~ - that - dog --

Anncr; At sundown, the Constable approached the cell where Tennessee was held --

(UNLOCKING STEEL DOOR)

Const; I'm letting you out, Tennessee.

Tennessee; (SIGHS) For what, Constable?

Const; I have good news for you. Sergeant Preston brought in a couple of outlaws, so you're in the clear.

Tennessee; How does he know they're the ones who killed old Sagebrush?

Const; He can't jail them for that, but there are plenty of other charges, including a murder near Dawson for which those crooks are wanted. () Come into the office, Tennessee.

Tennessee; Dad-rat it, I wish they could be hung for killin' poor old Sagebrush.

Sagebrush; (BACK) You wish that? Why yuh dad-ratted old Mosshead --

Tennessee; That's Sagebrush!

Const; (CHUCKLE) Yep.

(FAST STEPS AS:)

Tennessee; Sagebrush! Sagebrush! It's really you!

Sagebrush; (COMING IN) Yuh want men hangin' for my murder -
eh! Yuh want me dead!

Tennessee; Yuh know better'n that!

Sagebrush; (LAUGHS) Tennessee, it's good to see you!

Tennessee; Sagebrush! You got battered up!

Sagebrush; Some - but I'll be all right in a few days.

Tennessee; (CHUCKLE) I dunno but what you're better lookin'
the way you are. But how come you're alive? I
thought --

Sage; It's a long story, Tennessee. It'll keep. Right
now you gotta know that we're both rich.

Tenn; Huh -?

Sage; That stock you sold me. It's wr th a fortune -
an' you're sharin' fifty-fifty!

Tenn; I - uh - huh --- See here, I can't savvy this --

Sage; (LAUGHS) Sergeant Preston, YOU tell him we're
both rich.

Preston; (LAUGHS) You tell him the whole story, Sagebrush.
From my point of view the case is closed.

theme