

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

Chinook Gold

by Fran Striker

Number 1249

Date MAY - 3 - 1955

Preston

King

Constablestraight.

Sam Tanner.....straight. 21.

Tom Tanner.....twin brother.

Sladeheavy

Barlumheavy

Leftyheavy.

pages

pages

40 - 123

39 - 63

40 - 57

41 - 112

38 - 95

39 - 65

41 - 77

34 pages

63 scenes

40

123

PROMO Chinook Gold

A mysterious fire in the night ^{STARTED} ~~started~~ Sergeant
Preston on a strange trail that ^{LSD} ~~leads~~ to a show-
down with renegades who must take the Sergeant's
life to insure their freedom. What happened?
Well, for fast action, thrills, and high adventure
be sure (ETC)

(USUAL OPENING)

HOOFS, FADE UNDER

Anncr; On a Spring patrol, Sergeant Preston rode north from Dawson on his black horse named Rex, while his great dog, Yukon King, ran alongside. After two days of travel he reached the town of Placer and drew rein in front of the cafe.

Preston; (WHOAS) (DISMOUNTING)

HOOFS STOP

ADLIB: (BACK, MUFFLED CROWD WATCHING FIGHT)

Anncr; As he dismounted he heard a commotion -

Preston; (DISMOUNTING) King, it sounds like something's wrong in the cafe.

BARK

Anncr; Stay here with Rex, King. I'll investigate.

A COUPLE OF BARKS, FADING AS-

A FEW STEPS, THEN DOOR OPENS

ADLIB: CROWD NOISE CLOSE

Anncr; (OVERLAP ABOVE) Hurrying into the building, Preston saw a crowd watching two men in their early twenties struggling in the ^{CENTER} ~~middle~~ of the ^{ROOM} ~~place~~. He recognized them as twin brothers named Sam and Tom Tanner. (1.)

Tom & Sam; ADLIB GRUNTS, STRUGGLES ETC)

Prest; Break it up!

Voice; (BACK) A Mountie!

Voice 2; (BACK) Sergeant Preston!

Annrcr; The twins, locked in a struggle, rolled on the floor as each tried to gain an advantage-

Preston; (EFFORT) Tom! Sam! That's enough! (SUSTA IN ALLIB)

Tom; (EFFORT) I'll teach you to swindle me--

Sam; (EFFORT) Tom! Let go!

Sam; (OVERLAP) (STRUGGLING) I'm not a swindler=0

Preston; (EFFORT) Break it up or I'll get rough with you! (2)

Sam; (STRUGGLING) Call me - a swindler -

Tom; (STRUGGLING) You are! You- (HOWL OF PAIN)

Preston; (EFFORT) Let go of each other-

Sam; (HOWL OF PAIN) My neck - Sergeant, please -

Tom; (PAIN) Leggo me, Sergeant!

Preston; (EFFORT) Want me to crack your heads together? (3)

Tom; No, no! I quit, Sergeant. I quit!

Sam; I'm through fightin'! Leggo my neck!

FIGHT STOPS

Preston; Now, both of you, stand up!

ADLIB: (GETTING UP)

Preston; What started the fight?

Tom; Sam swindled me!

Sam; (ANGRY) You say that again, Tom, and I'll-

Preston; (CUT IN) Hold it! If you start again, I'll take to jail and lock you in separate cells until you cool off.

(4)

Tom; Sergeant Preston, I'll leave it to you to decide if my brother cheated me -

Sam; I'll tell you what happened, Sergeant-

Preston; Good. But first let's go to that corner table and sit down.

Dissolve to -

ADLIB: (AGREEMENT)

STEPS SUSTAIN AS

(4)

Preston; I never heard of you two having a fight-

Pa + the young man @ the table. Both towering - B. H. R. clean, straight - Tom + Sam look alike - Sam dark

Sam; We never did while Dad was alive.

Preston; Now, less than a month after his death, you're at each other like wildcats! () Sit down here.

STEPS HALT. BIZ OF SITTING.

Preston; (CUE) Let's have it from the beginning. Why were you fighting?

Sam; Well, Sergeant, after Dad's death, Tom and I divided everything. ~~He left two thousand dollars in cash,~~ so we each took one thousand. And he left a pair of old ball an' cap dueling pistols, so we each took one.

(5)

(6)

Tom; And he left some stock in a gold mine.

Sam; Yes. We split even on the shares of stock.

Preston; Sounds to me like a fair division.

Tom; We had no trouble dividin' things until we had to do somethin' about the cabin.

Pres; The place your father built?

Tom; Yes. It's about fifteen miles from town.

Pres; I know, Tom. I've been there.

Sam; We couldn't divide the cabin, and anyway, I wanted to build a place of my own, so I offered to sell Tom my interest in Dad's house and the ^{gold mine stock} ~~furniture~~ for a thousand dollars.

Tom; That was my share of the cash Dad left.

Pres Was that a greeable to you, Tom?

Tom; Not by a jugful! It's just a one room cabin an' the furniture's home made. The whole shebang isn't worth a thousand dollars! I offered Sam five hundred for his half interest.

Sam; That was fair enough, Sergeant, but I needed all the cash I could get to build the kind of place I wanted. So I offered Tom my share of the cabin and my share of the gold mine stock for a thousand dollars - and he took it.

(7)

Tom; I thought the gold mine stock was worth at least five hundred dollars -

Preston; What's the name of the gold claim.

Tom; The Chinook. Today I came to town and asked the banker about it. It's just an abandoned tunnel. No one ever found gold there! The stock is worthless. Then I saw Sam in town and -

Sam; (CUT IN) I didn't know the stock was worthless. I knew Dad bought a lot of that stock an' paid a good price for it. So -

Tom; (CUT IN) Dad was swindled! So was I !

Sam; Tom. Listen. I didn't mean to swindle you. I'll buy back that stock I sold you. 8

Tom; You will?

Sam; Yes.

Tom; For five hundred dollars?

Sam; Yes. But I haven't got the money right now. The materials for my house an' the men who helped me build it took all the cash I had. But I'll hunt and trap, and as soon as I can, I'll take that stock off your hands. 9

Tom; Is that a promise?

Sam; Yes, and Sergeant Preston's a witness!

Preston; Tom, you couldn't ask for anything fairer-

Tom; No. Gosh, Sam, I- I'm sorry I called you a - a swindler.. () I - I was too hot-headed. I -

Sam; Aw, forget it, Tom! Just hold that stock until I
 can buy it back from you. (FADING) It won't take
 long to raise the cash after I get started- (FADED)

18

ROOM NOISES, FADE OUT.

Stock
CU

FADE IN TWO HORSES COMING TO HALT

Annor; Late that afternoon, a few miles from the town of
 Placer, two men halted their horses at the entrance
 to the abandoned Chinook Mine-

11

ADLIB: (DISMOUNTING)

Annor; As they dismounted, a third man came from within
 the tunnel -

Barlum; (COMING IN) Hi, Slade- hello Lefty -

ADLIB: (HELLOS TO BARLUM)

Barlum; Glad you came here-

Slade; We came to check up an' make sure everything's set.

Lefty; Did you get the nuggets planted in the tunnel?

12

Barlum; No.

Slade; (ANGRY) You didn't? () You were to get things
 ready to show that rich tenderfoot from Dawson-

Barlum; Yes, but -

Slade; (CUT IN) We told you he'd buy all our worthless
 stock in this mine, if we could show him a few
 nuggets-

Barlum; We're not goin' to sell our stock!

13

Lefty; (ADLIB SURPRISE)

Slade; Why not?

Barlum; Because that stock's worth real money!

ADLIB: (SURPRISE)

Barlum/ While I was diggin' around to plant the gold for the buyer to see, I struck a rich vein of gold.

ADLIB: (MORE SURPRISE)

Slade; That, I've got to see!

Lefty; So've I !

Barlum; Come on. I've got a lamp just inside the entrance.

STEPS SUSTAINING AS -

TUNNEL EFFECT THRU

Barlum/ (CUE) Watch your step. There're rocks all over the floor of this tunnel -

Slade; If you really found gold, Barlum, we won't have to bother w ith a skin game. With the shares we own, we can reorganize the Chinook Company.

Barlum; That's whay I thought! (CHUCKLES) The men who dug this tunnel gave up just a little too soon. If they'd kept goin' one more day, they'd have struck pay dirt. () Here it is.

STEPS HALT

Barlum. (CUE) Look!

Slade; (LOW WHISTLE)

Show

14.

Lefty; Looks good to me. We'll be rich! Just as you said, Slade, we can reorganize the company -

Slade; Yeah, but we've got to control the company an' we don't have enough shares. We'll have to find some more of the Chinook stock and buy it up.

Lefty; I know who owns a lot of it!

Slade; Who?

Lefty; A young fella named Tom Tanner. When I was in town this morning I heard him talkin' about it. If we get his stock we'll control the company.

Slade; Does he live in town?

Lefty; No. He lives alone in a cabin north of here.

Slade; We'll call on him. Barlum, you bring the gold you were goin' to plant here - we'll use it to buy Tanner's stock.

Barlum What if he won't sell ?

Slade; (GRIM) We'll get that stock - one way or another!

BREAK

Anner; That evening, alone in his isolated cabin, Tom had just finished eating when he heard a rap on the door-

RAPS.

Tom; (CALLS) Come in.

DOOR OPEN. STEPS IN AS

Slade; (COMING IN) Howdy. Is your name Tom Tanner?

Tom; Yes. Who are you gents?

DOOR CLOSE AS

17

Slade; My name is Slade. This is Lefty Hawks an' the other gent's name is Barlum.

ADLIB: (ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

Slade; We understand that you own some worthless stock in the old abandoned Chinook Mine.

18

Tom; That's right.

Slade; D'you mind lettin' me see it?

Tom; No. I don't mind. It's right here in the table drawer.

OPEN DRAWER.

Tom; There it is.

19

CLOSER DRAWER.

Slade; Um. Quite a ^{NUMBER OF SHARES} ~~size~~ ~~bundle~~ ~~of it~~. How much d'ya want for it?

Tom; You mean - you want to buy it?

Slade; If the price is right.

Tom; But if it's worthless -

Slade; I'll lay our cards right on the table, Slade. We know a greenhorn who'll buy this worthless paper. We already sold him some of the stock that we had an' we can sell him some more.

20

want for it?

Tom; You mean - you want to buy it?

Tom; You mean, you're swindlin' a greenhorn?

Slade; (CHUCKLE) You needn't be concerned with what we do with the stock. () How'd you like to get fifty dollars in gold for these worthless certificates?

Tom: No thanks.

Slade; (SURPRISE) What?

Tom: The fact is, I've already agreed to sell half of the stock to someone else.

Slade; We'll pay a hundred.

Tom: It's not a matter of price-

Slade; Hundred an' fifty!

Tom: You're jumpin' the price awful fast.

Slade; We've got to work fast. We've got to get to that greenhorn before he finds out the stock is worthless.

Tom: I don't want a hand in swindlin' someone.

Slade; Tanner, you're a fool!

Tom; You gents had better leave.

Slade; We wa[^]nt that stock! We've got two hundred dollars worth of gold right here! That's our top offer an' you better take it. You know the stock's worthless!

Tom; No sale, Mr. Slade.

Slade; In that case, we'll have to change your mind!
(EFFORT)

SMASHING BLOW. FALLING BODY

Tom; (GASPS) You- you knocked me - down -

Slade; That's just the beginning, Tanner.

Tom; It is eh? (SUDDEN EFFORT) Well I'll show -

Lefty; (EFFORT) Hold it!

Tom; (GASP) A gun!

Slade; Tanner, we came to get your stock an' we aim to do that - one way or the other. If you know what's good for you, you'll sign those certificates over to us without makin' any more rough work necessary.

Tom; Oh. So that's it, eh? I sign 'em or you beat me up.

Slade; That's it.

Tom; Well - you - uh- you said you'd pay two hundred dollars -

Slade; Yep. The gold's right in this pouch.

Tom; You'd better turn up the lamp a little while I get pen an' ink.

Slade; (CHUCKLES) Now you're bein' smart. () Turn up that lamp, Barlum.

Tom; (FADING BACK) The pen an' ink are on this shelf -

22

Annex; Tom knew that unarmed he had no chance against the three armed men but he didn't intend to sign over the stock certificates without a fight. He reached to a high shelf. Instead of take the pen and ink, he gripped his father's old dueling pistol, turned fast and fired.

SHOT

Lefty:

ADLIB: (STIR)

Slade; (EFFORT) Grab him!

*must
23*

ADLIB SCUFFLE. TABLE CRASH, LAMP BREAK

Annex; The bullet hit Lefty who fell against the table as Slade and Barlum leaped at Tom, tore the gun from his hand, and backed him against the wall -

Slade; (EFFORT) Want to play rough, eh?

Tom; (STRUGGLING) It was your idea!

Slade; (EFFORT) Hit him, Barlum! Use yer gun barrel!

Barlum; (EFFORT) Right.

BLOW. FALLING BODY.

Slade; That got him! That's enough. We don't want to kill him. We need his signature.

29

Barlum; (SHARPLY) Slade! Look! Fire!

Annex; Kerosene, spilled from the lamp that had been smashed when Lefty knocked over the table, burned brightly in the center of the room -

Slade; Drag Tanner to the door while I look at Lefty. 25

FLAMES CRACKLING

Barlum; The fire's spreadin' fast!

Slade; (EFFORT) Get Tanner out.

Barlum; (EFFORT) I'm draggin' him. () How about Lefty?

Slade; There's nothing we can do for him. He's dead.

Barlum; (EFFORT) Where's the stock?

Slade; Here on the floor. I've got it.

Barlum; (EFFORT) This place'll burn like tinder! Gimme a hand with Tanner. He's heavy.

Slade; (EFFORT) I'll help. We'll get him outside then tie him across the back of Lefty's horse.

Barlum; (EFFORT) Then what?

Slade; (EFFORT) We'll hold him until he's willing to sign over the Chinook shares to us! 29

FLAMES FULL UP AND OUT.

COMMERCIAL BREAK

Anncr; Sergeant Preston had made a side trip to a town some distance east of Placer and had stayed there overnight. He returned to Placer the following ~~afternoon~~ ^{DAY} and heard about the fire when he called at the constable's office. . .

Preston; You say a prospector brought word of the fire?

Const; Yes, Sergeant. He saw the ruins of the cabin early this morning and came here to tell me. I went there with the doctor and another man. After We found Tanner's body in the ruins of the cabin. ~~went to the situation even, I went to Sam~~ Then I went to Sam ~~the~~ Tanner's new house an' arrested Sam for the murder of his brother. 27

Preston; (SURPRISE) The murder of Tom Tanner?

~~Const; Yes, He found the body in the ruins of the cabin.~~

~~Preston; That's hard to believe -~~

Const; The body was past recognition - the fire, y'know- but it must've been Tom. No one else would be in the cabin. X

Preston; What evidence points to murder?

Const; The doctor said Tom had been shot through the heart.

Preston; I - I can't believe Sam would kill his brother- 28

Const; I don't know about that, Sergeant. They had a fight yesterday -

Preston; I know that. But they were good friends when they parted. 29

Const; Well, Sergeant, Doc got the fatal bullet. It was from an old fashioned ball an' cap pistol. I know of only two guns like that around here. Tom's an' Sam's. We found Sam's gun in his home.

~~Preston; What did he say?~~

Preston; Did you find Tom's gun in the ruins?

Const; Not yet - But I haven't made a thorough search.

Pre cy What did Sam Say?

Const; He acted mighty surprised. He denied knowin' anything about the fire and the murder. But who else would have reason to kill Tom Tanner? There was nothing worth stealing in his cabin, and he didn't have any enemies.

Preston; Do you consider his twin brother an enemy?

Const; No, but they fought!

Preston; Oh that -

Const; Well, Sergeant, maybe Sam just pretended to be friendly after that fight!

Preston; Did you look for footprints around the burned cabin?

Const; Yes, but I didn't see any. The ground's hard-packed.

Preston; Where is Sam ?

Const; He's right here in the jail cell.

Preston; I'd like to talk to him.

CHAIR SCRAPES

30

Const; Come on.

Preston; Come on, King.

SHORT BARK. STEPS AS

Preston; I want to see how King reacts when he sees your prisoner.

Const; In here.

DOOR OPENS

Const; (CUE) The cell's beyond that barred door-

Sam; (BACK) Sergeant Preston!

Preston; Hello, Sam.

Sam: (NEARER) And King-

SHORT, FRIENDLY BARK. THEN WHIMPERS.

Sam; Sergeant - did- did you hear about m-my brother?

Preston; Yes, Sam. I'm very sorry.

Sam; I didn't do it, Sergeant. I didn't k-kill my
brother! I - I (SOB) I loved him -

Const; Humph! That's hard to believe after the way
you an' he were fightin' in the cafe -

Sam; (SNIFFLE) That was our only fight - and it was
just because of a misunderstanding -

Preston; Sam, did you and Tom leave town together?

Sam; Yes. And we walked together as far as the
old cabin.... the one Dad built. I stopped
there for a few minutes then went on alone to
my new place.

Preston; Then what?

Sam; That's all! I ate, then read for a little while
and went to bed. This morning the constable
came and told me that- that Tom was- was gone.

Const; Killed with your gun.

//Sam//

31

Sam; I - I can't prove otherwise, Constable, but I'm a light sleeper, an' I don't see how anyone could have sneaked into my cabin an' taken my gun without wakin' me - then return an' put the gun back again -

Const; The evidence is against you, Sam.

Sam; (HEATEDLY) I don't give a hang about the evidence! I didn't kill my brother!

Const; You any idea who might've done it?

Sam; No! But whoever the killer is, I want to see him hang! () Sergeant Preston, please believe me - I didn't do it! If I'm found guilty, the real killer will get off scot free!

Preston; There'll be a thorough investigation, Sam.

Sam; The constable is already convinced that I'm guilty. He's ready to call the case closed.

Preston; I'm not. () I'll see you again.

BARK.

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE.

Const; (CUE) You think he's innocent, don't you Sergeant?

Pres ton; Yes.

Cons5 ; I admit it's hard to believe he's a killer, but-

Preston; If he'd been guilty, King would have let me know.

Const; Eh?

Preston; Constable, you've probably heard that dogs know when a man's afraid of them.

31

Const; Oh, sure. It's said that a man who's afraid gives off a scent that dogs hate.

Preston; That's right. ^{AND A MAN WHO COMMITS A CRIME} ~~And in the same way, a man who is guilty of a crime gives off a scent that King hates.~~

IS AFRAID TO FACE A LAWMAN.

~~Const; Is that so?~~

Preston; ~~Yes. I've seen it happen many times!~~ If Sam had killed his brother, King would have shown a violent dislike to him.

Const; The dog was friendly.

Preston; Friendly - and sympathetic! He knew Sam was in trouble - and knew that Sam ^{WAS} ~~had been~~ deeply affected by the loss of his brother.

Const; Um-m. Somethin' to think about. On the other hand, Sergeant, when Sam goes on trial the evidence will carry a lot more weight than what you've said ab out King.

Preston; Yes. To clear Sam, we'll have to find the real killer. I'm going back to the ruins of Tom's cabin and look around. (FADES) Come on, King.

32 ✓

BARKS FADE.

BREAK

SNEAK IN SLOW HOOFS

Annor; At the scene of the fire Sergeant Preston found the earth hard-packed, just as the constable had said it was. And there were no tracks to be seen. But Preston did not confine his search to the immediate area. He rode in expanding circles around the ruins of the cabin, and watched the ground carefully. Presently he found a place where the dirt was softer -

Preston; Whoa, Rex! (DISMOUNT)

H O O F S S T O P . K I N G W H I M P E R S .

Annor; He saw the tracks of three horses -

Preston; Three men, King. They came from that way - and returned in the same direction -

W H I M P E R S .

Preston; Recent hoofprints, too. Might've been made last night. () King, we'll follow those tracks!

B A R K S

(MOUNTING) Come on, Rex! Come along, King!

H O O F S A N D B A R K S , F A D I N G .

insert
33

Annor; Tightly bound, Tom had been taken to the Chinook tunnel where Slade and Barlum tried in various ways to persuade him to sign a transfer of title to the stock certificates - but without success. When Tom collapsed from exhaustion, he was gagged as well as tied, and left alone while the outlaws slept for several hours. When they awakened, Slade and Barlum removed the gag and renewed their efforts -

Slade; I'll make a final proposition, Tanner! We've let you know that there's gold here. You sign over the stock to us, and we'll cut you in for a share.

Barlum; That's right. We'll give you Lefty's share

Slade; I mean it. Lefty's dead. We'll give you his share.

Tom; I know better! As soon as you have my signature, you'll kill me.

Slade; (HARD) We'll kill you if you don't sign!

Tom; What good'll that do you? You can't forge my signature because you don't know my handwriting!

Barlum; There must be some way to soften him up.

Slade; Yeah. There are things we haven't tried. Injun tricks! They're painful, but-

BARKS, FAR BACK

Barlum; I hear somethin' - sounded like a dog -

Slade; Look out the mouth of the tunnel an' see.

A FEW STEPS AS -

Archer; Barlum hurried to the mouth of the tunnel a few paces away. Looking down the hillside he saw Sergeant Preston riding across the valley with Yukon King running ahead of the black horse.

Slade; (CUE) (CALL) See anything?

Barlum; (BACK) Yes. A Mountie is comin' this way.

Slade; (REACT) A Mountie! D'you think he's following our tracks?

39

Barlum; (BACK) I don't know! He might be.

Tom; So a Mountie's comin' here, eh? Now what are you crooks going to do?

Barlum; (COMING IN) There's only one thing to do!
WE GOTTA HIDE TANNER

~~Slade; Barlum! Put away your gun!~~

~~Barlum; We gotta kill Tanner!~~

~~Slade; Not until we get his signature!~~

~~Barlum; But if he tells the Mountie our names -~~

RIGHT!

Slade; ~~He won't have the chance!~~ Gag him an' take him farther back in the tunnel where he can't be seen. Stay with him an' keep him quiet. I'll handle the Mountie!

35

Barlum; I hope you can!

Slade; If I can't, you'll be in a position to get the drop on him. Now hurry with that gag - make it tight!

Anner;

A few minutes later Tom lay, tied and gagged on the tunnel floor beyond the reach of the sunlight that came through the entrance. Barlum, with a gun in his hand, crouched at Tom's side while Slade stood at the tunnel's mouth and watched Preston approach.

HOOFS IN AND STOP, SLIGHTLY BACK.

Slade;

(CALLS) Howdy, Sergeant! Welcome to the Chinook Mine!

35

Preston;

(COMING IN) Thanks. My name is Preston.

Slade;

Glad to know you, Sergeant Preston. I'm Hogan. Jake Hogan.

Preston;

Hogan, eh?

Slade;

Yep. Say, that's a fine dog you got-

KING SNARLS

Preston;

Steady, King. () Careful, Hogan.

Slade;

I just wanted to make friends with him.

36

KING SNIFF AND WHIMPER

Preston;

Been here long?

Slade

Not very.

Preston;

I thought this place was abandoned.

Slade

It was. But three of us got stuck with some stock in the Chinook company, so we decided to come here and look around.

Preston; Three of you?

Slade; Sure. You saw the tracks of our horses, didn't you?

Preston; Yes. Where are the horses?

Slade; In that old shed, over yonder.

Preston; Where are your partners?

Slade; Deep in the tunnel - lookin' it over.

KING WHINE AND WHIIPER

Anncr; ^{FROM} Inside the tunnel, King caught a familiar scent. It was the scent of a man he had met as a friend. He tried to tell his master by whining, whimpering, and looking toward the dark depths - But Preston said-

Preston; Quiet, King. Take it easy, Boy.

Slade; What's the matter with that dog?

Preston; Maybe he doesn't like tunnels. Hogan, I'd like to talk to your friends. 37

Slade; They're a long way back in the tunnel. I can tell you anything you want to know.

Preston; When did you come here?

Slade; A few days ago.

Oreston; Then did the three of you leave?

Slade; I reckon you knew we did, Sergeant. You could see our tracks in the valley - we rode away and came back.

Preston;

Preston; Where did you go?

Slade; Now see here, Sergeant, I don't see as that's any of your affair -

Preston; There's been a murder, Hogan. That's why I'm questioning you.

Anncr; Sergeant Preston, closely watching the face of the man who called himself Hogan, didn't notice King move away from the entrance and walk slowly back in the tunnel toward the scent of the man he knew -

Preston Do you know anything about a murder, Hogan?

Slade; No! Of course not!

Preston; Your tracks led from here to the cabin ~~of the~~ where the man was killed - and back here.

Slade; Are you accusing me of murder?

Preston; Not yet.

Slade; Sergeant, I can easily prove that my friends and I had no part in a murder.

Preston; Can you? How?

Slade; Just look inside my saddlebag. It's right behind you.

Anncr; As Preston glanced at the saddlebag, Slade drew his gun -

38

Slade; (EFFORT) Get yer hands up!

Preston; (SURPRISED) Eh?

Slade; H'ist 'em, Preston! That's it! Caught you off guard, didn't I!

Preston; No, Hogan, you didn't. You see, I had no intention of drawing my gun until you made the first move.

Slade; I've made it!

Preston; It proves you're the man I want!

Slade; Yeah? (CHUCKLES) Well wantin' an' capturin' are two different things! Now stand still while I cut that lanyard an' take your gun! Make one fast move and I'll shoot.

SUDDEN WILD SNARL, BACK) (SUSTAINADLIBO

Barium; (BACK, ECHO)(YELL OF FEAR)

Slade; (STARTLED)(OVERLAP) What's that!

SHOT!, BACK. ECHO.

Preston; (EFFORT) My move!

ADLIB SCUFFLE AS -

Annecr; As Slade turned toward the commotion in the rear of the tunnel, Preston charged! One hand knocked Slade's gun aside while the other, made into a fist, rammed the outlaw in the stomach.

Slade; (GASP)

Annecr; Then Preston's fist hit Slade on the chin. 41

SMASHING BLOW, FALLING BODY

Annecr; It was a knockout blow. As Slade went down, the Sergeant kicked his gun away. The situation, deep in the tunnel, seemed more imperative than the immediate handcuffing of the unconscious crook, so Preston ran toward the sounds of battle -

Preston; (SHOUTS) Coming, King!

RUNNING STEPS. SNARLS AND FIGHT FADE IN

Annecr! Above the fighting snarls of Yukon King, Preston could hear a man's voice shrill with panic-

Barlum; (PANIC)(FADING IN) Leggo me- let me go- help call off this dog- etc 42

RUNNING STEPS HALT

Annecr; Though it was dark, Preston could discern the forms of King and two men. He quickly learned that one of the men was tied and that King held the other pinned to the ground-

Preston; All right, King! I have him! Quiet, boy!

KING SUBSIDES

Barlum. (GASPING) Tha-that dog-

Preston; Lie still while I handcuff you. () On guard, King! I have his gun, but watch him-

WHIMPERS

Annex; When Barlum's hands were manacled behind his back,
Preston lighted a match, and in the flickering light,
recognized the prisoner.

Preston; 'Tom Tanner? () I'll remove that gag. () There!
Now hold still while I cut these ropes.

Tom; (UNGAGGED) Sergeant- Preston - th- thank goodness
you and King came here.

Preston; We thought you were dead. We came in search of your
murderers! () Now you're free.

Tom; Thanks. I've a lot to tell you, Sergeant. The man
you handcuffed was set to shoot you when King came
here-

Barlum; (GRUMBLE) I should've shot that dog.

Tom; King came back real friendly and looked at me - then,
all of a sudden, he seemed to realize that Barlum was
an outlaw. He snarled at Barlum. Barlum tried to
hit King with his gun barrel, then King attacked.
Barlum fired, but his shot went wild-

Preston; Barlum! Is that the name of this man?

Tom; Yes. And the other man's name is Slade.

Preston; Great Scott!

Tom; They had a partner - Lefty Hawks -

Preston; All three are wanted in Dawson - for murder! (FADE)
I'll handcuff Slade before he regains consciousness...

BREAK

Tom; They had a partner - Lefty Hawks -

Preston; (CUT IN FAST) Lefty Hawks! Where's he?

Tom; I - I shot an' killed him - in my cabin -

Preston; You did?

Tom; Yes, bht -

Preston; (CUT IN HARD) With a ball and cap gun?

Tom; Yes, Sergeant -

Preston; Then it was his body that was found in the ruins -
() Tom, all three of those men are wanted in
Dawson for murder! (FADING) I'll handcuff Slade
before he regains consciousness.

43

Annecr; It was sundown when the constable unlocked the call door and said to Sam Tanner-

Const; Good news, Sam. You're free and your brother's alive.

Sam. Tom - alive?

Const; Yep. Three crooks went to his house. He shot one WITH THAT OLD BALL AND CAP GUN and got captured by the other two.

Sam; Tom - shot a man?

Const; A crook! It was his body we found. Sergeant Preston called it self defense. What's more, all three of those crooks were wanted, dead or alive, for a murder they committed in Dawson.

Sam; What about Tom? You said he was captured.

Const; Preston found him. And captured the crooks. ^{HE AND} ~~They're~~ ~~waitin'~~ ^{SAM ARE} waitin' for you in my office.

Sam; Your office! ~~Why didn't you say so!~~

CONST YEP. GO ON IN,
RUNNING STEPS. DOOR OPENS FAST.

Sam; (CUE) Tom!

Tom; Hi, Sam!

Preston; Hello, Sam!

Sam; Sergeant Preston -

Tom; (CUT IN) Sam, how does it feel to be rich?

Sam; Rich? What d'you mean?

Tom; There's gold in the Chinook Mine! O'r stock'll be worth a fortune!

Sam; It- it's your stock, Tom.

Tom; It's ours! I promised to sell half of it back to you for five hundred dollars. Remember?

Sam; Yes, but--

Tom; And with those crooks in jail, we'll have the cont rolling interest.

Sam; Gosh! Tom- er- Sergeant, I wish you'd start from the beginning and tell me everything.

Orcoston; Tom will tell you, Sam. As far as I&m concerned, the case is closed.