

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

by Fran Striker

Number 1197

Date 11-2-54

Sent

Preston
King
Peteheavy
Joeheavy
Lem Lewis.....middle-age storekeeper
Frank Nelson ...middle-age, straight.
Alstraight

FILE

AVALANCHE promo (new)

In a supreme test of his courage,
Sergeant Preston found himself pitted
against the forces of nature and the
guns of killers! You'll find thrilling
action and high adventure in this drama
of the north country. Be sure (ETC)

(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr; Lem Lewis operated a general store in Moose Crossing, a small town in the northern part of the Yukon. After the discovery of rich gold deposits in the nearby mountains, some of Lem's friends brought they gold they had panned from the streams to the store for safe keeping. One evening In early spring, Lem was alone in the store when Hank Wilson entered -

DOOR OPEN, CLOSE & STEPS IN AS

Hank; (COMING IN) Evenin', Lem.

Lem; Hank! Glad to see you! When did you get into town?

Hank; Just arrived. I brought this poke of gold hopin' you'd lock it up in your safe.

Lem; Sure thing.

Hank; I don't want to keep it in my cabin any longer. I live so far from everyone - and there've been so many strangers movin' into the area -

Lem; That's right. And some of them are downright mean lookin'.

Hank; Sure you don't mind keepin' the gold for me?

Lem; Don't mind a bit, Hank. Fact is, a lot of the men feel the same as you do -

Hank: That so?

Lem: Yep. A lot of men have brought their gold here for safe keepin'. (CHUCKLES) I've become a regular banker.

Hank: The way this town is growin' we should have a bank. Likewise a jail.

Lem; We've got a jail.

Hank: Yeah?

Lem; Yep. (ASIDE) Um-m - you've got a tidy sum in this poke.

WRITING.

Hank: The jail must've been built since the last time I was in town.

Lem: (WRITING) That's right. It was finished last week. Sam Peters was made a special deputy. His office is in the jail.

Hank: What does Sam Peters know about bein' a lawman?

Lem; Nothin'. But he's honest. A Mountie is comin' from Dawson to give him instructions an' some books of laws. () Here's your receipt, Hank.

Hank: Thanks.

Lem: You goin' to spend the night in town?

Hank; Yes. I'll stay at Steve Bailey's place. I'll stop here in the morning an' buy some supplies before I leave town.

Lem; That bein' the case, I'll see you in the morning.

Hank: Right. Thanks for takin' care of my gold.

STEPS AS

Lem; (FADING BACK) Don't mention it, Hank. Glad to accomodate you. I'll open the safe an' lock up your gold right away.

DOOR OPENS.

Hank; I appreciate it. () G'nite.

Lem; (BACK) Nite, Hank.

DOOR CLOSE.

STEPS ON SNOW FADE AS

Lem; (FADE OUT HUMMING OR WHISTLING)

Annrc; Hank walked away without noticing two men who stood beside a sled and dogteam in the dark alley between the store and the building next door.

Pete; (SOFT) Joe, I reckon the storekeeper is alone now-

Joe; (SOFT) Yep. Tie the bandanna over your face, Steve.

Pete; (SOFT)(EFFORT) Right. () I'd feel better about this job if we had guns.

Joe; (SOFT) I've got one -

Pete; (SOFT) Humph: That old fashioned ball an' cap gun of yours -

Joe; (SOFT) It'll shoot.

Pete; (SOFT) Maybe we can get a couple of new guns in the store.

Lem; (SOFT) Maybe. But we'll get the gold first. Don't forget the valise.

Pete; (SOFT) I've got it. Let's go.

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

~~Annrcr; At that moment, inside the store, Lem finished dialing the combination of the big iron safe.~~
Annrcr; As the two men entered the building, Lem finished dialing the combination of the big iron safe. He swung open the heavy door, two men entered the building.

~~DOOR OPEN & CLOSE~~

STEPS COMING IN AS

~~Annrcr; Without turning from the safe, Lem said~~

Lem; I'll be right with you -

Pete; Leave that safe open -

Lem; (SURPRISE) Huh?

Joe; H'ist yer hands!

Lem; (GASP) A gun! I- I reckon this is a stick-up.

Joe; You guessed it. () I'll keep him covered. ~~MMMM~~
Take the gold from the safe.

Pete; Right. Stand aside, Mister.

Lem; You crooks can't get away with this!

Joe; Save your breath. () Hurry with that gold.
Get it before someone comes in.

Pete; (EFFORT) I'm gettin' it.

Lem: (DESPERATE) That gold belongs to my friends!

Joe; It's ours now.

Lem: (SUDDEN EFFORT) Not by a jugful!

Pete; (FAST) Hey -

Joe: (OVERLAP) Yuh fool!

SHOT

Lem: (GASP)

Pete: (OVERLAP) Joe!

FALLING BODY

Joe: I had to shoot him! He was reachin' for a gun
on that wall rack!

Pete: Someone may've heard the shot - and come here-

Joe: We gotta run for it.

Pete: The rest of the gold-

Joe; Leave it. Bring what you've got in the valise.

A FEW FAST STEPS. OPEN DOOR FAST

Pete; Joe! We should've taken some guns!

Joe; Can't take time to go back.

SLAM DOOR. RUNNING STEPS ON SNOW

Pete; (RUNNING) This valise is heavy -

Joe; (RUNNING) Put it aboard the sled.

VALISE TO SLED.

STOP RUNNING STEPS.

Joe; (EFFORT) Line up, you mutts!

AD LIB DOGS STIR

Joe; (EFFORT) On yer feet! Line up there! We gotta travel!

Pete; Think anyone heard the shot?

Joe; Doesn't look like it. (EFFORT) Line up!
() Take off tha t bandanna -

Pete; Sure enough. I forgot about it.

Joe; Let's go. () Mush, you critters! Mush!

DOGS AND SLED START, SUSTAIN WITH
RUNNING STEPS

Pete; (RUNNING) Which way w e goin' after we leave town?

Joe; (RUNNING) At the end of the street we'll turn south to the mountains.

Pete; (RUNNING) Too bad we can't take turns ridin' the sled.

Joe; (RUNNING) Haven't got enough dogs. Our supplies are almost too heavy for the dogs to pull -

Pete; (RUNNING) Joe! There's a man walkin' this way! D'ya think he heard the shot?

Joe; (RUNNING) No. If he had he'd be comin' on the run. () Git along you critters! Mush!

Al: (BACK) Hi there.

Pete; (RUNNING)(SHOUT) Hi!

Al: (COMING NEAR) Where you gents goin' in such a hurry?

Joe; (RUNNING)(SHOUT) What's it to you?

Al; (FADING) Nothin'! It's nothin' to me!

Pete; (RUNNING) Joe, d'ya think he got a good look at us?

Joe; (RUNNING) No. It's too dark.

Pete; (RUNNING) I sure hope you didn't kill that storekeeper. The law never stops huntin' for a murderer -

Joe; (RUNNING) Stop worryin', and save your breath for travel. We're goin' to keep goin' all night and as long as possible tomorrow. I want plenty of distance between us an' the town.
() Git along there! Mush! (ADLIB FADING OUT)

DOGS AND SLED FADE OUT.

Anncr; It happened that no one else went near the store that night, so the robbery and shooting remained undiscovered until the following morning.

WALKING STEPS ON SNOW AS-

Anncr; It was early when Hank Nelson, on his way to the store, was hailed by a friend -

Al; (BACK) Hi there, Hank!

STEPS HALT

Hank; (CALL) Al! How are you?

Al; (COMING IN) Fine! When did you get to town?

Hank; Last night. How's the dog-raisin' business?

Al: First rate. Any time you want to buy a good team, I've got some of the finest dogs you ever saw. () How long you goin' to be here?

Hank; I'm leavin' as soon as I buy some supplies at the store.

Al; I'm goin' to the store myself. I'll walk along with you.

Hank; Good!

WALKING STEPS SUSTAIN AS

Hank; The town's changed a lot since the last time I came here.

Sl; Yep. New people, new buildings - we've even got a jail!

Hank; I saw it this morning. I hear Sam Peters is in charge of it.

Al: That's right. Sergeant Preston is comin' here from Dawson to give him instructions.

Hank; Sergeant Preston, eh? Do you know him?

Al; No.

Hank: Neither do I. But I've heard of him.

Al: I've heard a lot about him - and about his dog, Yukon King. I'm lookin' forward to seein' that dog. I - (BREAK) That's odd-

Hank: What is?

Al: The lamps are lighted in the store.

Hank; Sure enough! Lem must've forgot to put 'em out last night.

Al; Then why didn't he put 'em out this morning?

Hank; Maybe he's not up yet. Maybe he overslept.

STEPS HALT. DOOR OPENS.

Al: The door's unlocked.

STEPS IN. CLOSE DOOR.

Al; (CUE) (CALL) Lem! Where are yuh?

Hank; Look, Al! The safe is wide open!

Al; Now what d'you make of that?

Hank; There's Lem on the floor!

Al; FAST STEPS AS

Al; Sakes alive! Wonder what's wrong with him!

Hank; Looks like he's been shot!

STEPS HALT.

Al: Lem! Can you hear - (BREAK OFF)

Hank; He's unconscious - seems to be badly hurt

~~Hank; He's dead!~~

*set for
get banda*

Al: We'd better bandage the wound an' do what we
~~can for him, then get the doctor.~~
can for him, then get the doctor.

Hank; Probably the work of a thief.

Al: I don't know about that, Hank - I see a number
of pokes of gold in the safe.

*examine
safe*

Hank; Yes, but the top shelf has been cleaned -

Al: That's so -

Hank; ~~The gunman~~
~~The thief~~ probably took as much as he could
carry - including the poke I brought here for
safe keeping.

Al: Did you bring a poke of gold?

Hank; Yes. I gave it to Lem last night.

Al; He must've been shot last night. If it'd been
done thie morning, the lamps wouldn't be lighted.
What time were you here?

Hank; About nine o'clock.

Al; Um. Lem generally put out the lights and locked
up around nine-

Hank; Then he must've been shot soon after I left!

Al; (SUDDENLY) Great Scott!

Hank; Al! You don't suspect me?

- Al; No, no, Hank! I just remembered - last night a few minutes after nine, I was on my way home from the cafe when I saw two men with a sled an' dogteam. They were leggin' it for all they were worth - and comin' from the direction of this store!
- Hank: Maybe they're the ^{CROOKS} ~~killers~~!
- Al: That's what I'm thinkin'! I don't know any other reason why they'd be travelin' so fast.
- Hank: Did you get a good look at them?
- Al: No. It was dark. But I could see that their lead dog was a white Siberian.
- Hank: Al, this is something for the law to handle.
- Aaw Law! You mean Sam Peters? Humph! He doesn't know any more about findin' a killer than we do!
- Hank; Nevertheless -
- Al: We'll report this to him ~~Sam Peters~~, but I'm goin' after those critters I saw last night! I've got the fastest dogteam in these parts and I'll catch 'em!
- Hank; The track should be clear. There's been no snow since yesterday afternoon.
- Al: That's right.
- Hank; I'll go with you Al.

Al:

Fine. I'll stay here while you get the doctor

Al:

~~Fine. I'll go hitch up my dogs, while you~~
an' Sam Peters. Then we'll hitch up my dogteam
~~report this to Sam Peters and the coroner.~~
an' start after the crooks.

~~Harry:~~

~~I'll hang around at your place.~~

BREAK

Annecr;

Noon of that day found Joe and Pete plodding southward behind their heavily loaded sled. The trail was like a wide step on the side of a mountain, with a downward slope on one side and a steep rise on the other.

Pete;

(EXHAUSTED) Joe - wait, Joe. Stop the dogs.

Joe;

(WHOS)

STEPS HALT

Joe;

(CUE) What's the matter, Pete?

Pete;

(SIGH) I'm worn out.

Joe;

I'm just about licked myself.

Pete;

Joe, we've been travolin' almost steady since last night.

Joe;

I know-

Pete;

The short stops we made to rest an' eat didn't help much. We've got to find a place where we can camp and get some sleep. The dogs need it too. Look at 'em.

Joe;

Um. They can't go much farther - but there's no place near here where we can camp -

Pete; Maybe we'll find a place beyond that bend in the trail - a cave or something-

Joe; We'll look for one.

Pete; Good! (ENDING) Let's rest here for a few minutes before we go on -

FADE IN DOGS AND SLED

Annrc; Meanwhile, beyond the place where the flat shelf-like trail curved around the mountainside, Sergeant Preston traveled north on his way to Moose Crossing.

Preston: On King, On you huskies!

Annrc; Preston ^{RODE} ~~stood~~ on the sled runners and Yukon King ran ahead of the team to set the pace. Suddenly an ominous sound came from the top of the mountain on Sergeant Preston's right -

START AVALANCHE

Looking up, the Sergeant saw a great mass of snow and ice tumbling down the steep incline. It was too late to turn back.

Preston; ADLIB) On King! Faster Boy! Lush you ^{HUSKIES!} ~~fellows!~~
(CONTINUE ADLIB)

ADLIB BARKS

AVALANCHE BUILDS UP AS -

Annrcr; Fully aware of the danger, the strong dogs strained every muscle to increase their speed. The drew the sled out of the path of the snowslide. Tons of snow, ice and rocks swept downhill behind Preston, but a small stone, glancing off a boulder, struck him on the head.

Preston: (GASP)

Snnrcr; He fell and lay unconscious!

AVALANCHE FINISHES.

Annrcr; Pete and Joe could not see the avalanche, but they could hear it. And when it was over, Pete said -

Pete; If- if we hadn't stopped here to rest - we might've been killed by that snowslide.

Joe; Yep. I'm just hopin' it hasn't blocked the trail.

Pete; If it has, what'll we do?

Joe; We've got diggin' tools on the sled. We'll clear the trail an' keep goin'. (TO DOGS) On your feet, you critters! Let's go! Mush!

DOGS 'ND SLED START. SUSTAIN AS

Annrcr; A few moments later, after rounding the bend, the outlaws saw a halted sled and dogteam. And beyond the sled a big dog stood beside a man who lay motionless on the trail.

FADE IN, KING BARKING

Pete; (WALKING) Joe, d'you think we'll have trouble with those dogs?

Joe; (WALKING) Hope not - but I'm keepin' my gun handy.

Pete; (WALKING) There's room for us to pass that outfit.

Joe; (WALKING) Yes, but we'll have to stop just beyond it to clear the snow off the trail, so we may as well stop here. (ADLIB WHOAS)

SLED & DOGS STOP.

KING, BACK, ADLIB BARKS AND WHIMPERS

Pete; I guess the dogs aren't goin' to fight.

Joe; I'm glad of that. () Pete, that's a good team!

Pete; Sure is! Those dogs are beauties!

Joe; With that outfit we could both ride! One of us on the sled, the other on the runners.

Pete; Then we wouldn't have to make camp! We could keep goin' ! Is this ledge wide enough to turn the outfit ?

Joe; Sure! There's plenty of room.

Pete; Looks like we could help ourselves to the sled and team without interference from the owner-

Joe; Um. Let's have a look at him.

STEPS SUSTAIN

KING FADES IN

Pete; That's a mighty fine dog standin' beside him.

Joe; Finest I've ever seen! He must've been workin' as a free lead. () Hi there, fella-

KING WHIMPERS, FADING IN

Pete; Careful, Joe - he may be ugly-

Joe; He's not. Look at his tail wag. He wants us to help the man.

STEPS HALT

Pete; (CUE) Is he alive?

Joe; Yes. Looks like a rock or somethin' hit him on the head. I - (BREAK) Pete!

Pete; Huh?

Joe; Look! He's wearin' a uniform beneath his parka!

Pete: A Mountie! Hey, this is Sergeant Preston!

~~Pete; A Mountie! We'd better move fast! If he comes~~
The dog must be Yukon King! We'd better move fast!
~~to before we get the trail cleared.~~
If he comes to before we get the trail clear- -

Joe; (CUT IN) Take it easy! He's got a bad cut on the head. Even if he does come to, he'll be easy to handle. () I'll take his gun. () Here, you c'n have my old ball an' cap gun.

Pete; (NERVOUSLY) Stealin' from a Mountie - it'll go hard with us if we're caught -

Joe; We're not goin' to be caught!

Pete; I hope not.

Joe; I'll turn the Mountie's sled an' team around an' put the gold an some of our gear aboard it-

Pete; Want me to clear the trail?

Joe; No. I'll do it. You'd better stay here an' keep an eye on the Mountie. Let me know if he shows signs of regaining consciousness.

Pete; Right. While I'm watchin' him, I may's well bandage his head.

Joe; (FADING) Suit yerself about that -

Anncr; King watched closely as Pete opened a medical kit and gave gentle attention to Preston's injury. The big dog recognized this as a friendly and helpful act. Because of it, he looked upon both strangers as friends and made no attempt to interfere when Pete turned the Sergeant's sled and dogs around to head in the direction from which they had come.

Joe; (COMING IN) The sled an' dogs are set. How is the Mountie?

Pete; Still unconscious. He's got a bad cut, Joe. I've sterilized it. Now I'll bandage it.

Joe; Humph! *WHY WORRY ABOUT HIM?* Even ~~if he regains consciousness~~ he ~~can't travel with our worn out team.~~

Pete; ~~It's an~~ but I don't like to leave him without dressin' the wound. I'd do as much for anyone.

Joe; Humph! Soft-hearted! (FADING) I'll go clear the trail.

Annrc; A short time later King saw one of the men sit down on Sergeant Preston's sled while the other stepped on the runners. It looked as though they were about to drive away leaving Preston unconscious on the trail. The big dog couldn't understand this.

BARKS

Annrc; He barked to bring attention to his master -

Pete; Joe, what about that dog?

Joe; He can stay where he is or come along. It doesn't matter to me. () Git up there! Mush!

DOGS AND SLED FADING

BARKS SUBSIDE

Annrc; King had reason to consider the men as friends ~~and no reason to distrust them. He watched~~ BUT HE COULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY ~~until they were out of sight, then turned to~~ THEY LEFT WITHOUT HIS MASTER, PERPLEXED, HE WATCHED UNTIL THEY WERE OUT OF SIGHT ~~Sergeant Preston.~~ THEN TURNED TO SERGEANT PRESTON

WHIMPERS ADLIB

Preston; (FAKING) Who- who - (MOAN) My head - () Hello, King -

EAGER WHIMPERS

Preston; (DAZED) Landslide - must've been hit by a rock - () Bandaged! My head bandaged! I wonder who - -

Annrcr; Preston's head throbbed painfully, and when he sat up the world seemed to spin before his eyes. When the wave of dizziness subsided, he saw the small team of tired dogs and the sled that had been left in place of his own...

Preston; King- who owns that sled? Those dogs? What's become of our outfit?

BARKS

Preston; Um-m. The tracks tell the story - two men here- turned our sled and team - () took my gun, too - () Just one thing to do, King - we must try to follow them -

BREAK

FADE IN SLED AND DOGS, FAST.

Annrcr; Meanwhile, Hank and Al, riding on a light sled behind a powerful team of fast dogs, covered the ground at nearly three times the speed of the outlaws on foot.

Al: (SHOUT) Hank, we just passed another place where those killers stopped to rest!

Hank; (SHOUT) I saw it, Al! The stops are gettin' closer an' closer together. The crooks must be gettin' mighty tired -

Al; (SHOUT) We'll catch 'em! () Mush you fellas! Step along, Leeda! C'mon there, Koon!

FADE OUT DOGS AND SLED.

Anncr; After regaining some of his strength, Sergeant Preston examined the dogs of the abandoned team and quickly realized that they were utterly exhausted -

BARKING

Preston; Never mind, King. No use trying to line them up. The poor fellows are worn out.

BARKS

Preston; King, I said - (BREAK) What're you barking at? Someone coming?

Anncr; Preston saw that King was looking toward the bend in the trail. As He glanced in that direction, Al's big team came into view -

DOGS AND SLED APPROACHING

Preston; That's a big team, King - as big as ours -

DOGS AND SLED NEARER

Preston; Two men - () holding guns!

LOW GROWLS AS

DOGS AND SLED IN AND STOP AS

Al; (SLIGHTLY BACK) (ADLIB WHOAS)

Hank; (SLIGHTLY BACK) (OverLAP) You're covered, Mister! Raise your hands or I'll shoot!

GROWLS AND SNARLS

† Preston; Steady, King. Quiet, boy -

Al: (SLIGHTLY BACK) We've got you covered, Mister!
Where's your partner?

Preston; This dog is my only partner.

Al: (COMING IN) Don't tell us that! We know you
had another man with you. We followed your
tracks all the way from Moose Crossing.

Preston; You couldn't have! I came from the opposite
direction.

Al: Keep him covered, Hank. I'll see if he's
packin' a gun beneath his parka.

Hank; He's covered.

Preston; You'll find my holster empty.

Al: A uniform& You're a Mountie!

Preston; Yes. The name is Preston.

Al: Sergeant Preston?

Preston. That's right.

Al: Well of all the - () Is this Yukon King?

Preston; Yes.

Al: Sakes alive! () Hank, put away your gun!
() Gosh, I'm sorry we made a mistake, Sergeant.

Preston; That's a ll right-

Al: I'm Al Hawks of Moose Crossing. This is Hank
Nelson.

Preston: Glad to know you both.

Hank: I'm sure glad to meet you, Sergeant.

Al: Sergeant, I know this is the sled we followed from Moose Crossing - look at the tracks.

Preston: This may be the sled. But the men you followed stole my sled and dogteam. They've ~~have~~ gone on. Why are you looking for them?

Al: We think they're the ones who shot an' killed the storekeeper at Moose Crossing.

Hank: And stole a lot of gold! Includin' mine!

Preston: Did they kill the storekeeper?

~~Al: The men said the killers used an old-fashioned~~

Al: No. The doctor says he'll live. He was shot by an ~~gun that shot a round ball. Did one of these~~ old fashioned gun that fires a round ball.

~~men have a ball an' cap gun?~~

Did one of those men have a ball an' cap gun?

Preston: I don't know. I didn't see them.

Al: Didn't see 'em! ~~But~~ How can that be? If you came from the opposite direction -

Preston: When those men were here, I was unconscious.

Hank: Unconscious?

Preston: Yes. There was a landslide. I thought I was out of the danger zone, but a rock or something struck me on the head and knocked me out. The thick hood of my parka probably saved my life. When I came to, my sled and dogteam were gone. Also my gun.

Al: Now we've got to catch those pole-cats! But I don't know how we can do it.

Preston; They haven't much of a start.

Al: They don't need much of a start I've been told
that your team's the only one in the Yukon that's
faster'n mine - and those crooks are drivin'
your team.

Preston; Yes, but Yukon King's not leading!

Al: Does that make a difference?

Preston; A lot of difference! Let me borrow your sled and team

Al: You're welcome to it, but-

Preston: I'll drive and King'll set the pace.

Al: If you want me to drive - -

Preston; No thanks. You and Hank wait here The sled'll
be lighter with only one man.

Hank: You goin' alone after those crooks?

Preston; King'll be with me. () Line 'em up, King!

ADLIB BARKING

Al; You'll need a gun! Take mine!

Hank; And mine!

Preston; Thanks.

Al: (SHOUTING) Line up there, you fellers! You do
as King says! You're goin' to see what it's
like to work with a real champion.

Hank; Goin' to stand on the runners, Sergeant?

Preston; Yes. () Ready King?

BARKS

Hank: Good luck, Sergeant!

Al: (OVERLAP) Go get 'em, King!

Preston: On, King! On you huskies!

DOGS AND SLED START, SUSTAIN

Annrc; King seemed to realize that he had made a mistake in permitting his team mates to be driven away. Eager to redeem himself, he set a dazzling pace that challenged the speed and strength of Al's fine team.

Preston: (SHOUTS) Come on, boys! On you huskies!

Annrc; In action, Sergeant Preston felt more like himself. The wind against his face was like a tonic. It refreshed him and drove away the throbbing headache.

Preston; (SHOUTS) On, King! On you huskies!

Annrc; From the side of the mountain, the trail led into a valley. There Preston saw his own team, far ahead!

Preston; (SHOUTS) There they are, King! Let's go get 'em, boy!

BARKS FULL UP THEN ~~UNDER~~ CUT
FADE IN DOGS AND SLED

Anncr; The weight of the two outlaws added to that of
Sergeant Preston's heavily loaded sled, cut down
the speed of Preston's team

DISTANT BARKS

Joe, standing on the sled runners, heard a distant
bark and looked over his shoulder -

Joe; Hank! Look behind us!

~~Hank;~~
~~PETE~~ Someone's comin' -

Joe; And mighty fast!

~~Hank;~~
~~PETE~~ Joe, that lead dog looks like Yukon King!

Joe; Yes, and the man drivin' wears a parka like
Preston's!

~~Hank;~~
~~PETE~~ Maybe he is Preston!

Joe; Can't be! Where'd he get a team?

~~Hank;~~
~~PETE~~ I don't know, but you'd better get these dogs
goin' faster!

Joe; Git up there! Git along you critters! (ADLIB)

DISTANT BARKS COMING NEARER

Anncr; The dogs did their best to respond to the driver's
commands, but suddenly they heard and recognized
another voice! The voice of Yukon King - and they
heard the barked command to halt -

SLED AND DOGS SLOWING.

Joe; (FRANTIC) Git along! Git up there! (ADLIB)

Pete; Joe! They're stoppin'!

SLED AND DOGS STOP

Joe; (FRANTIC) I'm tryin' to keep 'em goin'!
(ADLIB TO DOGS AS)

KING'S DARKS NEARER

Pete; Joe! That is Yukon King! And Preston is
on that sled! Preston's comin' to get us!

START SLED AND DOGS APPROACHING

~~Joe;~~ Joe: We gotta stop him!

Pete; You've got the only good gun!

Joe; And I'll use it!

SHOT

Pete; You missed!

SHOT. KING NEARER, SNARLING

Pete; You're shootin' too fast! Take time to aim!
(SUDDEN) Joe! Lookout for King!

Joe; (STARTLED) Huh?

Pete; (PANIC) Lookout!

KING CLOSE IN. ADLIB

Joe; (WILD YELL) Pete! Help me! He's got my arm!
(STRUGGLE) Shoot him! - club him with the gun -

Pete; Missed a[^]gain! You're shootin' too fast!

SHOT BACK

Joe; (SHARP CRY)

Pete; Joe -

Joe; (PAIN) My arm! Preston shot me!

Pete; (OVERLAP) Yuh dropped the gun -

Joe; (WILDLY) Get off that sled an' use the old gun -

KING COMING IN SNARLING

Anncr; Gripping the ball and cap gun, Pete leaped off the sled. Before he could fire at Preston, Joe cried -

Joe; (PANIC) The dog's comin' at me - (WILD YELL AS)

KING, IN WITH SNARLS. ADLIB STRUGGLE

Joe; (PANIC) (STRUGGLE) Get away - lemme alone -
Pete- help me! Shoot the dog-

Pete; Joe, I can't - I might hit you!

Joe; (WILDLY) Use the gun as a club- help me-
take this dog off me- (ADLIB STRUGGLE)

Anncr; Pete stared at the man and dog, thrashing on the ground. As he raised the gun, Preston fired again -

SHOT, SLIGHTLY BACK

Pete; (YELL) My arm!

Annrcr; Joe fell to the ground as Pete, gripping the old fashioned ball and cap gun, leaped off the sled. Before he could bring the gun to bear, Sergeant Preston fired.

SHOT BACK.

Pete: (YELL) My arm!

Annrcr; Pete dropped the gun and hugged his wounded arm -

Preston: (BACK, APPROACHING) Want some more?

Pete; (FRANTIC) No, no, don't shoot me! I surrender!

Joe; (PANICKY) Call off this dog - call him off - help me, I tell yuh -

SLED AND DOGS IN AD STOP AS

Preston; (COMING IN) (ADLIB WHOAS)

Joe; (PANICK) I give up, I quit - just call off the dog-

Preston; That'll do, King! Down, boy!

KING SUBSIDES.

Joe; (GASPING) That- that dog -

Preston; He hasn't hurt you! Stand up! And leave that gun where you dropped it! Guard 'em, King!

BARKS

Don't let either of them move until they're both handcuffed!

HANDCUFFS AS

Pete; (WHINES) My arm is wounded- you shot me-

Preston; Yes ' I shot you before you could use the gun that ~~was~~ ^{SHOT} a man in Moose ~~Canyon!~~ ^{CROSSING!}

Joe; We didn't -

Preston; Don't deny it!

Pete; How'd you know about that?

Preston; I borrowed a sled and team from the men who trailed ^{you} from town!

Pete; Sergeant, I didn't shoot that storekeeper! Joe did the shootin'-

Joe; Pete! Shut yer big mouth -

Pete; I won't shut up! I told you at the start I didn't want to get mixed up in ~~murder~~ ^{GUN PLAY}! You shot that storekeeper!

Joe; Why you -

KING SNARLS

Preston; Hold it, Joe! Make a fast move and you'll have trouble with King! () Is the stolen gold on my sled?

Pete; Yes! It's all there. Listen to me, Sergeant, I'm not a murderer! You've got to give me a break! I bandaged your head -

Preston; I'll bandage your arm to repay you!

Joe; What about me? I'm wounded too.

Preston; I'll take care of you.

ete; I don't want to hang-

Preston; The storekeeper wasn't killed so you'll both
escape the hangman. But you'll spend a long
time in prison. Now sit down while I dress
the wounds. Keep 'em covered, King.

GROWLS.

Preston; King, when we go back, you'll have to follow
me and bring the extra sled and team.

BAWK

Joe; That dog- if we'd had a string of dogs
like King, no one could've caught us.

Preston; But you haven't even one dog like King.
That's why this case is closed.