

W.B.

SERGEANT PRESTON OF THE YUKON, CREATED BY GEO. W. TRENDLE

Yukon Song
by Fran Striker

Number 1060

Date 12/25/52

Preston
 King
 Inspector....as before.

Sergeant Baker....straight.

Joe.....a trapper

Sara.....ingenue

~~Sara~~ VOICE.....straight

Logan.....heavy.

Al.....heavy. Bit

FILE

Promo

Annex; Sergeant Preston's heart was heavy when he entered the Inspectors office on Christmas Eve after a ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ hurried 24 hour trip.

Prest; Sergeant Preston reporting, Inspector. Why was I recalled from my patrol? What's wrong?

Ins Preston, some surprising things have happened during the past few days. Things that vitally concern you. All the evidence is in the drill hall. We'll go there immediately.

Annex; What is in the drill hall? What will Preston see when the door opens? Be sure to listen.

SERGEANT PRESTON OF THE YUKON

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YUKON SONG

Number 1060

Date: Dec. ²⁵th, 1952

Annecr

Sergeant Preston and his great dog, Yukon King, were on their regular patrol when they stopped for the night in a Way cabin beside the trail. It was warm and snug inside the cabin. Outside, the night was calm and still. The dogs of the team were curled up and nearly buried by the huge flakes of snow that fell slowly and softly. It was the night of December twenty-third.

Preston;

Tomorrow night, King, will be Christmas Eve.

SOFT WHILPER

Preston;

There'll probably be a Christmas tree at headquarters. The fellows who are lucky enough to be in Dawson will be busy tomorrow setting up the tree - and trimming it - and inviting the youngsters in Dawson to come and sing the Christmas carols - (SOFT LAUGH) everyone becomes a youngster on Christmas Eve -

KING WHILPERS EMPHATICALLY

Do you understand what I'm talking about, King?
Why do you look toward the door, Fellow?

LOW BARK.

Preston; What are you trying to tell me?

START DOGS BARKING, OUTSIDE.

Preston; The dogs outside are stirring -

LOW CLOSE BARK.

Preston; All right, King. We'll take a look.

DOOR OPENS. DOGS LOUDER

Preston; (COMMAND) Quiet!

KING, ONE SHARP BARK. DOGS SUBSIDE.

Baker; (BACK) Preston -

Preston; (SHOUT) Hello there - (CLOSE) King, that looks like Sergeant Baker coming along the trail - and alone - (SHOUT) Is that you, Baker?

Baker; (NEARER) That's right!

DOGS STIR UNEASILY

Preston; Steady there, you fellows, you know Sergeant Baker.

Baker; (COMING IN) Glad I caught up to you, Preston. Good thing you followed your usual route.

Preston; Come inside.

STEPS IN. STAMP OFF SNOW AS

DOOR CLOSES ETC.

Baker; Phew! I've been traveling fast.

Preston; Give me your parka - I'll dry it out near the fire. Hungry?

Baker; Starved.

KING WHILPERS?

Preston; I'll warm up some food.

Baker; Hello there, King. How are you fella.

ADLIB HANDLING COOKING GEAR

Preston; You said you were glad you caught up to me--

Baker; Yeah. The Inspector sent me to bring you back to Dawson.

Preston; But I just left Dawson yesterday morning.

Baker; I know it.

Preston; I have a six week patrol to cover.

Baker; Constable Brent has been assigned to cover it for you.

Preston; Why?

Baker; Because the Inspector wants you in headquarters at the earliest possible moment.

Preston; Is something wrong?

Baker; You'll have to ask the inspector.

Preston; I don't understand--

Baker; (SIGH) It's good to sit down!

Preston; Is it an order that I return?

Baker; The inspector told me to bring you in. I consider that an order.

Preston; Am- am I to consider myself under arrest?

Baker; There was nothing said about arresting you.

Preston; (DRYLY) I'm grateful for that. () Baker, am I supposed to have broken some rules ?

Baker; Preston, I'm sorry, but I can't tell you a blamed thing!

Preston; All right. Do you want to start early in the morning, or -

Baker; We'd better start tonight. The way its snowing the trail will be mighty heavy--

Preston; Very well. But it's a long trip- and if you've had no rest -

Baker; We'll take turns driving the team and dozing in the sled...

Preston; Watch your food so it doesn't burn. I'll hitch the dogs. Come along, King -

DOOR OPENS. DOGS STIRRING

Line dem up, Boy!

DOOR CLOSE. KING BARKING, FADE.

Annrc; The dogs, after their evening meal, were settled for the night and were not enthusiastic about being put back into harness - but they obeyed Yukon King and moved to their places on the tow-line. A little later Sergeant Baker stepped aboard the sled and Preston shouted -

Preston; On King. On you huskies.

DOGS AND SLED FADE OUT

- Annex; After traveling a considerable distance thru the night, Sergeant Preston called a halt. While the dogs rested, he lighted a small alcohol stove and filled a kettle with clean, fresh snow.
- Preston; We'll have boiling water in a couple of minutes. Then for a cup of tea.
- Baker; That'll hit the spot. When we start out again, Sergeant, I'll drive the team while you take a nap on the sled.
- Preston; All right, Baker. () I wish I knew why the Inspector sent for me.
- Baker; Are you worried?
- Preston; I know of only three times when a man has been recalled from patrol. All three of those men were questioned about infractions of the rules. Two were reprimanded. The third was dismissed from the service. (BITTER LAUGH) Christmas Eve would be a fine time to get tossed out - or demoted -
- Baker; Um. I wish I could relieve your mind. Does the name, Joe Tarbuck, mean anything to you?
- Preston; Joe Tarbuck? Yes. I know him. Why?
- Baker; He's in Dawson.
- Prest; Oh.
- Baker; I heard that you and Tarbuck were once involved in some kind of battle-

Preston; That's true, but we weren't fighting each other.
We were on the same side - fighting fur thieves.

Baker; Is that how it was?

Preston; Yes. Joe's a trapper. I can't imagine why he's in Dawson at this time of year. He always spends the winter at his cabin in the Elbow River country.

Baker; That water's boiling.

Preston; Hold out your cup.

POURING

Baker; Tell me about you and Joe Tarbuck - and the fight-

Preston; It was in December, several years ago. I was on patrol and had a couple of letters for Joe. His cabin was about ^{FIVE} ~~ten~~ miles off my route, so I left my sled and all the dogs except King in a settlement. King and I went through a woods to reach Joe's cabin. The cabin was in a valley about a hundred yards beyond the woods. King was uneasy as we crossed that stretch of open country.

SNEAK IN KING WHINING. FOOTSTEPS.

I thought King was whining because he smelled the game that Joe had taken in his traps. I didn't know that anything was wrong until I was about ten yards from the cabin. Then I heard Joe shout-

Joe; (BACK) (MUFFLED) Go back! Get back to that woods!

Preston; (SHOUT) Joe, is that you?

Joe; (BACK) (MUFFLED) Yes. Go back or you'll die with me!

Preston; (SHOUT) I have some mail for you.

Joe; (NEARER) Never mind it. Turn back, I tell yuh.

Preston; (CALL) I want to see you. I'm coming in.

(CLOSE) Be ready for anything, King. (CALL) Did you hear me, Tarbuck? I said I'm coming in.

DOOR OPEN FAST,

Preston; Come on, King.

BARKS

DOOR CLOSES.

Joe; (SLIGHTLY BACK) You shouldn't of come here, Sergeant.

Preston; Quiet, King.

Joe; King. Is that your dog's name?

Preston; Yes. Tell me what-

Joe; (CUT IN) Your name must be Preston.

Preston; That's right.

Joe; I heard your dog- then I looked out the window at the side and saw you comin' - I wish you'd turned back.

Preston; Why? What's the matter with you?

Joe; I'm a doomed man. And now - you're doomed too.

Preston; Doomed? What do you mean?

Joe; The crooks'll never let either of us leave here.

Preston; What crooks?

- Joe; Al Bristow and his pals.
- Preston; Al Bristow! He's wanted for murder!
- Joe; Well he's within shoutin' distance right now, but you can't get him.
- Preston; Where is he?
- Joe; He and his three pals are on the ridge that overlooks the front of this cabin. They're behind big boulders.
- Preston; I didn't see any tracks in the valley.
- Joe; I reckon they came from the other side of the ridge. When I stepped outside this morning to go look at my traplines, a couple of bullets went past me an' hit the cabin. Then Bristow shouted to me. He said those shots were a warning. He said he didn't want to hurt me, but he intended to get my furs so's he could raise cash to get out of the Yukon.
- Preston; He knows he'll hang if he's captured.
- Joe; He said if I'd stand with my hands up, he an' his pals would come down the hill- take my furs an' clear out.
- Preston; They'd kill you before they left.
- Joe; That's what I figured. I jumped back into the cabin an' shut the door. I've been watchin' that hill ever since.
- Preston; I have something to say to Al Bristow.

QUICK STEPS . DOOR OPENS .

Joe; (FADING BACK) Be careful Sergeant, you're an easy target in the open doorway--

Prest; (SHOUT) Bristow, are you still there?

SHOT, BACK. BULLET HITS HOUSE, CLOSE.

KING SNARLS WILDLY.

Preston; (QUICKLY) Steady, King. Hold it, boy! Quiet!

Al; (BACK) That'll tell yuh we're still here.

Preston; (SHOUT) The law wants you.

Alc (BACK) I know what the law wants. The law wants to hang me. Well I'll never be taken alive, see?
(FADING) I've got three men with me, an' we know where we stand--

BREAK

Preston; (FADING IN) You see, Baker, those crooks knew they had us trapped. They could watch through narrow gaps between the boulders on the ridge and shoot us easily if we tried to leave the cabin. Al Bristow said he'd take the furs and leave us alive, if we'd surrender-- but I knew he'd never keep his word.

Baker; Did the crooks plan to starve you out?

Preston; I don't know what they planned t@ do.

Baker; What did you do?

Preston; I wrote a note and fastened it to King's collar.

Baker; King was in the cabin with you and Tarbuck--

- Preston: Yes. When it got dark I opened the window in the side of the cabin. I held King by the collar and pointed in the direction of the settlement. I called off the names of the sled dogs. King understood. He knew I wanted him to join his team mates.
- Baker; Um.
- Preston; I hoped the man with whom I'd left the dogs would see the note fastened to King's collar and send help.
- Baker; Didn't King have to cross a hundred yards or so of open country before he reached the woods?
- Preston; Yes.
- Baker; Even on a dark night he could be seen against the snow. I should think you'd have been afraid the crooks on the ridge would shoot King.
- Preston: I was sure they'd fire at him, but as for hitting him - well, it was a calculated risk. He went through the window and traveled like a streak of lightning.
- Baker; I've seen him run. He's fast.
- Preston; He made a difficult target. He was half way to the woods before the outlaws realized what was happening and fired their first shot. Joe was watching the ridge. He fired at the gunflashes. His bullets may have rattled the crooks. At any rate, King reached the shelter of the woods without being hit.

Baker; Obviously King brought help, or you and Tarbuck wouldn't be alive.

Preston; We both owe our lives to King.

Baker; Tarbuck could hardly have been filing a complaint about you. () Do you think the dogs are rested?

Preston; Yes. They're ready to go. () Line 'em up, King!

BARKS.

Anncr; A few minutes later Sergeant Baker shouted -

Baker; On, King. On you huskies!

DOGS AND SLED START

Anncr; The sled moved on toward Dawson, with Sergeant Preston riding.

DOGS AND SLED FULL UP AND FADE OUT

Anncr; Another halt was made at daybreak. The cooking gear was unpacked and the two men prepared a simple breakfast. The snow had stopped falling and the day was crisp and crystal clear.

ADLIB BG. BIZ OF BREAKFAST

Baker; Preston, are you still worried about why the Inspector sent for you?

Preston; I'm not exactly worried - but I'm mighty curious.

Baker; You've been doing good work. He may want to commend you - or give you a Christmas gift.

Prest; You know better than that!

Baker; Do I ?

Prest; Yes, you do! The Inspector has never called a man in from patrol for a commendation, and it is against the policy to exchange Christmas gifts!

Baker; The water's boiling-

Baker; Do I ?

Preston: Yes. The Inspector would never call a man in from patrol for a commendation.

Baker; Well - I'll admit he's never done such a thing-
() The water's boiling.

Preston: You make the tea. I'm watching these flapjacks.

Baker; Right. By the way, do you remember a girl named Sara Leonard?

Preston; Sara Leonard? Yes. Why?

Baker; She's in Dawson.

Preston; She is?

Baker; Um. She asked about you. She was disappointed when she learned you'd left on patrol.

Preston; (THOUGHTFUL) A fine girl - I met her in Dawson two years ago, when she arrived from the States. She came on the Yukon Queen.

SNEAK IN CROWD AND BOAT LANDING BG

King and I were at the dock watching the passengers leave the ship. An attractive girl came down the gangplank. She looked a bit confused and uncertain. Then she saw my uniform (FADING) She come up to me and introduced herself-

Sara; (COMING IN) Officer, My name is Sara Leonard - I just arrived here on the Yukon Queen-

Preston; How do you do, Miss Leonard. My name is Preston.

Sara; Is it - Captain Preston?

Preston; No. I'm a Sergeant. () Welcome to the Yukon.

KING WHILPER

Sara; Thank you.

Preston; This is my dog - Yukon King.

Sara; Oh, hello, King. You are a fine fellow!

KING WHILPERS. THEN SUBSIDES

Preston; May we be of service?

Sara; Perhaps you can tell me how to reach Moose Canyon.

Preston; That's desolate country- particularly for a girl like you.

Sara; I'm going there to join my uncle. Perhaps you know him. His name is Sam Leonard.

Preston; I don't know him, but I'd heard of him. He's been panning gold.

Sara; Yes. He's my father's brother. When my parents died, he invited me to come and live with him.

Preston; Did he know you'd arrive on this boat?

Sara; Oh yes. He said he wouldn't try to meet me - he's an old man, you see -

Preston; Um.

Sara; He sent me money and suggested that I hire someone to take me to his place - by horse or dogsled, depending on travel conditions.

Preston; It's late in the year for travel by sled. Can you ride a horse?

Sara; Yes. Do you know where I can rent one? And do you think I'll need a guide?

Preston; Miss Leonard -- do you know your Uncle?

Sara; Yes and no - (SLIGHT LAUGH) - I've had letters from him ever since I was a little girl -- but I've never seen him.

Preston; I'm leaving on my patrol tomorrow morning. Moose Canyon is just a few miles off my route. I'll take you there.

Sara; Oh-h, thank you!

Preston; (FADING OUT) I'll make arrangements for your horse. We'll rent one at the livery stable --

(FADE OUT B.G.)

PRESTON: (FADING IN) I didn't know anything about Sam Leonard and I thought by going to his cabin, I'd find out what kind of a man he was. Sara spent the night at the Dawson hotel. I met her early the next morning. She rode a horse I had rented and I rode my own Blackie. King, of course, went with us. It was late afternoon as we approached Sam Leonard's home. I noticed that the cabin was solidly built with a good chimney. It stood at the edge of a ravine.

(SNEAK IN HOOF'S AT WALK)

As we drew rein, the door swung open and a white haired man waved his hand. HE CALLED --

(HOOFS STOPPING)

Logan; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Hi there!

(KING GROWLS, SOFTLY)

Preston; Hello! Are you Sam Leonard?

Logan; (SLIGHTLY BACK) That's right.

Sara; Then you're my uncle Sam.

(KING GROWLING SOFTLY)

Preston; (ASIDE) Quiet, King. (DISMOUNTS)

Logan; (SLIGHTLY BACK) And you're Sara! (COMING IN)
Welcome to your new home. Let me help you off
that horse.

(KING GROWLS)

Preston; Take it easy, King! What's the matter with you?

Sara; (DISMOUNTING) Uncle Sam, this is Sergeant Preston.

Logan; Glad to know you, Sergeant.

Preston; Hello, Leonard.

(KING STILL GROWLING, LOW)

Logan; That dog of your's doesn't seem to like me.

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

(KING SUBSIDES)

Logan; I never did get along with animals. () Where's
all your luggage, Sara?

Sara; It's still in Dawson. I've made arrangements to
have it sent here.

Logan; Well come on inside. You too, Sergeant. ()
Where'd you get that horse, Sara?

Sara; From the livery stable.

Preston; I'll take it back with me. () King, you stay
out here and keep an eye on the horses.

(SOFT BARK) (STEPS IN, DOOR CLOSES)

Logan; Sit down. Make yourselves at home, but be careful
you don't touch the walls. I've just painted 'em
an' the paint's still fresh.

Sara; Your cabin looks very nice, Uncle Sam.

Logan; Glad you like it, Sara. There's a room over there
for you. You fix it any way you like. (FADING)
I'll stir up the fire and start some food to cookin'.

Preston; (FADE IN) I stayed in the cabin for about an hour
and during the whole time, King scratched on the
door and whined uneasily. Then I said good-bye
- mounted my horse and gathered up the reins of the
rented horse. After leaving the cabin, we traveled
a short distance thru a woods. Then King left the
trail and signified that he wanted me to follow.

Baker; Where did he go?

Preston; He went straight to the edge of the ravine, then
turned and headed back toward Leonard's cabin. When
we were close to the cabin, but screened by fir trees,
King stopped and looked into the ravine. I dismounted
and looked down. At the bottom of the thirty foot
drop, I saw the body of a man.

Baker; Let me guess, Sergeant Preston. Was that man Sam Leonard?

Preston; Yes.

Baker; I heard about that case.

Preston; He was alive but unconscious. His skull was fractured.

Baker; As I remember the case, you knew as soon as you saw Leonard that the man in the cabin was an imposter.

Preston; Yes. It was a simple deduction because the man I found unconscious had fresh paint splattered on his clothes - - the same paint he'd used on the walls of his cabin.

Baker; Who was the man in the cabin?

Preston; A crook named Logan.

Baker; Why did he go there?

Preston; He planned to steal Sam's gold. He talked to Sam, hoping to learn where the gold was hidden. Instead he learned that Sara was expected momentarily.

Baker; I see.

Preston; He slugged Sam and ^{PUSHED} ~~threw~~ him ^{INTO} ~~over~~ the ravine. He was looking for the gold when we arrived, so he posed as Sam Leonard.

Baker; The girl would probably have been killed if you hadn't returned to the cabin when you did.

Preston; I'm sure she owes her life to King - -

Baker; And to you! And so does Sam Leonard. He'd have died if you hadn't found him and given medical attention. () How much of a stretch did Logan get?

Preston; Ten years for attempted murder.

Baker; You've put a lot of crooks in jail, Preston.

Preston; With King's help.

Baker; And you've made a lot of friends.

Preston; I hope I've made a few.

Baker; Well, let's get on our way! We should reach Dawson tonight.

Preston; We'll make it. Line 'em up, King!

(BARKS & ADLIB DOGS) (FADE OUT)

Anncr; Throughout the day, the Mounties took turns driving the team. The dogs were strong and seemed to know that they were heading home. The sled flashed across the clean snow, and finally into the town of Dawson. Darkness had just gathered, and in the windows of many houses, Christmas candles could be seen.

(SNEAK IN DOGS & SLED)

Anncr; Sergeant Preston brought the team to a halt in front of headquarters.

Preston; (AD LIB HO'S)

(SLED STOPPING)

Baker; There's a light in the Inspector's office, Sergeant Preston. He's probably waiting for you.

Preston; I'll go right in. Will you take the dogs around to the back?

Baker; Sure thing.

Preston; You go with them, King.

Baker; Come on, King. Lush!

(DOGS FADING AS

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

Annor; As Sergeant Preston closed the door, the Inspector looked up from his desk. His face was expressionless.

Preston; Sergeant Preston reporting, Sir.

Ins; Preston, during the past few days there has been a lot of talk about you.

Preston; ~~I haven't heard it, Sir.~~
THERE HAS

Ins; ~~No - I suppose you haven't.~~
YES

Preston; ~~Why wasn't~~ *IS THAT WHY I WAS* brought back from patrol?

Ins; A lot of things have been happening during the past twenty-four hours. Things that directly concern you!

Preston; Oh -

CHAIR SCRAPES.

Ins; *ALL THE EVIDENCE IS IN THE DRILL HALL.*
Come with me. ~~I've something to show you.~~

STEPS SUSTAIN AS

Annrcr; The inspector took Preston by the arm and walked through a short corrider that connected the office to a large room that was used as a drill hall and gymnasium. ~~The door was closed.~~ **WHEN HE OPENED THE DOOR**

STEPS HALT

Insp; Preston, in that room you'll see why you were brought back from patrol.

Prest; I- I will?

Insp; Yes. Open the door.

DOOR OPENS. SUDDEN BURST OF CROWD

ADLIB: (CROWD , BACK, SHOUTING GREETINGS)

Annrcr; The room was filled with Preston's friends and buddies, all shouting joyous greetings. There was a Christmas Tree at one end of the big room, and there was a long table gaily decorated with evergreen, holly, mistletoe and ribbons - and loaded with good things to eat. In a moment Preston was surrounded **BY THE PEOPLE HE HAD HELPED**

ADLIB: (XMAS GREETINGS, CLOSE)

Annrcr; ~~There were~~ men and women from Dawson and other towns; ~~there were~~ miners from the gold fields and trappers from faraway cabins in the wilderness...

Pr
~~Insp;~~ (DAZED) Inspector - these- these people - they're all my friends -

Insp; Do you begin to get the idea, Preston? Your friends have been working for weeks to prepare this surprise for you.

Preston; Joe Tarbuck! Merry Christmas, Joe -

ADLIB: (CONTINUING)

Preston; And there are Sara Leonard - and her uncle Sam -

Insp Preston, look at the other end of the room. You'll see another surprise.

Preston; Another - (GASP) A band!

(TUNING)

Anncr; Red-coated mounties were grouped with their gleaming musical instruments in readiness. The leader tapped his baton -

TAPPING BATON * BACK

Insp; They've written a song for you.

Voice; (BACK) Ready men -

Preston; For- for me?

Voice; (BACK) Let's give Preston our Christmas greeting.
One - Two -

THE SONG STRAIGHT THRU;
APPLAUSE AND CROWD NOISES.

Anncr; During the applause the Inspector guided Sergeant Preston to a seat at the head of the big table with its load of candies, cakes and sandwiches - then picked up a spoon and tapped for attention-

TAPPING ON PLATE

Insp; (CALL) Quiet, Please - Quiet!

CROWD NOISES SUBSIDE

Insp; (CUE) Sit down, everyone. I know you're all hungry -- particularly Sergeant Preston, who traveled a long way to be here with us. BUT I -

Adlib; (STIR)

Preston; Just a moment. You folks start eating the supper, but please excuse me for a few minutes. You see, King and the other dogs are right out there behind the building. They know what's going on here. I never enjoy food unless I know they're well fed, so I'd like to go to them and --

Insp; (CUT IN) Preston, they've been fed. Those fellows have had an extra special Christmas meal that the cook prepared for them.

Preston; Oh.

(START DOGS OUTSIDE, HOWLING)

Baker; (BACK) Hear that, Sergeant Preston?

Preston; Yes, that's my dog team! I'll open the door.

(DOOR OPEN) (DOGS FULL)

Sara; (CUE) I declare, I do believe they're singing!

(DOGS CONTINUE TO ONE DOG PEAK)

Preston; (LAUGHS) That's King's voice!

Baker; (SLIGHTLY BACK) He's leading them!

Insp; The Christmas carol of Yukon King!

(DOGS FULL UP TO FINISH)

Insp; Bring King in here. This is his party too!
Call him!

Preston; (CALLS) Here, King! Come on, Boy.

BARKS COMING IN FAST

ADLIB: Merry Christmas, King.
Hi there, King.
Hello, King! etc

ADLIB BARKING

Prest; (LAUGHING) All right, fellow, take it easy.

Voice; (BACK) How about a speech from King? (LAUGHS)

Joe; (BACK) How about a speech from Sergeant Preston!

Voice; (BACK) That's what we want!

ADLIB: (STIR ABOUT SPEECH)

Insp; They're calling for you, Preston.

Preston; All right, sir.

CROWD STARTS TO SUBSIDE

Voice; (BACK) Quiet down! -

CROWD SUBSIDES

Preston; Friends, I do want to say a few words. I'm a happy man tonight. I'm happy to know that I have you as friends, and proud that you consider me worthy of your friendship.

Friendship is like the Spirit of Christmas. It reaches out to touch men, no matter where they are. On other Christmas Eves King and I have been alone in wilderness camps. Even there we felt the warmth of Christmas because we knew our friends were thinking of us, just as we were thinking of them.

Friendship, based on mutual trust and understanding, is true brotherhood. Humbly I accept your friendship. It is a priceless gift. In return, I give my word that I shall try to deserve what you have so generously given. To all of you - a Merry Christmas.

APPLAUSE

ADLIB: (Merry Christmas etc)

Insp; (LAUGHING) Well, Preston, feel better than you did a little while ago?

Prest; I admit sir, I was somewhat concerned - I couldn't imagine why you sent for me - but I'm glad you did!

Insp; All right then - this case is closed.

theme

CAROL (IF NEEDED)

Insp; (LAUGHING) Well, Preston, feel better than you did a little while ago? I just had to keep the secret - everybody worked so hard on it - but it was tough when I saw your face -

Prest; I admit, sir, I was greatly concerned. I couldn't imagine why you sent for me, but now, I'm glad you did. A Merry Christmas, Inspector.

Insp A Merry Christmas to you, Lad - and to use your own words - this case is closed.

theme