

The Challenge of the Yukon

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"Snowslide" #2

FILE

WIND

(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr;

Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King were traveling along a treacherous trail on the snow covered side of a steep hill. They were returning from a patrol, when suddenly - without warning, an avalanche of snow came down the slope!

AVALANCHE

(SNOWSLIDE BUILDING UP AS:)

(KING BARKS FRANTICALLY)

Annrcr;

King, running ahead, sounded the alarm. The Mountie looked up. Wearing clumsy snowshoes, he could not turn quickly, so he ~~MOVED~~ ^{MOVED} ahead. But not fast enough. The mass of snow engulfed him!

(BUILD UP CRASHING AVALANCHE TO PEAK - THEN CUT)

WIND OUT UP 40 FT

Annrcr

Preston regained consciousness in a crude cabin. Turning his head slightly, he saw a man seated at a table. Then he heard a familiar whine.

(KING WHINES)

Preston;

(WEAKLY) King, old fellow!

(KING WHINES & PANTS JOYFULLY)

(CHAIR SCRAPES BACK AS:)

Annex; At the sound of Sergeant Preston's voice, the man at the table turned around and glanced at the bunk.

Buck; (BACK) So you finally have your eyes open. (RISES)

(STEPS APPROACH AS:)

Preston; Where am I?

Buck; A day's travel north of Peel River.

Preston; Peel River, eh? I -- I remember making a patrol -- up on the Porcupine -- I was on my way back to Dawson. I remember snow --

Buck; A snow slide. They're frequent at this time of year.

Preston; You rescued me?

Buck; Well, the slide came right down into the valley not far from this cabin. Your dog came to the door - He led me to you. I saw one hand showing and dug you out.

Preston; How long have I been here?

Buck; Since yesterday. You were in bad shape when I found you.

Preston; My name is Preston. Sergeant Preston.

Buck; I know. I went thru your pack and pockets to find your identification. Call me Bill Smith.

Preston; Thanks, Bill Smith, for saving my life. That will be a hard debt to repay.

Buck; Forget it, Sergeant. How about some food.

Preston; That sounds good.

Annex; Preston spent two days in the isolated cabin regaining his strength, and then returned to Dawson. When he reported to headquarters and told his experience to the Inspector - ~~████████████████████~~

Insp; After what you've been through, Sergeant, I'd like to give you a few days to rest, but it is out of the question.

Preston; I rested before I left the cabin, sir. I'm ready for an assignment.

Insp; Good. I have a stiff assignment, and you're the man I want to handle it.

Preston; Yes sir.

Insp; About a month ago, a gold convoy was held up by two gunmen. They killed the police guard from ambush, and got away with fifty thousand dollars in gold bullion.

Preston; Who was killed?

Insp; Corporal Douglas.

Preston; He was a good man. If it's humanly possible, sir, I'll bring in the killers. Any line on who they were?

Insp; The drivers of the dogteams gave us their descriptions. And I think we've identified one by name.

Preston; Who is he?

Insp; His name is Buck Croyden. He has a long criminal record, and he's wanted by the American authorities for a murder in Nome, Alaska. There was a circular on him. That's how we were able to spot him. () Here it is. It shows a picture of him.

Preston; Um-m -- (SUDDENLY) Inspector!


Insp; What is it, Sergeant?

Preston; This -this man -- He's the one who saved my life!

Insp; Buck Croyden?

Preston; He gave me the name of Bill Smith.

Insp; Are you sure it is the same man?

Preston; There's no doubt of it, sir. This is Bill Smith's  and the description tallies exactly.

Insp; I'm sorry to hear that, but I can't relieve you of this assignment. That man killed one of our men.

Preston; If I bring him in, I'll be bringing him in to the hangman.

Insp; In all probability you will.

Preston; Because of him - I'm alive to take away his life.

Insp; When you enlisted in the Force, you swore to uphold the Queen's laws. That oath takes precedence over all personal ties and obligations.

Preston; Very well, sir - I'll bring in Buck Croyden.

Annex; Inspector Maynard assigned Constable Tom Blake to assist the Sergeant in the capture of Buck Croyden and his partner. A short time after Sergeant Preston's conversation with the Inspector Constable Blake reported to the Sergeant for orders.

Preston; How much has the Inspector told you about this case, Tom?

Blake; Not much, Sergeant. I heard about the hold-up, of course, and the killing of Corporal Douglas. But I still don't know any of the details. Who owned the stolen gold?

Preston; The Yukon Express Company. You probably know how ^{in Grand Forks} they operate. They cash gold dust ~~then send it into Dawson where it is melted into~~ ~~bullion and put aboard a river boat.~~

Blake; Any idea which way the hold-up men went after the robbery?

Preston; Yes. A Constable from Selkirk got on their trail as soon as the case was reported. Their tracks led to a small cabin about five miles from the scene of the robbery. There, apparently, they divided the gold and went in different directions.

Blake; Then what did the Constable do?

Preston; A heavy snow fell, and the tracks were covered. The thieves made a clean get-away.

Blake; Then we have nothing to go on.

Preston; On the contrary, I know exactly where to find one of the two men.

Blake; How so, Sergeant?

Preston; I stayed at his cabin for several days on the way back from my last patrol. At the time, of course, I didn't know who he was. He called himself Bill Smith - but his real name is Buck Croyden. Here's a circular on him.

Blake; (READS) Um. So the American authorities want him, too. () Where is the cabin located, Sergeant?

Preston; North of the Peel River.

Blake; In the middle of nowhere. What do you suppose he's doing there?

Preston; Hard to say. It may be that Croyden's pal plans to meet him there later. Or maybe he's waiting in the hideout for the hue and cry to die down.

Blake; What's your plan, Sergeant?

Preston; First, we'll arrest Buck Croyden. Perhaps we can persuade him to tell where we'll find his partner. Is your gear ready to go?

Blake; Yes. Whenever you give the word, Sergeant.

Preston; I'll get my dogteam ready and / We'll start in thirty minutes.

(BREAK)

Annrc; On the same day that Preston and the Constable
with Dawson a man called Jake arrived by dogsled
at the cabin of Buck Croyden.

WIND
X POPS
DOGS STOP (DOGS BARKING)

Croyden heard the dogs and opened the door.

DOOR OPEN

WIND
I'll get my dogteam ready and / We'll start in thirty minutes.

Buck; Jake! What are you doing here?

Jake; I came to ask you the same question. What are you doing here?

Buck; Who wants to know?

Jake; Hutchins. He's wondering why you haven't shown up at Grand Forks with your share of the gold.

Buck; Come inside.

(STEPS IN) (DOOR CLOSSES)

(CUT DOGS, WIND)

*cut
wind*

Buck; Take off your parka.

Jake; Thanks. (TAKE OFF PARKA AS:) Hutchins is worried because of the delay.

Buck; I didn't say when I'd report to him.

Jake; I know you didn't, Buck. But I cashed my share of the ^{GOLD} ~~money~~ a couple of weeks ago. Hutchins thought maybe somethin' had happened to you.

Buck; I'm just aking my time, that's all. (CHUCKLES) Besides, I was taking care of a Mountie for a couple of days.

Jake; You were doing what!!

Buck; Yeah. He was caught in a snowslide. I saved his life.

Jake; Buck, sometimes I think you're crazy. You shoot one Mountie from ambush - and then you save the life of another! What do you think that Mountie's gonna do when he finds out who you are?

Buck; I told him my name was Bill Smith. He'll never find out who I really am!

Jake; No?

Buck; How would he?

Jake; In case you don't know it, the law is after you for the shooting in Nome. They've issued a circular with your picture on it. I saw it myself just before I came here. It says: "Wanted - Buck Croyden - five hundred dollars reward!"

Buck; Um-m. I didn't know about that. I'd better start growing some whiskers.

Jake; We'd both better start away from here before that Mountie comes looking for you.

Annrc; Jake stayed at the cabin overnight and at daybreak the two crooks left the vicinity, each with his own sled and dogteam.

(DOGS BARKING)

Buck; (AD LIB MUSH)

Jake; (AD LIB MUSH)

(DOGS START, FADING AS:)

Annrc; Croyden's sled carried a fortune in gold ~~blatant~~

(DOGS SLOW FADE OUT)

Annrc; Eight days later, Sergeant Preston and Constable Blake arrived at the abandoned cabin. ~~They halted their teams and looked around for signs of life.~~

(WIND, DOGS BARKING)

WIND
WIND UP
WIND
X
DOG
STOP

DOGS
START

FADE

STOP

Blake; (FADING IN) I wonder if he's home, Sergeant?

Preston; I don't see any sign of his dog team.

Blake; Maybe he's gone hunting.

Preston; We'll soon find out. () Come on, King.

(KING WHINES)

(STEPS THRU SNOW AS:)

Annct; There were no signs of life around the outside of the cabin, so the Sergeant and Blake moved to the door.

(DOOR OPENS)

They found it unlocked.

(STEPS IN) (FADE WIND)

Blake; Sergeant, it looks to me as if our man has left.

Preston; I don't see any of his gear around.

(COUPLE OF STEPS AS:)

Blake; The fireplace is gold.

Preston; If he had the gold here, he's probably taken it with him.

Blake; With the recent snow, there'll be no tracks to follow.

Preston; With King on the job we may not need tracks in the snow.

Blake; But Sergeant, Croyden has probably been gone for several days!

Preston; I've known King to follow a scent that was quite old.

(COUPLE OF STEPS AS:)

I'd like to find something that belonged to Croyden to help King with the scent.

Blake; (FADING BACK) There's something beneath the bunk.

Preston; What is it?

Blake; (BACK) An old blanket. Maybe this will do.

Preston; Good.

Blake; (COMING IN) Croyden must have discarded it.

Preston; Here it is - take it boy--

(KING WHINES & WHIMPERS)

Blake; I'd like to know what Croyden intends to do. ~~He~~
~~isn't the owner of the dog,~~ he'll
 never get by the Inspection posts at Chilkoot Pass
 and White Pass.

Preston; Hardly.

Blake; And starting from here, he can't carry enough
 supplies on his sled to try beating his way out
 thru the wilderness.

Preston; There's no use trying to guess what he's planning.
 Are you ready, King.

(BARKS)

Preston; Outside then, boy. Line 'em up.

12.

(KING BARKS, FADING BACK)

DOGS

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(DOGS BARKING BACK)

Blake; Line up there, boys! In line!

Preston; (SHOUT) I'll take the lead, Blake.

Blake; (BACK) Right.

Preston; On, King! On you huskies!

Blake; (BACK) Mush! Mush ~~air~~

DOGS

DOGS

(FADE BARKING)

Annrc; Buck Croyden's trail was several days old, and the tracks of his sled had long since been snowed over. But King's sensitive nostrils enabled him to follow the outlaw without difficulty. The trail led south across the frozen surface of the Peel River, and then veered southwest toward Dawson City and the road creeks. Eventually it ended at Grand Forks - a mining community which had grown up at the junction of Eldorado and Bonanza Creeks, not far from Dawson.

WIND UP
WIND
DOGS
START
& FADE

(WIND - DOGS BARKING)

Adlib; (HO'S)

DOGS
STOP

(KING WHINES)

Blake; (FADING IN) What's the matter with King, Sergeant? Has he found something?

Rice's #21116

Preston;

I think he's lost the trail. In a busy place like the Forks, it's difficult to untangle all the different scents.

Blake:

Well, at least we've followed Croyden this far. I wonder why he came here?

Preston;

He may have needed supplies.

Blake;

Um-m. Maybe.

Preston;

Or, it might be, because there is a branch office of the Yukon Express Company in Grand Forks.

Blake;

I don't understand - -

Preston;

The stolen gold was sent from this office. The robbery took place between here and Dawson.

Blake;

Oh! That's so-

Preston;

The thieves knew exactly where and when to strike. They might have had inside information.

Blake;

You mean - someone in the Yukon Express office MIGHT HAVE told them when the gold was to be sent!

VIP

~~Preston;~~

~~Yes.~~

~~Blake;~~

~~Croyden and his pal are in cahoots with someone in the Express Company.~~

Preston;

The idea is worth looking into. Let's talk to the manager of the company.

cut wind

we'll continue our adventure in just a moment.

THEME

~~Preston; But there is a shipping company. The Yukon
 Express has a branch office here.
 Blake; Greyden would have to be in cahoots with some
 employee of the Express Company, --
 Preston; Yes. And the idea is worth looking into. Let's
 talk to the manager of the express office.~~

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

(COMMERCIAL)

Now TO CONTINUE

wind
 Annex; The trail of the man who had stolen gold, and
 killed a Mountie was lost when Sergeant Preston
 and Constable Blake came to Grand Forks. Preston
 decided to seek information at the local office of
 the Yukon Express Company. ~~He and Blake~~
~~that they had seen the man who had stolen gold --~~

*DOGS
BARK*

(WIND) (DOGS IN B.G.)

Preston; Let me do the talking, Constable - and don't be surprised at anything I say.

Const; Right.

(DOOR OPENS, STEPS IN AS:)

*cut
wind*
 Annex; John Hutchins, manager of the office, looked over
 a counter at the two policeman. *DOOR CLOSE*

Preston; Are you the manager of this office?

Hutchins; That's right. My name is Hutchins.

- Preston; I'm Sergeant Preston - Northwest Mounted Police.
This is my assistant, Constable Blake.
- Hutchins; Glad to know you, gentlemen.
- Preston; There have recently been a number of small gold robberies on the creeks. We're trying to put an end to them. You might be able to help us.
- Hutchins; I'll be glad to do what I can.
- Preston; There are suspects -- but we can't get evidence against them. They apparently cash in the gold dust as soon as they steal it.
- Hutchins; I see.
- Preston; Some of the thieves may have cashed stolen dust right in this office.
- Hutchins; I wouldn't doubt it, Sergeant. We do a lot of business with the prospectors and miners around here - and of course, we have no way of checking on them.
- Preston; Do you keep a record of every transaction -- a record of the name of every person who cashes in gold?
- Hutchins; Only if they ask for a bank draft. If they just want to exchange their gold for cash, we simply write down the amount of the transaction.
- Preston; Mmm. That's too bad. I hoped your records would help us. () Who actually hands out the money on these transactions?
- Hutchins; Why -- I do, Sergeant.

Preston; In other words, no one can cash any gold at this office without your knowledge and consent.

Hutchins; That's right.

Preston; Have you cashed any large amount of gold for someone recently?

Hutchins; No. Not for some time. Why do you ask?

Preston; I thought if you had, you might be able to identify any suspects we bring in.

Hutchins; I have a fair memory for faces. If you bring in someone, I'm sure I could say whether or not he'd ever been here previously-

Preston; Um. Well, thanks, Mr. Hutchins. Good day.

Hutchins; Good day, Sergeant.

STEPS. DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. WIND.

Preston; Tom, we'll drive to the end of the street and stop.

Blake; On, King. On you Huskies.

Blake; ~~Wish you huskies.~~

DOGS BARKING. FADE OUT, THEN FADE IN,

ADLIB: WHOAS

TEAMS HALT. STREET BG.

will
DOGS START
DOGS STOP

Blake; (FADING IN) Well, Sergeant - what do you think?

Preston; I have a hunch that John Hutchins is our man.

Blake; You mean you think he's in cahoots with Croyden and his pal?

Preston; You heard him say no gold can be cashed in without his knowledge and consent. That means that if Croyden came here to get rid of his gold Hutchins would be in on the scheme.

Blake; Yes, that makes sense all right. But I still don't see how Hutchins fits into the whole picture.

Preston; Look at it this way, Tom. Ordinarily, gold shipments are kept secret - just as a general precaution. But in this case, the hold-up men must have known about the shipment ahead of time.

Blake; No doubt of that.

Preston; As an employee of the Yukon Express Company, Hutchins was in a position to know when that ^{GOLD} was scheduled to go out. Suppose he passed the word to Croyden and his pal. They hold up the convoy and steal the gold -- then Hutchins takes the ^{GOLD} off their hands and converts it into cash for them -- with a cut for himself, of course.

Blake; Sergeant, that would explain everything. () But say - you don't suppose Hutchins got suspicious when you were questioning him, do you?

Preston; I don't know. He's no fool. He may have seen thru the story I told him. That's why we're stopping here.

Preston; I'm Sergeant Preston - Northwest Mounted Police -
and this is Constable Blake. What's your name?

Boy; Joey.

Preston; Well, Joey - we're working on a case. I wonder if
you'll help us.

Boy; Gee! Yes sir- I'd like that.

Preston; Fine. () What was it Mr. Hutchins gave you just
now?

Boy; A note. He told me to take it to a man named Buck.

Preston; He did, eh? Did he tell you where to find this
man?

Boy; He told me I'd find him in a shack at the end of
Stoney Canyon. That's about three miles out of
town.

Preston; Yes, I know the place. Let me see the note, Joey.

Boy; Yes sir.

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Blake; What does it say, Sergeant?

Preston; I'll read it to you. (READS) Two Mounties just
came to the office and asked me a lot of questions.
I think they're wise. You and your pal had better
clear out of the neighborhood immediately.
Signed - - Hutchins. () Thanks, Joey. I'll keep
this note.

Boy; What should I do now, Sergeant?

Preston;

Just ~~the moment~~ keep out of Hutchins' sight. I want him to think you went ahead and delivered the note - as he told you to.

Boy;

Is Buck an outlaw?

Preston;

We want to talk to him.

Boy;

I'd ~~like~~ like to go along with you. *Sergeant.*

Preston;

Not this time, Joey. Thanks again for helping the law.

Answer;

WING OUT
Sergeant Preston and Constable Blake headed out of town in the direction of Stoney Canyon. A few minutes later, John Hutchins emerged from the Express office and went to a room located on the second floor of a nearby building. He knocked on the door.

(KNOCKS) (DOOR OPENS)

Buck;

Hutchins! What are you doing here?

Hutchins;

I'll tell you in a minute, Croyden.

(STEPS IN, DOOR CLOSES)

Hutchins;

Is Jake here?

Buck;

Yeah, he's here.

Hutchins;

Good.

Jake;

(BACK, FADING IN) What's up, Hutchins? Is something wrong?

Hutchins;

Plenty's wrong. A Mountie named Sergeant Preston is in town.

Buck; Sergeant Preston!

Hutchins; Yes. He has another Mountie with him. They came to the office a little while ago, and asked me a lot of questions about cashing in gold. I'm sure they're wise to our game.

Jake; What are we going to do?

Hutchins; I've laid a trap for them.

Buck; What kind of a trap?

Hutchins; I figured Preston would be watching to see if I got in touch with ~~him~~^{you.}. So I wrote a note addressed to you. I gave it to a kid and told him to take it to that shack at the end of Stoney Canyon. Then I watched ~~him~~ thru a window.

Buck; What happened?

Hutchins; Preston intercepted the note - just as I thought he would. He and the other Mountie are on their way to Stoney Canyon right this minute.

Jake; What's the idea? Now Preston knows ~~that~~ that you're in on the deal. When he comes back from the canyon, he'll arrest you and try to make you talk!

Hutchins; Preston isn't coming back from that canyon! Not if you two do your part.

Buck; What do you mean?

Hutchins; There's only one entrance to Stoney Canyon. It's strewn with big boulders. The shack is at the other end of the canyon. When the Mounties come back from looking at the shack, I want you both waiting behind those boulders - - with guns. Do I make myself clear?

Buck; (CHUCKLES) Plenty clear, Hutchins. Plenty clear.

Annex; *wind BOK* In less than an hour Sergeant Preston and Constable Blake arrived at the shack and found it deserted. The Sergeant realized at once that he had been tricked.

(STEPS ON BOARD FLOOR)

Blake; No one's lived here for months!

Preston; John Hutchins ~~is~~ ^{is} smarter than we thought.

Blake; What do you mean?

Preston; He must have known the thieves were not in this cabin - so there could only be one reason for sending that message.

Blake; What's that?

Preston; He suspected we were on Croyden's trail. The note was nothing but a lure to get us here.

Blake; Then he figured we would stop the boy to get the note?

Preston; Yes.

Blake;

But why would he want to send us on a wild goose chase?

see rifle shot further

Preston;

He may have simply wanted to confirm his suspicions about us. On the other hand - he may have had a much deeper motive. He may have wanted to send us into a trap, *or gain time to get away.*

Blake;

A trap?

Preston;

There's only one way out of this canyon, and that's the same way we came in. The entrance is narrow, and it's strewn with boulders --

Blake;

You're right, Sergeant! It's a perfect set up for an ambush! Do you think we can fight our way out?

Preston;

We may have to. In any case, I'm glad we have King along to help us.

~~(A ... FADE)~~

Ann cr;

wild geese

The two Mounties left the shack and headed their teams back toward the canyon entrance. About halfway along the canyon, Sergeant Preston called a halt.

(WIND B.G.) (DOGS BARKING)

Ad lib;

0000s STOP

Blake;

What's up, Sergeant?

Preston;

Hold your carbine handy, and be ready to start shooting the second you see anything suspicious. But try not to give the impression that we're on guard.

Blake; Right, Sergeant.

Preston; King!

(FADE IN WHINES)

Preston; King - I want you to ~~go on ahead King~~
~~ahead, follow way ahead. Do you understand?~~

(BARKS, FADE BACK)

~~Preston; That's it, boy. That's the idea!~~

Blake; What's your plan, Sergeant?

Preston; If they're trying to take us by surprise, they'll not warn us by shooting at King. They'll hold their fire until we are within range. But King will smell them out and go for them even though they're hidden.

Blake; Sounds good.

NOW GO KING GO BOY

Preston; All right, let's mush. () On you huskies!

Blake; Mush, you huskies! Mush!

DOGS START LEAVE WITHOUT

(DOG BARKING, FADE UNDER:)

WIND UP
Anncr; The Sergeant and the constable held their dog teams and sleds side-by-side while King ran ahead. Suddenly the dog veered right and charged toward a clump of boulders.

(SNARLS, BACK) (KING CHARGING)

Jake; (BACK) Hey -- the dog! He's comin' at us!

Anncr; King leaped at the crooks who were hidden behind the boulders.

Adlib; (SHOUTS & SCUFFLES)

Anncr; Jake and Croyden had no choice but to turn their attention to the dog. At first they had huddled behind the rock close together so they would not be seen, but now they had to stay there where the Mounties' bullets couldn't reach them. In the close quarters their rifles were clumsy weapons. Croyden tried to club King with the barrel of his rifle, but the dog charged in and seized one arm.

Buck; (CRY IN FRENZY) Get away! Get away!

Anncr; Buck Croyden dropped his rifle and fell back with the dog on top!

Buck; (AD LIBBING) Shoot him! Shoot him! Those Mounties know we're here! We can't hide any longer!

Jake; (CRY OUT) I'll get him!

Anncr; As Jake drew back to bring his rifle to bear on King, he exposed himself to the lawmen. Before he could squeeze the trigger, Sergeant Preston's rifle spoke

(SHOT BACK)

Jake; (CRY OUT)

Blake; (APPROACHING) You got him, Sergeant!

Buck; (HOWLING) Call off this dog! Call him off! Get him away!

Preston; (COMING IN) Lie still and you'll not be hurt!

*0005
D.O.S.
APPL.*

*RIFLE
SHOT
BUCK*

*0005
D.O.S.
APPL.*

*0005
D.O.S.
STOP*

Preston;

~~(AD LIB HO'S)~~

Blake;

~~(AD LIB HO'S)~~~~DOGS~~
~~DOGS~~
~~DOGS~~ (AD LIB BIG. - DOGS BARKING.)

Annrc;

Preston and Blake leaped from the runners of their sleds and closed in --

Preston;

Keep an eye on that one, Blake.

Blake;

Your bullet hit him in the shoulder.

Jake;

It's busted! My shoulder's busted!

Preston;

Down, King! ~~He's a bastard, now!~~ On your feet, Croyden.

Buck;

Tha - that dog --

Preston;

Did he bite you?

Buck;

No - no -- I - I guess not. But he - he had my arm in his jaws --

Preston;

Put the handcuffs on your man, Blake.

Blake;

(BACK) Right.

Preston;

We'll take no chances with him. When he's handcuffed, ~~we~~ see what you can do about his shoulder.

Buck;

Well, Sergeant - I - I didn't think we'd be meeting again so soon.

Preston;

Sorry, Croyden - that you had to be the man.

Buck;

I - I guess -- you know the truth --

Preston;

I'll appear at your trial, Croyden. I'll tell how you saved my life. Because of that, you might escape the hangman. Beyond that, there's nothing I can do to help you.

Buck;

I should have let you die in the snowslide, then you wouldn't have been able to track me down.

Preston;

You'd have been tracked down, Croyden. If not by me - by someone else. No man has ever gotten away with the murder of a ~~MAN~~ ^{MOUNTAIN} ~~NORTHERN~~ ^{NORTHERN} ~~EST~~ ^{EST}

Anncr;

Sergeant Preston stepped forward and took the gun from Croyden's holster. Then - slowly and deliberately, he turned his back to the outlaw and spoke to Constable Blake.

Preston;

How badly is that man wounded, Blake?

Blake;

(BACK) His shoulder's not broken. It's just a flesh wound. I'm putting a dressing on it.

Anncr;

Croyden could hardly believe his good fortune. He saw a chance for freedom. Sergeant Preston's broad back was a tempting target for the wicked knife he carried in his belt. Suddenly he snatched the knife but as he did so, King leaped -

(KING SNARL)

Buck;

(CRY OUT)

Anncr;

For the second time the outlaw's wrist was gripped by the great dog's powerful jaws.

Preston;

All right, King. Thanks, boy.

Buck;

That -that dog!

Preston;

I left the knife in your belt, ~~Cro~~ Cro yden and deliberately turned by back on you. You'd have killed me in an effort to escape.

~~Blow~~
Blow
#10
New
for stock

Buck;

Yes, I would. I hate you! I hate all lawmen! The only reason I didn't let you die near the Steel River was because I thought it would be fun to see a redcoat right in my house - never suspecting who I was!

Preston;

Now I'll use the handcuffs.

(JIGGLE CUFFS)

And I feel much better, Cro yden. Now I'll ^{NOT} feel obligated to put in a word at your ~~trial~~ ^{TRIAL}.

Blake;

Ready to go, Sergeant?

Preston;

Yes. All that remains is to pick up Hutchins. He'll ~~talk~~ -- he'll tell all he knows to escape the hangman.

Blake;

That will do it, Sergeant Preston.

Preston;

Yes, Blake - this case is closed.

cut
WIND

~~theme~~ THEME