

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, created by Geo. W. Trendle

The Case that made Preston a Sergeant.

by Fran Striker

Number 1089

Date 4/7/53

Striker

Preston

King

Inspector.

Spike Wilsonheavy

Mooseheavy

Leftyheavy

Blakebit

Joebit

Promo. The Case that Made Preston a Sergeant.

Annncr;

Where was Sergeant Preston born? Where did he go to school? Why did he become a Mountie? These questions have been asked many times. They will be answered in our next exciting adventure when Sergeant Preston puts his life at stake in an effort to capture the man who killed his father. Be sure to listen!

Sergeant Preston

by Fran Striker

Number 1089

The Case that Made Preston a Sergeant.

Date 4/7/53

Annor; There have been many inquiries about the early life of Sergeant Preston. Many friends have written to ask; "Where was he born?" "Where did he go to school?" "Why did he become a Mountie?" We are going to answer all these questions in the adventure known as the Case that Made Preston a Sergeant.

BREAK

Annor; Bill Preston was born in the United States, but moved to Canada with his parents in early boyhood. Years later he returned to the States to enter college. He was completing his final year when word came that his father had been murdered in the Yukon. He read the message to his roommate, then said -

Prest; Joe, I'm going to get that killer!

- Joe; According to that message, the police know who he is.
- Preston; Spike Wilson.
- Joe; Yes. The police will probably get him, Bill. Leave it to them.
- Preston; I'm going to get him.
- Joe; *But* you can't go to the Yukon and take the law into your own hands! Besides, that's wilderness country -
- Preston; Joe, I came from there. Remember? I've traveled all through the Yukon with - with my father. *I know that country and* I'll find Spike Wilson!
- Joe; *Even if you find him - what'll you do?*
~~Then what'll you do?~~
- Preston; *I'll make him pay in full for - for what he did!*
~~I'll see that he pays in full!~~
- Joe; He's probably tough - he probably is armed-
- Preston; I'll be ~~armed~~ *tough, Joe - and I'll be armed.*
- Joe; *now Bill - let's talk it over. Suppose you*
If you find him - and kill him - you'll be hanged!
Let's discuss it, Bill. You have no authority to go manhunting.
- Preston; I'll get the authority. I'll join the Mounties!

BREAK

Annor: Preston left college the same day and, in due time, reached the headquarters of the Northwest Mounted Police. ^{He applied for membership and his application} ~~His application for membership was accepted.~~
^{was accepted.} After rigorous training, he became a constable and traveled through the Yukon on ^{routine} ~~various~~ assignments. Then, one day in the Inspector's office, he said -

Preston; Inspector, may I request an assignment?

Ins; You may request it, Preston. What is it?

Prest; I'd like to go after the man who killed my father.

Ins; Spike Wilson?

Pres; Yes sir.

Ins; He's been hunted for a long time. He's wanted for a number of crimes.

Pres; But he has not been found.

Ins; He may have left the country.

Pres; I've been making inquiries, Inspector. I think he is still in the Territory.

Ins; Very well, Preston. Get Spike Wilson!

BLAST OF WIND, THEN UNDER

Prest; On King! On you huskies!

DOGS START AND FADE

WIND SUSTAINS UNDER -

Annex; During the months that followed, Preston followed leads that took him over many Yukon trails, but all led to a dead end. He traveled south to the border and north across the tundra ^{to} ~~above~~ the Arctic ^{Sea} circle. He knew hardship, privation, and discouragement. But he kept on relentlessly, and finally, at the end of a wind-swept trail, he found a camp. He was face to face with the killer of his father.

Preston; Wilson, you're under arrest in the name of the Crown.

Wilson; Yeah? (LAUGHS) You think I'm scared of a ^{Mountie} Mountie?

Preston; My name is Preston!

Wilson; Preston?

Preston; You killed my father!

Wilson; (SNARLS) So that's who you are! Well I got your father - and I'll get you! (EFFORT)

ADLIB BLOWS AND FIGHT AS

Annex; Spike Wilson charged, but Preston didn't draw his gun. Instead, he dodged the outlaw's fist, then smashed a blow to Wilson's jaw.

BLOWS.

He followed this with other blows -

Preston; (FIGHTING) I'm - taking - you - in - alive !

MORE BLOWS AS

Annrcr; Long pent-up bitterness gave devastating power to Preston's fists. No man, not even Spike Wilson who outweighed the Mountie by forty pounds, could stand up before such an attack.

Spike; (GASPING) No - No more -

Preston; (BREATHLESS) Had enough?

Spike; I - I - had - enough -

Preston; I'll take that gun. Now stick out your hands.

ADLIB HANDCUFFS

Spike; I - I can't travel - all the way - back - wearin' handcuffs -

Preston; That's how you're going to travel!

SNAP CUFFS.

Preston; Now stand up! We're starting for Dawson!

BREAK

Annrcr; A long time had elapsed since the murder of Preston's father, ^{son} and witnesses had ^{died or} disappeared. Much to the Mountie's disappointment, there was insufficient evidence to prove the charge of murder. But Wilson was found guilty of other crimes and sent to prison for life.

SNEAK IN WIND BG. AND DOG BARKS

Annor; ~~It was~~ several months after the Spike Wilson case when Preston and his great dog, Yukon King, returned from a routine patrol ~~They~~ ^{and} found constable Blake standing outside the door of the Mountie headquarters in Dawson.

Preston; (COMING IN) Hello, Blake.

Blake; Glad to see you, Preston. You too, King.

BARK.

Preston; That's enough, King.

Blake; Much snow in the back country?

Preston; Lots of it, and more on the way. Is the Inspector in his office?

Blake; Yes. And he wants to see you.

Preston; I'll go right in.

DOOR OPENS.

Insp; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Preston!

Preston; How do you do, Inspector.

Insp; (SLIGHTLY BACK) I thought I recognized King's bark. I'd like to speak to you at once.

Preston; Yes sir.

Blake; I'll take King to the kennel.

Preston; Thanks, Blake.

Blake; (FADING) Come on, King.

DOOR CLOSE. CUT WIND.

Insp; We'll talk in my private office.

STEPS CROSS ROOM AS

Insp; I didn't see your sled -

Preston; I left ^{my} the sled and ~~gogteam~~ at my cabin.

Insp; Oh.

DOOR OPENS.

Preston; After you, Sir.

Insp; Please close the door.

DOOR CLOSE.

Insp; Sit down, Preston. I have some news for you.
(SITS DOWN) Bad news.

CHAIR SCRAPE.

Prest; What is it, Inspector?

Insp; Spike Wilson has escaped from prison.
(PAUSE) I said, Spike Wilson has escaped from
prison.

Prest; I - I heard you, Sir.

Insp; Well? Have you no comment?

Prest; (SLOWLY) I - I think I'm partly to blame.

Insp; You? Preposterous! You had nothing to do
with it.

Preston; If I'd found him before the witnesses to the murder disappeared, he would have been hanged.

Insp; Preston, you found him! That's more than the other officers could do.

Preston; I - I had the chance to shoot him -

Insp; It's to your credit that you didn't.

Preston; He attacked me. I could have killed him!

Insp; You handled the situation in the right way.

Preston; Well - he's once more at large.

Insp; He'll ~~hang~~ this time, when he's caught. He killed a guard in making his escape - and there are eye-witnesses!

he'll hang!

Preston; Good.

Insp; He knows he'll hang, so he'll do anything to avoid capture. He'll kill again! I'm assigning you to the case. Bring him in.

and he can only hang once -

If he has an opportunity, he'll kill the man who tries to capture him. I don't want

Preston; I'll do my best, Inspector.

Insp; That's all we ask of any man. And by the way -

Preston; Yes?

Insp; If you capture him alive, I'll recommend that you be promoted to a Sergeant.

Preston; Thank you, Sir. When did Wilson escape?

Insp; The day before yesterday. *I'll tell you all we*
~~information.~~ *know about him.*

CHAIR SCRAPES.

Step over to the wall map.

A COUPLE OF STEPS

Insp; The prison is located right here, Northwest of Dawson.

Prest; Yes sir.

Insp; When Wilson escaped, he left tracks in the snow.
 He went to the Snake River. There was no snow on
 the river, so the tracks were lost.

Preston; He'll probably stay on the river ice to avoid
 leaving a trail.

Insp; That's right. He could travel either north
 or south.

Preston; He'll probably head south in the hope of
 reaching the border.

Insp; If he reaches the border, he'll be out of
 our jurisdiction and we'll never get him.

Preston; You say, he escaped the day before yesterday?

Insp; Yes.

Preston; In that case, I may be able to intercept him
 by traveling due west until I hit the river.

Insp; That's what I thought.

Preston; My gear is still packed on my sled. I'll start at once.

Insp; Good luck to you.

BREAK

DOGTEAM EST. THEN OUT DURING-

Anncr; With Yukon King running as a free lead, Preston guided his dogteam west until he reached Snake River. There, on the river bank, he made camp for the night. He felt reasonably certain, after calculating the time elapsed since the jailbreak, that Spike Wilson could not have traveled that far south. And he was right. The outlaw was in a cave near the river, miles north of the Mountie's camp. In the cave, by previous arrangement, Spike met two men known as Moose and Lefty. Moose was saying -

Moose; I figure that by followin' the river, we should reach the border without trouble.

Spike; So that's how you figure, eh Moose?

Moose; Yeah, Spike. Anything wrong with it?

Spike; I'm not ready to leave the Yukon.

Lefty; Not ready?

Spike; You heard me, Lefty.

Lefty; But you've gotta leave. You're number one man on the Mounties' list of outlaws!

Moose; Why don't you want to leave, Spike?

Spike: I've got a debt to pay, and I'm goin' to pay it.

Moose; (LAUGHS) Debts. Who cares about debts?

Spike: I care about this one. I owe a lot to a Mountie named Preston.

Moose: Preston? Isn't he the one who captured you?

Spike; Yeah. And before he captured me, he beat me up.

Moose; Beat you up? That's hard to believe, Spike. I've seen you handle your fists.

Lefty: Preston must be mighty good.

Spike; It wasn't a fair fight. He found me asleep in my camp. He started pistol whippin' me before I was awake.

Moose: A mountie did that?

Spike: Didn't I say so?

Moose; It's hard to believe.

Spike; Moose, if you're callin' me a liar -

Moose; Take it easy, Spike. I didn't call you a liar. I meant that Preston must be a downright mean critter.

Spike; He's goin' to pay for what he did to me. I'm goin' to find him, and make him wish he'd never been born.

- Lefty; Spike, you'll be riskin' your neck if you go around lookin' for Preston. You're well known in this part of the country. The word'll go out that you're wanted for murder- and that there's a reward. Someone is sure to turn you in.
- Spike; Lefty, did I ask for your advice?
- Lefty; No, but-
- Spike; Then shut yer mouth. I'm not goin' out lookin' for Preston or anyone else. I'm stayin' right here in this cave.
- Lefty; Then how'll you find him?
- Spike; I'll leave that to you and Moose.
- Moose; You want us to go out and find Preston?
- Spike; Yes. Bring him here! (CHUCKLES) I can hardly wait to get him in front of me - with his hands tied behind his back! Maybe I'll use his own handcuffs on him! Then I'll start by slappin' him around - after that I'll use my fists! ^{then maybe a knife.} I'll punish him aplenty, before I finally kill him!
- Lefty; I don't see why we should run the risk of tryin' to capture a Mountie- just so you c'n ^{settle} ~~pay off~~ a grudge -
- Spikel Didn't we agree to team up ?
- Lefty; Yes, but-

Spike; And you two agreed that I'd be the boss.

Lefty; All right, all right, Spike/

Spike; As soon as I'm through with ^{Preston.} ~~the Mountie~~, we'll head for the states. Then I'll show you boys how to crack a few banks.

Moose; Have you any idea where we'll find that Mountie?

Spike; Yes. Here's how I figure things. Preston captured me the last time, so he'll be sent out to get me again. He'll know I reached Snake River. He'll figure that I'll head south for the border.

Moose; He'll figure right.

Spike; If you two head south, followin' the river, you'll probably meet him.

Lefty; Why don't you go with us, Spike? Then we won't have to bring the mountie back here.

Spike; He knows me. He might spot us before we see him, then he'd have the drop on us.

Lefty; The only trouble is, we're tenderfeet in country like this. I'm not used to travelin' in so much snow, and neither is Moose. We might get lost.

Spike; All you gotta do is follow the river!

Lefty; Well - we'll do the best we can.

Spike; Get a good night's sleep and start out in the morning.

Anncr; ~~Snow fell~~ ^D during the night, ~~it was soft snow, that~~
fell ~~slowly~~ in big flakes ~~with~~ ^{ice} piling high on shrubs
and trees and on the river. It was still snowing
when Preston broke camp in the morning and started
north. Meanwhile, Moose and Lefty headed south.
Unused to the Yukon, they found it difficult to
travel. The river was slippery despite the six
inch layer of snow, so they traveled thru the deeper
snow along the bank. Their progress was slow. After
hours of tiring effort, they stopped to rest beneath
a huge tree's spreading branches. They had been
there but a short time when they saw a dog team
approaching from the south.

(DOGS START, FAR BACK, FADE NEARER)

Moose; Lefty, it's a Mountie drivin' that team. Do you
think he's Preston?

Lefty; Might be.

Moose; If he is, I'll take my hat off to Spike. He sure
had it figured out just right.

Lefty; Hey, Moose - one of those dogs is runnin' free!

Moose; ~~Just like Spike said.~~ ^{Preston had a free lead dog.} I reckon that's Preston.
I'll wave to the Mountie. (SHOUT) HI there!

Preston; (BACK) Hello!

Lefty; He's waved back. I reckon he'll stop.

(DOGS COME IN & STOP AS:)

Preston; (AD LIB WHOA'S)

Moose; Howdy, Mountie.

Preston; Hello. Are you men strangers in this part of the country?

(KING SNARLS AS:)

Moose; Yeah.

Lefty; (FEAR) Hey, that big dog of your's is snarlin' at us!

Preston; He'll not hurt you. () Quiet, King.

Lefty; I'm scared of dogs, Mister! I never did get along with them.

Preston; I said he wouldn't hurt you.

Lefty; Just the same, I'd feel better if you'd chain him... unless you're goin' right on.

Preston; I'll chain him. I'd like to talk to you men for a few minutes.

(KING WHIMPERS AS:)

Annrc; Preston snapped one end of a chain to King's collar - then fastened the other end to ^{the handle of} his heavy sled.

(AD LIB SNAPS)

Preston; Sorry, King, but we don't want to alarm these men.

Lefty; That's better. Thanks, Mister.

Preston; How far have you two traveled?

Moose; We've been travelin' for several days. We're headin' for the border.

Preston; I'm looking for a man who escaped from prison. I wonder if you happened to see him.

Moose; We didn't see anyone, did we Lefty?

Lefty; Nope.

Moose; By the way, Mister - - what's your name?

Preston; Preston. Bill Preston.

Moose; That's what we wanted to know! (EFFORT) H'ist your hands!

(KING SNARLS)

Preston; You'd better put that gun away.

Moose; I said h'ist your hands, Preston! I meant it.

Preston; Very well.

Moose; Take his gun, Lefty.

Lefty; Good thing we had him chain that dog. Look at the way he's showin' his fangs.

Preston; Quiet, King. Take it easy, boy. There's nothing you can do right now. Quiet.

(KING SUBSIDES)

Moose; Be careful, Lefty. Don't get in my line of fire.

Lefty; His gun's fastened to a lanyard.

Moose; You have a knife in your belt. Cut the lanyard and while you're at it, take his handcuffs. () Watch it, Mountie! Don't try anything!

Preston; ~~The hardest~~ of outlaws think twice before they try to capture a man who wears this uniform. You men are making a big mistake.

Moose; Tell that to our boss.

Preston; I'd like to.

Moose; You'll have the chance. We're takin' you to him. I reckon you ~~know~~ ~~met~~ ~~him~~ before. His name is Spike Wilson.

Preston; Spike Wilson!

Moose; Lefty, snap his wrists together with those handcuffs.

Lefty; *But* Moose, he's got to drive his sled. ~~He can't do that if he's handcuffed.~~

Moose; Fasten his hands in front and he'll be able to ~~manage~~.

Lefty; Lower your hands, Preston.

Moose; My finger's tight against the trigger, so don't try any tricks!

(HANDCUFFS)

Lefty; There.

Moose; (CHUCKLES) Good work, Lefty. Now that we've got our man, I reckon we needn't worry about coverin' any more of the trail south. Let's eat our grub before we start back to the cave.

Lefty; Now you're talkin', Moose. I'm downright hungry.

Moose; Build the fire right here.

Lefty; Right.

Moose; I'll keep an eye on the Mountie.

Annrc; *As* Preston watched ~~with interest~~ as Lefty gathered a pile of dry wood ~~underneath~~ for a fire beneath the spreading evergreen tree. *he* Suddenly the Mountie realized that ~~these~~ men were tenderfeet. He was about to warn them --

Preston; That's a bad ---

Annrc; -- then he stopped abruptly. He saw a ~~faint hope~~ *chance* that ~~the~~ *his captors'* inexperience of his ~~captors~~ might be ~~turned~~ *use* ~~to good advantage.~~ *against them.*

Moose; What were you goin' to say, Mountie?

Preston; I was about to tell you how to build a fire. But you probably want none of my advice.

Moose; That's right, Preston. I want none of your advice! I'll have a whoppin' fire in no time!

Annrc; The fire was started. As Lefty brushed away more snow and found more wood, he added it to the flames.

Moose; Get a good fire, let 'er burn down to coals -- an' then we start the cookin'.

Annrc; Preston watched the flames leap higher and higher -- reaching toward the *snow-laden* branches overhead with their ~~heavy weight of new snow.~~

(FLAMES CRACKLING)

Lefty; That fire sure feels good, Moose.

Moose; Yep. That wood's plenty ^{dry} dead. It'll burn down fast.

Annrc; Unobtrusively the Mountie prepared for his desperate gamble for freedom. He moved so he stood near Lefty - with Moose in a line behind Lefty. He watched the fire -- and the branches above. He knew what every experienced woodsman in snow country knows -- that in a moment the melted snow would loosen from the branches and fall in great clods on the fire. It happened!

(FALLING SNOW)

Moose; Hey -- look --

Annrc; ~~For an instant, both outlaws were diverted.~~ *As they instinctively glanced toward the fire,*

Preston leaped. ~~charged~~ *charged* -

(BLOWS & SCRAMBLE)

Lefty; (JARRED) Hey!

Moose; (YELL) Watch yourself!

Annrc; ~~He charged Lefty. Lefty fell against Moose, and Moose - and both crooks stumbled to the ground. Both went down - off balance.~~ *His shoulder rammed Lefty - Lefty staggered against*

Adlib; Lemme up!

Get off!

Look out! (ETC.)

Annrc; Preston didn't hesitate. He drove a boot into Lefty's stomach --

Lefty; (WILD GASP)

Annex; Then raised both hands clenched above his head,
and brought them down with sledge-hammer force
on the top of Moose's head.

(BLOW)

Preston; That's a starter!

Moose; (GASP)

Annex; When Preston's hands came up, they held Moose's
gun!

Preston; Now I'll take charge!

Lefty; (YELL) Not while I --

(TWO FAST SHOTS:)

Lefty; (SCREAM IN PAIN) My hand!

Preston; Hold it or I'll break your arm! You too, Moose!

Moose; Don't shoot! Don't shoot, Preston!

Preston; Then raise your hands and do as you're told!

Moose; ~~Wha --what're you goin' to do^o with us?~~

Preston; ~~First, you're going to remove these handcuffs. Then
I'll tie your hands and feet and take you for a ride
on my sled. You're going to help me capture Spike Wilson!~~

Lefty; ~~You think you can make us do that?~~

Preston; ~~I think I can convince you that it would be smart.~~
well convince you it's the smartest thing you can do!

~~You're guilty of aiding a man who is wanted for murder.
For that you could be sentenced to hang.~~

Lefty; (HOWL) I don't want to hang!

Preston; ~~Then you'll cooperate with me in the hope of receiving
a ~~higher~~ lesser penalty.~~

- Moose; Wha- what're you going to do?
- Prest; First I'm going to release King! He'll stand guard while you unlock these handcuffs. If either of you make a false move, he'll ^{attack,} ~~kill you!~~
- Anncr; Preston retained a grip on his gun while he removed the chain from King's collar. Then, while the big dog stood ^{on guard} ~~ready to attack~~ at a ~~word from his master,~~ Moose unlocked the handcuffs. With his hands free, the Mountie tied both Moose and Lefty, and made them sit down on the sled,
- Prest; Now you're going to help me capture Spike Wilson.
- Lefty; You think you can make us do that?
- Prest on; *I'll convince you it's the smartest thing you can do.*
~~I think I can convince you that it would be smart.~~
You're guilty of aiding a man who is wanted for murder. For that, you could be sentenced to hang.
- Lefty (HOWL) I don't want to hang.
- Preston; Then you'll cooperate with me in the hope of receiving a lesser penalty.

Spike; ~~You double crossers!~~

Preston; ~~There!~~ ^{Wilson} () Wilson, in the name of the Crown
I arrest you for murder.

Spike; Those rats double crossed me. Moose, Lefty,
I'll get square. I'll-

Preston; (CUT IN) They didn't double cross you, Wilson.
They too are on the way to jail.

Moose; You blame fool, Spike, you should've left well
enough alone.

Spike; Yuh mean - you let this Mountie capture you?

Lefty; Look close, ^{and} you'll see our hands an' feet are tied.

Spike; You fools -

Moose; Don't call us names! He's ^p captured you!

Spike; When I didn't see that big dog of his - I thought-

Preston; I ~~purposely~~ told King to stay back so you wouldn't
see him. Now I'll call him so -

Spike; (SUDDEN, WILD RAGE) You - (MIGHTY EFFORT)

SMASHING BLOW!

Annex; Spike Wilson's fist hit Preston's chin like a battering ram, and the Mountie went down -- stunned. The sudden attack was so wholly unexpected that for once, ^{the mountie} Preston was caught off guard. The big outlaw, instead of following up his advantage, stood, with fists clenched, gloating and drooling in a frenzy of insane fury. He ignored Preston's gun.

Spike; I told yuh once before, I killed yer father, an' I'll kill you! But first, I'm goin' to beat you ten times as bad as you beat me! (WILD EFFORT)
See how yuh like it! (EFFORT)

(START KING APPROACHING, SNARLING FROM
A DISTANCE)

Annex; As the outlaw charged, Preston rolled, aside and leaped to his feet. He could have shot Spike Wilson, but this was a matter he wanted to settle with his fists.

Spike; (RAGING) I'll get you this time!

Annex; Dropping his gun, the Mountie ducked a long swing and brought his fists up in a hard jab to the point of Wilson's chin.

(DOG IN)
(BLOW)

Moose; (BACK, YELL) Look out, Spike! Here comes that dog!

Preston; Down, King! Keep out of it! This is a personal matter! (EFFORT)

(BLOW)

(KING SUBSIDES)

Spike; (HOWLING) That's twice you hit me!

Preston; (EFFORT) You'll loose count -- (EFFORT)

(BLOW)

Moose; (GASP)

Preston; -- -- before I'm through! (EFFORT)

(BLOW) (AD LIB FIGHT & BLOWS)

Anner; Long pent-up bitterness gave devastating power to Preston's fists.

Preston; (AD LIB BLOWS) This time I'll make sure you receive at least part of the punishment you deserve!

Anner; From the sled, Moose and Lefty watched with wide-eyed amazement. They had seen life in the raw -- had witnessed ~~many~~ ^{countless} brawls, but they had never seen so many hard blows struck in quick succession. Spike Wilson tried to ward ~~off~~ them off, but Preston's fists flashed under his guard to the pit of the stomach -- then ~~back~~ to the jaw. No man -- not even Spike Wilson -- could long stand up before such ~~an attack~~ ^{devastating blows}. The outlaw fell -- wholly and completely beaten.

(FALLING BODY)

Preston; (BREATHLESS AD LIB)

Spike; D - D -don't hit me -- -- again!

Preston; (BREATHLESS) Very well, Wilson. I'll handcuff you and let the law complete your punishment.

(AD LIB HANDCUFFS)

New 25

ke; (WEAK) Me -- Spike Wilson -- licked twice by
one ornery Constable --

ston; Put your other hand behind your back.

(AD LIB HANDCUFFS)

ston; There. Now stand up.

ike; *Only a Constable! It's a disgrace!*

ston; *Only a Constable, Wilson - But by the time you hang
Maybe, Spike - but before you hang you'll have the
I'll be a Sergeant,
chance to call me Sergeant Preston!*

(KING BARKS)

Yes, King - this case is closed.

theme