

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

CHRISTMAS FOR SALLY
by Fran Striker

Number: ¹²¹²
~~11154~~

Date: DEC. 23, 1954

(NAMES FROM WORLD ATLAS)

Preston

King

Jim Fraser straight, 30

Mary his wife

Sally 11 year old

Crane elderly miser

Jackson straight

Voice bit

FILE

Sergeant Preston didn't suspect that his
rescue of a trapper from a burning building
would make him an eye witness to a miracle on
Christmas Eve. You'll want to hear every bit
of the unusual story, so be sure - (ETC.)

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
Fran Striker

CHRISTMAS FOR SALLY

Number: 1212

Date: 12-23-54

(USUAL OPENING)

Annrc; Jonothan Crane lived alone in a large, luxuriously furnished home in Dawson. He spent most of his time in a front room that served as his office. Here he conducted an investment and loan business with the aid of a single employee, a younger man named Jackson. Jackson had been at work for about an hour when Crane entered the room and slammed the door.

(DOOR SLAMS)

Jackson; Good morning, Mr. Crane.

Crane; (ANGRY) 'Morning!

Jackson; Something wrong, sir?

Crane; Yes! My breakfast was ruined by a woman's display of ingratitude!

Jackson; A woman --?

Crane; That woman who comes to prepare my meals and do the housework!

Jackson; Oh -- Mrs. Hawkins.

Crane; Yes! For five years I've given her steady employment in my home! D'you think she appreciates it? She does not!

Jackson; What did she do?

Crane; She didn't do anything! She wants more money.

Jackson; Oh -

Crane; Beginning the first of the year she wants an increase of a dollar a week! Fifty-two dollars a year! Six percent interest on nearly a thousand dollars!

Jackson; Well - she is a good housekeeper, Mr. Crane -

Crane; Of course she is! What's why she's held her job!

Jackson; Are you going to give her the raise?

Crane; I suppose I'll have to. It'd be hard to find someone to replace her. Make a note of it, Jackson. Raise her pay one dollar a week, effective January first.

Jackson; Yes sir. And while we're talking about Mrs. Hawkins -- Christmas is next week.

Crane; What's that got to do with Mrs. Hawkins?

Jack son; I wondered if you wanted to give her a Christmas present.

Crane; No! I've never done it before. Why should I start now?

Jackson; Well -- I just thought....

Crane Please don't spend your time thinking of ways to get rid of my money!

Jackson; I'm sorry.

Crane; what are you working on?

Jackson; When you came in, I was writing a letter to Jim Fraser.

Crane; Fraser. He's the trapper who lives north of town.

Jackson; That's right. I was writing the usual thirty day notice that the mortgage on his home is due and payable in January.

Crane; Five hundred dollars, isn't it?

Jackson; Yes - interest at six percent for one year. He borrowed the money to bring his wife and eleven year old daughter from the States.

Crane; I remember. I wonder if he'll be able to pay.

Jackson; He might be able to. I've heard he's done well with his traplines this year.

Crane; I hope he can pay, but we'd better not count on it. We'd better see if we can find a prospective buyer for his house --in case we have to foreclose the mortgage.

Jackson; Even if Fraser can't pay the full amount, he'll probably be able to pay part of it. You could take a new mortgage for the balance.

Crane; Yes, Jackson, I could. On the other hand, it might be more profitable to foreclose the mortgage, take possession of the house and sell it at a profit.

Jackson; It's worth a lot more than five hundred dollars.

Crane; It is, to anyone who wants it. We'll investigate. If we find that it'll be difficult to sell the house profitably, I'll renew the loan - at an increased rate of interest.

Jackson; Yes sir.

RAP ON DOOR

Crane; (CALLS) Come in.

(DOOR OPEN)

Fraser; (BACK) Good morning, Mr. Crane.

Crane; Fraser. Come in.

(DOOR CLOSE, STEPS IN AS:)

Fraser; (COMING IN) Hi there, Jackson.

Jackson; Good morning, Fraser. We were just talking about you.

Fraser; Yeah? About the mortgage I have comin' due next month.

Jackson; Yes. I've written you a letter to remind you of it.

Fraser; That's not necessary. I haven't forgotten it.

Crane; Did you come here to discuss it, Fraser?

Fraser; Not exactly, Mr. Crane. I came to town to buy some supplies and a Christmas present for my wife and daughter, and I thought as long as I was here, I'd drop in and let you know I'll have the cash for you next month.

Crane; The full amount?

Fraser; Yes sir! The full amount!

Crane; Glad to hear it. Trapping must've been good this season.

Fraser; I've done all right. I already have nearly enough pelts to make up the amount I owe you. I'll have more than enough by the time the mortgage is due.

Crane; Good. I'm glad to hear it.

Jackson; How long are you going to be in town, Fraser?

Fraser; I'm leavin' right now. I want to be home by noon. I promised to take my daughter tree huntin' this afternoon.

Crane; Tree hunting? What do you mean?

Fraser; We're going to cut down a Christmas tree.

Crane; (SNORTS) Christmas tree!

Fraser; There are some fine evergreens growin' close to
the trail north of my place. () Now I reckon
I'd better be goin'. I just thought you'd be
glad to know I'll have the cash, Mr. Crane.

Crane; Thank you for telling me.

Fraser; Well, good day to you - (FADING) - and a Merry
Christmas.

(DOOR OPENS)

Jackson; Merry Christmas, Fraser.

(DOOR CLOSE)

Crane; (MUTTERS) Merry Christmas! Humph.

(WIND B.G.)

(CHOPPING)

Annrc; That afternoon, the eyes of eleven year old Sally
Fraser were bright and sparkling like the clean
white snow as she watched her father chop down
a fine, thick evergreen.

Sally; (CRY OUT) There it goes!

(STOP CHOPS) (TREE FALLS)

Fraser; That does it, Sally! There's your Christmas tree!

Sally; Oh Dad, it's a beauty! Just wait until we get it trimmed with all the things Mother and I made! Paper chains and popcorn balls - painted nuts and fancy cookies --

Fraser; (CHUCKLING) We'll have to get it home before we trim it. That'll be a job!

Sally; Oh, Dad - do you think --

Fraser; (CUT IN) Don't worry, Honey, we'll get it home. I'll tie a rope around the thick end and we'll drag it along the trail.

(START DOGS & SLED APPROACHING)

Sally; If we can't drag it, I'm sure Mommy will help. We could go back to the house and get --

Fraser; (CUT IN) Just a minute, honey. I hear someone comin' from the north --

Sally; There he is! A man with a sled and dogteam!

Fraser; Sure enough.

Sally; I'll bet those dogs could pull the tree!

Fraser; The dog runnin' free looks like - (BREAK) It is Yukon King! And that's Sergeant Preston ridin' the runners.

Sally; Sergeant Preston!

Fraser; He's the Mountie who gave you the puppy. Remember him?

Sally; Of course I do. I'll always remember him and his dog King.

(SLED & DOGS COMING IN AS:)

Fraser; (SHOUTS) Hi there, Sergeant!

Preston (FADING IN) Jim Fraser! Hi there! (AD LIB HO'S)

(SLED & DOGS IN & STOP AS:)

(KING AD LIB BARKS)

Sally; Hello, Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Hello, Sally! My - you're looking fine! So are you, Jim. How is everything?

Fraser; First rate, Sergeant. First rate. () Hello there, King. I see you're still on the job.

(AD LIB WHIMPERING, ETC.)

Sally; Sergeant, look at our Christmas tree!

Preston; That's a fine one! Looks like you'll have to cut off the top to get it into the house!

Fraser; (CHUCKLES) Sally wanted a big one.

Sally; We're going to trim it with fancy paper, and popcorn and cookies and - oh, just everything!

Preston; Going to be heavy to haul, isn't it, Jim?

Fraser; I reckon so.

Preston; I think we can put it on top of the gear on my sled. How would that be?

Fraser; That'd be fine, Sergeant. But it'll make a heavy load for your dogteam --

Preston; The dogs won't mind.

Fraser; I don't want to take you out of your way --

Preston; I'm going right past your place. I'm on the way to Dawson.

Sally; Sergeant Preston, when we get home I'll show you how much Sandy has grown.

Preston; Oh, the puppy, eh?

Sally; Yes! Oh he's a wonderful dog. He wanted to come with us today, but Dad thought he was still too small to walk this far.

Fraser; Sally sure loves that puppy you gave her, Sergeant

preston; I'm glad to hear that.

Sally; He's going to have a fine Christmas, too. Mommy helped me make a special biscuit for him.

Preston; Sandy's a mighty lucky little dog to have you to take care of him, Sally. () Let's lift that tree to the sled, Jim.

Fraser; I'll take the heavy end -

Preston; I have it. Take the other end.

Fraser; This is sure mighty fine of you. () Stand back, Sally.

Preston; Ready?

Fraser; (EFFORT) Ready.

Adlib; (LIFTING)

(BARKS)

Sally; Look at King. (LAUGHS) He wants to help.

Preston; (EFFORT) Stand back, King. Now, Jim - ease it down. That's it. () There.

Fraser; Think we should tie it in place?

Preston; No, I'm sure it will stay there. We'll go slowly. () Line 'em up, King.

(AD LIB BARKS)

Preston; Let's go, King. On you huskies! Slow, King.

(SLED & FOOTSTEPS SUSTAIN AS:)

Fraser; Come on, Sally.

Sally; (LAUGHING) Mother'll be mighty surprised to see us bringing home the tree on Sergeant Preston's sled.

Fraser; She sure will. () You planning to spend Christmas in Dawson, Sergeant?

Preston; Yes. I have a cabin there, you know.

Jim; That's so.

Preston; This will be the first time in years I've been able to spend Christmas at home.

Jim; It's goin' to be a fine Christmas for us.

Preston; I'm glad to hear that. You've earned it. You've worked hard since you came to the Yukon.

Jim; It's been worthwhile. I'll be able to pay off the mortgage on my place and after that, we'll have nothing to worry about.

(WIND & STEPS UP & UNDER:)

Annecr; The two men and Sally continued along the trail with no thought of disaster. But when they reached the edge of the woods and saw Jim Fraser's cabin just ahead - the cabin was on fire!

(FADE IN CRACKLING FLAMES AS:)

Fraser; (CRY OUT) My cabin!

Sally; (CRY OUT) Daddy - our house --

Fraser; There's Mary --

Preston; On, King! On you huskies!

Fraser; (RUNNING, YELLS) Mary! Mary!

Sally; (RUNNING, SOBBING) Our house is on fire -

Mary; (FADING IN) Oh Jim - look -- it's burning!

Preston; (AD LIB WHOA'S)

(DOGS & STEPS STOP)

(KING AD LIB BARKS)

Mary; (COMING IN, SOBBING) Oh, Jim, Jim. It's my fault. I spilled the can of coal oil - then a spark from the fireplace fell --

Fraser; (CUT IN) Mary, are you all right?

Mary; Yes, yes, I - I'm all right!

Preston; You sure?

Mary; Yes, yes. But all we own is in there!

Sally; AD LIB SOBBING) Our house - and Sandy! (SUDDENLY) Mommy - where is Sandy -

Mary; (GASP) Oh Mercy, I forgot the poor little puppy - I barely had time to get out and --

Fraser; And my pelts! The furs! They're inside!

Mary; Yes, Jim -

Sally; (SOBBING) Sandy - my puppy - I must go and get him.

Preston; No, no Sally! You can't go in there!

Sally; AD LIB SOBBING) Sandy'll die! He'll be burned to death.

Fraser; I've got to get my furs out!

Preston; No, Jim. Flames are going thru the roof! The place may cave in.

Fraser; (FADING) I've got to save the furs!

Mary; (CRY OUT) Jim - no!

Preston; (OVERLAP) Come back here!

Mary; Stop him, Sergeant! Don't let him go into that fire!

Preston; Too late. He's already inside. Only one thing to do! Come on, King. We'll try to get him out.

(BARKS AS:)

Sally; (FADING BACK, AD LIB SOBBING)

(FADE FLAMES IN CLOSE AS:)

Anncr; As Preston and King dashed thru the open door, they were assailed by heat and smoke.

Preston; (AD LIB COUGHING THRU)

(PUPPY WHIMPERS)

Anncr; At one end of the room that the flames had not yet reached, a puppy whimpered --

Preston; (COUGHING) Get him, King.

Anncr; At the opposite end, where the fire had begun, Jim Fraser beat at flaming furniture with his bare hands in a desperate effort to reach the burning wall where his furs were stored on shelves --

Jim; (FADING IN, COUGHING)

Preston; (COUGHING) Jim - it's no use!

Jim; (FADING IN) G -got to save - furs--

Preston; (COUGHING) You can't! They're already gone! Come on!

Jim; (COUGHING) No - the furs --

Preston; (COUGHING) You're burning your hands! Come out before the roof falls in --

Jim; (AD LIB, FRENZIED EFFORT) Furs --

Preston; (EFFORT) Come with me --

Jim; (EFFORT) Let go -

Preston; (EFFORT) You're coming, one way or the other!
Come on!

Jim; (COUGHS AND STRUGGLE)

Anncr; Hysterical at the thought of losing the furs that would pay off the mortgage, Jim struggled against rescue. There was just one thing to do - and the Sergeant did it. He drove his fist to the trapper's jaw.

- (BLOW)

Preston; (EFFORT) Sorry, Jim.

Anncr; Jim, knocked unconscious, would have slumped to the floor - but Preston ~~xxx~~ lifted him and carried him into the open. One end of the cabin collapsed -

(CABIN FALLS)

(SUSTAIN CRACKLING FLAMES BACK)

Mary; (COMING IN) Jim, Jim!

Sally; (OVERLAP, COMING IN) Daddy, Daddy - what happened to you --

Preston; (EFFORT) He's unconscious, but he'll be all right.

Mary; (GASP) His hands - they're burned --

Sally; (GASP) Dad --

Preston; (CUT IN) Sally, there's King with your rescued puppy.

Sally; Oh --

Preston; Take care of Sandy.

Sally; But Daddy --

Preston; I'll take care of him!

Sally; Yes sir. (FADING) Sandy, Sandy - are you all right?

Mary; Sergeant, I want the truth about Jim.

Preston; Mary, I had to knock him unconscious to get him out. He was trying to save his furs.

Mary; Oh!

Preston; His hands are badly burned, but otherwise he's all right. I'll bandage his hands right away, then take him to the doctor in Dawson.

Mary; We -- we've lost everything --

Preston; You're all alive.

Mary; Yes. I -- I'm grateful for that -- grateful to you for saving Jim.

Preston; (EFFORT) Here's my first aid kit. () Take my knife and cut away the sleeves of his clothes.

Mary; Yes.

Preston; You and Sally had better come to Dawson. I have plenty of room in my cabin and I'd be happy to have you there until your own home is rebuilt.

Mary; Oh thank you, that's very kind --

Jim; (MOANS)

Preston; Steady, Jim. You're all right.

Mary; You're safe, Jim.

Jim; My house -- my furs --

Preston; Lie still while I bandage your hands.

Jim; Sergeant -- Mary -- what about the furs --?

Mary; They're gone, Jim - but you're alive, and that's all that matters.

Jim; Home -- furs - All gone. I - I can't pay Jonothan Crane --

Preston; Don't worry about that. Don't worry about anything!

Jim; (BITTERLY) Christmas - (SOBS) A fine time to have all this happen. (FADE OUT SOBBING) This was going to be our big Christmas --

Annex; The following morning, Jonathan Crane came into his office at the usual hour and found Jackson at work -

(DOOR SLAMS)

Jackson; Good morning, Mr. Crane.

Crane; (ANGRY) 'Morning!

Jackson; I suppose you've heard the news.

Crane; If you refer to the fire at Fraser's place, I've heard it! That woman told me!

Jackson; Mrs. Hawkins?

Crane; Yes! She seems to delight in ruining my breakfast with bad news! Is it true that Fraser lost everything?

Jackson; Yes.

Crane; Including the furs he hoped to sell to pay off his mortgage?

Jackson; Yes sir.

Crane; Rotten luck!

Jackson; He lost everything. The cabin burned to the ground.

Crane; Rotten luck!

Jackson; Yes. The poor fellow is --

Crane; (CUT IN) I'm referring to my rotten luck! With the building gone, I can't even foreclose the mortgage. () Where's Fraser?

Jackson; He and his family are staying in Sergeant Preston's home.

Crane; Oh!

Jackson; Fraser's hands were badly burned. According to the doctor, he won't be able to work for at least a month.

Crane; Fine thing!

Jackson; It's tough on him and his family - and just before Christmas, too -

Crane; What about me? What about the money he owes me?

Jackson; Well -- you may get that, Mr. Crane.

Crane; Eh --?

Jackson; Last night Sergeant Preston talked to a number of the men in town about taking up a collection for Jim Fraser.

Crane; A collection --?

Jackson; Yes sir. As I understand it, the plan is to surprise him ~~xxx~~ with a Christmas tree trimmed with gold nuggets and money.

Crane; Um. D'you think there'll be enough to pay his debt to me?

Jackson; There may be -- if you insist on immediate payment --

Crane; Why shouldn't I insist on payment of a just debt?

Jackson; Well - if he didn't have to pay you, he could use the money to build a new house --

Crane; Humph!

Jackson; It would be a fine thing if you'd suggest that he use the money for a new house, and extend the mortgage a year. That would make a wonderful Christmas present for Jim, Mr Crane. It would be fine for his wife and their little girl, too -

Crane; I never give Christmas presents -

Jackson; (SIGHS) I know.

Crane; No reason why I should! No one ever gave me a Christmas present.

Jackson; (SURPRISED) You mean - even when you were a youngster?

Crane; My boyhood was spent in an orphanage! And a very bad one at that! No one gave a thought to any of the boys there. We were treated like young animals. Christmas was just another unhappy day in the year.

Jackson; Oh. I - I didn't know that, sir.

Crane; There was just one time when I was given a present. I remember that. A little girl visited the orphanage with her parents at Christmas time. They looked me over. I thought they were going to adopt me -- take me out of that place. The little girl looked at me - handed me a toy dog she was carrying, and wished me a Merry Christmas. () (BECOMING MORE WISTFUL)
That was the only gift I ever received. I took it to bed with me that night, and all the next day - waiting for those people to return and take me out of the "Home." They never came back!

Jackson; Oh I -- I'm sorry.

Crane; I was bitter about that! Bitter, hurt and angry. I finally gave up waiting and threw away the toy dog. Threw it as far away as I could! To me, Christmas is nothing but a reminder of that terrible disappointment! Ever since then I've depended on no one for anything. I look out for myself and let others do likewise.

Jackson; Yes sir.

Crane; Why'm I sitting here telling all this to you! You're paid to work - not to listen to an old man's life history!

Jackson; Mr. Crane, do you want to contribute something to Jim Fraser's Christmas tree?

Crane; (GASP) You have the colossal nerve to ask that!

Jack; A substantial contribution from you might start the ball rolling, sir - so others would be quick to contribute --

Crane; Um-m. You may be right.

Jackson; There'd be more likelihood of Fraser getting enough to pay off his mortgage --

Crane; Yes, yes. Very well, I'll contribute ten dollars.

Jackson; That's fine, Mr. Crane.

Crane; But understand, Jackson - I consider the ten dollars an investment!

Jackson; Yes sir.

Crane; I have not changed my policy about the giving of Christmas presents.

Jackson; I understand, Mr. Crane.

Anner; That afternoon, while the snow fell steadily in big, heavy flakes, Sally sat with her parents in front of the fireplace in Sergeant Preston's snug home. She held her small dog in her lap --

Sally; ... and tonight is Christmas Eve, Sandy. I'm going to tell you the story of Christmas -- just as Mother told it to me -

(WHIMPERS)

Mary; How do your hands feel, Jim? Do the burns still hurt?

Jim; Not much, Mary. I - I wouldn't mind the pain in my hands. That's not what bothers me. It's the fact that we've lost everything. I - I'd looked forward to such a wonderful Christmas.

Mary; It w ill be a wonderful Christmas, dear! We're together. That's what counts. Remember last year, when Sally and I were in the States and you were here alone --

Jim; I - I remember. I wrote and told you that this year we'd have presents and - (SIGHS) Oh, what's the use!

Sally; we have the tree, Daddy! And Sergeant Preston promised to bring it in and trim it when he comes back from headquarters. I just wish the gifts I made for you and Mommy hadn't burned --

(DOOR OPENS)

(BARKS BACK)

Preston; (BACK) Hello, everyone!

Jim; Here's the Sergeant.

(DOOR CLOSE)

Adlib; (HELLO'S)

(KING & PUPPY BARKING AS:)

Sally; Look at Sandy -- how glad he is to see King!

Preston; King's just as glad to see him! How're you feeling, Jim?

Jim; Well, I - I --

Preston; I understand.

Jim; We're imposing on you terribly, Sergeant, and I --

Preston; Nonsense! I'm glad to have someone here in the cabin. It's a lonely place, most of the time.

Jim; It's kind of you to say that. () Trouble is, I don't know how long it'll be before we can leave.

Preston; It doesn't matter. I'll be leaving on patrol right after the first of the year and I'll be gone for weeks. I'd a lot rather have someone living here than leave the cabin empty. Now cheer up, Jim! Tomorrow is Christmas!

Jim; (HALF SOB) Christmas -

Preston; I have some good new s for you.

Jim; G - g - good new s?

Preston; Yes. It's supposed to be kept secret, but I'm going to tell you something about it now.

Jim; About what -?

Preston; A lot of the men in town are coming here tonight to trim your Christmas tree.

Jim; Oh -

Mary; How nice!

Preston; I spoke to Jackson about it. He works for Jonothan Crane.

Jim; Yes, I know.

Preston; Well, here's something that'll surprise you. He spoke to Crane and Crane is contributing a ten dollar bill to hang on the tree!

Jim; STUNNED) Crane's doin' that?

Preston; That's right.

Mary; Isn't that splendid of him!

Preston; Wait 'til you hear the rest. When Sam Lang, the hotel man, heard about it, he said he couldn't be outdone by Jonathan Crane. He is going to hang twenty dollars on the tree -

Adlib; (REACTION)

Preston; Banker Sheldon is doing the same, and so are several other men.

Jim; I - I can't believe it.

Preston; None of the business men want to be outdone by Crane.

Jim; B - b -but why are they doing it?

Preston; Because they want to, Jim. It makes them feel good to help out a fine family in time of trouble.

Mary; And to think Mr. Crane started it!

Annecr; That evening - Christmas Eve - Jonathan Crane sat alone in his big living room, gazing into the small fire burning in the fireplace. Presently he heard a rap on the door --

(RAPS)

Crane; (GETTING UP) Wonder who that is? First time anyone's rapped on my door after office hours.

(DOOR OPENS - STREET NOISES)

(DISTANT CHURCH BELLS)

Annrcr; At first he saw no one. But he noticed that every home on the street was brightly lighted and heard church bells in the distance. Then a small voice said --

Sally; Are you Mr. Crane?

Crane; Eh -? Oh - - yes!

Annrcr; Looking down, he saw the small girl, holding in her arms a shivering puppy.

Crane; Who are you?

Sally; I'm Sally Fraser.

Crane; Fraser --

Sally; Our house burned down and --

Crane; (CUT IN) Oh! You're Jim Fraser's girl.

Sally; Yes sir.

Crane; Well what are you doing out on a snowy night like this.

Sally; I came from Sergeant Preston's house to call on you.

Crane; Call on me? Well come in - come in out of the cold.

 (DOOR CLOSE)

Crane; Step over to the fire and get warm. Do your folks know you're out alone?

Sally; No sir. They're busy trimming the Christmas tree.
A lot of people are there.

Crane; Why did you come here to call on me?

Sally; I came to bring you a Christmas present.

Crane; You -- bringing me a -- a Christmas present?

Sally; Yes sir. After you gave money to help Dad,
everyone else did the same thing. You -- you
started it, Mr. Crane -- and we're -- we're so
happy.

Crane; Um.

Sally; I had some nice presents all wrapped up, but
they were burned in the fire. I haven't anything
left but my puppy, so I brought him to you.

Crane; You -- you want to give me your dog?

Sally; Yes. He's an awful nice dog. His name is Sandy.
() Sandy, say hello to Mr. Crane.

(PUPPY BARK)

Sally; Here, Mr. Crane. He's your's!

Crane; Just -- just a minute, Sally. Stand there -- let
me look at you. (WISTFULLY) So many years ago --
a little girl gave me a dog -- golden hair like
your's -- I -- I thought she looked like a
Christmas angel --

Sally; What's the matter? Don't you want Sandy? He's
a wonderful dog. I know you'll love him.

Crane; Do you love him?

Sally; Oh yes! Ever so much!

Crane; Wouldn't you like to keep him?

Sally; Of course I would! But then I wouldn't have a Christmas present for you! And you must have a Christmas present. Please take him so I can hurry back to Sergeant Preston's house before Mommy and Daddy miss me and start to worry --

Crane; Sally, I -- I think you have a fine dog - but there's another present I'd much rather have.

Sally; (LET DOWN) Oh.

Crane; Something you can give to me.

Sally; (HOPES UP) What's that, Mr. Crane?

Crane; Well - I've never had a - a family of my own - and I - I guess I've always wanted one. Now if you'd - er -- sort of adopt me -- as your uncle -

Sally; Oh-h-h-h! That'd be wonderful! I never had an Uncle! You'll be like -- well, you'll be part of our family!

Crane; I -- I'd like that.

Sally; Then you'll have to come back to Sergeant Preston's house with me.

Crane; B - b - but I - I

Sally; You have to, Mr. Crane! Mommy and Dad said familys should be together at Christmas time. So if you're part of the family, please come! Come and see the Christmas tree.

Crane; Well I - I - uh --

Sally; We'll have to hurry, Mr - uh -- uncle Cra - er - Uncle Jonothan! We'll have to hurry or we'll be late for Church!

(CHURCH BELLS UP THEN UNDER:)

(CROWD ROOM NOISE)

Anncr; It was a gay crowd that filled the small home of Sergeant Preston. Jim and Mary were overwhelmed by the display of friendship and generosity and it was obvious that enough money had been collected to more than pay the debt owed to Jonothan Crane. Then - in the midst of the excitement, Mary suddenly cried --

Mary; Where's Sally?

Adlib; (STIR)

Jim; I haven't seen her for half an hour.

Mary; She was sitting there in the corner.

Preston; She can't have gone far, Mary. There's no cause for alarm. () Here, King.

(BARKS)

Preston; Where is Sally? Fine Sally -

Anncr; Before King could move, Sally opened the door -

(DOOR OPENS)

(CHURCH BELLS LOUDER)

Mary; Sally!

Sally; Hello, Mommy.

Mary; Where have you been?

Sally; I went to call on Uncle Jonothan -

Crane; (COMING IN) She means me!

(DOOR CLOSE) (CHURCH BELLS MUFFLED)

Adlib; (STIR) Mr. Crane! Jonothan Crane!

Crane; (LAUGHING) She's adopted me as her uncle, and she said my place was here with the rest of the family - especially on Christmas Eve.

Adlib; (SURPRISED MURMURS)

Crane; Him, d'you have objections to your daughter's adoption of me?

Jim; Why - uh - no. No, of course not. We - I -

Crane; Mrs. Fraser - how about you?

Mary; Well I - (LAUGHS) Of course it's all right, Mr. Crane.

Crane; Good! That's settled. Now there are a few other things. I - I reckon it's up to me to follow the example of the rest of the family - which means the givin' of Christmas presents and going to church on Christmas eve.

Jackson; Mr. Crane! Are - are you all right?

Crane; 'Course I'm all right, Jackson! For the first time in years, I feel right! As soon as church is over, I want to talk to you about Christmas presents. Some cash for Mrs. Hawkins - and for you - and Sergeant Preston - and, of course - my family -- () Where's the storekeeper? Is Jake Hudson here?

Voice; Right here, Mr. Crane!

Crane; Good. Will you open the store after church so I can buy some clothes and things for my family? And some toys for my niece?

Voice; Sure thing!

Crane; (LAUGHING) Fine! This is going to be my first real Christmas! Jim - as for you, you've a mortgage to pay off.

Jim; Y -yes, but I think I have almost enough. Thanks to what all you wonderful folks have done --

Crane; You need a house a darn sight more than I need money. You figure on building your new house with your money.

Jim; Oh, gosh!

Crane; As for the mortgage - (CHUCKLES) I have
a hunch that Santa Claus is going to put that
into your sock and it'll be marked "Paid."

Mary; (GASP) Mr. Crane -

Sally; Oh, Uncle Jonothan -

Jim; Crane, I - I --

Preston; Crane, this is the finest thing you've ever done.

Crane; (CHUCKLE) I'm enjoying it, Sergeant Preston.

Preston; Merry Christmas.

Crane; The same to you. (RAISE VOICE) And all of you -
a Merry Christmas!

theme