

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

Lost Indian Mine

by Fran Striker

Number

1248

Date

4/28/55

Striker

Preston

King

Inspector

Ted Barnes25. Straight.

Maryhis wife.

Jim Barneshis father.

Trigheavy

Dixonheavy

Stevenstrader. Straight.

A search for mail robbers took Sergeant Preston into the Yukon wilderness where he unexpectedly met outlaws who were determined to kill him to escape arrest. For mile-a-minute thrills, drama, and high adventure in the wild frontier, be sure (ETC)

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon

LOST INDIAN MINE

By Fran Striker

Number:

Date:

(USUAL OPENING)

Anner; On a mid-winter morning, Sergeant Preston and the Inspector stood before a wall map in Mounted Police Headquarters in Dawson. The Inspector pointed to a place on the map.

Insp; Here is the Elk Station trading post, Preston. It's practically straight north from Dawson.

Preston; I've been there, Sir. It's a two-day trip by dogsled.

Insp; Um. Now here is Indian Creek.

Preston; About fifteen miles this side of Elk Station.

Insp; Right.

Preston; I understand the mail carrier was shot about half way between Elk Station and Indian Creek.

Insp; That's right. He picked up the mail in Elk Station and started south. Later his dogs returned to the station with the empty sled. Stevens, who runs the trading post, followed the tracks and found the mailman's body in the snow beside the trail. () Preston, find the men who shot him!

Preston; I'll try, Sir. Any tracks of the killers?

Insp; Yes. Near the body, Stevens found the footprints of two men and followed them as far as Indian Creek. After that, the killers apparently traveled on the frozen stream. Footprints didn't show on the ice. That's all the information I have. You may learn more by talking to Stevens in the trading post.

Preston; Right. I'll also talk to Ted ^{BARNES} ~~Barnes~~ and his father.

Insp; Who is Ted ^{BARNES} ~~Barnes~~?

Preston; A young trapper. He lives with his wife and father in a cabin near Indian Creek. He or his father may have seen the killers -or their tracks.

Insp; Does his father have a trapline?

Preston; No. But- (SLIGHT LAUGH) Well, he covers a lot of ground. He's been searching for the Lost Indian Mine.

Insp; Humph. Does he believe all those old stories about a lost gold mine?

Preston; Yes.

Insp; Does he have any reason to believe it exists?

Preston; He told me that when he first came to the Yukon years ago, he talked to a very old Indian who had seen it. That's why he built a cabin in the Indian Creek area.

Insp; Oh.

Preston; He's been searching for the mine while his son earns a living by trapping.

Insp; I doubt that anyone will ever find the lost mine, but there's a fair chance that your friends have seen strangers in that vicinity. () Good luck to you, Preston, and be careful! The men you're after are killers!

(BREAK)

Anncr; Two days later, in a small cabin near Indian Creek, Ted Barnes sat with his wife and father at the breakfast table . . .

(TABLE B.G.)

Mary; More coffee, Dad?

Barnes; No thanks, Mary. I've got to get goin'.

CHAIR SCRAPES

Ted; Dad, just a minute-

Barnes; Eh -?

Ted; For the past week you've behaved as if you had something on your mind.

Barnes; (EFFORT, PUTTING ON COAT) Humph! I don't see as I've behaved any different than usual.

Mary; You have, Dad. You used to eat a big breakfast and you were never in a hurry to leave the house, but for the past week, you've barely taken time for coffee in the morning.

Ted; Mary's right.

Mary; And you've been late getting home to supper-

Barnes; I - uh- I've been busy -

Ted; Looking for the Lost Indian Mine?

Barnes; Yes.

Ted; Dad, that doesn't explain the way you've been acting-

Barnes (HEATEDLY) Dad-rat it, I don't know what you're talkin' about! If you don't like the way I act -

Ted (CUT IN) Don't be angry, Dad. It's just that we want to help you if you're in trouble -

Barnes (CUT IN) Trouble! I'm not in trouble! () Now I gotta go. (FADING) I'll see you this evenin'.

DOOR OPEN, WIND, CLOSE DOOR, CUT WIND

Mary; (CUE) Well, Ted. What do you make of that?

Ted I don't know, Mary. Something's on Dad's mind - that's certain.

Mary; It was last week when he began to act strange. Last week on Monday. Remember how quiet he was when he came home?

Ted. Yes. He didn't talk - and he barely touched his supper-

Mary; The next day he went to the Elk Station Trading post.

Ted; Um. He said he needed a few things.

Mary; That's what he said, Ted, but I'm sure he didn't buy anything.

Ted; He didn't?

Mary; No. He came back empty handed.

Ted; Did he give you any explanation?

Mary; No. I didn't ask questions because -well, you know how he flares up.

Ted; Um. I wonder if his long search for that gold mine has -uh -- done something to him-

DOGS IN & STOP OUTSIDE

Ted; There's someone with a dogteam-

Mary; (FADES BACK) I'll look out the window and see who it is.

CHAIR SCRAPE, STEPS AS:

Ted; I'll go to the door.

Mary; (BACK) Ted! It's Sergeant Preston!

DOOR OPENS, WIND B.G.

Preston; (BACK) Morning, Ted!

Ted; Hello, Sergeant! () Hello there, King!

BARKS BACK

Mary; Come in, Sergeant!

Preston; (BACK) Thanks, Mary. () Stay there, King. Watch the team, Boy.

BARKS BACK

Ted; How about breakfast?

(STEPS IN AS:)

Preston; (COMING IN) No thanks, Ted. I've eaten. But I'd enjoy a cup of coffee.

(DOOR CLOSE, CUT WIND AS:)

Mary; It's all ready, Sergeant. Take off your parka and sit down.

Preston; Thanks, Mary. (REMOVING PARKA) How's your father, Ted?

Ted; Oh -- he's all right.

Preston; Is he still searching for the Lost Indian Mine ?

Ted; I guess he is--

Preston; I saw him leaving the house a few minutes ago, but I was some distance away. I'm sure he didn't see me. (DRINKS)

Mary; Coffee hot enough?

Preston; It's ^{fine}fine, Mary. () By the way, Ted, I saw a big timber wolf raiding one of your traps.

Ted; You did? I'll bet that's the wolf I've been trying to get rid of. He's destroyed a lot of pelts.

Preston; He ran into the woods before I was near enough to shoot.

Ted; Maybe I can track him down. Where'd you see him?

Preston; South of here. Follow my backtrail for about half a mile, and you'll see the wolf's tracks in the snow.

Ted; I'll try to follow them! would you like to go wolf hunting with me, Sergeant?

Preston; I'd like to, but I haven't time. I'm on my way to the Elk Station trading post to investigate a murder and mail robbery.

Ted; Around here?

Preston; Yes. Between here and the trading post. It was last Tuesday. The mail was stolen and the mailman shot.

Ted; Golly! We hadn't heard about it.

Preston; Have you seen any strangers around here?

Ted; No, Sergeant.

Mary; We hardly ever see anyone.

Ted; Maybe Stevens can help you. He's the man who runs the Elk Station trading post and post office.

Preston; I'm hoping to get some information from him.

CHAIR SCRAPES

Preston; Now I must be going. () Thanks for the coffee, Mary.

Mary; You're welcome, Sergeant. I wish you could stay longer.

DOOR OPENS, WIND B.G., DOGS FADING IN

Preston; I may stop on my way back from Elk Station. ()
Ted, please give my regards to your father.

Ted; (BACK) I'll do that.

Preston; Line 'em up, King!

(BARKS AD LIB)

Ted; (BACK) I hope you find those killers!

Preston; (CALL) Thanks. I hope you find that wolf!

(EFFORT) On, King! On you huskies!

DOGS & SLED START. FADE OUT.

SNEAK IN WIND B.G.

Anncr; Soon after Sergeant Preston continued his trip north, Ted set out in the opposite direction to search for the trap robbing wolf. Meanwhile, Jim Barnes, the young trapper's father had traveled east on the ice of Indian Creek. About two miles from home he left the frozen surface and made his way through the brushwood on the creekbank until he reached a cliff. The thick underbrush almost concealed the entrance to a tunnel in the cliff-

Barnes; (CHUCKLES) Ted an' Mary'll be surprised to learn I found the Lost Indian Mine! () But I got lots of work to do before I ^{SURPRISE} ~~take~~ 'em. Got to clear away a ^{LITTLE MORE} ~~few~~ rock - then replace the old timbers so's the tunnel won't cave in-

Anncr; Standing just inside the tunnel, Jim Barnes was unaware of two men who approached through the underbrush until one of them said-

Trig; Hi there, Barnes.

Barnes; (STARTLED) Huh -- what -

Dixon; Don't reach for a gun! You're covered.

Barnes; I -I'm not armed. Who are you? What d'you want?

Trig; I'm Trig Makin, an' my friend's name is Dixon.

Dixon; We're takin' over this gold mine.

Barnes; Where'd you get the idea this is a gold mine?

Dixon; Don't try to bluff. We know it's the Lost Indian Mine.

Barnes; Maybe so! But you're too late. I've already made out my claim papers. I sent 'em to Dawson last week.

Trig; Are these the papers you're talkin' about?

(RUSTLE PAPERS)

Barnes; Yes! Those are my claim papers! How'd you--

Trig; An' here's the letter you wrote to the Mountie in Dawson, askin' him to file your claim for y ou.

Barnes; Where'd you get them?

Dixon; That doesn't conce rn you. The point is, we got 'em.

Barnes; You stole 'em!

Dixon; Maybe.

Barnes; You thievin' polecats! I'll -

Dixon; (EFFORT)

(SOCK)

Barnes; (GRUNTS WITH BLOW) Y-you -

BODY FALLS

Dixon; That's for tryin' to disarm me. Next time you try any tricks, I'll shoot! () Stand up.

Trig; (EFFORT) Come on, Barnes. On yer feet!

Barnes (EFFORT) Wh- where'd you two come from?

Trig; We've been camped near here for the past week. We've been able to keep an eye on you, an' saw you clearin' away the rocks that blocked this tunnel.

Dixon; We left you alone until you had the tunnel open.

Barnes; Y-you ornery -

Trig; We want to see the gold! Lead the way into the tunnel.

Barnes; It's not safe to go in any deeper until the timbers that support the roof are braced. There might be a cave in -

Dixon; If there is, you'll be the one who's caught because you're goin' to walk ahead of us.

Trig; Dixon, we'll need a light-

Dixon; There's a lantern with the tools - right there on the floor-

Trig; I'll light it. Keep him covered.

BIZ OF LIGHTING LA NTERN AS

Annex; Standing just a few feet inside the tunnel, Jim Barnes face Dixon. Looking through the tunnel's mouth behind the outlaw he saw someone moving through the brushwood near the bank of the creek. He recognized his son and cried out-

Barnes; (SHOUT) Ted! Help, Ted - (ADLIB THROTTLED)

Trig; (SHARPLY) Shut him up!

Dixon; (EFFORT) I got him!

Trig; Drag him farther back into the tunnel!

Dixon; (EFFORT) Someone's over there -

Trig; I know! I'll handle him! Get Barnes outta sight!

Dixon; (EFFORT) (FADING) Come on, you old goat -

Barnes; (ADLIB STRUGGLE, MUFFLED) (FADING)

Annex; Ted had followed the wolf tracks for several miles through the woods to the bank of the stream. There he heard his father's cry for help. He looked around, but saw no one. Then, holding his rifle ready for use, he moved through the underbrush in the direction from which the shout had come. He saw the cliff, and a moment later noticed the entrance to the tunnel. But at that instant Trig stepped into view with a gun -

Trig; (BACK) Drop that rifle!

Ted; (SURPRISE) Who - (REACT WITH--)

Trig; (BACK) I told yuh to drop it!
~~TRIG~~
DROP RIFLE

IT'S DROPPED.

Ted; ~~I was going to! You didn't have to smash it
with a bullet!~~

Trig; (COMING IN) Now h'ist yer hands.

Ted; I heard my father shout for help. Where is he?

Trig; Right inside that tunnel! Walk ahead of me an'
go on in.

FEW STEPS AS:

Anncr; Ted had no choice. As soon as he entered the
tunnel, he saw his father closely watched by
the other armed outlaw-

Ted; Dad!

Barnes; Oh Son, Son -they got you, too!

Dixon; Trig, maybe we better shoot the young one right
now.

Trig; Not yet, Dixon. Someone might be near enough to
hear the shot. We'll take him an' the old man
far back in the tunnel, an' then-

Barnes; I tell yuh it's not safe! The timbers are rotted
an' --

Dixon; (CUT IN) Pick up that lantern an' start walkin'!

Ted; Better do as they say, Dad.

Barnes; I -I reckon so.

STEPS SUSTAIN AS:

Trig; (BACK) We're followin' you an' watchin' every
move, so don't try any tricks!

Ted; Dad, what is this place? It looks like a mine-

Barnes; Ted, it's the Lost Indian Mine!

Ted; (GASP) It is!

Barnes; Yes. I found it an' those crooks are stealin' it. (FADING) They somehow got hold of the claim papers I made out-

STEPS SUSTAINING AS:

Anncr; The yellow lantern light revealed the timbers that supported the roof of the old tunnel and showed that they were rotted and weakened to the point where the vibrations of men walking might cause a cave-in. And then it happened!

TIMBERS CRACK & RUMBLE OF STONE,
INCREASING AS:)

Dix on; Look out!
~~kankankk~~

Trig; A cave in! Get back, Dixon!

Ted; (OVERLAP) This way, Dad!

Anncr; Ted gripped his father's arm and rushed ahead while the two claim jumpers turned and raced in the opposite direction until they were out of the tunnel.

RUMBLE UP AND STOP

Dixon; (BREATHLESS) Phew! That was the closest shave I ever had. Just look back there.

Trig; Yeah! The ceiling fell in, just as Barnes thought it would!

Dixon; I wonder if Barnes an' his son got out from in under.

Trig; They might've, but it won't do 'em any good. The tunnel's closed an' they're sealed inside.

Dixon; Well, that saves us the trouble of shootin' 'em.

Trig; Yeah, but we'll have a lot of diggin' to do before we reach the gold

Dixon; I don't mind the diggin'. If what Barnes wrote to Sergeant Preston is true, we've got one of the richest gold mines in the Yukon!

Trig; Yep. All we gotta do is file our claim to it!

COMMERCIAL

Annor; In the trading post at Elk Station, Sergeant Preston listened to Stevens' report of the murder and robbery, then asked-

Preston; Did the mail sack hold anything of value?

Stevens Not that I know of, Sergeant. Just letters.

Preston; Do you know of any letters that might be important to thieves?

Stevens; (THOUGHTFUL) N-no -- I remember there was a letter to you, but--

Preston; To me? From whom?

Stevens; Jim Barnes.

Preston; That's strange - I stopped at his home this morning. I didn't see Jim, but neither his son nor Ted's wife mentioned a letter -

Stevens; Well I know he wrote one to you. He came in the day before the mail sled was due and told me he wanted to write a letter. I gave him the paper an' he wrote it. (SUDDEN) Come to think of it, he made out a claim an' put it intuh the same envelope.

Preston; A claim?

Stevens; Yes. He asked me for an official form for fillin' a claim an' a gave it to him. I keep a supply of them on hand -

Preston; Then Jim Barnes sent a claim paper to me!

Stevens; Yes. And a letter.

Preston; Are you sure he sent it to me?

Stevens; I'm sure. I saw your name on the envelope.

Preston. Um. I'll ask him about it!

Stevens; You goin' to see him?

Prest; Yes. I'll see him this evening. Thanks for the information, Stevens.

Stevens; You're welcome, Sergeant. Sorry I couldn't give you more information about the crooks. (FADING) I sure hope you can find 'em -

BREAK

Anner; Some time after Sergeant Preston had left Elk Station, Trig Makin and Dixon entered the trading post and asked for an official form for filing a claim. When they had filled it out, Trig said-

Trig; Now if you'll sell me an envelope an' stamp, I'll mail this claim paper to Dawson for filin'.

Steve; No sense mailin' it, Mister. With Sergeant Preston around here, you can give your claim paper to him yourself. He'll give you a receipt for it.

Dixon; Sergeant Preston's here?

Steve; He was here. He left about an hour ago for Ted Barnes' place on Indian Creek.

Trig; what's a policeman doin' in these parts?

Steve; He's investigatin' a robbery and murder. The mail sled was robbed a week ago and the driver was killed.

Trig; Oh!

Dixon; You say he's gone to Barnes' cabin?

Steve; That's right. There won't be another mail leavin' here for a week, so if you stop at Barnes place, you'll save yourself a lot of time.

Dixon; Yeah I -I reckon so. Come on, Trig. We'll go to see Preston.

Trig; Right. If we miss Preston, we'll come back and mail our claim papers.

STEPS

Dixon; Thanks for helpin' us out, Stevens.

Steve; You're welcome.

DOOR OPEN & CLOSE, WIND B.G.

STEPS ON SNOW AS:

Trig; Dixon, I don't like the situation.

Dixon; You mean Preston bein' around here?

Trig; Yeah.

Dixon; Humph. You knew at the time we planned the mail robbery that there'd be an investigation.

Trig; Sure, I figured there'd be a lawman lookin' around, but I didn't expect he'd be at Barnes' place! Preston'll wait for Jim an' his son, an' when they don't show up, he'll probably go lookin' for them. Their tracks in the snow will le ad to the tunnel.

Dixon; Um-

Trig; There he'll find our tracks, an' he'll be on our trail!

Dixon; Trig, it's startin' to snow. Maybe the tracks'll be buried.

Trig; I hope so, but we can't depend on it. We've got to be ready for Preston.

Dixon; How?

Trig; we'll hide near the mouth of the tunnel. We'll get set so we c'n watch for Preston, an' if he shows up - we'll have a trap ready for him!

BREAK

Anncr; The snow was falling heavily by the time Sergeant Preston reached the Barnes cabin. He found Ted's wife there alone. She said-

Mary; . . .I haven't seen either Ted or his father since they left here this morning, Sergeant. Neither one of them came home at noon.

Preston; Is that unusual?

Mary; It's unusual for Ted to be gone this long. I'm beginning to worry.

Preston; Mary, did Ted's father mention a gold claim to you?

Mary; Well, he's always talking about the lost gold mine. He's been searching for it for a long time.

Preston; Did he say he had found it?

Mary; No! Has he found it?

Preston; I don't know. But the postmaster at Elk Station said Jim filled out a form for filing a claim-

Mary; I didn't know that. Ted's father never said a word about it to us-

Preston; I'll ask him about it when he comes in.

Anncr; The Sergeant unhitched his dogs, tied and fed them, then went back inside the house. He waited some time but neither Jim Barnes nor his son returned. Finally, noticing that Mary was greatly worried, he said-

Preston; King and I'll go looking for Ted.

Mary; But you've no idea where to look-

Preston; I know where he planned to start following that wolf. I'll go there and try to pick up his trail.

Mary; Oh, Sergeant! Do you think you can do that?

Preston; We'll try.

Mary; But it's been snowing. The tracks may be covered - - and it's dark out--

Preston; King will be able to follow the scent of the wolf, Mary, and I'll take a lantern in case I need a light.

Mary; Oh!

Preston; I'll leave my sled and the other dogs here.

Mary; Very well.

Preston; If the men return while I'm gone, tell them I'll be back.

Mary; Yes, Sergeant. I'll do that.

DOOR OPENS - WIND

Preston; (CALL) King.

(BARKS COMING IN)

Preston; Come on, boy. We've work to do.

(BARKS, FADING)

Annor; Ted and his father had escaped injury, but soon learned that they were hopelessly trapped in the old mine. Ted still had the lantern so they made a cautious exploration. They found that many branching tunnels made the mine an underground labyrinth from which there seemed to be no escape. They were exhausted and hungry, and had lost all track of time when they finally sat down on the stone floor--

ECHO
CHAMBER:

~~Ted; Dad, there's oil enough to last about half an hour. D'you think we should put the lantern out and save it?~~

~~Jim BARNES Save it for what, Son? Might as well have a little light as long as it lasts. After that-- (SIGH) well, we'll just wait for the end.~~

~~Ted; I -I guess it'll be the end. I don't see any hope of getting out of here.~~

~~Jim; (BITTERLY) To think of the time I spent lookin' for this lost mine - an' now that it's found, I-I'd give all the gold that's here to get the two of us out.~~

~~Ted; (CUT IN) Dad, look there!~~

~~Jim; Huh -?~~

~~Ted; Where I'm pointing! There's an animal of some kind! See the eyes glowing?~~

*See
20A*

Ted; Dad, it just occurred to me - that lantern is still burning bright -

Barnes What of it?

Ted That means there's no lack of fresh air. In fact, I've noticed a little draft through here - there must be an opening someplace -

Barnes; Maybe so, Son - but we couldn't find it. (SIGHS)
To think of the time I spent lookin' for this lost mine - an' now that's it's found, I'd give all the gold that's here to get the two of us out.

Ted (CUT IN) Dad! Look there!

Barnes Huh?

Ted Where I'm pointing! There's an animal of some kind! See the eyes glowing?

Jim; (TENSE) Ted! It's comin' this way!

WOLF SNARLS, BACK

Ted; It's a wolf!

Barnes; You got a knife?

Ted; No! I haven't any kind of weapon!

Jim; That critter's stopped! It's eyein' us, Ted!
If it attacks, we're done for! We--

KING APPROACHING SNARLING

Ted; (CUT IN, SHARPLY) I hear another one!

WOLF SNARKS

Jim; Now we're really in for it!

Anncr; The wolf turned as the second animal came within
the area of lantern light and charged to attack-

ANIMAL FIGHT

Jim; (OVERLAP) Ted! That's a dog!

Ted; (CRY OUT) It's Sergeant Preston's dog! It's
Yukon King! (SHOUTS) Get him, King!

FIGHT UP & UNDER

Anncr; while the two men watched the furious battle,
Sergeant Preston, carrying a lantern, came into
view from a side tunnel-

Ted; (CRY OUT) Dad! There must be another way into
the mine! (SHOUT) Sergeant Preston!

Preston; (BACK) (ECHOES) Hello there!

Anncr; With the lantern in one hand and a gun in the other, Preston ran toward the fighting animals as he shouted-

Preston; (COMING NEARER) (SHOUTING) I'm going to shoot. Stand close to the wall so you'll be out of the line of fire!

Ted; (EFFORT) Come on, Dad -this way-

SHOT - WILD SNARL

SHOT - CUT FIGHT

KING AD LIB WHIMPERS

Ted; (OVERLAP) You got him, Sergeant! You got the wolf!

Preston; (COMING IN) King and I have been following him for a long time. How did you two get here?

Ted; Did you follow the trail along the bank of Indian Creek?

Preston; For a little way, then the wolf went over a very steep hill and into this cave-

Ted; Sergeant, this is the Lost Indian Mine!

Preston; It is?

Ted; Yes! Dad found it!

Jim; I wrote you about it, Sergeant, an' sent a claim paper, but two crooks stole the mail, an' -

Preston; I know about them, Jim. I'm trying to find them.

Jim; They were camped near the entrance to the mine,
somewhere along the bank of Indian Creek.

(FADING) They got the drop on me - -

Annex; Jim Barnes and his son quickly told Sergeant
Preston what had happened. Then Preston said-

Preston; Following the scent of the wolf, King led me along
the bank of the creek, but abruptly he turned
away from the creek and went over a steep hill
to this entrance. We'll go back to the creek
and look for that camp at once.

Ted We'll have to get out of here first.

Preston; King knows the way. We'll follow him. (FADING)
Come on, King. Let's go, boy-

BARKS FADING.

BREAK

- Annex; In the meantime, Trig Makin and Dixon were hidden behind big boulders a short distance from the caved-in ^{MAIN} entrance to the old mine. From time to time one of them left the hiding place to add fuel to a campfire that burned brightly a few yards away.
- Trig; About time to put more wood on that fire.
- Dixon; I suppose so. I wish that fire was here, instead of over there. I'm blame near froze.
- Trig; No matter how cold it gets, we're goin' to stay right here until Preston shows up.
- Dixon; Maybe he won't come at all, Trig.
- Trig; He'll come! He's sure to go lookin' for Ted Barnes.
- Dixon; Yeah-
- Trig; And his dog, Yukon King can follow Ted's scent. That'll bring him to the mouth of the tunnel, an' when he's there he'll see our campfire. He's -
- Dixon; (CUT IN) Trig!
- Trig; Huh -?
- Dixon; He's comin'! Look over there!
- Trig; (CHUCKLES) What'd I tell you?
- Dixon; And there's his dog! They're headin' straight for the fire-

- Trig; Let 'em get right up to the fire, then we'll both shoot at the same time. You aim at the dog and I'll get Preston.
- Dixon; Right. (LOWER) I got to hand it to you, Trig, You had things figured out just right.
- Anner; The killers, intent on Preston and King, didn't notice Ted and his father who had followed at a distance.
- Trig; (LOW) Now wait until Preston's close-
- Anner; The Sergeant and his dog made their way past a number of big boulders as they cautiously approached the campfire. Then, suddenly, King halted. He stiffened as he caught the scent of danger.

LOW GROWL

His trembling nostrils pointed toward a rock some distance to the right of the campfire. Preston looked in that direction and saw the firelight gleam on a rifle barrel -

- Preston; (SHARPLY) Take cover, King!

SNARLS FADE FAST

- Anner; As Preston leaped for the protection of a nearby rock, the outlaws opened fire.

SHOTS, ADLIB THRU

Anncri! A bullet brushed Preston's arm before he reached the protection of the rock off which other bullets glanced harmlessly. Meanwhile, King raced in a semicircle, running low behind rocks and brushwood to surprise Trig and Dixon by attacking from the rear -

WILD SNARLS OF ATTACK

STOP GUNPLAY

A-DLIB: (SURPRISED YELLS)
~~Anncri!~~

Anncri; Dixon fell, dropping his rifle, from the force of the big dog's attack -

Dixon; (AD LIB WILDLY) Trig! Trig, help me - get
this dog--

Anner; As Trig glanced quickly at the fierce fight at
his side, Sergeant Preston's gun roared-

SHOT

Trig; (HOWL OF PAIN)

Anner; Trig went down from the impact of a bullet in
the shoulder-

Preston; (COMING IN) You're covered!

Ted; (COMING IN) They're the crooks, Sergeant.'

Jim; (COMING IN) Those are the claim jumpers!

Preston; Pick up their rifles!

Ted; (EFFORT) I'll get 'em!

Bixon; (WAILING) Call off this dog-

Trig; (WAILING) I'm hurt! Yuh shot me!

Preston; (OVERLAP) Down, King! I'll take over!

KING SUBSIDES AS:

Jim; You murderin' claim jumpers!

Dixon; (GASP) Barnes! You-

Jim; You're doggoned right it's me!

Preston; Cover them, Ted! I'll handcuff them.

Ted; Right!

Preston; On guard, King!

SNARLS

Ted; If either of you make a move, I'll shoot you with your own rifle!

Preston; Put your hands behind your backs.

Trig; (SOBS) My shoulder's hurt--

Preston; So is my arm. We'll dress both wounds later. Right now I'm going to handcuff you--

AD LIB HANDCUFFS

Jim Barnes; Sergeant, that crook showed me the letter I wrote to you an' the claim paper I made out--

Preston; I'll see if he still has those papers.

Jim; He put 'em into the right hand pocket of his coat.

Preston; Here they are!

RUSTLE PAPERS

Preston; We'll probably find the rest of the stolen mail with their gear! But whether we do or not, this is enough to prove they robbed the mail--

Ted; That means they're the ones who killed the mailman!

Dixon; (WILDLY) I didn't do that! Trig shot him! I didn't want to commit murder--

Trig; (HOWLS) Dixon, you blame fool! Shut up!

Dixon; I won't shut up! You got me into this! It was your idea!

Trig; Yuh squealer!

Dixon; Preston, I don't want to hang for murder! Listen to me- let me explain -

Preston; You'll have the chance to tell your story in court!

Trig; You're in this as deep as I am!

Dixon; No, no, that's not true - is it Sergeant?

Preston; I think it is! You were together when you committed murder, and you'll probably be together when you hang!

Dixon; (MOANS)

Preston; How ever, that's not for me to say. You're under arrest, and as far as I'm concerned, the case is closed.

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