

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

AIR-TIGHT FRAME-UP  
by Fran Striker

Number: 1213

Date: 12-28-54

NAMES FROM WORLD ATLAS)

*Striker*

Preston

King

Widow Martin ..... middle-aged

Jennie ..... ingenue

Bill ..... 29 - straight

Steve ..... heavy

Joe ..... heavy

Pete ..... heavy

Constable ..... straight

Lem ..... Bit

Voice ..... Bit

**FILE**

PROMO

At the end of an outlaw's trail, Sergeant Preston was surprised to find himself facing unexpectedly heavy odds! It appeared that his death was but seconds away, ~~then suddenly~~

() What happened? Well, for all of this thrill-packed adventure, be sure (ETC (

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AIR-TIGHT FRAME-UP

Number:

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(USUAL OPENING)

(WIND B.G.) (SLED & DOGTEAM)

Lem; (AD LIBBING, SHOUTS) Git along there, Chukker!  
Git along old Whiteface! (FADE UNDER, ADLIB)  
C'mon you fellers! 'Tain't no time to dally -  
Git up, Domino, git along Babe --

Anngr; Lem Atterbury rode the runners of the sled as  
his dogteam ran downhill on the way from a rugged  
mountain region to the Yukon town of Goldville.  
The elderly man was in high spirits, for he had,  
after disheartening years of fruitless search,  
at last found gold! Just ahead he saw a narrow  
gap where the trail was closely hemmed in by  
massive boulders. He didn't suspect that at  
this point, known as White Pass, three men  
waited in ambush.

Lem; (SHOUTING) There's White Pass, fellas -  
after that it's not far tuh Goldville. Git  
along there - (FADE UNDER, AD LIBBING)

Anngr; Without warning, the ambushers opened fire.

(SHOTS)

Lem; (CRY OUT SHARPLY)

Steve; (COMING IN) We got him, boys! Hang on to  
the dogs!

(DOGS & SLED STOP)

(DOGS AD LIB WHINES, ETC.)

Annrcr; A man named Steve Murdock hurried from behind  
the boulders to the sled. He was closely followed  
by two others.

Steve; (COMING IN) Hold the dogs, Joe. () Pete, take  
a look at Lem.

Pete; One of us got him in the chest.

Steve; He dead?

Pete; Seems to be.

Steve; Leave him where he fell an' bring me his six-gun.

Joe; (BACK) You found the gold, Steve?

Steve; (EFFORT) Yeah. I got it.

Pete; Here's his gun.

Steve; (EFFORT) Thanks, Pete. Now take that parka  
and a couple of blankets off the sled. I may  
need them for the frame-up.

Pete; (EFFORT) What about the rest of the gear on  
the sled?

Steve; (EFFORT) Leave it.

Pete; Speakin' of the frame-up, don't forget you're to leave a button on the sled.

Steve; I'll leave it where it'll be found. (CHUCKLES)  
Bill Andrews never suspected I tore it off his coat last night when I helped him escape from prison.

Pete; Too bad we gotta frame him for this job.

Steve; Can't be helped. Someone's gotta be convicted so the case'll be closed.

Joe; Steve, we're makin' lots of tracks in the snow-

Steve; With the wind blowin' like it is, they'll soon be covered.

Pete; Got all the gold?

Steve; Yes. I'll hold it 'til it's time to divvy.

Pete; You goin' to town now?

Steve; Yep. You two stay here and hold the dogs for one hour. That'll give me plenty of time to reach Goldville ahead of them.

Pete; D'you think they'll haul the sled to Goldville ?

Steve; I think so. But even if they don't, Constable Aiken will find the outfit sooner or later and start investigatin'. (FADING) I'll see you boys later.

WIND UP & OUT.

Annecr; Leaving his companions, Steve Murdock hurried to Goldville where he served as the Assay clerk. After spending a short time in his office, he walked across the street to the office of Constable Aiken. He and the lawman were visiting when, thru the window, they saw a dogteam bring a driverless sled into town. They ran outside to join the men who gathered around the halted outfit.

(WIND B.G.)

Adlib; (B.G. OF MURLURS)

Const; Red stains on the handles of the sled. Something must've happened to the driver.

Steve; This looks like Lem Atterbury's outfit, Constable.

Const; So it does! You're right, Steve. It is Lem's outfit.

Steve; Last time he was in town, he brought samples of high grade ore. I gave him an assay an' he said he'd struck it rich.

Const; Doesn't seem to be any gold on the sled.

Steve; It looks like you have a robbery and murder on your hands!

Const; Yeah. () I need some help. Will a couple of you men help me unload the sled?

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Const; Move everything into my office. I'll examine it there. Then one of you take the dogs to the kennel.

Moice; I'll do that, Constable.

Const; Thanks.

Steve; Constable, you goin' to look for Lem Atterbury?

Const; Yes. I'll hitch up my own team and try to backtrack his outfit.

Steve; I hope you find the poor critter. () I'll help unload his sled.

Const; All right, Steve.

Steve; I - () Hey, here's a loose button - it was lyin' in a blanket fold -

Const; I'll take it. Now let's get the gear unloaded. (FADING) I want to start searching for Lem as soon as possible.

BREAK

Anacr; It was evening when Constable Aiken returned to Goldville with Lem Atterbury wrapped in a blanket on his sled. He went directly to the doctor's home. The next morning Steve Murdock again called at the constable's office.

DOOR OPEN & CLOSE

Stevell Mornin', Constable. I hear you found Lem.

Const; Yes. He'd been shot through the chest. He has a slight chance to live. I stayed at his bedside all night waiting for him to talk.

Steve; Did he talk?

Const; A little - this morning. But he has no idea who shot him.

Steve; Where'd it happen?

Const; The same place the prospector was killed a year ago -- at White Pass.

Steve; That's the murder Bill Andrews is supposed to have committed.

Const; That's right.

Steve; Find any tracks or clues?

Const; The tracks were filled in, Steve, but I think I have a clue. It's this button you found on the sled.

Steve; Oh!

Const; It didn't come from anything Atterbury owned, so it may have been dropped by the gunman who robbed him.

Steve; If Lem Atterbury dies, that button might be the evidence to hang the killer.

Const; It'll take more evidence than that. Look at all the evidence we had against Bill Andrews - but it wasn't considered sufficient to hang him. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Steve; (THOUGHTFULLY) Yeah.

Const; Bill Andrews was your friend, wasn't he?



Steve: He still is, Constable. We've been friends for a long time. I still call on him regularly at the prison in White Horse. He helped me work my claim on Spanner Creek, and after that, he worked for me in the assay office.

Const; That was a point against him. The fact that he worked in the assay office made it possible for him to know who'd be likely to come through the Pass with rich pay dirt.

Steve; Um. I- uh- I never believed Bill was guilty of that murder a year ago-

Const; There was a lot of evidence against him, Steve. His mitten was found near the dead man - and stolen pay dirt was found in his bedroom. He had no alibi, and - -- ( ) Well, at least he has an alibi for this shooting.

Steve; Constable, I - I'd better tell you something- you'll find out about it anyway -

Const; Eh?

Steve; Maybe Bill hasn't an alibi.

Const; No alibi? Why he's in prison in White Horse-

Steve; No he's not.

Const; He's not?

Steve; Nope. He broke out of prison the night before last.

Const; He did? Why didn't I hear of it?

Steve; The report's probably among those papers on your desk.

Const; Maybe so. I haven't gone through them yet.

Steve; You were out looking for Lem when the news came in. Listen Constable, I didn't think Bill was a killer - but now - - well, maybe I've been wrong. Y'see, two weeks ago, when I visited the prison, I happened to tell him Lem had brought in a high grade sample of ore and that he counted on comin' in from his claim the first of the month with gold enough to keep him for life.

Const; Then Bill Andrews knew <sup>WHEN</sup> ~~where~~ and where to strike!

Steve; Yes - and of course, there's revenge as well as robbery for the motive.

Const; Revenge?

Steve; Lem served on the jury that convicted Bill.

Const; That's right! Steve, we've got a strong case against Bill Andrews. I'll send a telegram to White Horse to report what you've told me.

Steve; ~~If you see him, tell him~~ I hope you find Andrews.

Const; We'll get him. He'll have to hide somewhere until he can get food and clothing for the trail. ( ) He knows the Spanner Creek region - - and that's between here and White Horse.

Steve; That's right.

Const; D'you still own that land on the creek?

Steve; Yes, but I never go there.

Const; He worked there for you. He knows there's a cabin on the land.

Steve; A cabin - but neither heat nor food. I can think of a more likely place on Spanner Creek.

Const; Where?

Steve; Widow Martin's house. That's on the way to my property.

Const; Would Mrs. Martin hide Bill?

Steve; I think so. She always liked him. What's more, her daughter and Bill were mighty friendly. I think they'd hide him, especially if they didn't know about <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ shootin'.

Const; I'll call on them. I must work on reports this morning, but I'll go to Mrs. Martin's house this afternoon.

Steve; I'll go with you.

Const; Glad to have you.

Steve; While you're talking to Mrs. Martin, I'll go on up the creek to my property and see if Bill's hiding there.

Const; Good idea.

Steve; I'll take a couple of my friends in case he's armed and wants to fight. (ENDING) It burns me up to think of the way O believed in him - the dirty killer-

BREAK

THAT AFTERNOON

Annex;

While Constable Siken, Steve Murdock, and Steve's crooked pals headed toward Spanner Creek, Sergeant Preston and his great dog, Yukon King, approached the same destination from the opposite direction. Preston, on patrol, had reached White Horse that morning and learned that Bill Andrews, after escaping from prison, was suspected of shooting and robbing Lem Atterbury. The Sergeant knew Bill Andrews very well, and hoped to track him down. King picked up the scent in the prison cell and followed it across the snow...

SNEAK IN WIND BG

Annex;

Though Bill's tracks had been covered, his scent remained. King followed it to Spanner Creek, then halted a short distance from an old, abandoned claim.

LOW GROWLS

Annex;

The big dog stared fixedly at a small shed which stood near an old cabin -

Preston;

What is it, King?

GROWLS AND WHIMPERS

Preston; So that's it, eh King? The man we want is hiding in that shed.

(WHISPERS)

Preston; No windows there - but he could look through cracks between the boards. He's probably watching us. I wonder if he has a gun?

(LOW SNARL)

Preston; That's a chance we'll have to take. () Hold it, King. I'll go ahead. You heel.

(WHISPERS)

Preston; I said - heel!

(STEPS SUSTAINING THRU SNOW)

Annex; ~~with his tail between his legs and his ears down,~~  
King advanced with the Sergeant, holding his nose close to Preston's left knee. When they had covered about half the distance to the tool shed, Sergeant Preston called -

Preston; (CALLS) Are you in there, Andrews? () Andrews! I want to talk to you!

Bill; (DACK, MUFFLED) Stay back. Don't come any nearer or I'll shoot. I'll kill you.

(GROWLS)

Preston; (CALLS) You'd hang for that!

Bill; (BACK, MUFFLED) Get back! I can see you through a knothole, an' I'll shoot if you come closer -

Preston; (CALL) Shooting me won't help you. There'd be others to track you down, and you know it, so I'm sure you won't shoot!

Bill; (NEARER, MUFFLED) Go back, I tell yuh!  
Don't come any nearer- (SUSTAIN, ADLIB)

Anncr; Sergeant Preston didn't break his stride. Despite Bill's threats, he quickly covered the remaining distance to the shed, drew his gun, then kicked open the door-

KICK DOOR OPEN.

Bill; (FRANTIC) Preston, you -

Preston; (CUT IN) Steady, Bill! (EFFORT)

Bill; (STRUGGLE) Leggo me -

Preston; First I'll make sure you're not armed!

Bill; If I'd had a gun, I'd've shot you!

Preston; No you wouldn't, Bill. We've known each other too long. You wouldn't shoot me.

Bill; How'd you get here?

Preston; King followed your scent from White Horse.  
Who helped you escape from prison?

Bill; I'm not talkin', Sergeant. We're on opposite sides of the law now!

Preston; Bill, yesteday at White Pass, Lem Atterbury was shot and robbed. He may die. You are suspected of that crime. Did you know that?

Bill: No! I didn't know there was another shootin' at White Pass. I didn't do it, Sergeant! I never shot anyone! Why'm I suspected?

Preston; Because the crime is similar to the one last year...the robbery and murder that sent you to prison. Furthermore, Lem Atterbury served on the jury that convicted you, so revenge might have been a motive-

Bill; I didn't do it! And I won't be taken alive!  
(VIOLENT STRUGGLES)

SCUFFLING FEET

Preston; (EFFORT) Steady, Bill! Listen to me!

Bill: (STRUGGLING) I'd rather die than go back to prison!

Preston; (EFFORT) Listen to me!

KING GROWLS

Preston; (EFFORT) Keep out of this, King. I'll handle him!

Bill; (PAIN) OW-W- my arm - don't twist it any further- OW-W-W

Preston; (EFFORT) Stop struggling!

Bill;! (PAIN) All right - I've stopped-

(KING GROWLING)

Preston; Listen to me, Bill. I followed your trail from the White Horse jail. I know you came directly here. You were nowhere near White Pass, so I'm sure you didn't shoot Atterbury.

Bill; I was innocent the last time, too! I never killed or robbed anyone! I was framed!

Preston; I'd like to prove that. Have you any idea who might have framed you?

Bill; No.

Preston; Maybe you were broken out of jail so you could be framed a second time.

Bill; No, no - that couldn't be the reason --

Preston; Then someone did help you escape.

Bill; I didn't say that.

Preston; Who helped you?

Bill; Now listen, I --

Preston; Steve Murdock?

Bill; He --

Preston; (CUT IN) He was the only one to call on you in jail. It's unlikely anyone else would help you.

Bill; I - I don't want to make trouble for Steve.

Preston; You came here without food. What did you plan to eat? Did Murdock promise to bring you supplies?



Bill: Well - uh - yes, he did.

Preston; That's what I thought. () Bill, I have some ideas about the crimes at White Pass. Instead of taking you back to prison right away, I'd like to keep you hidden while I do some investigating. But first I'll have to have your promise that you'll not try to escape.

Bill: You- you'd take ny word?

Preston; Yes, Bill. I've known you for a long time. and I'll take your word!

Bill; Sergeant, I've known you for a long time, and I'll do anything you say. I give you my word I won't try to escape. Where you goin' to hide me?

Preston; Mrs. Martin lives just about half a mile down hill. We'll go there -

Bill; (CUT IN) No, No, Sergeant. I'm a convicted killer! I can't face her daughter, Jennie-

Preston; <sup>SPOKEN</sup> Have you ~~spoke~~ to Jennie since your trial?

Bill; No! I- I couldn't face her-

Preston; Bill, I'm sure you'll feel differently after you ~~Come with me, Bill.~~ see Jennie. Come with me.

Anncr; Much to Bill's surprise, he was warmly welcomed by both the widow, Mrs. Martin, and her daughter Jennie.

To 15A

Bill; Jennie - y-you mean, you're really glad to see me?

Jennie; Of course I am, Bill! I never believed you were guilty of that robbery an d murder! I tried to visitiyou in prison, but you wouldn't see me-

Bill; I- I couldn't face you, Jennie -

Widow; How 'd you get out?

Bill; I -- uh --

Preston; He's still in custody, Mrs. Martin.

Jennie; Oh -

widow; Y'mean he's not free?

Preston; Not yet. But there's a chance that we might establish his innocence. That's why we came here. You ladies can help.

Jennie; How?

Widow; Just tell us what to do.

Preston; Keep Bill here for a day or so while I do some investigating.

Jennie; Of course.

Preston; He's given his word he'll not try to escape.

Bill; (BITTERLY) The word of a convicted killer.

Jennie; Oh, Bill -

Preston; It's good enough for me.

(KING GROWLS)

widow; Your dog!

Preston; What is it, King?

Jennie; He's looking out the window. Must be someone coming up the hill.

Preston; Steady, King. I'll look. (PAUSE)

Bill; Is someone coming?

Preston; Yes, Bill. Constable Aiken and three other men.

Bill; He's coming for me! () Hey! That's Steve Murdock with him.

Preston; I thought so.

Bill; The others are Pete Lacey and Joe Brent. They're friends of Steve.

Preston; Mrs. Martin, what's beyond that door?

Widow; A bedroom.

Preston; Go in there, Bill. Stay out of sight. I'll handle this.

Bill; (FADING) Whatever you say.

(DOOR OPEN & CLOSE BACK AS:)

Jennie; The men have stopped outside.

Preston; Not a word about Bill.

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Jennie; The Constable's coming here, but the others are going uphill. Murdock owns land above us.

Preston; Yes, I know.

(RAP ON DOOR, DOOR OPENS AS:)

Const; Howdy, I - (BREAK) (SURPRISE) Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Com~~er~~ in, Aiken.

STEPS IN. DOOR CLOSE AS

Const; I didn't expect to find you here. Howdy, Mrs. Martin - and Jennie-

ADLIB: (GREETINGS)

Preston: I heard the news when I reached White Horse, Aiken.

Const; About the jailbreak?

Preston: Yes. That, and the shooting and robbing of Lem Atterbury. I suppose you figured Bill Andrews would come here to his friends, to find a hideout.

Const; That's right. You probably figured the same thing, ~~W~~

Preston: Where are Steve Murdock and the others going?

Const; To Murdock's old claim. We thought Bill might try to hide there. Steve is finally convinced that Bill's a killer, so he's helping me-

Jennie; Oh, No -

Const; It took a lot to turn Steve Murdock against him, Jennie. We'll have an airtight case against him when he's tried for this last stickup.

Widow; Where did it happen?

Const; At White Pass, yesterday. That's probably why Bill broke out of jail when he did. He knew Lem would go through the Pass yesterday, with a lot of paydirt.

Preston; How did he know ?

Const; Lem had an assay made a couple of months ago. He told Steve he'd come into town yesterday with all the gold he could collect. He wanted to catch the first boat for the States.

Preston; Did Steve pass the news to Bill?

Const; Yes. He happened to mention it a couple of weeks ago when he visited the jail.

Preston; That's not much evidence, Aiken.

Const; There's more, Sergeant. This button was found on Lem's sled. When we find Bill Andrews, we'll see if it matches the ones on his coat.

Jennie; (GASP) Mother!

Widow ; What's the matter with you, Jennie?

Jennie; Oh it - it's just that I -- I can't -- I won't believe Bill is guilty.

Preston; You see, Aiken - Bill still has friends.

Const; Yeah. Well, I thought he might be hiding here, ~~Yeah. (S) as well, I reckon you'd have found him if he were, if he were hiding here.~~ I'll go up to Steve Mirdock's place and see if he's there.

Preston; I'll wait here. Stop on your way back and let me know what you learn.

(DOOR OPENS, WIND)

Const; I'll do that. Good-bye, all.

Adlib; (GOOD BYE'S)

(DOOR CLOSES, CUT WIND)

Jennie; Mother! Sergeant Preston! That button came from Bill's coat!

widow; I saw it, Jennie. For a minute I thought you'd give Bill away.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK)

Preston; (BACK) Come on out, Bill.

Bill; (COMING IN) I heard everything. That button did come off my coat.

Preston; And it was found on Lem's sled. You weren't near the sled, so it must have been placed there to frame you.

Bill; But who --

Preston; Only one man could have taken that button off your coat, Bill. The man who helped you escape from jail.

Bill; Steve Murdock!

Preston; Yes - the same man who told Aiken he was finally convinced you were guilty.

Bill; He - he must have wanted to frame me. That's why he helped me escape! Why he told me to hide at the abandoned shed. He knew I'd have no alibi - and he could've framed me the last time, too. (FADE)  
He could have left my mitten at the scene. He could have - (TRAIL OFF)

Annex; Bill Andrews was stunned by the realization of Steve Murdock's duplicity. During the next hour he and Sergeant Preston discussed the situation. Then, when the Constable was seen returning from the Murdock claim, Bill was once more hidden in the bedroom.

(DOOR OPENS, WIND)

Preston; Come right in, Aiken.

Const; (CALL BACK) Wait there, Murdock. I'll just be a minute.

Steve; (BACK) Right.

(DOOR CLOSES, CUT WIND)

Const; Sergeant Preston, we found a number of things at Murdock's place.

Preston; Yes -?

Const; Bill wasn't there - but he'd been there. We found tracks. Two men and a dog. I was wondering if you --

Preston; (CUT IN) Find anything else?

Const; This.

Jennie; What is it?

Const; A tobacco sack. It has Bill's name written on it in pencil. Inside there's a couple of ounces of gold dust. I think it'll prove to be the same quality as the gold from Lem Atterbury's claim.



Preston; Where was it?

Const; On the floor of a tool shed. Looked like Bill dropped it in his rush to get away.

Preston; Are you sure Bill was in the tool shed?

Const; There was evidence to show it. Cigarette butts on the floor, made the way he always made 'em, and-

Preston; (CUT IN) Aiken, that tobacco sack was left in the shack after Bill left.

Const; Oh-h-h, so you were there!

Preston; What did Murdock think of the tracks in the snow?

Const; He figured Bill saw someone coming and lit out. I had an idea the tracks were your's, but I couldn't tell if you were with Bill or trailing him.

Preston; We were together. I brought him here.

Const; Here!

Jennie; Yes, here!

Preston; (CALLS) Come out, Bill.

(DOOR OPENS, BACK)

Const; So there you are.

Bill; (FADINGIN) That's right, Constable.

Preston; Aiken, Bill did not shoot Lem Atterbury. I know that for a fact, because I trailed him from ~~that for a fact, and I'm beginning to think he~~ the prison to the shack. And I'm beginning to think he was innocent of the murder a year ago.

CONST  
~~Bill;~~

I wonder if all that evidence could have been framed!

Preston; We'll try to prove it. I'll outline a plan as quickly as possible.

(BREAK)

Annecr; Sergeant Preston talked rapidly and his plan won the instant approval of the Constable. Then Aiken left the Martin house and returned to town. That evening Murdock was alone in his home in town. His reading was interrupted by a rap on the door. He was surprised to see Bill Andrews.

Steve; Bill!

Bill; Steve, I need help.

Steve; I went to the shack on Spanner's Creek, but you weren't there.

Bill; I had to clear out. I saw a Mountie coming toward your place. He must've suspected I'd hide there.

Steve; You were lucky to get away from him.

Bill; I've got to keep moving. I need food and supplies and some money.

Steve; (GUARDED) Have you heard anything about Lem Atterbury?

Bill; <sup>How</sup> ~~A~~ could I hear about anyone? I've had to keep under cover. What about him?

Steve; Never mind. It's not important. I'll help you.

Bill; Thanks, Steve. I knew I could count on you.

Steve; Come back here in an hour and I'll have food and supplies for the trail as well as snowshoes.

Bill; In an hour!

Steve; Yes. You can find a place to hide for that long.

(BREAK, FADE IN SOFT WIND)

Annrc; Leaving Murdock's house, Bill joined Sergeant Preston, Yukon King and the Constable, who were waiting a short distance away, and told about his meeting with Steve

Bill; He'll fix a pack for me.

Preston; And make sure of an air-tight frame-up! That's what I'm counting on.

(FADE OUT WIND)

Annrc; Steve made hurried preparations. From a cupboard he took a gun, a parka and some blankets that had been stolen from Lem Atterbury. Then, one of the stolen sacks of gold. He wrapped the gold inside the blankets and made a tight bundle. Next, he hurried to a nearby cafe where he knew he would find Pete and Joe. He brought them back to his home and told of Bill's visit.

Steve; ... he'll be back here in a few minutes to get that pack. You two wait in the other room. When he gets into the parka and has the blankets tied to his back, shoot him. Shoot to kill.

Pete; Here -?

Steve; Yes. I'll say he came here thinking I was alone, and demanded food. I'll say he threatened me with a gun and you two shot him and saved my life.

Joe; Does he have a gun?

Steve; I'll put this one of Lem's in his hand.

Pete; Good.

Steve; The parka and blankets are Lem's and some of the stolen gold will be found inside the blankets.

Joe; An air-tight frameup!

Steve; I hate to give away some of the gold, but it'll be worthwhile if it keeps us in the clear.

Pete; When do we split what's left?

Steve; Tomorrow .

(RAP ON DOOR)

Steve; (CUE) He's here! Get into the next room!

Joe; (FADING) Come on, Pete.

Steve; I'll let him in.

(STEPS, DOOR OPENS, WIND)

Steve; (CUE) Hello, Bill!

Bill; (FADING IN) Did y ou get the things I asked for?

Steve; They're right on the table. Come on in and try on the parka.

Bill; We'll all come in, you crook!

Steve; Huh -?

Const; He said we'd all come in!

Steve; (GASP) Aiken!

Const; Yes! And Sergeant Preston!

Preston; 'Back up, Murdock.'

(STEPS IN, DOOR CLOSE, CUT WIND)

Steve; Bill, wha - w hat's this me an?

Bill; It means you're thru.

Preston; Open that pack, Aiken. We'll see what's there.'

Steve; (SUDDEN EFFORT) Oh no you -

Preston; (CUT IN, EFFORT) Hold it!

(SLAP, GUN FALLS)

Const; That was a food move, Murdock. You should know better than to pull a gun on Sergeant Preston.

Preston; Leave it on the floor. Keep back, Murdock.

Const; I'll examine the pack. Look here, Sergeant - the parka.

## (HANDLE PARKA)

- Const;           It has Lem Atterbury's name on it.
- Preston;         How do you account for the possession of it,  
Murdock?
- Steve;           I'm not talking.
- Const;           These are Lem's blankets, too! And there's  
something wrapped inside of them!
- Preston;         What is it?
- Const;           A sack. It's heavy - feels like gold!
- Preston;         That's what I'd hoped for. Well, Murdock -?
- Steve;           I told you I'm not talking!
- Preston;         You shot Atterbury, and tried to frame Bill Andrews!  
You didn't overlook a single opportunity to add to  
the evidence against him. That's what we counted  
on when we sent Bill here tonite to ask for help.
- Steve;           So it was a put-up job! You figured you'd get  
me for the shooting. Well, you've signed your  
death warrants!
- Const;           Don't talk like a fool.
- Steve;           Come on in, boys!
- Joe;             (BACK) We've got them covered.
- Pete;            (BACK) Get your hands up! Drop that gun!
- (GUN FALLS)
- Bill;            It's the two who went to Spanner's Creek with Steve!

Preston; It looks as though we have three crooks instead of one.

Joe: We'll keep 'em covered, Steve. See if they have any more guns.

Steve; Wait'll I get Lem's gun - (EFFORT)

Preston: So you still his gun too, eh?

Steve; Yeah. This is it, Mountie.

Preston; If you shoot us, the gunfire will be heard-

Steve; Sure, and when folks come to find out about the shooting, I'll tell 'em you and the constable followed Bill Andrews here. Andrews got both of you, and we shot him.

Anncr; The three outlaws stood close together with a table between themselves and Sergeant Preston. They were alert, ready to fire - then -

BARKS OUTSIDE SUSTAIN AD LIB THRU

Joe; (SURPRISE) There's a dog outside!

Preston; (SUDDENLY) Look who's at the door!

ADLIB: (SURPRISE) AS -

Anncr; As the crooks glanced away, Preston upended the table -

SPILL TABLE- CONFUSION-

ADLIB: (STIR AND SURPRISE)

Anncr; The table crashed against Steve and his pals -

ADLIB: (YELLS AND SCUFFLE AS)

A COUPLE OF SHOTS

Anncr; Their shots went wild-

Preston; (YELL) At 'em!

ADLIB FIGHT.

Anncr; While Preston leaped at Steve and gripped his gun hand, Bill and Aiken charged at Pete and Joe. There was no further opportunity for gunplay -

Steve; (RAGING, EFFORT) I'll kill yuh, Preston -

Preston; (EFFORT) Not while I hold your gunhand!

Anncr; The six men struggled hand-to-hand, three against three, with death the penalty for losing. Then Preston saw the chance to drive a fist to Steve's jaw-

SMASH BLOW. FALLING BODY AS -

Anncr; As Murdock dropped unconscious, Preston siezed his gun and turned toward the others. He saw that the constable had gained control of Pete, but Bill Andrews was down! Joe, who had lost his gun, now held a knife poised for the death blow. Preston fired-

SHOT.

Joe; (SCREAM)

Bill; (GASPING) Thanks, Sergeant!



Anncr;           The outlaw's hand went limp. He dropped the knife  
and stared stupidly at his helpless, broken arm  
while Bill scrambled to his feet. ~~Constable~~  
~~meanw- his- had- downed- Pete - -~~

(HARD BLOW AS:) (KING AD LIB OUTSIDE)

Const;           (BREATHING HARD) That does it. This one's out of  
the fight.

Preston;        They're all through h fighting.

Bill;            That dog outside!

Preston;        It's King. I'll let him in.

(QUICK STEPS AS:)

Preston;        Keep those men guarded.

(DOOR OPENS)

(KING IN BARKING, THEN WHIMPERING  
& WHINING)

Preston;        Take it easy, King. The fight's over! There's  
nothing for y ou to do.

Const;         (CHUCKLES) His feelings are hurt because he wasn't  
in on the fight.

Preston;        I have a job for him to do. Give me that sack  
of gold.

Const;         Here.

Preston;        Here, boy - get the scent of this bag and see if  
you can tell me where it came from.

(KING WHIMPERING)

Joe; (SOBS) My arm's broken! Can't you do something.

Preston; We'll give it attention before we move you.

Steve; (GROANS)

Preston; Mardock is regaining consciousness. You'd better keep him covered.

Const; I'll put handcuffs on him and Pete.

Bill; Look at King! He's sniffing of that cupboard.

Preston; In here, eh King? Thanks, boy.

(OPEN CUPBOARD)

Preston; (CUE) Well!

Bill; More sacks of gold!

Preston; And Bill, they didn't all come from Lem Atterbury!

Const; Sergeant, do you think --

Preston; Constable, this may solve the murder of a year ago.

Joe; (WHIMPERING) We didn't take part in that job! Mardock handled it alone!

Bill; You hear that, Sergeant! Did you hear it? He said Mardock murdered that prospector.

Preston; Yes, Bill. You're going to be a free man!

Bill; Sergeant, that means - oh, golly - it means all the world to me!

Joe; (WHISPERING) Pete and I didn't have anything to do with that job! Murdock handled it alone. He bragged about the way he killed and robbed the prospector and framed Bill Andrews without the help of anyone-

Bill: Did yuh hear that, Sergeant? He said Murdock killed that prospector! And framed Me!

Preston; Yes, Bill. You're going to be a free man and Murdock will be tried for murder! Joe and Pete will be charged with shooting and robbing Lem Attarbury.

Bill: And if Lem dies, they'll face murder charges, eh?

Preston; Yes, but Lem's not going to die. I talked to the doctor just before the Constable and I came here. He's now sure that Lem will recover.

Bill: That's great! Oh, golly, Sergeant! Everything is workin' out just right!

Preston; Bill, I'm sure Jenny Martin will be just as pleased as you are.

Bill: Sergeant, we'll both be everlastingly grateful to you.

Preston; We all owe a big debt to King. () Because he barked outside the door at just the right time, this case is closed!

THEME.