

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

RACE AGAINST TIME
by Fran Striker

Number: 1225

Date: 2-8-55

Wm Trendle

Preston

King

Blake young Mountie

Daker as before

Scott as before

Scar heavy

Hank heavy

Jim Wilson middle-aged, straight

FILE

Race against Time

Sergeant Preston found himself in a critical situation when he had to race against time to capture a pair of outlaws and at the same time - race against his own fine dogteam!

For fast action and real adventure, be sure -
(ETC.)

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By Fran Striker

"RACE AGAINST TIME"

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(USUAL OPENING)

(CAFE B.G.)

Annor; In a Dawson City Cafe next door to the hotel, Scar Dorgan and Hank Loomis had just finished their noonday meal. They remained at the table near the window, looking out at the heavily falling snow.

Scar; Been snowin' like this for two days without a let-up.

Hank; That's right, Scar. I never knew it to snow like this, so early in the season.

Scar; We had snow a year ago before the last boat left here for the States.

Hank; We had snow, but nothin' like this! I wonder if the boat'll leave tonight, on schedule.

Scar; I reckon so. The river's open. But what's the difference? We're not goin' anywhere.

Hank; No, I was just thinkin' of those two men who set up the Klondike Big Inch Land Company.

Scar; Scott an' Baker?

Hank; Yeah. They're plannin' to sail on the boat.
() Why'd they come to the Yukon.

Scar; They bought land and organized the Klondike Big
Inch Land Company.

Hank; I know that. But why -? They didn't buy gold
bearin' land -- they haven't prospected, or
offered the land for sale --

Scar; Not in Dawson. We don't know what they did in
Whitehorse.

Hank; Did they go to Whitehorse?

Scar; They spent considerable time there. I understand
they've got an office in Whitehorse.

Hank; And now they're leavin' for --

Scar; (CUT IN) There they are now -- comin' out of
the bank across the street. Sergeant Preston's
with 'em.

Hank; I noticed him goin' into the bank with Scott
an' Baker when we first sat down to eat.
Preston's dog was sittin' outside the bank
all the while the Mountie was in there.

Scar; (TEISE) Hank! Notice the packages Scott an'
Baker are carryin'!

Hank; What about 'em?

Scar; When I helped the Barton gang stick up a bank,
I saw paper money wrapped in packages just like
that!

Hank; D'you think those packages are full of money?

Scar; What else would they get in a bank? Did they have the packages when they went in?

Hank; No. They went in empty-handed.

Scar; That settles it. Hank, whatever Scott an' Baker did, they've cleaned up a lot of cash! They want to take it back to the States, so they've just drawn it outta the bank. Chances are they asked Preston to go with 'em for protection.

Hank; They've just gone into the hotel.

Scar; I happen to know they've got the big rear room on the first floor of the hotel.

Hank; What of it?

Scar; We could go in the back door an' help ourselves to that money.

Hank; That's a loco idea! We couldn't get away with it.

Scar; We can get away with it! All we gotta do is grab the cash and travel fast!

Hank; In snow like this?

Scar; Yes! With a fast dogteam an' a sled. If we get a start, we'll reach the Alaskan border before anyone can catch us. What's more, the snow'll cover our trail.

- Hank; Um. I'd sure like to lay my hands on a lot of money --
- Scar; This is our big chance, Hank!
- Hank; But we haven't got a sled or team --
- Scar; There's plenty of time to get a good outfit! The boat don't sail 'til midnight.
- Hank; Where can we get a sled an' good dogs without payin' for 'em?
- Scar; Just outside of town at the Wilson Kennels. Wilson has some of the best trained dogs in the Yukon - and he also handles sleds and gear.
- Hank; But we've got no money to pay for 'em!
- Scar; (CHUCKLES) We wouldn't pay for 'em -- even if we had the money!
- (BREAK)
- Annor; Meanwhile, Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon King accompanied Scott and Baker to their large room in the hotel. As the men from the States placed the heavy packages on a table, Baker said --
- Baker; Do you know what's in these packages, Sergeant?
- Preston; Yes. Those are Deeds to land in the Yukon.
- Scott; (SURPRISE) How did you know?

- Preston; The banker told me he'd made arrangements to have them brought from Whitehorse by special messenger.
- Scott; Oh.
- Baker; We didn't want to leave the Yukon without the Deeds and we didn't know how to get them from Whitehorse before the boat left, so we asked the banker to help us.
- Scott; He's been mighty helpful. And so have you, Sergeant Preston... and the rest of the Mounties. Without your help, we couldn't have gone through with our plan.
- Preston; Glad we could help you and the firm you represent. It's great the way you're making it possible for so many people in the States to become owners of property in the Yukon. You'll create a lot of interest in this wonderful country.
- Baker; We hope to.
- Preston; You might tell those people even though they own only a square inch of land, their property will have the full protection of the Northwest Mounted Police!
- Baker; We'll tell them.
- Scott; (CHUCKLES) When we've given away all these Deeds, you'll be guarding the property of a lot of people!
- Preston; That's our job. Now I'd better go to headquarters. I have some reports to make out.

Baker; Um. Snowing harder than ever.

Preston; Yes.

Baker; If this keeps up, you'll have to get out your sled and dogteam.

Preston; I've already done so. King and I took the dogs for a short run yesterday and another this morning.

Baker; Is that so?

Preston; Yes. Then I left them at the Wilson Kennels for their Fall check-up. () Well, King --

(BARKS, AD LIB)

Preston; Time to go to work.

(DOOR OPENS)

Baker; We'll see you tonight, Sergeant?

Preston; Yes. I'll be at the dock to say good-bye.

(DOOR CLOSE) (STEPS FADE)

Annrc; Hank Loomis and Scar Dorgan discussed their plans at length, then walked through the snow to the Wilson Kennels beyond the edge of town.

(AD LIB B.G. OF DOGS IN KENNELS)

Annrc; They told Jim Wilson they wanted a sled and dogteam.

Scar; We want dogs enough so's one of us c'n ride on the sled an' the other on the runners.

Hank; And we want a team that c'n travel fast an' far.

Jim; Um. You'll need a big team -- eleven or thirteen dogs. That'll run into considerable money.

Scar; We don't care about the price.

Jim; Well then, step right over to this enclosure. There's a fine team of dogs. They're used to workin' together.

Scar; Um. They look like strong animals.

Jim; They are. I bought them from a freighter who went broke. There's his sled an' the harness. It's a complete outfit ready to travel.

Hank; Is this the best team you've got?

Jim; It's the only matched team I have for sale. I could sell you individual dogs, but they wouldn't be used to workin' together.

Scar; What about the dogs in that enclosure?

Jim; (LAUGHS) Mister, you sure know fine dogs when you see 'em. That there is the best team in the Yukon, but it's just here for a check-up. It's not for sale.

Scar; Is it a faster team than this one?

Jim; Yes siree! That team belongs to Sergeant Preston!

Adlib; (REACTION)

Jim; That's his sled alongside the fence.

Scar; If that's Preston's team, where's his lead dog, Yukon King?

Jim; King works as a free lead. The Sergeant just brought his harness dogs here. In harness, the white Siberian is the lead.

Scar; Good. We'll take that team.

Jim; (LAUGHS) I guess you didn't hear me. I said that outfit's not for sale.

Scar; (HARD) I said, we'd take that team!

Jim; But - (STARTLED) A gun!

Scar; Right! Hitch up Preston's team for us, or I'll shoot you an' we'll do the hitchin'.

Jim; Gents, you can't get away with stealin' Sergeant Preston's team!

Scar; That'll be our worry. You just do as I say.
(HARD) Get movin'!

Jim; All - all right, but you'll regret this. I - -
(EFFORT)

Scar; (STRUGGLE) Yuh fool! Leggo my gun!

Jim; (AD LIB STRUGGLES)

Hank; (EFFORT) I'll get him, Scar!

Scar; (EFFORT) Use yer gun barrel! Rap him on the head!

Hank; (EFFORT) Leggo that gun, Wilson!

(BLOW)

Hank; (EFFORT) Leggo!

(BLOW)

Jim; (GASP)

Scar; That did it!

Jim; (HALF STUNNED) You -you --

Scar; You outta your mind, Wilson? What's the idea of tryin' to take my gun away from me?

Jim; You -you thieves --

Scar; You're lucky Hank just rapped you light.

Hank; Try any more of those tricks an' I'll really hit yuh!

Scar; Now line up Preston's dogs an' hitch 'em to the sled!

Jim; Y -you can't get away with stealing a dogteam - especially Sergeant Preston's team.

Scar; No -? Well you just name the team that's able to catch us an' we'll take that one instead of Preston's!

Hank; Start hitchin'!

Annex; The veterinary realized that refusal to do as ordered would only mean further punishment and would accomplish nothing. So he brought Sergeant Preston's fine dogs from the kennel and hitched them to the sled. Then -

Scar; Now, Wils on - go intuh yer house.

Jim; Wha -- what're you going to do?

Scar; Don't worry. We've got no reason to hurt you. We're just goin' to tie an' gag you so you can't make trouble before we get away.

FADE DOGS TO FAINT B.G.

Annex; Inside the house where he lived alone, Jim Wilson was quickly tied, gagged and left lying on the floor.

Scar; Someone'll find you, an' release you, Wilson -- if you wait long enough.

Jim; (MUMBLE THRU GAG)

Hank; Scar, it's gettin' dark outside --

Scar; Yep. Gets dark early at this time of the year. Good thing, too. We're less likely to be seen when we stop the dogteam behind the hotel. Let's go.

(STEPS FADE)

(FADE OUT DOGS)

Annex; In their hotel room, Scott and Baker were packing their bags by lamplight.

Scott; (LAUGHS) Y'know, Baker, it'd be hard to get used to living in country like this.

Baker; Why -?

Scott; Four o'clock in the afternoon, and it's dark outside.

Baker; In a few weeks, it'll be dark even earlier.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Scott; I'll see who it is.

(DOOR OPENS)

Scar; H'ist yer hands!

Hank; Don't make a sound!

Scott; (REACT)

Scar; You too, Baker.

Baker; What the --

Scar; (COMING IN) It's a stick-up and we'll use these guns if necessary. () Close the door, Hank.

(DOOR CLOSE)

Baker; Now hold on. You men --

Scar; Shut up! Stand over there an' face the wall - both of yuh!

Scott; We - we'd better do as he says, Baker.

Baker; (MUTTER) Yeah -

Hank; There's the packages, Scar -there on the table.

Scar; Yeah.

Baker; (SHARPLY) Those packages are--

Scar; (CUT IN) Shut up!

Baker; But --

Scar; Another word outta you and I'll crease yer skull!
() Rip up a bedsheet, Hank. We'll tie and gag
these gents.

Hank; Right.

(RIPPING BEDSHEET, FADING OUT)

— COMM. BREAK —

Annrc; A short time later, Sergeant Preston and
Constable Blake sat at desks in headquarters,
making out reports. King lay on the floor near
Preston's feet. Suddenly the big dog growled --

(GROWLS)

Blake; What's the matter with King?

Preston; I don't know. What is it, King? Someone coming?

(DOOR OPENS FAST)

Blake; (SURPRISE) What the--

(STEPS IN AS:)

Baker; (COMING IN FAST) Preston! Thank goodness you're
here!

Preston; Baker! What's wrong?

Baker; We've been robbed!

Blake; Robbed -?

Baker; Yes! Two men came to our room and held guns on Scott and me. They gagged us and tied our hands, then made off with the packages of Deeds.

Preston; What do they want with those?

Baker; From what they said, I think they had the idea there was money in the packages.

Preston; Did they take anything else?

Baker; No. They didn't seem interested in our watches or wallets. They just took the Deeds and cleared out.

Blake; How'd you get free?

Baker; As soon as the robbers left, we made a lot of noise by kicking. The hotel manager came and released us.

Preston; Either of you hurt?

Baker; No.

Preston; Did you see the crooks' faces? Could you identify them?

Baker; Yes. They didn't make any effort to hide their faces. They called each other Scar and Hank --

Preston; I think I know who they are. How long ago did they leave you?

Baker; Less than half an hour ago--

Blake; They can't have gotten far --not in this heavy snow.

Baker; They had a dogteam!

Blake; They did --?

Baker; Yes! They had it waiting at the back door of the hotel.

Blake; We'll need a team to overtake them!

Preston; Right! We wouldn't have a chance on foot. Blake, you go back to the hotel with Baker and get the full report while I go to Wilson's kennels and get my team.

Blake; Very well.

Preston; I'll meet you at the hotel! Come on, King!

(BARKS)

Preston; (FADING) We've work to do.

(BARKS FADING)

(FADE IN DOGS, ADLIB FAINT B.G.)

Annrc; At Jim Wilson's Sergeant Preston noticed that his sled and dogs were gone. He hurried to the dark house and rapped on the door.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Annrcr; When there was no response, he went inside.

(DOOR OPENS)

(SOFT THUDS)

Jim; (AD LIB MUFFLED NOISES)

Annrcr; Jim Wilson, lying flat on his back on the floor, made throaty sounds against the gag and kicked and rapped the floor to attract attention.

(COUPLE OF FAST STEPS)

Preston; Jim! () Tied and gagged! I'll have you free in a second --

Annrcr; Preston's knife slashed thru the ropes and cut away the gag. Then the Sergeant lighted a lamp and heard the veterinary's account of the robbery.

Jim; (FADING IN) ... then they found out your team was here, Sergeant, an' decided they'd take it.

Preston; Do you know the men, Jim?

Jim; They called each other Scar an' Hank -

Preston; Um. They went to the hotel and committed a robbery.

Jim; Well, they'll probably get away with it. I don't know how anyone can overtake 'em.

Preston; We must try to overtake them, Jim. I'll have to borrow a team and sled from you.

Jim; You're welcome to the best outfit I have, Sergeant.

Preston; Thanks.

Jim; It's a good team, but no match for your's.

Preston; We'll line 'em up. Come on, King.

(AD LIB BARKS)

Jim; I'll help yuh!

(SLED & DOGS AD LIB)

Annrcr; King had no trouble following the scent of his own team mates. Running ahead of the borrowed dogteam, he set a fast pace from the kennels to the back door of the hotel.

Preston; (AD LIB HO'S)

(STOP SLED)

Annrcr; As Preston stepped off the runners, Blake came through the door, with Baker and Scott following--

Blake; (COMING IN) Sergeant, those aren't your dogs!

Preston; No! Before coming here, those crooks stole my sled and team!

Baker; (COMING IN) Sergeant, do you think you can overtake them?

Preston; I don't know, Baker. We're going to try! Are you and Scott still planning to leave on the boat.

Baker; We must! If we miss the last boat, we'll be here for the winter.

Scott; We'll have to leave without the Deeds!

Preston; That's a shame.

Baker; (SIGHS) Well, it seemed too good to be true that we were all set to go ahead with our plans -

Preston; Sit down on the sled, Blake. () We'll try to recover the deeds, Baker. () Find our dogs, King. Find Cheeko and Koon a -

(BARKS AD LIBBED)

On King! On you huskies!

(SLED & DOGS START, FADE UNDER:)

Anncr; King set the course across the soft, newly fallen snow and acted impatient because the borrowed dog team seemed so slow.

(KING AD LIB BARKS)

Anncr; From time to time he ran alongside the leader in harness and barked in a futile effort to increase the speed. The snow continued to fall and filled in tracks soon after they were made. Presently after about an hour of steady travel, Preston called-

Preston; (ADLIB WHOA'S)

(DOGS STOP)

Blake; (BACK) What's wrong, Sergeant?

Preston; Have to give the dogs a rest.

Blake; (COMING IN) They tired already?

Preston; Yes. They're out of condition and King's set a mighty fast pace.

Blake; Do you think we've gained on your team?

Preston; We may have gained a little. My dogs don't travel at top speed without King. But they can keep going!

Blake; I know that.

Preston; That's more than I can say for this team.

Blake; Would it help if I didn't ride on the sled?

Preston; It wouldn't help enough.

Blake; Have you noticed the direction the crooks are traveling?

Preston; Yes. Toward the Alaskan border.

Blake; If they cross the border, they're out of our jurisdiction.

Preston; That's probably what they're counting on.

Blake; Humph! Fine thing! What're we going to do? Give up?

Preston; We can't give up a chase, Blake - not even a hopeless one.

Blake; That's true.

(KING WHIMPERS)

Preston; I know you want to go on, King.

Blake; Too bad he has to be slowed down by the team.

Preston; Yes. If he were alone - (SUDDENLY) Blake!

Blake; Huh -?

Preston; Traveling alone, King could very soon overtake
the team! And those dogs will follow him!

Blake; Yes, but-

Preston; (CUT IN) King! Listen to me, boy!

(WHIMPERS)

Preston; Go on, King. Bring Cheeko - bring Koonna -
bring all the dogs -- you understand King?

(WHIMPERS)

Preston; Bring 'em back.

(WHIMPERS)

Blake; He seems to understand!

Preston; Cheeko - Koonna - Keglak - get 'em, King! Go
get 'em!

(BARKS, FADING FAST)

Blake; There he goes!

Preston; It's up to him!

(FADE OUT DOGS)

(FADE IN SLED & TEAM)

Anncr; In the heavily falling snow, Scar and Hank could
see only a short distance ahead, but they were
well pleased with the way the stolen dogteam
maintained a steady pace. After a long period
of silence, Hank - seated on the sled, called to
Scar, who rode the runners -

Hank; (BACK, SHOUT) Scar, you sure we're headin'
toward the border?

Scar; I hope so! I've tried to hold the team in a
straight line.

Hank; (BACK) I hope we haven't been travelin' an a
circle without knowin' it.

(BARKS, BACK)

Scar; So do I.

Hank; (BACK) I hear another dog.

Scar; Behind us - an' comin' fast.

Annrcr; While Hank and Scar watched, King came abreast
of the team, but remained too far to the side to
be ~~seen~~ recognized by the outlaws. Then he ran
ahead of the team -

Hank; (BACK) What d'you make of that dog, Scar?

Scar; I dumno! In this snow and darkness, I can't even
be sure it's a dog. For all I know it might be
a wolf.

Hank; (BACK) Whatever it is, the sled dogs are tryin'
mighty hard to catch it! They're travelin' a lot
faster!

(BARKS UP & UNDER:)

(BARKS UP & UNDER:)

Anncr]

King stayed far ahead and traveled in a curving course. Neither Hank nor Scar were aware that their route was anything but a straight line to the border-- for actually their direction was completely reversed. It was close to ten o'clock that night when King stopped beside a huge boulder. The other dogs caught up to him, then they, too, halted without a word from the driver -

(DOGS & SLED STOP)

(AD LIB DOGS BARKING)

Hank; Why'd that critter stop here?

Scar; How do I know?

Hank; He seems downright friendly with the sled dogs.

Scar; Yeah. I want to get a close look at him. I --

Preston; (BACK) You're covered!

Adlib; (STIR)

Hank; It's Preston!

Blake; (COMING IN) Raise your hands!

Scar; Blake! (WILD YELL) You'll never take me alive!

(KING ADLIB SNARLS)

Adlib; (STIR)

Hank; (YELLS) Lookout, Scar -

Scar; (WILD YELL) That dog - () My hand -

Preston; Hold him, King - 'til I take his gun!

Blake; Don't you move -

Hank; (FEAR) My hands are up! I surrender!

Preston; All right, King. I'll take over. On guard, boy.

(GROWLS)

Scar; Preston, you -

Preston; Put your hands out, Scar - for handcuffs!

(AD LIB HAN DCUFFS)

Scar; Where - where - how -- what're you doin' here?
How'd you get ahead of us?

Preston; It wasn't hard.

Scar; But you were in town when we --

Preston; When you left with the stolen goods!

Blake; The packages are here on the sled, Sergeant.

Preston; Good. Handcuff that man, Blake.

Blake; Right! Stick your hands out.

Hank; How in tarnation did you get so far from Dawson?

Preston; We're not far from Dawson.

Adlib; (SURPRISE)

Preston; King overtook his teammates and turned them back.

Scar; Yuh mean - we been goin' toward Dawson?

Preston; Yes! Toward Dawson - and jail! () There's another sled and team behind that boulder. One of you ride back in that!

(DOGS WHIMPER, ETC.)

Anncr; Within a few minutes the handcuffed prisoners were settled on the sleds. Then Constable Blake stepped on the runners of Jim Wilson's sled and said --

Blake; Lead the way, Sergeant. I'll follow.

Preston; On King! On you huskies.

Blake; (AD LIB MUSH'S)

(SLEDS & DOGS START AS:)

(FADE IN STEAMSHIP WHISTLE & CROWD NOISES)

Voice; (BACK, YELL) All aboard --

Anncr; It was nearly midnight and the last boat of the season was about to leave Dawson City. Scott and Baker had taken their luggage aboard, and returned to the dock in the faint hope that they would have word of the stolen Deeds before they sailed --

Baker; (SIGHS) We'd better go aboard, Scott.

Scott; Guess so.

Baker; Our plan will be delayed for a long time because of those confounded croos.

(WHISTLE)

Voice; (BACK) All aboard -

Scott; The boat'll leave without us -

Baker; Let's go aboard -

Preston; (BACK) Scott! Baker!

Scott; Someone's calling --

Preston; (NEARER) Wait a minute -

Baker; Sergeant Preston!

(KING IN BARKING AD LIB)

Preston; (COMING IN) We've recovered your Deeds!

Baker; No! Really?

Preston; Those two fellows are carrying them. (CALLS)
Take those bundles aboard the ship.

Scott; Sergeant, I can't believe it!

Preston; It's true. The crooks are in jail.

Baker; You -- you - well, you beat anything I've ever heard
of! () Sergeant, here! I have a gift for you!

Preston; You'd better get aboard.

Baker; Take this.

Preston; Thanks, Baker, but we're not allowed to accept gifts.

Baker; Please accept this, I meant to give it to you earlier,
but it slipped my mind. It's just a token -

Preston; Oh -

Baker; A Deed to land in the Yukon - just like the Deeds we're going to give to the people in the States!

Scott; A square inch of land.

Preston; Well thanks! I'm very glad to have this! It will be a memento of a pleasant relationship with you men.

Baker; (LAUGHS) Two men who gave you several tough cases to handle.

Preston; That's our business, Baker. But we're always glad when we can say this case is closed.

Voice; (BACK) Last call! All aboard!

(WHISTLE)

(CROWD SHOUTS)

Theme