

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
created by George W. Trendle

SLED RIDE TO DEATH
by Fran Striker

Number: 1230

Date: 2-~~26~~²⁴-55

Inspector

Preston

King

Jim Harper middle-aged prospector

Mary his wife

Larson heavy

Martin middle-aged mining man

Indian bit

Voice and V 2..... bits.

*not sent to
Striker*

FILE

Trapped and utterly helpless,
Sergeant Preston saw no hope of
survival when outlaws pushed him
over the edge of a canyon. What
happened? Well, you'll be surprised
by the outcome of this thrill-packed
adventure. Be sure to listen -

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
by Fran Striker

SLED RIDE TO DEATH

Number:

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(USUAL OPENING)

(STREET B.G.)

Annrc; On a day in Fall when snow lay on the ground,
but before the rivers and streams had frozen
over, Sergeant Preston and his great dog Yukon
King walked along the Main Street of Dawson.
They met an old friend named Jim Harper --

Preston; Jim!

Jim; Sergeant Preston! And King! Glad to see you!

(WHIMPERS)

Preston; Glad to see you, Jim. How've you been?

Jim; First rate.

Preston; And your wife?

Jim; Mary's fine, too.

Preston; I heard you were in Dawson.

Jim; I just got in this morning.

Preston; Have you given up the search for gold at Rockville?

Jim; No. I'm goin' back there. I'm leavin' tonight.

Preston; Did Mary come with you?

Jim; No, Sergeant. I'd have brought her if I'd had a sled an' dogteam, but it's too hard a trip on foot. I - uh -- I just came here to transact some business.

Preston; Yes. The pawnbroker told me.

Jim; (SURPRISE) Huh -?

Preston; Jim, you must be very hard up to borrow money on your wife's ring and your gold watch.

Jim; Well, I - uh --

Preston; I know how much those things meant to you.

Jim; I - I'll get 'em back, Sergeant. I -- I'll have the money to redeem 'em --

Preston; Do you expect to get the money in Rockville?

Jim; Uh - er --yes --

Preston; I understood that most men had given up mining in Rockville because the ore is of such low grade.

Jim; I - uh -- I've got to get along, Sergeant. I--

Preston; Just a minute, Jim. What's going on in Rockville?

Jim; Wha --what d'you mean?

Preston; In the last couple of days, a number of men who went prospecting in the Rockville area ^{CAME} returned to Dawson to borrow money.

Jim; Well - I -- uh -- I don't know anything about the other men --

Preston; Like you, they were all in a hurry to return to Rockville.

Jim; Sergeant, I -- I can't say anything. I gave my word of honor to say nothin'. (FADE) I've got to be goin' --

Preston; Humph. () Curious, eh King?

(WHIMPERS)

Preston; Something is ~~going on~~ ^{HAPPENING} in Rockville. I think we'd better talk to the Inspector. (FADES)
Come on, boy.

(STREET NOISES, UP & FADE OUT)

Annrc; In the Northwest Mounted Police Headquarters, Sergeant Preston told the Inspector about Jim Harper and others who had come from Rockville to borrow money on treasured possessions --

Preston; They must be very sure of getting the money to redeem those things, Inspector.

Insp; I agree with you, Preston. Something's going on there.

Preston; That area is not on my patrol, so I'm not familiar with it.

Insp; A lot of people went there when gold was found. They staked claims and started to work, but they soon learned that the ore was low grade -- not worth digging.

Preston; Maybe a richer grade of ore has been found.

Insp; If so, we should know about it so we can ^{STATION} ~~have~~ a man there to keep things under control.

Preston; That's what I thought, Sir.

Insp; You'd better go to Rockville and ^{INVESTIGATE.} ~~look what's~~ ~~going on.~~

Preston; Yes sir.

Insp; According to the weather reports, there's a lot of snow on the trail --

Preston; Then I'll take my sled and dogteam. It'll be faster than traveling by foot. I'll start first thing in the morning.

Anncr; Sergeant Preston left Dawson at daybreak with Yukon King running as a free lead for the dogs that pulled the sled. Riding on the runners, Preston made much faster time than Jim Harper who had started the trip the night before. In late afternoon, the Sergeant was within sight of the mountain community called Rockville when Jim Harper reached his small home.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSE, STAMP FEET, ETC., AS--)

Mary; Jim!

Jim; Hi, Mary.

Mary; I'm glad you're back. You must be tired.

Jim; I am.

Mary; Give me your coat. I'll hang it up.

Jim; It was hard walkin' through the snow.

Mary; Sit down an' rest while I prepare a hot meal.

Jim; (SITS)(SIGH) Good to sit down.

Mary; Did you get the cash?

Jim; Yep. I got it.

Mary; I - I do hope we're not makin' a mistake.

Jim; By investin' money in Martin's company? I should say not! It's a good proposition!

Mary; Did you ask anyone in Dawson about it?

Jim; No. I promised Martin and his partner I wouldn't breathe a word of their plan. It's got to be kept mighty secret.

Mary; I suppose so

Jim; The company hopes to buy up a lot of land around here real cheap, but that wouldn't be possible if word got around that Martin and Larson were goin' to set up machinery to refine the low grade ore.

Mary; Jim, are you sure Martin and Larson are on the level?

Jim; Sure they are, Mary! I don't know Larson very well, but Martin's a fine gent. He learned gold minin' in California.

Mary; I -- I like Mr. Martin, but Larson -- well, he's got shifty eyes and a look about his face --

Jim; (LAUGHS) Honey, you're bein' unfair. We hardly know Larson.

(RAP ON DOOR)

Mary; The door. I'll open it.

(2 STEPS, DOOR OPENS, WIND B.G.)

(CUE) Oh, Mr. Martin. Hello.

Martin; Howdy, Mrs. Harper. () Hello there, Jim.

Jim; Come in, Martin. Come on in.

(STEPS, DOOR CLOSES, CUT WIND)

Jim; I just got back from Dawson.

Martin; Yes. I saw you coming into town.

Jim; I'm all ready for you, Martin. Got the cash for that stock right here in my pocket!

Martin; Fine! I'll make out a certificate for you.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

Jim; Here, Martin. Sit right at this table. There's the pen and ink.

(AD LIB B.G. OF PEN ON PAPER)

Mary; Mr. Martin, are you sure there's gold around here?

Martin; Sure? (LAUGHS) Why Mrs. Harper, everyone knows there is.

Mary; Yes, but it hasn't been worthwhile to dig the ore.

Martin; That's because of the transportation costs. You see, it's not worthwhile to ship a ton of ore all the way to the states for the fifty or seventy-five dollars worth of gold it holds. But if that ore is refined right here in Rockville -- that's a different story! If I didn't think it worthwhile, I wouldn't be here. () There you are, Jim. There's your stock certificate.

Jim; And here's your cash.

Mary; How soon are you going to begin building the refinery?

Martin; Very soon, Mrs. Harper. Very soon. We must buy up a few parcels of land, then we'll be all ready to go. I -- (BREAK AS:)

(FRANTIC POUNDING ON DOOR)

Mary; (SLIGHT GASP) Oh!

Jim; Who in tarnation's hammerin' on the door like that?

(COUPLE OF STEPS, DOOR OPENS, WIND)

Jim; Oh! Mr. Larson!

Larson; (QUICKLY) Hello, Harper. () Martin, I've got to see you right away. ~~You better come with me.~~

Jim; Is something wrong?

Larson; I've got to see Martin, that's all.

Martin; I'm through here. I'll see you soon, Jim.

Jim; Y --yeah. I - I hope nothin's wrong.

Martin; I'm sure there's nothing serious. (SLIGHT LAUGH)
Larson is an excitable man, you know. Good day,
Mrs. Harper.

Mary; Good-bye.

(DOOR CLOSES, WIND B.G., SUSTAIN)

Martin; Well -? What's the idea of bustin' into Harper's
place like that, Larson? What's the trouble?

Larson; I'll tell you while we're walkin' to the cabin.

(STEPS SUSTAINING AS:)

Martin; Start talkin'.

Larson; I was going to call on Dan Stacey -

Martin; Stacey ?

Larson; (IMPATIENT) You know! He runs the kennel - we
left the team and sled with him for the summer.

Martin; Oh yes. () You said you were going to ~~chep~~ pickup
on the dogteam and --

Larson; (CUT IN) Listen. I saw a big string of dogs and
a sled in front of Stacey's place, and Stacey was
talkin' to the owner.

Martin; what about it, Larson?

Larson; I recognized the owner. He's Sergeant Preston!

Martin; (REACT) Of the Mounties?

Larson; Yes! He's here with his team and that big dog, Yukon King!

Martin; Why is he here?

Larson; I don't know why he's here, but I do know he'll blame soon find out we've been sellin' stock in a corporation to build a gold refinery!

Martin; Um-m.

Larson; And it won't take him long to learn that it's a skin game!

Martin; I wouldn't say that, Larson. It won't be easy to prove that we have no intention of building a refinery.

Larson; (CUT IN) Aside from that, I'm wanted by the law in Whitehorse for a couple of robberies and a shooting.

Martin; (REACT) You never told me that!

Larson; It didn't matter until now.

Martin; Does Preston know you?

Larson; Yes! It's a lucky thing I recognized him and turned back before he saw me. He'll arrest me on sight. And if he knows you're workin' with me, he'll hold you until he can check up.

Martin; If he does any checking he'll learn we haven't ordered any of the machinery we've been talking about.

Larson; That's right. And he'll know our stock was a swindle. We've got to leave town tonight.

Martin; That's all right with me. Now that there's snow for our sled, I'm ready to leave any time. We've collected a nice bundle of cash. We --

Larson; (CUT IN) One thing more --

Martin; Well --?

Larson; We've got to do something about Preston.

Martin; Why --?

Larson; He'll hear about our stock sales and want to question us. He'll find ~~xxx~~ we've cleared out and he'll come after us --

Martin; We should have a good start by that time.

Larson; That doesn't mean a thing! King'll find the scent in our cabin and trail us no matter how much of a start we get.

Martin; Um-m. I'd hate to lose the money we've worked all summer to accumulate.

Larson; We're not goin' to lose it!

Martin; But if we can't escape from Sergeant Preston --

Larson; We'll get rid of him!

Martin; What d'you mean by that?

Larson; Just leave it to me, Martin! () Preston
 doesn't know you, does he?

Martin; No. Furthermore, I've never been in trouble
 with the law. I've been a mining man all my
 life. I came to the Yukon hoping to get a
 job - but I met you!

Larson; Yes, an' made more money in the past few months
 than you'd make in years of hard work. ()
 Here's what you've gotta do. Go to the kennels
 and tell Stacey to hitch our dogs to the sled and
 bring 'em to our cabin at seven o'clock tonight.

Martin; Seven o'clock.

Larson; It'll be dark by that time.

Martin; Then what -?

Larson; Find out where Sergeant Preston's plannin' to
 stay. I'll want you to take a message to him
 after we've got our sled and dogs all set to
 travel.

Annor; The news of Sergeant Preston's arrival in town
 spread rapidly and it was a simple matter for
 Martin to learn that he had accepted an invitation
 to stay in the home of Jim and Mary Harper.

(AD LIB TABLE NOISES, B.G.)

Anner; At about half past seven Preston finished a hearty supper and passed his cup to Mary for more tea. Then, for the first time he mentioned his reason for coming to Rockville.

Preston; I'm not going to question you, Jim, but I intend to find out why people are going from here to Dawson to borrow money.

Jim; I -- I'd be glad to tell you, Sergeant, if I hadn't given my word to keep it a secret.

Preston; That's all right, Jim.

Mary; Sergeant, do you think there's something crooked going on?

Preston; Mary, I haven't the slightest idea. I - (BREAK AS:)

(RAP ON DOOR)

(LOW GROWL)

Preston; Quiet, King. Stay right there by my chair.

(CHAIR SCRAPES) (STEPS AS:)

Jim; I'll see who's at the door.

(DOOR OPEN) (SLIGHT WIND B.G.)

Indian; Me got note - Sergeant Preston.

Jim; Oh, all right, Tooka. I'll give it to him.

Indian; Me wait here.

(STEPS AS:)

Preston; (FADING IN) Did he say he had a note for me?

Jim; Yep. Here it is.

(UNFOLD PAPER)

Mary; By this time, I suppose everyone in town knows that you're here.

Preston; Jim! Listen to this. It's from Stacey who owns the kennel.

Jim; What's he say?

Preston; (READ) "I must see you right away about your dogs. I'll not be at the kennel, but the Indian who delivers this will show you where to find me. Please come at once! ~~and don't bring any.~~"

Mary; Mercy! That sounds bad!

Preston; I'd better go right away. What's that Indian's name?

Jim; Tooka.

Preston; (CALL) Wait for me, Tooka! I'll be with you as soon as I put my parka on.

Indian; (BACK) Me wait.

(LIGHT BARKS)

Preston; No, King. Not this time, fellow.

Jim; D'you think Stacey has found that one of your dogs is ailin' with somethin' serious an' contagious?

Preston; I don't know.

~~Mary: Maybe that's why he said not to bring King.~~

(BARKS)

Preston; Stay there, King. () Mind if I leave him
with you?

Mary; Not at all, Sergeant.

Jim; We'll take good care of him!

Preston; See you later.

(FAST STEPS AS:)

Preston; Let's go, Tooka.

(DOOR CLOSE, WIND UP THEN UNDER:)

Anncr; Tooka innocently led the way to the cabin where
Martin and Larson lived. ~~It/that/didn't/it/it/used.~~

Indian;
~~Tooka!~~ That where man give me note.

Preston; Stacy?

Indian; Me not know name. Him give note- say take to you.
Bring you back.

Preston; All right, Tooka. Thanks.
Anncr; While the Indian walked away, Sergeant Preston
advanced to the cabin door-
(RAP ON DOOR)

Anncr; The door was opened by Martin, who smiled and
said —

Martin; Good evening, Sergeant.

Preston; Good evening. Is Stacey here?

Martin; He's expecting you. Come right in.

(STEPS IN AS:)

Annecr; Not suspecting that Larson, the hunted outlaw, stood waiting with an upraised club, Sergeant Preston entered the cabin. Then, as the door closed - Larson struck!

(DOOR CLOSE)

(BLOW, FALLING BODY)

Larson; That got him! First crack!

Martin; Poor fellow --

Larson; Don't get soft-hearted, Martin!

Martin; I - I don't like this, Larson.

Larson; You don't have to like it. Get that rope and tie his hands and feet, ~~while he's gagged~~

Martin; Can't we simply leave him here - tied and gagged?

Larson; No! He'd be found and released. We've got to take him with us and get rid of him for keeps!

(COMMERCIAL)

(WIND B.G., SLED & DOGTEAM)

Annecr; When Sergeant Preston regained consciousness, he found himself bound, ~~gagged~~ and riding on a sled thru the moonlit night. As his head cleared, he saw a man who sat facing him on the sled --

Preston; Wha - what's this mean?

Martin; So you're conscious, eh Sergeant?

Preston; Yes! Who are you? ... eh Ser...

Martin; The name is Martin. I'm sorry we had to treat you so roughly.

Larson; (BACK) You're awake, eh Preston?

Preston; Yes! (EFFORT)

Annrc; Preston managed to turn far enough to see the man who rode the runners and drove the team. The moonlight was bright enough to reveal his identity --

Preston; Larson!

Larson; (BACK) That's right!

Preston; I suppose you're the one who knocked me out.

Larson; (BACK) Good guess.

Preston; Do you know the penalty for assaulting a policeman?

Larson; (BACK) I'm not worried about penalties.

Preston; You'd better be. A lot of them are charged against you.

Larson; (BACK) That's why one or two additional charges don't make much difference. You should never have come to Rockville, Preston.

Preston; If I'd known you were there, I'd have made the trip much sooner!

Larson; (BACK, LAUGHS) And if you'd known I was the one who sent you the fake note from Stacey, I guess you'd have been more careful about comin' to our place!

Preston; How long do you think you can hold me prisoner?

Larson; (BACK) We'll only keep you with us for another ten or fifteen minutes. By that time, we'll reach the top of White Canyon. That's as far as you go.

(WIND, SLED & DOGS UP & UNDER:)

AnnCR; During the next quarter hour, Sergeant Preston struggled against the ropes that held his hands and feet, but they were strong and the knots were tight.

Larson; (AD LIB WHOA'S)

(DOGS & SLED STOP)

Larson; This is as far as you go, Preston! Pull him off the sled, Martin.

Martin; Larson, I -- I don't like to commit murder --

Larson; Would you rather spend the rest of your life in prison?

Martin; No, but I -

Larson; (SNEERING) But you never did anything wrong until you met me -- (HARD) Save the talk an' do as I tell yuh!

Preston; Remember, Martin. No one gets away with the murder of a policeman! If I'm not killed, I'll find you - and you'll go to jail. But if I'm killer - someone else will find you, and you'll hang!

Larson; (EFFORT) Come on. I'll give you a hand.

Martin; B - b but we could leave him here - tied --

Larson; Shut up and give me a hand. (EFFORT) We'll toss him over the edge of the canyon.

Martin; Wha - what's down below?

Larson; I told you! The White River!

(FADE IN RUSHING WATER AS:)

Annecr; Utterly helpless, Sergeant Preston was dragged across the snow to the edge of the canyon. He could hear the rushing water about thirty feet below, and wondered if he could possibly survive, with his hands and feet tied --

Martin; He - he won't have a chance --

Larson; That's right. He'll be carried downstream to the falls an' that'll finish him. His body won't be found for a long time - if ever. () Now roll him over the edge!

Preston; Better think twice, Martin! In pushing me,
you'll stick your neck into a hangman's noose!

Larson; I said push him over!

Martin; Larson - (STARTLED) A gun!

Larson; Do as I say!

Marton; All - all right, Larson. I - I'll do it --

Anncr; Sergeant Preston felt the touch of Martin's
hands against his back, then something cold
touched his bound wrists. With a surge of
hope he realized that Martin held a knife and
was cutting the ropes while his body concealed
the act -

Larson; (BACK) Go on! What're you waitin' for?

Martin; I - I'll do it -

Anncr; Preston's hands were free! And the handle of
the knife was pressed into his grip!

Martin; Here - here goes - (EFFORT)

Larson; That's it!

Anncr; After an instant in mid-air, Preston struck the
icy water.

(SPLASH, RUSHING WATER CLOSE)

Anncr; Underwater, as he was being swept downstream, he
used the knife to slash away the cord that held his
ankles, then he ~~bounded~~^{ROSE} to the surface and struck out
for shore on the far side of the canyon.

(RUSHING WATER UP AND UNDER:)

Anncr; A strong swimmer, he made shore easily.

(DRIPPING WATER)

Anncr; As he waded out of the water, he heard a distant shot -

(SHOT BACK)

Anncr; Looking upstream toward the cliff, he saw a man's form dropping into the water.

Preston; (MURMUR) Larson had the gun. Must've shot his partner -

Anncr; Preston paused only long enough to pull off his boots and jacket, then again he plunged into the cold stream.

(SWIMMING) (WATER RUSHING, UP)

Anncr; By swimming hard, he managed to reach the man who had saved his life.

Preston; (EFFORT, SWIMMING) I have you, Martin. Don't struggle. I'll get you to shore!

Martin; (GASPING) He - he shot me -- he wanted all the money for himself --

Preston; (EFFORT) Take it easy. Don't try to swim. Just relax.

(WATER FULL UP, THEN UNDER:)

Preston; There! Now we're out of it!

Martin; (GASPING) Tha - that murdering - skunk --

Preston; Are you badly hurt?

Martin; I -- I think the bullet - just brushed my arm.
I -- I leaped over -- just as he fired --

Preston; I'll take care of you.

Martin; C - c -cold. We - we'll freeze -

Preston; No we won't. I know there's lots of wood close
to the canyon wall and my matches are in a water-
proof box. We'll soon have a fire going.

Martin; Y -y -you saved my -my life --

Preston; And you saved mine. That makes us even.

(WATER FULL UP & OUT)

AMEY; Meanwhile, in the home of Jim and Mary Harper,
Yukon King sensed that his master faced grim
peril.

(WHINES & WHIMPERS)

He paced the floor uneasily, whining and
whimpering, and from time to time pawed at the
door.

Mary; Him, you'd better let him out.

Jim; I - I guess Sergeant Preston won't mind.

Mary; Of course not! I wonder what's keepin' him so
long? He's been gone over an hour and a half.

Jim; All right, King. Out you go-

(DOOR OPENS)

(SHARP BARKS, FADING FAST)

Jim; Great Scott! (SHOUTS) Hey, King! Come back here!

Mary; (BACK) What's the matter?

Jim; King started out like he'd been shot from a bow!

Mary; (FADING IN) Oh Jim! If the Sergeant comes back and finds him gone - what'll he say?

Jim; I don't know, Honey. But I couldn't stop that dog.

(BARKING, WHINING AD LIB AS:)

Annrc; Many fine dogs have instincts that no man can explain, and in Yukon King these were developed to an exceptional degree. He seemed to know just where to find his master. ~~There was no need to follow the scent along the flat ground to the rim of the canyon.~~ Instead, The mighty dog raced on a straight line from town to the beginning of the canyon, swam across the river at a narrow point, then continued his dash along the narrow beach.

(FADE IN RIVER)

Annex; Meanwhile, Preston and Martin sat close to a fire to dry out their clothes. Martin's slight wound had been bandaged and the mining engineer was able and willing to tell all he knew about the fake stock he and Larson had sold-

Martin; I- I guess there's no need to say I'm sorry I got into that deal with him.

Preston; I too am sorry, Martin. I've heard about you. You're a topnotch mining engineer.

Martin; Yes- (SIGHS) But I finally stepped off on the wrong foot. I had a good idea, Sergeant. I studied the ore around here and knew there'd be money in forming a company to build a refinery. But I made the mistake of telling Larson my plan. He talked me into making a quick cash cleanup by converting my plans for a legitimate company into a swindle.

Preston; Um-m. I'd like to hear more about your plans, Martin - I'd like to see your figures and calculations -

Martin; I'll show them to you. I -

BARKS APPROACHING

Preston; Just a minute-

Martin; Sounds like a dog-

Preston; It is! It's King!

KING IN EAST. BARKS AND WHINES.

Preston; King old fellow! How in the world did you get here? () I'm glad to see you, boy!

Martin; A wonderful dog --

Preston; I - (SUDDENLY) Martin!

Martin; Eh -?

Preston; Where did you say Larson planned to go?

Martin; Connor's Creek. Why -?

Preston; That's on this side of the canyon.

Martin; Yes.

Preston; Larson will have to go a long way to get around the canyon - but I'm already on this side! I think I can intercept him/

Martin; You're not thinking of going after him?

Preston; I hadn't thought of it - until King arrived!

Martin; But he has your gun! You're not armed!

Preston; I have King! () Martin, I want Larson a lot more than I do you! I'm going to put you on your honor to return to Rockville.

Martin; I'll go there, Sergeant. I'll wait for you. I hope when you arrive, you'll have Larson with you.

Preston; So do I. King, we've a job to do!

(BARKS)

Preston; Let's go!

(BARKS FADING)

(FADE OUT WATER)

(FADE IN SLED & DOGS)

Annecr; Larson had held the dogs of his sled team to a steady pace and felt satisfied that Preston and Martin had perished in the swift running stream. He was nearing his destination, the community known as Connor's Creek, where he had planned to spend the night, when he heard an oncoming dog-

(KING APPROACHING, SNARLS & WHINES)

Larson; (SURPRISE) What's that -

Annecr; He turned to see a furry figure racing toward him in the moonlight - and then he saw a man running after the dog -and heard a shout--

Preston; (BACK) Take him, King!

(KING ATTACK AD LIB)

Larson; (CRY OUT) What the -- Help! Call off -- get away - (CONTINUE AD LIB)

Annecr; With no chance to draw his gun, Larson went down in the snow, with King on top, threatening with huge fangs --

Preston; (COMING IN) You're thru, Larson! I'll take that gun! That does it, King! Down, boy!

(KING SUBSIDES)

Larson; (GASPS) Y - you -- Preston!

Preston; That's right, Larson. You're under arrest!

Larson; But where -- how --

Preston; Now it's your turn to ride on the sled --wearing handcuffs!

(WIND FULL UP, FADE)

FADE IN ROOM NOISES, CROWD

Annecr; The following morning, at the request of Sergeant Preston, a group of men who had bought the fraudulent stock, met in Jim Harper's cabin. Martin was there with Preston. But Larson, the Sergeant announced - was in the small jail.

Preston; He has a lot to answer for. I'll take him to Sawson as a prisoner.

Voice; What about Martin? Why ain't he in jail?

Preston; Martin's a different type of man. I'm exercising the privilege of a policeman to do what I think best in serving justice.

Adlib; (MURMURS)

Preston; You people know the stock you bought was fraudulent.

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Preston; Fortunately, none of you will lose your money. I have it here -intact.

Adlib; (MURMURS)

- Preston; But I want to tell you this! I've investigated ~~Martin's plan to~~ Martin's plan to refine the low grade ore. I'm ~~refine the low grade ore is a good plan!~~ ~~It can~~ convinced that it is a sound, workeable plan. It can be done, and there's enough money to finance the installation of the necessary machinery!
- Adlib; (MURMURS)
- Preston; Martin is a mining expert! He can do exactly what you thought he was going to do! Are you willing to give him the chance?
- Jim; What do you say, Sergeant? D'you think we should?
- Preston; Yes!
- Jim; Then I'm for it!
- Voice; So'm I!
- Voice 2; (ENTHUSED) Let's go ahead an' build that refinery! We'll all make money!
- Adlib; (MORE & MORE AGREEMENT)
- Preston; You hear that, Martin. You have your chance to make good.
- Martin; (SOBS) Sergeant, I - I don't deserve it - but I - I'll make good! We'll make Rockville a boomtown! We'll make those old hills give up their treasure.
- Preston; I know you will, Martin.
- Martin; Why -- why'd you do this - for me?
- Preston; You saved my life-
- Martin; Yes, but -

Preston; Furthermore, I like to see a deserving man redeemed! That always looks good on the report - when a case is closed.

theme