

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, created by Geo. W. Trendle
LAND DEAL No. 1 of series.

by Fran Striker

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Date 1-27:55

Striker

Preston....

King

Inspector

Baker.....Man from Chicago.

Scott..... " " "

Jakeheavy

Blackieheavy

Sam Tannermiddle-aged, straight.

FILE

Ann cr; Two men from Chicago were responsible for one of the most amazing cases in Sergeant Preston's career. It was a case that brought him to the brink of sudden death - and then - but listen for yourself! For thrills, action and adventure be sure - (ETC)

(USUAL OPENING)

(SNEAK IN CAFE B.G., AS:)

Annecr; In the Yukon Territory, Sam Tanner found gold on his land. He lived alone and worked hard for several years. Then, one Spring - he decided to take his wealth and return to the States. To celebrate his retirement, he went to Dawson City, about five miles north of his property. He talked to many friends, and, in the evening, entered the Silver Dollar Cafe.

Sam; (SHOUTS) Set 'em up for everyone, Joe! This is my night to celebrate!

Adlib; (STIR)

Annecr; At one side of the big room, two hard-faced men sat at a table. One, who was known as Jake Barton, said --

Jake; Some men have all the luck --

Blackie; Yuh mean Sam Tanner?

Jake; Yes, Blackie. Imagine an ignorant old galoot like him goin' back to the States with a fortune in gold!

Blackie; Yeah.

Jake; I'll bet he's got enough saved up in his cabin to live like a king for the rest of his life.

Blackie; In his cabin, y'say?

Jake; Sure, that's where he keeps it.

Blackie; Jake, he lives alone in that cabin - an' no neighbors nearby.

Jake; I know that. What - (BREAK) Blackie, have you got an idea?

Blackie; I was just thinkin' - it'd be nice if we had that gold.

Jake; (TENSE) You're right!

Blackie; Tanner's let it be known he's leavin' these parts. If he and his gold disappear, who's to know whether he's left for the States or not?

Jake; I savvy. You got a good idea. We could go to his place tonight, ~~and~~ ^{WHILE HE'S IN THE CABIN, AND} --

Blackie; (CUT IN) Wait, Jake. Those men from the States just came in.

Jake; Who -?

Blackie; Those fellers who arrived on the boat a few days ago.

Jake; Oh yes - Baker an' Scott. () They're talkin' to Sam Tanner.

Blackie; I'd like to know what they're here for.

Jake; So would I. They're a slick lookin' pair.

Blackie; Maybe they heard about Sam Tanner's gold. Maybe they're goin' to try to swindle him --

Jake; (LOWER) They're comin' this way with Tanner.

Blackie; (LOW) Headin' for the vacant table next to us.

Jake; (LOW) Keep quiet an' listen to what they have to say.

Baker; (FADING IN) Sit right here, Tanner - between Mr. Scott and me.

(CHAIRS SCRAPE)

Tanner; So you gents saw my notice, eh?

Baker; Yes.

Tanner; I figured I might as well sell my land before I leave, so I went to see Mr. Frisby about puttin' an ad in his newspaper. He's the one who suggested postin' a notice on the front of his building - (CHUCKLES) - he wrote the notice for me.

Baker; we saw it and we're interested in buying your land.

Tanner; Well - as the notice said - it's for sale. but gents, I don't want to misrepresent the place. I'm not sellin' it as gold bearin' land --

Baker; So you said in the notice.

Tanner; I worked that land over aplenty. Y'might say I skinned the whole surface of it. And I took all the gold I could find.

Scott; We understand that, Mr. Tanner.

Tanner; If there's still any gold there, I sure haven't found it. As far as I'm concerned - well, I've got all I want. I'm goin' back to the States!

Baker; How much do you want for the property?

Tanner; Much as I c'n get. (CHUCKLES)

Baker; Naturally --

Tanner; why don't you gents come an' see the place -- then make me an offer?

Baker; We'll do that!

Scott; will you be there tomorrow?

Tanner; Sure thing . I'm leavin' here in a little while an' goin' straight home --

Baker; We'll call on you in the morning.

Tanner; That'll be fine, gents. I'll be lookin' for yuh.
(CALLS) Hey, waiter - (FADING) come over here an' see what my friends'll have --

(CAFE B.G., UP & UNDER:)

Anncr; A few minutes later, Scott and Baker left the
cafe and Tanner joined friends at another table.
Then Jake said --

Jake; They're goin' to buy his land.

Blackie; I heard their talk.

Jake; If we just wait until after ^{HE} makes the sale an'
has the money before we - uh - call on him --

Blackie; I savvy! We'll get that cash as well as his gold!

Jake; Right.

Blackie; Good idea. Scott an' Baker look prosperous.
They'll probably pay a lot to get that land --

Jake; Sure they will. I -- (BREAK) Blackie, I've got
a better idea!

Blackie; What -?

Jake; If w e owned that land, we could sell it to Scott
and Baker.

Blackie; But we don't own it!

Jake; We can buy it from Tanner.

Blackie; Maybe we can --

Jake; All we need is Tanner's signature on a bill of
sale.

Blackie; Yeah, but if he won't sign --

Jake; There are ways to persuade him! We'll go to his place tonight with a bill of sale all ready for him to sign. As soon as he signs it, he'll start on a long trip - - savvy?

Blackie; Yeah - I savvy.

Jake; We'll get rid of him, and we'll have his gold and whatever cash we pay for his land. Then we'll sell the property to those men from the States.

Blackie; Jake, that's a slick idea.

Jake; Come on. We'll go to my place and write out a bill of sale.

CAFE UP & ~~UNDER~~ OUT

Anner; Jake and Blackie left the cafe, but Sam Tanner remained for about half an hour longer. Then he said goodnight to his friends and pushed past the swinging doors.

(STREET NOISES)

Anner; In front of the building he met Sergeant Preston.

Preston; Sam Tanner --just the man I want to see.

Sam; 'Evenin', Sergeant. Glad to see you. Have you heard the new s?

Preston; Your decision to sell out and return to the States?

Sam; Yep.

Preston; Yes, I heard about it and I saw your notice on the new spaper bulletin board.

Sam; I reckon I'll have no trouble findin' a buyer for my property *AT THE PRICE I'LL TAKE*

Preston; Don't misrepresent it, Sam.

Sam; No, no -- I wouldn't do a thing like that! In fact, I told Scott an' Baker that I wasn't sellin' the place as gold bearin' land --

Preston; Scott and Baker?

Sam; Yep. They're a couple o' newcomers to Dawson.

Preston; I know who they are, but that's about all I do know of them. I've been trying to learn why they came to Dawson. They're mighty secretive. Are they interested in buying your property?

Sam; Yep. They're comin' to see it tomorrow. Then they'll make an offer.

Preston; Sam, do you keep all of your gold in your cabin?

Sam; Sure I do!

Preston; You'll be alone when Scott and Baker call --

Sam; I've been alone ever since I came to the Yukon.

Preston; But if those men are crooks, they could rob you with little trouble --

Sam; Crooks? Aw, Sergeant, I wouldn't suspect 'em of bein' crooks: *AND THEY HAVE TO FIND IT FIRST*

Preston; We know nothing about them, Sam!

Sam; But they're such fine lookin' young gents - an' so nice talkin' --

Preston; Some of the smartest crooks are smooth talkers.
() Sam, I'm going to accompany them to your place.

Sam; Oh that'll be fine, Sergeant.

Preston; If they're honest, they'll not object. I'll see them tonight and arrange to meet them in the morning.

(STREET NOISES UP & OUT)

Anncr; Meanwhile, in the shack where he lived, Jake Barton worked a long time and waste d many sheets of paper before he finally completed what he considered a legal bill of sale. Then, though it was long after midnight, he and Blackie walked to Tanner's cabin, nearly five miles south of town.

(DOOR OPENS, STEPS IN AS:)

Anncr; They door was unlocked and they entered without knocking.

Jake; Strike a match, Blackie - so we c'n see.

(STRIKE M A TCH, CLOSE DOOR)

Blackie; (CUE) There's Tanner.

Jake; I see him. Light the lamp on the table while I wake him.

(STEPS AS:)

Jake; Hey, Tanner - wake up. (EFFORT) Wake up, Sam!

Sam; (WAKING) Huh - uh - who -- wha --

Jake; (EFFORT) Wake up! We're here on business.

Sam; Huh - wha -- () Jake, what's wrong -

Jake; Nothin's w rong. (EFFORT) Come on. Sit up.

Sam; who - who's over there --

Jake; Blackie Wells. You know him -

Sam; Seems like the middle o' the night --

Jake; It is.

Sam; what're you here for?

Jake; We're here to buy your property.

Sam; To buy - buy my property?

Jake; That's right. We'll pay a thousand dollars.
I've got a bill of sale right here. All you
gotta do is sign it.

Sam; But I -

Jake; (CUT IN) You want to sell, don't you?

Sam; Yeah, sure - but you come here -- like this --
in the middle of the night --

Jake; (HEATEDLY) What's the difference whether it's
night or day?

Sam; Well - I reckon the time of day doesn't mean anything, but --

Jake; (CUT IN) But what -?

Sam; what's your best offer?

Jake; I told you we'd pay a thousand dollars.

Sam; All right, Jake. I'll let you know. I --

Jake; (CUT IN) I'm here to close the deal right now .

Sam; I can't do that. Two other men are comin' in the mornin' to see the place, an' --

Jake; (CUT IN) I said I'm here to close the deal!

Sam; Now hold on, Jake. I'm not closin' any deal until I talk to Baker an' Scott --

Jake; (CUT IN) Are you goin' to force me to get rough with yuh?

Sam; That won't do you any good!

Jake; (EFFORT) No -?

(SLAP HARD)

Sam; (REACT) Why you - you ornery --

Jake; (EFFORT) Here's another!

(SLAP HARD)

Sam; (EFFORT) I'll teach yuh to slap me!

Blackie; (HARD) Hold it, Tanner! Yer covered!

- Sam; (STUNNED) A gun! why you -- you two are nothin' but ornery crooks!
- Jake; We aim to go as far as necessary to get your signature, Tanner. Sign now an' you'll save yourself a lot of trouble.
- Sam; Crooked polecats -- I'll die before I sign yer paper!
- Jake; I'll change yer mind! (EFFORT)
- (BLOW) (FALLING BODY)
- Jake; Should've used my fist in the first place - 'stead of just slappin' him --
- Blackie ; You hit him too hard! You knocked him out!
- Jake; He'll come to in a minute.
- Blackie ; He's mighty stubborn.
- Jake; Yeah! We'll have to work on him! We'll take him and his gold to the shack in the woods where I used to live before I moved into town.
- Blackie ; Where is it?
- Jake; Only about a mile farther south. There we'll have all the time we need to persuade Tanner to do what we want. Then we'll get rid of him for keeps.
- Blackie; When Scott an' Baker come here they'll wonder where he is.

Jake; I'll take care of that. I'll write a note an' sign Tanner's name to it.

Blackie; I savvy.

Jake; Get him dressed, then tie his hands an' keep an eye on him. I'll write the note an' get the gold.

Blackie; We'd better take Tanner's extra clothes, too - so's it'll look like he moved out for keeps.

Jake; Yeah - an' that's the truth. He is movin' out for keeps!

Anner; At eight ~~am~~ in the morning, Baker and Scott joined Sergeant Preston at headquarters and became acquainted with Yukon King.

(AD LIB BARKS & WHIMPERS)

Anner; Preston noticed that his great dog behaved in a friendly manner and showed no sign of suspicion --

Baker; He's a wonderful dog, Sergeant. Is he as friendly as this with everyone?

Preston; No, Baker. Not by any means!

Scott; Is he going to Tanner's with us?

Preston; Yes, and we'd better get started. We have fine horses in the stable if you gentlemen care to ride ---

Baker; Sergeant, I'm not a horseman -

Scott; Neither am I.

Preston; In that case, we'll walk. Ready?

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Preston; Let's go. (FADING) Come on, King.

(BARKS, FADE OUT)

(STEPS SUSTAINING)

Annecr; During the long walk, the Sergeant became better acquainted with Scott and Baker. He found them pleasant companions and well educated. Presently Baker said --

Baker; Sergeant, I suppose you've been wondering why we came to Dawson.

Preston; That's an accurate supposition.

Baker; I'll tell you why. We came to buy land.

Preston; we've had a lot of people come from the States to prospect. Some bought land, others staked claims --

Baker; We're not here to prospect. As a matter of fact, we're representing a big company in the States.

Preston; You are?

Baker; Yes. The company has tremendous plans, but they must be kept secret for the time being. If we make a deal with Tanner, we shall appear to buy the land for ourselves and keep the company's name out of it until all the negotiations are concluded.

Preston; You should have no trouble reaching an agreement with Sam Tanner.

Baker; We'll pay him a fair price, if the land's suitable for our purpose. He told us he's not selling it as a gold claim - in fact, he explained the whole situation.

Scott; There's a forest ahead of us. Do we go thru it or around it?

Preston; Thru it. Tanner's place is just beyond it.

Tanner; Neither Baker nor Scott said any more about the big plans of the company they represented, and Sergeant Preston refrained from asking questions. The three men and King made their way through the heavy stand of timber and a moment later, stopped at the door of Tanner's cabin. Preston rapped --

(STEPS HALT) (RAP ON DOOR)

Baker; (PAUSE) No response --

(RAP HARDER AS:)

Preston; (CALLS) Tanner. You in there? This is Sergeant Preston --

Baker; He may be sleeping.

Preston; Not this late. I'll try the door.

(DOOR OPENS)

Baker; (CUE) See him?

Preston; No. He's not here. He may've gone to the creek for water. We'll go inside. Come on, King.

(STEPS IN AS:)

Scott; The bed seems to have been slept in.

(DOOR CLOSE)

Preston; The stove is cold. That's unusual. And the wall pegs are bare. Everything's cleaned out!

Baker; Wall pegs -?

Preston; Ordinarily his extra clothes would be on those pegs.

Baker; Oh.

Preston; Here's a note on the table - - addressed to you gentlemen -

Baker; Read it, Sergeant. Maybe it explains where he is.

Preston; The note reads: "After talking to you gents I had a good offer for my land from Jake Barton. I want to leave here for good and I'm in a hurry to get started, so I'm taking Jake's offer and moving out." Signed, Sam Tanner.

Baker; Of all the --

Preston; There's a postscript.

Scott; What's that say?

Preston; "If you want the property, maybe you can buy it from Jake."

Scott; well - (SIGHS) Looks like we've had the walk
for nothing.

Preston; Sam Tanner didn't write this note.

Adlib; (SURPRISE)

Baker; How do you know, Sergeant?

Preston; Tanner can't write.

Adlib; (REACTION)

Preston; we learned about it when he first came to
Lawson and had to fill out forms at headquarters.

Baker; Then someone must have written the note for him.

Scott; Probably the man who bought the property.
Jake -- what's his name?

Preston; Jake Barton. I'm sure he did not buy the property!

Baker; why are you sure of that?

Preston; Sam Tanner knew you men would be here today, and
he had no idea how much you'd pay for this place.
He's too smart a business man and too fair-minded
to sell to anyone before he talks to you.

Baker; Then what --

Preston; QUICKLY) That note's a forgery and probably an
outright lie! I must find Sam Tanner as soon
as possible. () Here, King -

(BARKS)

Baker; How can you find him?

Scott; (OVERLAP) Any idea where he went?

Preston; (OVERLAP) The bunk - the blankets -- get the scent, boy -

(AD LIB BARKS & WHIMPERS)

Baker; Can your dog follow Tanner by scent?

Preston; I hope so! (R Ready, King?

(BARKS)

Preston; You men wait right here! If I'm not back by sundown, go back to town and report what happened to the constable-
(SNATCH DOOR OPEN AS:)

Baker; Don't you want us to go with you -?

Preston; Not this time, Baker! See you later. (FADES)
Let's go, King -

(BARKS, FADING OUT)

Anner; In an old, abandoned shack, ^{about a mile south} ~~Sam Tanner lay asleep~~ of the Tanner property, Sam Tanner lay asleep on the floor. His hands and feet were tied and his face was bruised from the blows of Jake's fists. Jake and Blackie sat on boxes discussing their problem -

Jake; It's about time to wake up Tanner an' start in again. Maybe after a couple of hours sleep, he'll see things our way.

Blackie; I don't think there's anything we c'n do that'll make him sign that bill of sale -

(START KING BARKING BACK)

Jake; I'm not ready to give up. we'll work on him some more - then if he w on't sign, w e'll have to find a copy of his signature and forge it.

Blackie; *LISTEN!* I heard ^a dog.

Jake; (EFFORT) So ^{DID} ~~do~~ I. I'll look thru the hole in the door.

Blackie; what's a dog doin' around --

Jake; (CUT IN) Blackie! Sergeant Preston's comin' this way with his dog, King!

Blackie; (GASP) what's he doin' in this part o' the country?

Jake; How do I know? He's comin' straight to the cabin --

Blackie; It's been abandoned for a long time. maybe he saw the smoke comin' out of the chimney an' he wants to find out who's here --

Jake; maybe so, but if he sees Tanner tied up there --

Blackie; (MOVING BACK) I'll cover him with a blanket an' we'll hope he doesn't wake up.

Jake; Hurry - then stand over there in the corner an' hold yer gun ready.

Blackie; You mean -- hold a g un on Preston?

Jake; Not unless it's necessary. I'll try to get rid of him without lettin' him inside.

Blackie; I hope you can --

Jake; He knows me. I'll tell him I used to live here.

Blackie; But what if he's found out in some way that we captured Tanner -- what if he comes in an' finds --

(BARKS IN CLOSE)

Jake; (CUT IN) If he comes inside, get the drop on him. Then we'll take care of him!

Blackie; Jake, you're not thinkin' of killin' a mountie?

Jake; (SOFTER) Shut up an' get intuh the corner! Preston's right outside.

Blackie; (FADING BACK) I wish I'd never got intuh this --

(DOOR OPENS FAST)

Jake; (SURPRISE) Hey! what's the idea of rushin' in like --

Preston; Jake, I want to talk to you!

(KING SNARLS)

Preston; Steady, King.

Jake; You or y our dog make a fast move, Preston -- an' Blackie'll shoot!

Preston; Carrying things with a high hand, aren't you?

Jake; Maybe so.

Preston; Is Sam Tanner over there beneath the blanket?

Jake; what makes you think we know anything about Sam Tanner?

Preston; I'm not here to answer questions, Jake. I'm here to ask them. And the fact that Blackie is holding a gun on me, gives me reason to think the right answers will jail you two!
() Lift that blanket.

Jake; I'm not takin' orders from you.

Preston; Very well. I'll lift it myself, but first I'd better disarm and handcuff you and Blackie. Drop your guns.

Jake; Not a chance, Preston! You're the one who's goin' to be disarmed! Keep an eye on him, Blackie. I'll take his gun.

Blackie; (BACK) I - I'm watchin' --

Preston; You wouldn't shoot me, Blackie. You haven't the courage to face the inevitable hangman. As for you, Jake -- we've learned what to do when a man tries to take our gun --

Jake; Stand still, Preston --

Preston; Jake, we do this -- (SUDDEN EFFORT)

Jake; (CRY OUT)

Adlib; (COMMOTION)

Preston; (EFFORT) Take him, King -

(WILD SNARLS)

Anncr; Preston's lightning move caught Jake off guard.

(SHOT)

Blackie; (WILD YELLS OF PANIC, AD LIB)

Anncr; Jake's gun was slapped aside and his arm gripped by Preston as King charged at Blackie -

(AD LIB SCUFFLING)

Anncr; Blackie's nervous shot went wild ~~backwards~~ and before he could fire a second time, King knocked him off his feet.

Preston; (EFFORT) Here's another trick we learned --

(SMASHING BLOW)

Anncr; Preston's fist crashed like a battering ram against Jake's chin.

Preston; (EFFORT) One more -

(FALLING BODY)

Anncr; The second blow knocked Jake unconscious. Then Preston drew his gun.

Preston; All right, King -

Blackie; (FRANTIC AD LIB) Call off this dog - help me - save me --

Preston; Down, King! I'll take over!

(KING SUBSIDES)

Blackie; (GASPING) That - that dog --

Preston; Leave your gun on the floor. Stand up and face the wall! You're under arrest and so is Jake! On guard, King, while I handcuff the prisoners.

(AD LIB HANDCUFFS)

Sam; (BACK) Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Sam! Are you all right?

Sam; I'm tied up. It was all I c'd do to get my head out from under this blanket - those crooks tried to make me sign a bill o' sale --

Preston; I'll free you in just a minute, Sam - as soon as I finish handcuffing Jake .

Sam; what happened to him?

Preston; I knocked him out!

Sam; They just about dragged me here, Sergeant. An' ~~they brought my gold, too~~ **THEY FOUND MY GOLD - AN' TOOK IT, TOO** - the ornery crooks -

Preston; Tell me about it later, Sam - - after we join Baker and Scott. (FADING) They're waiting at your cabin for you --

Tanner; Late afternoon found Jake and Blackie securely locked in jail. At police headquarters Sergeant Preston signed his name as witness to the bill of sale that transferred Sam Tanner's property to Baker and Scott.

Baker; We're very happy to get your land, Tanner.

Sam; Well, you paid a fair price for it, so I reckon everyone's satisfied.

Baker; Sergeant, now that the deal is concluded, I'm free to tell you more about our plan.

Annex; Late afternoon found Jake and Blackie securely locked in jail. At police headquarters Sergeant Preston signed his name as witness to the agreement to sell Sam Tanner's property to Baker and Scott. Arrangements were made for the money to be left with Preston until Sam delivered the deed showing a clear title

Baker; We're very happy to get your land, Tanner.

Sam; Well, you paid a fair price for it, so I reckon everyone's satisfied. But I can't understand why you want it-

Baker; Now that our purchase agreement is signed, I'm free to tell you more about our plan-

- Preston; (LAUGHS) More about it! You haven't told us anything
- Baker; I guess you're right. The fact is, the people we represent are fully aware of the great interest those in the States have in the Yukon and the Northwest -
- Prest Yes?
- Baker; They plan a move to create more interest in this country, and to make it easy for people in the States to own land here-
- Sam; To own land!
- Baker; Yes. By giving to everyone who wants it, a deed to property,
- Preston; I never heard of such a thing. Did you ^{say} ~~ask~~ the company to give a deed - free of charge?
- Baker; That's right, and with no taxes to pay, of course. Each plot of land that is given away will be in the nature of antoken ownership, and must necessarily be very small - probably about a square inch, but the idea will take hold like wild fire because it is such a novel way of promoting interest in this wonderful country.
- Preston; The size will not matter - but the idea is really exciting, and I agree that it will do much to popularize the Northwest.
- Baker; That's right, Sergeant.
- Sam; So that's why you wanted to buy my property!

Baker; Yes, Tanner. The owners of the Quaker Oats company want to give away thousands of small parcels of the land to create public interest in this area

Preston; The QUAKER OATS company.

Scott; Baker- you let the cat out of the bag-

Baker; Oh well - (LAUGHS) It doesn't matter now. As I was saying, the Quaker Oats company wants to give the land away to attract attention to the Yukon Territory and the great northwest...and to draw the people of our two countries closer together.

Preston; Baker- Scott- I think the plan is great. And the ~~people that are~~ PEOPLE WHO ARE ~~the company that are~~ fostering the plan deserves a lot of credit and all the cooperation we can give.

Baker; Thanks, Sergeant. (LAUGHS) You've certainly been a great help to us today. Keep our secret until the title is ~~renewed~~ O.K'd.

Preston; Of course. ~~throughout~~ I'll be awaiting your further planning with special interest. Good bye gentlemen. I'm glad the deal is closed.

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