

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

A Case for the Inspector.

by Fran Striker

Number 1193

Date 10-19-54

*Striker*

Preston

King

Inspector ....straight

Red Kent.....heavy

Bilbo .....heavy

Logan .....heavy

Veterinary....stra ight

Voice bits.

**FILE**

promo

Helplessly bound and gagged, Sergeant Ereeston lay on his back and watched two outlaws discuss his death. Then one of the killers drew a knife and held it poised - ( ) What happened in that split second before the death blow? Well, be sure (ETC)

No. 1193

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(USUAL OPENING)

(HOOFS FAST. SUSTAIN)

(AD LIB BARKS)

Annrcr; It was midsummer in the Yukon Territory when two horses raced along the floor of a valley several miles north of Dawson City. Red Kent, an outlaw wanted for robbery and murder, spurred his horse cruelly in an effort to outdistance Sergeant Preston of the Northwest Mounted Police.

Preston; (SHOUT) Come on, Rex! We'll catch him!

HOOFS UP & UNDER

Annrcr; The Sergeant, riding his black horse named Rex, with his great dog, Yukon King, running alongside, gained steadily on the killer. . .

TWO SHOTS, BACK

Annrcr; Red Kent fired twice at the uniformed man - then fired again -

SHOT, BACK.

Annrcr; It was impossible to take aim while riding at such speed, The outlaw fired in desperation hoping that luck would favor him -

SHOT, NEARER.

Anncr;        Preston drew his gun but made no attempt to return the fire. He gained steadily while the man ahead wasted his remaining bullets-

TWO SHOTS

Preston;        (SHOUTS) That does it! His gun's empty. Now we'll close in! Come on, Rex! Stay with us, King!

HOOFS & BARKS UP.

HOOFS, SECOND HORSE, FADE NEARER

Preston;        (CUE)(SHOUT) I want you, Kent! Rein in!

SECOND HORSE FADES NEARER AS

Anncr;        Ignoring the command, Red Kent used his spurs and kept his tired horse running at top speed. Sergeant Preston held his gun in readiness as he drew alongside the killer -

Preston;        (SHOUT) Your last warning, Kent! Rein in or I'll fire!

Red;            (BACK)(WHOAS)

Preston;        (WHOAS)

HOOFS STOP, SUSTAIN ADLIB BLUMPING AS

Preston;        (CUE) Raise your hands, Kent!

Red;            They're up. My gun's empty -

Preston;        I'll see if you have any other weapons.

Red;            If I had, I'd've used 'em!

Oreston; I'll take this knife. (EFFORT)

Red; Am I under arrest?

Oreston; You're under arrest in the name of the Queen  
and anything you say may be used against you.

Red; Why're you arrestin' me?

Preston: You know the charges, Kent. Robbery and murder.  
I'll overlook the shots you fired at me.

Red; Now listen, Preston -

Preston; Save your breath. King and I have spent the  
last three days following your trail from Dawson.  
( ) Put your hands behind your back.

Red; Handcuffs?

Preston; Right. Turn your back toward me so I can reach  
your wrists.

Red; (TURNING) D'you expect me to ride with my hands  
behind my back?

~~Preston;~~ ADLIB HANDCUFFS AS

Preston; I don't care whether you ride or walk. If you  
can't stay on your horse, you'll have to walk  
to Dawson. ( ) Who are the two men who helped  
you rob the Dawson freight station?

Red; D'you expect me to admit I committed a robbery?

Preston; Doesn't matter. ( ) Watch him, King!

BARKS

Red; Why're you dismounting? What're you goin' to do?

Preston; I'm going to examine your saddlebags.

Red; Preston, you'd better listen to me--

ADLIB HANDLING SADDLEBAGS

Preston; There's nothing for you to say. You and two other men stole ten thousand dollars in paper money that had been sent to Dawson from the bank in Ottawa. When the station agent pulled off the bandanna that concealed your face, you shot and killed him.

Red; That's got to be proved.

Preston; It will be proved. You were seen by two men who will identify you. () And here's further proof! The stolen money! Or some of it--

Red; That money is -

Preston; (CUT IN) It's still in packets bound with Ottawa bank wrappers. You're through!

Red; Maybe not--

Preston; You've committed a lot of crimes, Kent. There's never been sufficient evidence to convict you. But this time, you'll pay in full!

Red; Don't count on that!

Preston; You might get life in prison instead of hanging if you help the law find the men who were with you on that robbery -

Red; If I did that, I'd be admittin' my guilt.  
D'ya think I'm stupid enough to -

Preston; (CUT IN) All criminals are stupid! Men have  
to be very stupid to think they can beat the law.

Red; Well I'm not admittin' a thing! But I'll give  
you a warning. Take me to jail an' you'll  
regret it.

Preston; I'll risk that.

Red; I'll get out of jail.

Preston; I doubt it. The Dawson jail is stronger than  
you!

Red; I won't have to break out. I'll be set free by  
the jury that hears my case. And then, Preston,  
I'll make you sorry you arrested me.

Preston; Kent, do you really think you can frighten me  
into letting you go?

Red; No. I reckon you don't scare easy. But listen  
to me, Preston. Why don't you get smart? A  
man like you could be rich if he played his  
cards right. I can lay my hands on lots of cash -

Preston; That'll do, Kent. Bigger crooks than you have tried to bribe the men who wear this uniform - and not one has ever succeeded.

Red; (ANGRY) You're a fool!

Preston; (MOUNTING) Start riding.

Red; My pals will know that you're the one who captured me. They'll get you, Preston!

Preston; (EFFORT) Get going!

Red; I'll get goin' - but remember what I said! You'll be sorry for this! Git up!

HOOFS START, WALK

Preston; Come on, Rex. Come along, King.

BARK & HOOFS START. FADE OUT

Annrc; That night Sergeant Preston delivered Red Kent to the constable and saw the prisoner locked securely in the Dawson jail.

JAIL DOOR SLAM. LOCK.

VOICE:  
~~Const;~~

That'll hold him, Sergeant.

Red; I want my lawyer! I got a right to talk to my lawyer! You gotta tell Lawyer Jackson I want to see him.

Preston; I'll deliver your message, Kent.

Red; (FADING OUT) I won't be here long! You wait an' see! I'll get out of this place in no time! - -



Anncr; The following morning, at headquarters, Sergeant Preston entered the office of the Inspector -

DOOR OPENS

Insp; (B^CK) Good morning, Preston.

Preston; Good morning, Sir...

DOOR CLOSE. STEPS AS -

Preston; ...I've just completed my report on the capture of Red Kent.

Insp; Good.

Preston; Here it is.

RUSTLE PAPER.

Insp; You did a fine job. Kent's known to be as cunning as an Indian when it comes to hiding his tracks.

Preston; King followed him by scent.

RUSTLE PAPER

Insp; According to this report you recovered some of the stolen money.

Preston; About half of it. It was in one of Kent's saddlebags. The two men who helped Kent probably have the rest.

Insp; Do you know who they are?

Preston; No, Inspector. The three robbers apparently split up after leaving town.

Insp; At least we have Kent.

Preston; Yes sir, and two witnesses to identify him.

Insp; Eye witnesses and possession of the stolen money -  
Um-m. He's sure to be convicted. Has he a lawyer?

Preston; Yes. Slick Jackson.

Insp; Jackson is smart and unscrupulous, but I don't  
see how he can beat this case.

Preston; Neither do I .

Insp; When Kent's found guilty of murder, he may turn  
state's evidence and name his accomplices in the  
hope of receiving a prison term rather than a  
death sentence.

Preston; I'd like to deprive him of the opportunity to  
save his worthless neck.

Insp; How?

Preston; By finding and arresting his partners before  
the trial is over.

Insp; Very well, Preston. Find and arrest the two  
men who were with Kent on that robbery. That's  
your assignment.

Preston; Very well, Sir.

Insp; Have you descriptions of the men?

Preston; Yes, but the descriptions are too general to be of any value. No one saw the faces of the robbers.

Insp; I know that. They wore bandannas to cover their faces. Have you any leads on Kent's partners?

Preston; No sir.

Insp; Then how do you plan to proceed?

Preston; I know of a number of men who are friends or acquaintances of Red Kent. I'm going to question as many of them as possible. Anyone who does not have an airtight alibi for the night of the robbery will have to give a mighty good account of himself-

Insp; I understand. Good luck to you, Preston. (FADES)  
I hope you find the men we want...

BREAK

Annrc; During the weeks that followed, Sergeant Preston, accompanied by Rex and King, traveled day and night with a minimum of time for food and rest. He went to many towns and villages and talked to dozens of men, but found no one whom he could suspect of being involved in the freight station robbery and murder. On the day before the opening of Red Kent's trial Preston returned to ~~Wilmington~~ Dawson and to the inspector's office -

Preston; I returned for the trial, sir, because I expect to be called to testify about finding the stolen currency in Kent's saddlebag.

Insp; Um-m. ( ) Preston, you look haggard.

Preston; We covered a lot of territory, sir- and-

Insp; (CUT IN) Have you eaten or slept since you left here ?

Preston; Yes sir, but-

Insp; (CUT IN) But no more than necessary, eh?

Preston; I'm all right; Sir, but Rex and King need rest.

Insp; Where are they?

Preston; I stabled my horse and left King with the veterinary.

Insp; Good idea. ( ) Have you anything to report?

Preston; Nothing but failure. I'll resume my search when the trial is over.

Insp; Very well. Now you'd better take the rest of the day off and catch up on sleep.

RAP ON DOOR.

Insp; See who's at the door, will you please ?

STEPS AS -

Prest; Of course.

DOOR OPENS.

Preston; (CUE) Yes?

Logan; I'd like to speak to the Inspector.

Insp; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Come in, Logan.

Logan; Thanks.

DOOR CLOSE.

Insp; Sergeant, this is John Logan, a newspaper man from the States. Sergeant Preston, Logan.

ADLIB: (ACKNOWLEDGMENT)

Insp; Logan came here yesterday for information about the trial.

Logan; I'm trying to land a job with the newspaper here in Dawson.

Preston; Oh.

Logan; I thought I'd turn in some stories to show what I can do. I heard you were in town, Sergeant. I'd like to interview the man who captured Red Kent.

Preston; Sorry, Logan. We don't give interviews. You'll have to get your information from the Inspector.

Insp; You go along if you want to, Preston. I'll talk to Logan.

Preston; Thanks. I'll probably see you again, Logan.

DOOR OPENS AS -

Logan; Sure thing. I'll be at the trial.

DOOR CLOSE.

Inspt; (FADING) Logan, you've just met one of the finest men I've ever known -

Annrcr;           Neither the Inspector nor Sergeant Preston suspected that John Logan, instead of being a newspaper man from the States, was actually one of Red Kent's partners!

HOOFS AT WALK

That evening, unobserved by anyone, Logan left Dawson and rode a few miles east to a cave where the other man who had aided in the holdup was waiting.

Logan;           (WHOAS)

HOOFS STOP

Bilbo;           Hi there, Logan!

Logan;           (DISMOUNTS) Hello, Bilbo.

Bilbo;           Bring your horse inside the cave. There's plenty of room.

AD LIB CLUMPS

Logan;           Right. Been waiting long?

Bilbo;           A couple of hours.

Logan;           I didn't know whether you'd get my letter or not.

Bilbo;           I told you and Red Kent where I'd stay -

Logan;           Yes, but I thought you might've changed your mind and moved to some other place.

Bilbo; Why'd you send for me, Logan?

Logan; Red Kent told me to. His trial begins tomorrow and he'll hang if he's found guilty of shootin' that freight agent.

Bilbo; But we -

Logan; (CUT IN) Before he hangs, he'll name us as the men who were with him on that holdup.

Bilbo; Red won't squeal -

Logan; He will! He told me so!

Bilbo; He did?

Logan; Yes. So it's up to us to see that he don't hang.

Bilbo; Did you talk to him?

Logan; Yes. I've been in Dawson for the past couple of days.

Bilbo; Wasn't it risky to go to Dawson?

Logan; No. No one saw my face at the time of the holdup. (CHUCKLES) I've been usin' false credentials and posin' as a newspaper man from the States.

Bilbo; That was smart!

Logan; Yeah. By pretending I was writin' for a paper I had a chance to talk to people - including Red Kent and his lawyer.

Bilbo; If it's safe for you to be in Dawson, I don't see why I can't go there. No one saw my face at the holdup.

Logan; You're goin' to Dawson. Red wants us both to be at the trial.

Bilbo; Then why'd you write me to meet you here in the cave?

Logan; I wanted to warn you before you went into town.

Bilbo; Warn me?

Logan; Yes. About the stolen cash. Where's your share.

Bilbo; In a money belt beneath my shirt.

Logan; Spent any of it?

Bilbo; No.

Logan; Don't spend it around here.

Bilbo; Why not?

Logan; Because all the bills in that shipment are numbered in sequence. Red Kent's share was recovered.

Bilbo; Um. I savvy. The law's watchin' for anyone who spends paper money with numbers close to the ones on the bills that Red Kent had.

Logan; Right. Every business place in Dawson is on the watch. All new paper money is checked against a list of numbers-

Bilbo; I'm glad you warned me. () What're we goin' to do about Red Kent? Break him out of jail?



Logan; No. The jail's too strong and well guarded.

Bilbo; Then what can we do? Shoot up the court room and try to hold guns on everyone while Red makes his getaway?

Logan; Only as a last resort.

Bilbo; That'd be a mighty dangerous play -

Logan; I know that and so does Red Kent. Maybe it won't be necessary.

Bilbo; I hope not.

Logan; Red wants us to sit in court an' see how the trial goes. His lawyer is plenty smart. He may be able to discredit the witnesses who identified Red - or maybe he can make 'em ba ck down on their testimony.

Bilbo; But, Logan - according to the newspapers, Sergeant Preston found the stolen money in Red's possession.

Logan; That's right.

Bilbo; How can the lawyer get around that?

Logan; He'll claim that Red was framed.

Bilbo; Humph! The jury'll never believe that.

Logan; We'll see. We'll go to the trial and see how it goes. Red'll give us instructions through his lawyer. ( ) Now, if you're ready, we'll go to Dawson. (FADING) You can get a room in the hotel where I'm stayin' -

## FADE IN COURT ROOM BG

- Annecr; The court room in Dawson was crowded the next morning when men were selected to serve on the jury. Logan and Bilbo sat in the front row of spectators and Sergeant Preston stood at one side of the room. During a short recess after the last juror had been chosen, Slick Jackson the lawyer sat down beside Red Kent.
- Red; (LOW) How's it look to you, Jackson? Any chance of bribin' a couple of the jurymen?
- Jackson; (LOW) Kent, if you think I would stoop to such dishonest -
- Red; (CUT IN, LOW) Save that talk for someone who doesn't know you as well as I do. You'll stoop to anything you can get away with, if the price is right. And I'm payin' you plenty! I gave you every cent I had in the bank and you're goin' to earn it.
- Jackson; (STIFFLY) I'm sure none of the men on the jury would accept a bribe.
- Red; (LOW) What about the witnesses who're goin' to testify they saw me?
- Jackson; I know both of them, and neither of them can be bribed. I'll do my best to discredit them, but I'm afraid I'll not get far. Frankly, Kent, there's a very strong case against you.

Red; (LOW) You don't think you can beat it?

Jackson; (LOW) I'll do my best, but-

Red; (LOW) Never mind. I'll handle this my way. I want you to take word to my pals.

Jackson; (LOW) I don't know who they are.

Red; (LOW) They're sittin' in the front row. One of them's John Logan.

Jackson; (LOW, SURPRISE) The newspaper man?

Red; (LOW) He's no newspaper man. He's one of the men who was with me on the holdup. My other pal is sittin' on his right. His name is Bilbo.

Jackson; (LOW) Kent, I don't want to become involved in anything that's - -

Red; (LOW) Shut up and listen to me, Jackson. You do as I say or my pals will take care of you. Savvy?

Jackson; (LOW) If that's a threat -

Red; (LOW) It is! I'm fightin' for my life and I fight hard. You stick with me or you'll be killed!

Jackson; (PAUSE) (LOW) Wha-what do you want me to do?

Red; (LOW) During the noon recess you talk to Logan. Make out like you're givin' him an interview. ~~But~~ Here's what you tell him. (FADING) I want him and Bilbo to watch for their chance to (FADED)

Annex; Red Kent spoke in a low voice with his lips close to the attorney's ear. By the time he finished, the gavel sounded to end the recess and the trial began. During the noon recess, Slick Jackson talked to John Logan. Then Logan hurried to the nearest cafe where he joined Bilbo at a corner table.

CAFE BG.

Bilbo;  
~~BBB~~

Hi, Logan. What'd the lawyer have to say?

Logan;

He passed on instructions - or maybe I should say Orders - from Red Kent.

Bilbo;

I thought it was somethin' like that.

Logan;

Lefty, did you notice Sergeant Preston in the court room?

Bilbo;

Sure.

Logan;

He's mighty popular. If he got into trouble, nearly everyone would want to help him. Wouldn't you say so?

Bilbo;

I reckon so -

Logan;

And if he was in danger, folks would do almost anything to save his life. Right?

Bilbo;

Yeah. But what's that got to do with Red Kent?

Logan;

Red wants us to capture Sergeant Preston -

Bilbo;

(REACT, GASP)

Logan,

-- and hold him as hostage.

Bilbo; Of all the crazy ideas -

Logan; That's what I thought - at first. But after thinkin' it over, the plan makes sense. We'll take Preston to that cave where you and I met last night. Then we'll send an insigned note to the jury foreman -

Bilbo: Can we get a note to him?

Logan: We'll manage it somehow. We'll let him know that Preston'll die if Red Kent's found guilty.

Bilbo: (DUBIOUS) I don't know as that'd work, Logan. The members of the jury don't look like men who c'n be forced into lettin' a killer go free.

Logan: They're businessmen, Bilbo. They know how to weigh values. They'll figure the life of Sergeant Preston is too high a price to pay for hangin' Red Kent.

Bilbo: Um-m. You may be right.

Logan: I'd bet on it! And Red is stakin' his life on it!

Bilbo: If they acquit Red, do we release the Mountie?

Logan: Red'll decide that after he gets free.

Bilbo; How'll we capture the Mountie?

Logan; Here's the plan. You take both our horses an' wait near that big boulder east of town. I'll meet Preston when he leaves the court this afternoon. (FADING) I'll tell him I have some mighty important information for him -

CAFE BG. COVER THEN FADE OUT.

Annrcr; That afternoon the grim-faced jury listened to the evidence against Red Kent. Eye-witnesses to the shooting identified him and remained unshaken despite Slick Jackson's vigorous cross-examination.

GAVEL

Voice; (BACK) Court's adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

ROOM NOISES, CHAIR, STEPS ETC.

FADING INTO STREET NOISES AS

ADLIB: (CROWD NOISES)

Annrcr; It was generally agreed by the spectators leaving the courthouse that the man on trial would hang -

Voice 2; (FADING IN) It'll be all over tomorrow after Sergeant Preston takes the stand-

Voice 3; It's all over right now! Kent's as good as convicted.

Voice 2; Here comes Sergeant Preston out of the building-  
(CALLS) Hi there, Sergeant!

Preston; (COMING IN) Hello, boys-

Voice 3; Howdy, Sergeant!

Voice 2; Looks bad for Kent, eh? (FADING) I don't see how Lawyer Jackson can put up any defense-

CROWD BG. UP THEN FADE TO  
FOOTSTEPS SUSTAINING

- Ann-cr; After a few words with townsmen in front of the courthouse, Sergeant Preston started toward headquarters. He had walked only a short distance when -
- Logan; (BACK)(SHOUT) Hey, Sergeant - Sergeant Preston-
- STEPS HALT. 2ND STEPS APPROACH AS
- Logan; (APPROACHING) Just a minute, Sergeant. I want to talk to you.
- 2ND STEPS IN AND STOP AS
- Preston; Hello, Logan. If you're after an interview- -
- Logan; Nothing like that, Sergeant. ( ) I read about you recovering some of the stolen money -
- Preston; Well?
- Logan; The newspaper said you were looking for two men who probably have the rest of the stolen bills...
- Preston; That's right.
- Logan Well, this noon I saw a man in the cafe. He took out some new foldin' money to pay for his food, then suddenly, he changed his mind. He put that money out of sight and paid his bill with silver. He acted mighty suspicious, so I followed him when he left the cafe.
- Preston; Do you know who he is?
- Logan; No. But I know where he's camped. I'll bet he's one of the men you're lookin' for-

Preston; Where's he camped?

Logan: East of town near a big boulder. I'll show you you the place. We can walk there in a few minutes.

Preston: Let's go.

Logan. Knocked him STEPS START, SUSTAIN AS

Anncr; Logan's manner was convincing and there was no reason to doubt his statements. The two men walked beyond the edge of town and soon neared a massive boulder ...

Logan; The men was camped on the far side of that rock.

WHINNY, BACK.

Preston; A horse -

Logan; Guess he's still there. . .

Preston; Good. Stay behind me, Logan -

Anncr; Logan, walking a step behind the Sergeant, drew his gun and held it ready to use as a club. On the far side of the boulder, Preston saw a man and two horses, but before he could speak, the blow fell -

Logan; (EFFORT)

BLOW, FALLING BODY AS -

Bilbo; Good work, Logan!

Logan; Knocked him out with one blow!



Bilbo; The way you swung that gun, it's a wonder you didn't kill him.

Logan; We'd better tie and gag him, Bilbo.

Bilbo; Here's some rope. ( ) How'll we take him to the cave?

Logan; We'll put him across the back of my horse. I'll ride behind the saddle. It's not far.

Bilbo; (TYING) What about the unsigned note we've gotta deliver ?

Logan; While you guard Preston in the cave, I'll come back to town. I'll write it in my hotel room.

Bilbo; (TYING) How about deliverin' it?

Logan; I know where the jury foreman lives. I'll slip it beneath the door of his house.

Bilbo; Will you come back to the cave?

Logan; Yes. We'll take turns guardin' Preston. (FADING)  
Even though he's tied an' gagged, we'll have to keep watch every minute - -

FADE IN KING WHINING

Anncr; That evening at the veterinary's kennel, Yukon King knew instinctively that Sergeant Preston was in danger. Ignoring the food that had been placed in the enclosure, he paced back and forth, whining and whimpering. His uneasiness brought the veterinary to the gate--

Vet; What's your trouble, King?

MORE WHINES

Vet; Now, now, calm down and eat your food. You're here to rest and put on some weight--

Anncr; King looked at the latch on the gate, then lifted his eyes to meet those of the friendly veterinary --

SHARP BARK

Vet; So that's it! You want me to let you out. Well there's not a chance of that, King. You're to stay here until Sergeant Preston calls for you.

FRENZIED BARKS START. SUSTAIN ADLIB

Vet; I shouldn't have mentioned his name - (O) Quiet, King! Quiet, boy! (ADLIB AS--)

BARKS SUSTAIN, OTHER BARKS AND HOWLS BEGIN

Vet; Confound it, King, you've got all the other dogs aroused! Quiet! D'ya hear me? (CONTINUE ADLIB)

Anncr; Despite the veterinary's increasingly sharp commands, King barked harder and more insistantly. And he clawed at the kennel gate--

Vet; I know you want to get out, but you're not going to! You may's well be quiet?

Anncr; But the big dog refused to subside.

Vet; All right then, you just keep barkin' until you're tired. I'm goin' back into the house!

BARKS AND HOWLS UP THEN FADE OUT.

Annex; Leaving Sergeant Preston in the cave, with Bilbo on guard, Logan returned to Dawson. After attending to the details of the plan to free Red Kent, he stopped at the home of the lawyer and told Slick Jackson what he had done.....

Logan: ...so then, after we got Preston to the cave, I came back here and wrote the message. I slipped it under the door of the jury foreman's home.

Jackson; Anyone see you?

Logan; No sir. ( ) I guess we've done everything Red wanted us to do. Now it's just a case of wait an' see what happens.

Jackson: Logan, I have some further instructions from my client.

Logan: Red Kent?

Jackson: Yes. He wants you to kill Sergeant Preston.

Logan: (GASP) B-but -

Jackson; It's a carefully considered decision, Logan.

Logan; I- I figured that there'd be too much risk if we let Preston go free, but I - I thought we'd just hold him prisoner until Red could join us -

Jackson; Preston could never be released. He'd track you down sooner or later. So he might as well die now, as later.

Logan; ' (MUTTER) Cold blooded -

Jackson; We must be cold-blooded, Logan. If Preston escapes before the trial is over, Red's last hope of freedom will be gone. Then Red will talk!

Logan; Yeah -

Jackson: You and Bilbo will hang! And I - well, I'll probably spend ten years in prison for my part in the conspiracy to capture Preston. Now hurry back to the cave and do as Red said.

Logan: All right, Mr. Jackson.

Jackson: Oh- one thing more.

Logan: Yes?

Jackson: Be sure to hide the body so it will never be found!

BREAK

FADE IN DISTANT DOG BARKING.

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Anncr; In his office at headquarters the Inspector had been listening to a barking dog for nearly two hours. Finally he decided to close the window-

CHAIR SCRAPE. STEPS AS

Insp (MUTTER) That dog has more endurance than I have!

SLAM WINDOW. CUT BARKS

Insp; There! I'll do without fresh air rather than listen to any more of -

DOOR OPENS.

Vet; (BACK) Inspector -

Insp; Doc! Just the man I want to see! What's going on at your kennel?

DOOR CLOSE. STEPS IN AS

Doc; (COMING IN) You mean, that barking?

Insp; Yes!

Doc; That's why I'm here. I've got to see Sergeant Preston. Where is he?

Insp; I don't know. He was supposed to come here after the trial recessed. But no one's seen him-

Doc; Well something's got to be done about his dog! He started barking a couple of hours ago and-

Insp; (CUT IN) You mean to say it's King that's been barking all this time?

Doc; Yes! And he's been trying to tear down the gate to the pen! He's almost beside himself. He wants to get out.

Insp; (TENSE) He does?

Doc; Yes! I've never seen him behave like this! Something must be the matter with him -

Insp; I'll go to the kennel with you. Come on!

FADE IN BARKS AND WHIMPERS AS

Ann-cr; The Inspector knew and understood King better than the veterinary. Moreover, he knew that Sergeant Preston was long overdue in reporting to headquarters.

Insp; Doc, I think he knows that Preston needs him!

Vet; Do you think something's happened to Preston?

Insp; I don't know! But he was to be an important witness at the trial - () Where's King's leash?

Vet; Right here.

Insp; Oh yes, thanks. () Steady, King!

KING SUBSIDES

Ann-cr; Seeing the leash, King knew that he was about to be released. He became quiet but trembled with eagerness as the inspector entered the enclosure -

Insp; Hold still, boy, while I snap this to your collar. We'll go to headquarters just long enough to pick up Constable Blake and a couple of horses, then I'll turn you loose!

SHARP BARK.

BREAK

Annex; Later that evening Sergeant Preston lay bound and gagged just inside the mouth of the cave. Though unable to speak, he could hear the conversation of his captors who sat nearby, close to a small campfire. Logan had just finished telling of Red Kent's latest decision.

Logan; ...so, Bilbo, we'd better do as he says.

Bilbo; Where'll we hide the body?

Logan; We'll bury it under rocks at the back end of this cave.

Bilbo; Suits me. Let's get the job over with. You got the gun you took from Preston's holster?

Logan; Yes. But a shot makes a lot of noises. A knife is better.

Bilbo; Then use yer knife. I - (BREAK)

Logan; (CUE) What's the matter?

Bilbo; Thought I heard somethin' out there - sounded like the hoofclump of a horse -

Logan; Prob'ly one of our own horses.

Bilbo; But they're here, inside the cave. I thought I somethin' outside. ( ) Guess I was mistaken.

Logan; (EFFORT) Well, Preston, I reckon you've heard enough to savvy what's goin' to happen to you.

Anncr; As Logan moved close to Preston he drew a knife with a long blade that gleamed in the firelight. The Sergeant, lying flat on his back, tensed his muscles. Though his feet were tied together at the ankles, he could swing his legs from the hips. thereby bringing up his heavy boots - and Logan's head seemed to be in just the right position -

Bilbo; Get it over with, Logan.

Snnrcr; Logan raised the knife - and the Sergeant made his move!

Preston; (EFFORT)

KICK TO HEAD

Bilbo; (OVERLAP) (SHARP CRY) Hey -

Logan; (OVERLAP) (QUICK GASP)

Anncr; Both boots hit the side of Logan's head. The outlaw fell unconscious -

Bilbo; (RAGE)(YELL) Still got fight in yuh, eh? Well I'll finish yuh!

Anncr; Preston rolled to one side as Bilbo fired-

SHOT

Anncr; The bullet missed by inches -

KING CHARGES. A DLIB SNARLS ETC

Anncr; Bilbo heard the charging dog. Instead of shooting at Preston for the second time, he swung to meet the attack -

SHOT



Annrcr; He fired too fast. The shot went wild and King leaped.

Bilbo; (PANIC)(YELL)

FALLING BODY AS

Annrcr; King's jaws gripped the outlaw's arm. Bilbo staggered backward, dropped his gun, then fell.

ADLIB SNARLS

Bilbo; (ADLIB PANIC)

Ins; (COMING IN) Come on, Blake! This is it!

Bilbo; (PAN IC) Call off this dog- take him away -

Ins; Cover that man, Blake! I'll take care of this one! ( ) That'll do, King! Down, Boy! We'll take over !

-BREAK-

Annrcr; It took but a few moments to handcuff the outlaws and free Sergeant Preston from his bonds and gag.

Preston; Bilbo and Logan are the men we wanted, Inspector! They discussed their plans freely when they were sure I'd die before I could use anything I learned. They're Red Kent's partners! They're as crooked as Red Kent - and so is Slick Jackson!

Insp; Kent's lawyer?

Preston; Yes! He instructed them to capture me - hold me as hostage - and later he told them to kill me!

Insp; PHEW!

Preston; Logan and Bilbo have stolen currency in money belts beneath their shirts. For further evidence, you'll find a threatening note in the hands of the jury foreman!

Insp; Good for you, Preston! You've done a fine job!

Preston; I didn't do anything, sir, except walk into a trap. I'll tell you about it, but first I'd like to know how you happened to come here.

Insp; King brought us.

Preston; Thanks, King!

WHIMERS

Insp; Somehow he knew you were in trouble. He picked up your scent at the courthouse and came here. Blake and I followed. (CHUCKLES) First real action I've had in a long time.

Preston; This is your case, sir.

Insp; Then I'd say the case is closed.

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