

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

FIRE TRAP

by Fran Striker

Number 1209

Date 12-14-54

Preston

King

Conover.....smooth, oily crook.

Jug.....heavy

Kentheavy

Peters.....middle aged trapper

Vetsmall part, straight.

Drakebit.

Jimbit

FILE

While searching for a missing constable, Sergeant Preston found himself trapped by killers who left him to perish in a fire. Preston thought his doom was sealed when suddenly - but you'll want to hear all of this thrill-packed adventure. Be sure (ETC)

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(USUAL OPENING)

Anncr; In the Yukon Territory men sometimes used a low, flat sled for carrying heavy loads. Because the runners of these freighting sleds were turned up at both ends, the driver - instead of riding the runners - had to travel on foot, guiding the sled from behind by a long pole that ~~was attached to the~~ extended back from the right side of the sled.
~~was attached~~

FADE IN SLED, DOGS, WIND.

Anncr; Constable Drake drove a sled of this ~~type~~ type over the ~~glare~~ smooth ice of a frozen stream. He had planned to meet Sergeant Preston at a camp about mid-way between the towns of White Rapids and Porcupine, but he had taken the wrong branch of the stream.

Drake: (WHOAS)

SLED AND DOGS STOP. DOGS WHINING.

Drake; Now quiet down, boys. I know you're tired and hungry. So am I. I've traveled on foot the same as you have -

Anncr; While speaking to his exhausted dogs, the constable examined a small instrument that measured the distance traveled. It was known as a pedometer, and had been a gift from Sergeant Preston...

Drake; According to the pedometer ~~we should have reached~~
Preston by now. We must've taken
~~farther than we should have. Now I know we took~~
the wrong branch of the river. () Well - we may
as well camp for the night -

WIND AND DOGS UP AND UNDER

Anncr; About fifty yards away, a high cliff extended
along one side of the frozen stream. And in
the face of the cliff, the constable saw an
opening -

Drake; Looks like a cave. That would be a good place
to camp -

FADE WIND AND DOGS AS

Anncr; Shielding his eyes from the wind, Drake studied
the opening, but he couldn't see the two hard-
faced men who stood inside the cave watching
the constable. They were known as Kent Carter
and Jug Jordan.

Kent; Jug, I know that man. He's Constable Drake.

Jug; A lawman eh? I don't like the way he's eyein'
this cave.

Kent; Neither do I. I wonder why he came here. This
is off all the regular trails-

Jug; Maybe he's learned what's goin' on -

Kent; I don't see how he could've...but he'll know
blame soon that somethin's goin' on, if he comes
in here and sees all the valuable pelts we've
got stored.

Jug: Boss Conover figured this was a safe hidin' place. He said no one ever came this way.

Kent: The Mountie came this way! () Look! He's turning his sled! He's headed for this cave!

Jug: Hand me my rifle!

Kent: Here. If he comes here, we're through!

LEVER RIFLE.

Jug: He won't get this far!

SHOT

Drake: (BACK) (CRY OUT)

Jug: Y uh got him. He fell on top of the sled.

Drake: (BACK)(ADLIB TO DOGS)

DOGS BACK, YIPES, FADING AS

Jug: He's still alive. Shoot again! Fire at the lead dog - stop the team -

SPACED SHOTS AS -

Anncr: Bullets streaked past Drake's dogs, which, though tired, seemed to realize the importance of escape. Despite the additional weight of the constable on the sled, the gallant animals kept going until they were out of sight around a bend-

Jug: Got away! Confound it, why didn't you shoot the dogs?

Kent: I tried to! Why didn't you open fire?

Jug; My rifle's 'way back in the cave. I thought you'd stop the dogs-

Kent; Well, I didn't. So what d'ya think we should do? Hitch up our team an' try to catch the constable?

Jug; No use. We'd have to unload our sled ~~before~~^{FIRST} ~~started~~. Besides, his team's probably faster'n ours. We'd never catch him.

Kent; Then we'll have to wait an' see what happens.

Jug; When we get to town in the morning, we'll tell Boss Conover what happened. He'll know what to do.

BREAK

WIND BG

Anncr; Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King were camped some distance from the scene of the shooting. Traveling without his sled and dogteam, Preston had gone there to meet Constable Drake.

Preston; He should have been here hours ago, King.

WHIMPERS

Preston; He may have followed the south branch of the river instead of the branch we followed - ~~wouldn't remember~~^{A LONGER ROUTE, BUT} - the branches come together again - either one would take him to town. If he missed us, he probably went on to Porcupine.

WHIMPERS

Preston: We'll turn in, King. We'll break camp early in the morning so we can reach the town of Porcupine by noon.

WHIMPERS, FADING

WIND UP AND UNDER

Annrc; While Sergeant Preston slept, Constable Drake's faithful dogteam kept going through the darkness pulling the sled on which their wounded master lay unconscious.

WIND UP AND UNDER

FADE IN DOGS AND SLED

Annrc; Later that night Jug Jordan and Kent Carter left the cave and took turns driving their dogteam on the frozen river. It was morning when they reached the town of Porcupine. At the side of a big warehouse that stood apart from all the other buildings, Carter halted the dogteam.

Kent; (WHOAS)

DOGS AND SLED STOP.

Kent; We'll leave the dogs right here, Jug.

Jug; Suits me.

STEPS SUSTAIN AS

Jug; Hey, Kent, looks like Conover's got someone in his office. There's a sled and team near the front door.

Kent: Um. So I see. That's a freightin' sled like
the one -

Jug: (CUT IN) Kent! Lookat the dogs! Notice the
lead dog -

Kent; Yeah! That's Constable Drake's outfit!

STEPS HALT

Jug: I wonder if Drake's inside with the boss!

Kent; I thought he was wounded bad. I don't see how
he could be up an' around.

Jug: I'll find out.

DOOR OPENS.

Jug: (CUE) Mr. Conover -

Conover; (BACK) I'm busy now! I'll see you as soon as
I'm through talking to Mr. Peters. (FADE IN)
Please wait outside until I'm through.

Jug: (BACK) All right, Mr. Conover. We'll be waitin'.

DOOR CLOSE, BACK.

Conover: Sorry we were interrupted, Peters.

Peters; I was sayin' that I want to get some of my
fur pelts out of your warehouse. I spoke to
the guard an' he said he couldn't let anyone
intuh the warehouse without your special permission.

Conover; That's right, Peters. I must take precautions to see that none of the pelts ~~is~~ ^{ARE} stolen.

Peters; I know that, but-

Conover; (CUT IN) You and many other trappers have entrusted me with your season's take of fine pelts. I'm responsible for them until they're shipped to the States and sold.

Peters; But I just want to take out a couple of pelts.

Conover; That's out of the question! We signed an agreement, you know -

Peters; Yeah -

Conover; I agreed to pack and ship your pelts to the States where my associates will sell them at a much higher price than you'd get here. I've guaranteed you fifteen hundred dollars - and you might get even more.

Peters; Mister Conover, I need some cash. If you won't advance it to me, I've got to sell a couple of the pelts I turned over to you.

Conover; Surely you can see how that would involve a new inventory, a new appraisal - a new contract - Moreover the insurance company is involved -

Peters; Aw~~er~~w

Jug: All right! You needn't bit my head off.

Peters; Sorry, Mister. It's just that Conover made me mad. It wouldn't of hurt him to advance me a few dollars on my pelts, ~~so I could pay the~~ ^{I MAY NEED MONEY} veterinary to take care of these dogs. They belong to a wounded man.

TO PAY

Jug; A wounded man?

Peter; Yep. The dogs stopped at my cabin in the middle of the night an' woke me up. I found the ~~man~~ wounded man unconscious on the sled. He'd been shot.

Kent; You don't say! Who did it?

Peters; I don't know. He was still unconscious when I left him.

Jug; Is he seriously wounded?

Peters; I reckon he'll pull through. But there's no doctor around here. The veterinary has treated ~~him around here. I'm takin' care of him.~~ his wound and I'm takin' care of him.

Kent; (FEELING HIS WAY) If the man was shot, maybe you should report it to the law.

Peters; The wounded man is a constable, an' he's the only law around here. Now I've gotta be goin'. I'm goin' to leave these dogs with the veterinary. Maybe, bein' they're a Mountie's dogs, he'll take care o' them without pay. () Git up there.

SLED AND DOGS START AND FADE.

Annor; Jug and Kent watched Peters for a moment, then entered the office and told Conover about the shooting of the constable...

Kent; He was headin' right for the cave, Boss, so we had to shoot him. If he'd entered the cave, he'd of seen all the furs we took there -

Conover; Um. That would have finished us! Did you kill the Mountie?

Kent; No. He fell on his sled an' his dogs took him out of range.

Jug; We just now learned that the dogs brought him to the home of the man who just left here.

Conover; Peters, eh?

Jug; Whatever his name is. That's why he wanted cash from you. He wanted to pay the veterinary for treatin' the Mountie's wound and takin' care of ~~takin' care of the Mountie's dogs.~~ his gods.

Kent; We learned that the Mountie's still unconscious.

Jug; But, Boss, ^{wh} if he lives, he'll remember that the shot came from the cave! That'll mean an investigation of the cave. Maybe we oughtta go to Peters' cabin an' finish off the Mountie.

Conover; I don't want any more violence than is necessary. But stay close to Peters. Go home with him and make sure the lawman doesn't talk! And keep me advised .

Jug: Right.

Kent; Boss, we've moved a lot of high-priced pelts to the cave. I think we've got about as many as we can handle.

Conover; I agree with you. I think it's about time to set the warehouse on fire, and clear out.

Kent; Good! When's the fire to be?

Conover; Very soon. I'll let you know. Now catch up to Peters and make sure the constable doesn't interfere with our plans.

BREAK

DOGS . BG.

Anncr; In town, Peters explained the situation to the veterinary, then added -

Peters; There's food on the sled, but I don't know anything about takin' care of dogs.

Vet; Don't worry, Peters. I'll be glad to care for the team. ~~Just help me take the dogs to the kennel behind the building. They'll be safe building, they'll be safe there until the~~ Just help me take the dogs to the kennel behind the building. They'll be safe there in the run until the constable's able to call for them.

Anncr; After helping to tie the dogs, Peters was walking along the street when he met Jug and Kent -

Kent; Hi there -

Peters; Oh - howdy, gents!

Kent; We've been lookin' for you.

- Jug: We got to talkin' things over an' decided we oughtta help you take care of the Mountie.
- Peters; Gosh, Gents, that's right fine of you-
- Jug: If he regains consciousness, an' tells us who shot him, we'll go after the gunslinger. Who knows? We might collect a reward. Where d'you live?
- Peters; A few miles north of town. My cabin's right at the edge of the river.
- Kent; The warehouse is on our way. We'll stop there an' pick up our sled an' team.
- Anncr; Kent and Jug won Peter's confidence during the trip to the trapper's home. They left their sled and team behind the cabin and went inside. Constable Drake still lay unconscious in the bedroom where Peters showed the outlaws the pedometer he'd taken from the la wman's pocket...
- Peters; Y'see, the bullet struck this thing an' kind of glanced off. The Constable's got a deep gash but the bullet's not imbedded in the wound. I figure the wound's not serious, but a lot of blood was lost -
- Anncr; Drake remained unconscious through the remainder of the morning. At noon, while Jug and Kent watched Peters changing the bandage, someone rapped on the door-

RAP, BACK.

Jug: I'll see who's at the door, Kent. You stay here
an' help Peters.

DOOR CLOSE. STEPS CROSS ROOM.

DOOR OPENS. WIND BG.

Jug; Howdy.

Preston; Hello. I'm Sergeant Preston. I'm looking
for Constable Drake.

Jug: Oh- er- uh - is he supposed to be here?

Preston; No. But coming from the north this is the
first cabin he'd see, so I thought he might
have stopped here.

Jug; He didn't. But he might've passed here - his
tracks wouldn't show on the river ice.

Preston; I'll go on to town. He may be there.

Jug;! Wait. Come to think of it, I did see a constable
in town. He had a six-dog team led by a white
Siberian.

Preston; Sounds like Drake's team.

Jug; He's not in town now. He set out for Redville.
He heard of some kind of trouble there.

Preston; Redville. That's east of Porcupine.

Jug; Yep. He started only a little while ago. Maybe
you c'n catch up to him - especially if you
take the short cut-

Preston; Short cut?

Jug; Yep. Instead of goin' south to the town, go southeast through the woods until you hit the trail to Redville. You'll avoid goin' through the town and you'll save a couple of miles.

Preston; Good idea. I'll do that. Thanks.

Jug; You're welcome, Sergeant.

Preston; (FADING) Come on, King.

BARKS FADING

DOOR CLOSE.

STEPS CROSS ROOM AS

Jug; (MUTTERS) Glad I got rid of him!

DOOR OPENS.

Jug; (CUE) You through bandagin' the constable, Peters?

Peters; Yep. I'm through. Who was at the door?

Jug; Just a stranger askin' directions. () It's past noon. Isn't it time we had somethin' to eat?

Peters; So it is!

Jug; Kent and I'll stay here with the moutie while you rustle up some grub.

Peters; Fine. I'll get started right away. Won't take long.

Jug; Call us when it's ready. I'll close this door to keep the bedroom warm.

DOOR CLOSE.

Jug; (LOW) I wanted to get him out of here so I could talk to you, Kent. That was Sergeant Preston at the door.

Kent; (LOW) Preston! What'd he want?

Jug; He's lookin' for Constable Drake.

Kent; Great Scott!

Jug; He didn't know Drake's here. I sent him off on a wild goose chase - told him the constable had gone to Redville. I figured it'll take Preston the rest of the day to get there-

Kent; Yeah, but when he doesn't find Drake, he'll probably know you lied - and he'll come back.

Jug; Yes, but meanwhile we'll have time to do something about Drake.

Ken; Um. So we will. () Now, Kent, I've got some news for you. While you were out of the room, Peters started talkin' about Conover. He's mighty sore.

Jug; At Conover?

Kent; Yes. When Conover wouldn't advance some cash, he wanted to take some of his pelts out of the warehouse and sell 'em - but Conover, of course, couldn't let him do it. Peters is mighty bitter about it, an' I told him he had a right to feel that way. (CHUCKLE) I built him up so he's goin' to help himself.

Jug; Help himself?

Kent; Yep. He said he'd like to bust into the warehouse and take out some of his best pelts - just to put one over on Conover. I told him it was a good idea - it'd serve Conover right.

Jug: But, Kent -

Kent; I told him the pelts are his an' he's got a right to do what he wants to with 'em.

Jug: But he hasn't! He signed a contract -

Kent; I know that! But nevertheless, I talked Peters into bustin' into the warehouse tonight. I even agreed to help him.

Jug; You must be loco! He'll see that no high grade pelts are in the warehouse! He's sure to notice that only the cheapest kind of furs are there. He'll spread the word - and all the trappers who traded with Conover will -

Kent; (CUT IN) Take it easy, Jug! Peters is playin' right into our hands. I've got slick plans. All I gotta do is persuade Conover to let us burn down the warehouse tonight!

Jug: Um-m. I begin to savvy -

Kent; Wait'll you hear what I got in mind! I'll go to the warehouse with Peters. We'll bust in through the back door. As soon as we're inside, I'll knock Peters out! Meanwhile, you bring Constable Drake to the warehouse on our sled -

Jug; Wait a minute, Kent - we'd better make sure this
lawman's still unconscious -

Kent; He hasn't stirred - he's dead to the world.

Jug: I hope so. If he hears us talkin' - () Um-m -
I guess you're right. He's unconscious. What's
the rest of your plan?

Kent; We'll carry Drake inside the warehouse then
start the fire. Both Drake and Peters'll die.

Jug: Um.

Kent; It'll appear that Peters broke in and was caught
there by the constable. There was a fight.
Peters dropped the lantern, which started the
fire, and he shot the constable. But the fire
spread fast an' trapped Peters, so he perished.
All the evidence will point to that, an' there'll
be no way to prove otherwise.

Jug: I gotta hand it to you, Kent. That's a slick
plan!

Kent; I'll tell it to Conover after we eat. (FADING)
I figure he'll like the plan -

BREAK

Annrc; Early that afternoon Boss Conover listened to
the plans and gave the word to go ahead.

WALKING STEPS SUSTAIN AS

Annor; Meanwhile, Sergeant Preston and King walked steadily eastward along the hard-packed trail toward Redville. They saw no one until mid-afternoon when they were hailed by a man who approached from the opposite direction.

Jim: (BACK) Hi there, Sergeant Preston!

ADLIB BARKS, STEPS HALTING

Preston; (CALL) Jim Thorndyke! Hello ! Glad to see you!

Jim; (COMING IN) And I'm glad to see you, Sergeant! An' you, King!

Preston; I passed your cabin a little while ago and wondered if you still lived there.

Jim: I sure do! I've been workin' that claim of mine. I think I might strike real pay dirt one of these days.

Preston; I hope you do!

Jim; I'm goin' to my cabin right now, Sergeant. Why don't you an' King come with me an' spend the night?

Preston; Thanks, Jim. I'd like to, but I must see Constable Drake. I have some mail and bulletins for him.

Jim; I know him! Where is he?

Preston; Somewhere on the trail between here and Redville.

Jim: You're wrong, Sergeant. If he'd been in Redville or on his way there, I'd have seen him. I just came from Redville. Went there for supplies.

Preston: But I was told he went to Redville. () Jim, is there any trouble there?

Jim: In Redville?

Preston: Yes.

Jim; Gosh no, Sergeant. The town's as quiet an' peaceful as a church.

Preston; (THOUGHTFULLY) That's odd. I wonder if that man was mistaken - or deliberately lying -
() But why should he lie? Drake might have changed his plans -

Jim: Huh?

Preston; Merely thinking out loud, Jim. Maybe Drake is still in Porcupine.

Jim; I don't know about that, but I guarantee he's neither in Redville nor on the way there.

Preston: Then there's no use going on. () King, ~~we'll~~ ^{WE'D BETTER}
return to Porcupine! **SOMETHING'S WRONG**

BARK FADE

SNEAK IN STEPS AS

Anncr; It was night by the time Sergeant Preston and his dog reached Porcupine. They were walking along the town's moonlit street when suddenly, in front of the veterinary's establishment, King caught a familiar scent -

SHARP BARK. STOP STEPS.

Preston: What's the matter, King? Why are you stopping here?

ADLIB BARKS, WHINES, CLOSE
AND RESPONSIVE BARKS, BACK.

Preston; Dogs behind the building, King, what about it?

KING WHIMPERS, BARKS, CLOSE.

Preston; What are you trying to tell me, boy? Want to go back there?

BARKS FADE FAST AS-

Preston; (QUICKLY) Hey - (SLIGHT LAUGH) Well, I guess you did.

FAST STEPS SUSTAIN AS
DOGS FADE IN AS

Anncr; Without awaiting further word, King ran past the side of the building and there was nothing for Preston to do, but follow -

ADLIB GLAD BARKS AND WHINES.

Annex; - and behind the building he saw a happy reunion as King exchanged greetings with half a dozen fine sled dogs ~~which were barking and howling~~. Then the veterinary came out of the house -

Vet; (COMING IN) Hey, what's going on here. What's wrong with you fellows -

Preston; Hello, Doc.

Vet; Sergeant Preston! Hello! I'm glad to see you, but what -

Preston; (CUT IN) King and I were walking past when King caught the scent of these dogs. Doc, this looks like Constable Drake's team.

Vet; It is his team! And there's his sled -

Preston; Where's Drake?

Vet; ~~That's what I'm afraid of, he's in~~ he's in Lafe Peters' cabin. He was there this morning, wounded and unconscious - I presume he's still there.

Preston; Drake, wounded? Unconscious?

Vet; ~~That's what I'm afraid of, he's in~~ *YES, I TREATED HIS WOUND.* ~~The dogs were barking and howling~~. The dogs stopped at Peters' cabin during the night. Drake lay on the sled. ~~Peters brought the dogs here and asked me to take care of them.~~

Preston; Where does Peters live?

Vet;

About five miles north of town. His cabin's on the east bank of the river. It's different than the other cabins - Peters built an extra room on the side giving the place an "L" shape -

(CUT IN) That's where I stopped! What does Peters look like?

He's a small man, past middle age - grey hair-

(CUT IN) He's not the man I talked to! I'm going back to that cabin. I think I'll take Drake's sled with me, in case I want to move the constable. I -

(CUT IN) Sergeant -

Yes?

Look over there - see that big building?

Preston;

Um. Conover's warehouse, isn't it?

Vet;

Yes. Now look to the right of the building. See that stand of brushwood?

Preston:

I see it. What about it?

Vet;

That's near the back door. I just saw two men cross the open space between the brushwood and the door.

Preston;

I see them! They're at the back door!

Vet;

Looks to me as if they're trying to break in!

Preston;

Um.

Vet: I'm sure they have no legitimate business there-

Preston: ^{I'll} ~~investigate~~ investigate. () Doc, to save time,
will you hitch the dogs to Drake's sled while
I see what those men are doing?

Vet: Of course.

Preston: King will help you line 'em up.

A DLIB WHIMPERS

Preston: Stay, King. Line 'em up, Boy. I'll be back.
You stay.

Vet: (FADING) Come on, King. We've a job to do.

Anncr; Some distance away, at the shadowed back door
of the moonlit warehouse, Lafe Peters watched
Kent Carter use an iron bar to apply pressure
to the lock -

LOCK SNAPS

Kent: There. Now we c'n open the door.

OPEN DOOR.

Kent; Come on in, Peters.

Peters; Sure is dark in here. I'd better light the
lantern I brought along -

Kent; Go ahead.

ADLIB BIZ WITH LANTERN

Peters; (CHUCKLES) Conover'll sure be surprised tomorrow
when I tell him I got some of my pelts out of
here in spite of him.

Kent; Yeah.

CLOSE LANTERN.

Peters; There. Now we can see where my pelts are -

Kent; Put the lantern on the floor.

Peters; All right. Maybe I'd better close the door.
(SUDDENLY STARTLED) Hey -

BLOW

Peters; (GASP) Yuh - yuh hit -

Kent; (EFFORT) Here's another!

BLOW & FALLING BODY.

Kent; (MUTTERS) That did it!

Preston; (BACK) What's going on?

Kent; (SURPRISE) Huh? () Preston!

Preston; Drop that iron bar!

DROP BAR

Kent; Now, Sergeant, I can explain -

Preston; Put up your hands and face the other way while
I disarm you -

~~And I didn't know that Kent's partner, Jug,~~

Annor; Preston's back was to the door as he took the gun from Kent's holster and searched for hidden weapons. He didn't see Jug come from the brushwood, where he had been hidden, and, with a drawn gun, enter the warehouse.

Jug: (BACK) Get yer hands up, Preston!

Preston; (SURPRISE) Eh?

Kent; Good work, Jug!

Preston; You!

Jug: Yeah! Remember me? I'm the gent who told you to go to Redville.

Preston; I remember you!

Kent; What'll we do with him, Jug?

Jug: There's only one thing to do. We've got to leave him here to die with the others. Is

Kent; Where's Drake?

Jug: Outside, on our sled. I left it back a little way. (SHARPLY) Keep yer hands up, Preston!

~~Pick up the hand on bar, Kent -~~

~~Kent, figure.~~

Oreston; If you crooks think you can get away with this, (SUDDEN EFFORT) You're wrong!

Jug: ~~MM~~ (SHARPLY) Kent -

Kent; (EFFORT) I'll get him!

BLOW, FALLING BODY

- Jug: That does it!
- Kent: Got him with the first crack ~~of the hammer~~.
- Jug: Better tie an' gag him so he can't yell if he comes to.
- Kent: Why not finish him right now?
- Nug: No. We want it to look like he got caught in the fire. A cracked skull would be murder evidence.
- Kent; What of it? We're makin' it look like Peters shot Drake -
- Jug: Yes, but no one would believe he could shoot two Mounties. You tie an' gag Preston while I go an' get Drake. (FADING) I won't be long.
- Anncr; Much of the force of the blow had been absorbed by Preston's hat. He regained consciousness a few minutes later, only to find himself lying ~~on~~ tied and gagged on the warehouse floor. With his ~~EYES~~ still closed he heard Kent saying -
- Kent; Bring Drake right over here, Jug. C'n you carry him without help?
- Jug: (COMING IN) Yeah - I got him.
- Kent; Still unconscious?
- Jug: (IN) Yes. (EFFORT) There! All set to start the fire?

Kent; Not quite. We'll spill some oil first, to make sure the fire burns fast. Take one of these lanterns I found here and pour the oil in the corner-

BIZ OF POURING OIL.

Anncr; Unnoticed by the crooks, Preston strained against the ropes, but they were strong and well tied. He saw Lafe Peters and Drake lying nearby. Both men were unconscious. The constable wore a bandage. Peters was tied and gagged.

Jug; (BACK) Think we should tie and gag the Constable, too?

Kent; That's not necessary.

Jug; Kent, we could take out a few more of the pelts an' move 'em to the cave -

Kent; No, Jug. Conover says we've got all we can handle.

Jug; The trappers are goin' to be mighty sore when all their pelts are burned.

Kent; They'll collect insurance for them.

Jug; With Conover gone, maybe the insurance company won't settle -

Kent; That's none of our worry.

Jyg; I'll start the fire!

SCRATCH MATCH.

Kent; As soon as it's goin' good, I'll throw the lighted lantern intuh the corner. That'll account for how the fire got started.

START FIRE C A CJLING.

Jug: It's goin'. Smash the lantern.

SMASH LANTERN.

Kent; There!

Jug; Kent? I just happened to think - d'ya suppose it'll show that these men were tied an' gagged?

Le it; No! Not after a fire like this is goin' to be! The wood's bone dry! It's takin' fire already & (FADING) Let's get out of here!

FLAMES CRACKLING, INCREASING

Anncr; Preston saw the flames leaping higher and higher and knew that time was short. He strained to break free of the ropes without success // He // and he tried to crawl toward the door. ~~He could not even crawl toward the door because he~~ had been tied to an upright post -

FLAMES UP AND OUT

WHIMPERING

Anncr; King and the veterinary were watching the warehouse ~~King and the veterinary saw smoke and realized~~ when they saw smoke coming from the door and realized that the warehouse was on fire.

Vet; I'll spread the word! (FA DE YELLING) Fire- the warehouse is on fire - Bucket brigade -

Annrcr; King sensed that his master was in danger, and raced to the warehouse.

BARKS AND WHINES.

FLAMES CRACKLING

ADLIB: (CROWD APPROACHING)

Annrcr; The big dog saw that the door was closed, and in desperation, leaped against it.

DOOR OPENS. CRACKLING LOUDER

Annrcr; The door, with the broken lock swung inward -

ADLIB WHINES, WHIMPERS.

King was at his master's side. The big dog had been taught to work on ropes, and he had learned his lesson well. He found the rope that held Preston to the upright post and went to work on it. He chewed and tugged until at last the rope was broken. Then he took a firm grip on the bindings around his master's ankles and started backing toward the door. He threw every ounce of his great strength into the effort, and Preston helped as much as he could. Then he was seen by men outside -

Voice; (BACK) Look! There's a dog tryin' to pull someone out -

V ice 2; (BACK) Come on. We'll give him a hand!

Vet; (COMING IN) Yukon King, and Sergeant Preston!

ADLIB: (CROWD NOISES IN AS)

Annrcr; The veterinary was among those who helped King rescue Preston. Outside the building the ropes and gag were quickly removed. Then Preston leaped

Vet; There you are, Sergeant-

Preston; Two other men are in there.

ADLIB: (STIR)

Vet; You can't go back inside!

Preston; I must!

Voice; The roof may fall in -

Preston; Those men must be rescued! Come on, King.

Vet; Boys! We can't let Preston do it alone!
Come on!

Voice; I'll help!

FLAMES UP AND UNDER

ADLIB: (COUGHING)

Preston; (COUGHING) Here they are. Careful of that man-
he's wounded -

Vet; We have him!

ADLIB: FADE IN EXCITED CHATTER)

Annrcr; A moment later the admiring crowd saw Peters and Drake brought to safety - and none too soon - for an instant later the roof fell in!

ROOF FALLS.

Annrcr; Then Preston singled out one man in the crowd - Boss Conover!

Preston; You, Conover -

Conover; Eh? What's the matter?

Preston; You're under arrest!

Conover; Now hold on, you can't arrest me -

Prestin; I am arresting you, and then I'm going to find your henchmen, Jug and Kent!

FLAMES FULL UP. OUT.

Annrcr; It was later that night when Constable Drake at last opened his eyes to find Sergeant Preston sitting beside the bed on which he lay -

Drake; (WEAK) P-Preston -

Preston; Take it easy, Drake. You're going to be all right.

Drake; Shot- from cave -

Preston; I know all about it. The men who tried to kill you have been captured.

Drake; Where am I?

Preston; In the town of Porcupine- in the veterinary's home.

Drake; I - I remember a shot - just after I looked at the pedometer you gave me -

Preston; That pedometer deflected the bullet just enough to save your life, ~~and~~ and gave us the location of the cave where stolen furs are stored.

Drake; B-but why- why was I shot-

Preston; It's a long story, Drake. Conover ~~planned a~~ stole the furs and planned a warehouse fire to defraud the insurance company. And he and his henchmen planned to murder you, Lafe Peters, and me. They're all in jail and they'll pay in full! I'll tell you the details when you're stronger.

DOOR OPENS.

Peters; (BACK) Sergeant, the Vet and I - (BREAK) Hey, Drake's awake at last!

Preston; Yes, Peters.

Peters; (CALL) Hey Doc, come in here an' see the constable! He's back in the land of the livin' !

Vet; (COMING IN) Is that true, Sergeant?

Preston; Yes, Doc. This case is closed.

THEME.