

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
Created by George W. Trendle

WHITE RIVER GANG

By Fran Striker

Number:

1255

Date:

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*Not sent
to SK.*

Preston

King

Red..... heavy #1

Jake heavy #2

Steve ... heavy #3

Barkeep.. bit

Smithblacksmith

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon
By Fran Striker

WHITE RIVER GANG

Number: 0

Date:

(USUAL OPENING)

Anncr; The inspector of the Northwest Mounted police,
 seated at his desk in the Dawson headquarters,
 was reading a letter when he heard a rap on the
 door.

RAFS.

Anncr; His face became stern and there was a hard edge
 to his voice as he called -

Insp; (STERN) Come in!

DOOR OPENS.

Preston; (BACK) I was told you wanted to see me, Sir!

Insp; Indeed I do, Preston! Please close the door.

DOOR CLOSES. STEPS IN AS

Insp; (CLEAR THROAT) Preston, you know there are times
 when it is necessary for me to reprimand an
 officer.

Preston; (PUZZLED) Yes sir -

Insp; (STILL STERN) It is always an unpleasant duty.
 It is the one part of my job that I dislike.

Preston; (UNCERTAIN) I- I'm aware of that, Sir.

Insp; Um. (MUTTERS) Aware of it. () Preston, you recently captured four outlaws in a cabin hideout near White River.

Preston; The White River gang. Yes sir.

Insp; You brought them in with evidence that convicted them of several robberies and murders. I believe your report stated that you were alone when you captured those killers.

Preston; No sir.

Insp; (HARD) No?

Preston; I'm sure my report detailed the important part Yukon King played in the capture.

Insp; Oh yes - you did mention your dog. (CLEARS THROAT) I have here a letter from the superintendant.

Preston;, (SURPRISE) The superintendant!

Insp; Yes! He says he read your report, also my report of your work on that case, and he followed the trial of the criminals.

Preston; Inspector, if I violated any rules or regulations -

Insp; (CUT IN) No. You didn't violate any rules or regulations, Preston.

Preston; Then why am I to be reprimanded?

Insp; You? Reprimanded?

Preston; Isn't that what's coming, sir? A moment ago you said you disliked having to reprimand an officer, so I-

Insp; (CUT IN) Oh yes, I did say that. (MANNER CHANGES TO AMUSEMENT) I meant to add that the unpleasant part of my job is sometimes offset by the enjoyable duty of passing on a word of commendation.

Preston; (PUZZLED) Sir, y ou-

Insp; (CHUCKLES) Relax, Preston, I've just been having a bit of fun with you. () Had you worried, eh?

Preston; Well- yes sir - when y ou said y ou'd received a letter from the Superintendent-

Insp; And so I have. He wrote, just as I told you, that he'd studied the records and reports of the White River gang. Then he says, (READS) "For his work on this mission, Sergeant Preston deserves the highest commendation. Please convey to him my sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude for the fine manner in which he upheld the traditions of our organization in the completion of a dangerous and difficult mission. Signed, Tavish, Supertendant, Northeast Mounted Police."

Preston; (MURMUR) B -but--

Insp; (HEARTILY) Congratulations, Preston.

Preston; Thank you, Sir, but I - well I can't agree that the mission was accomplished.

Insp; Not accomplished? Nonsense. Your work means the end of the White River gang.

Preston; Not quite, sir. We didn't get the leader of that gang.

Insp; Red Markheim?

Preston; Yes! The prisoners were questioned at length and finally admitted that Markheim planned and directed their operations --but he stayed in hiding and sent instructions through intermediaries.

Insp; Even though Markheim is still at large, he's through as a gang leader.

Preston; Nevertheless, I'll not consider the case of the White River gang closed until we find him -- and the intermediaries.

Insp; Are you sure the captured men don't know where Markheim is hiding?

Preston; I'm sure of it, sir.

Insp; Um. You'll have a hard time finding him.

Preston; I know it. (FADES) But I'll keep searching.

BREAK

Annex; Several weeks later, in a cabin located near the isolated town of Pelican in the mountainous eastern part of the Yukon, an elderly looking man with white hair and a white beard read about the official hanging of the four members of the white River gang. The man was known as Grampa Roberts. But this was an assumed name and he was not as old as he appeared. His right name was Markheim. His artificially whitened hair and beard had previously been red; but these facts were known only to the two hard-faced men who sat with him in the cabin-

Red; Boys, as far as the White River gang's concerned, we're through.

Jake; Now what're we goin' to do?

Steve; How about startin' up a new gang Markheim?

Red; Not right away. Maybe in a year or so- () and don't call me Markheim.

Steve; All right, Grampa.

Jake; You mean to say we're to sit around and twiddle our thumbs for a whole year?

Red; No. We'll continue to work the gold claim.

Steve; Bah! That gold claim don't pay enough to buy tobacco!

Red; Nevertheless, we must keep up the pretense of working it. And in the meantime --make plans for revenge.

Jake; Revenge?

Red; Yes! See this newspaper headline?

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Red; (READS) Four men die on gallows!

Jake; We read that.

Red; Four men who were my pals! I'll not rest until the man responsible for their deaths, pays with his own life.

Steve; You mean-

Red; I mean Sergeant Preston!

Jake; The Mountie!

Red; Yes.

Steve; (DUBIOUSLY) Killin' a Mountie is-

Red; (CUT IN) Don't tell me it's dangerous to kill a Mountie! I've heard that before.

Steve; (DUBIOUSLY) I don't know of anyone who's ever got away with it.

Red; Bah! The entire police force has been trying for over a year to find Red Markheim! Handbills have been posted everywhere and rewards have been offered. But I'm still free! Doesn't that prove something?

Steve; I reckon so, but-

Red; (CUT IN) It proves I'm smarter than all the Mounties put together! I've planned some of the biggest robberies in the Yukon! And now I'm going to plan the death of Sergeant Preston!

Adlib; (MURMURS)

(RUSTLE PAPER)

Red; Here at the bottom -it says that there's a standing reward of one thousand dollars for my capture, dead or alive.

Jake; It says that on all the handbills, too.

Red; Well I'll make pikers of the law! Jake - Steve -- I'm offering ten thousand dollars for Sergeant Preston --Dead!

Adlib; (REACTION)

Jake; That's a lot more'n we can make by workin' the gold claim.

Steve; It's important money! I'd sure like to collect-

Red; You will collect! I'll make the plans and you two carry them out! Meanwhile, you'll spend time each day -for the sake of appearance s-working the claim.

Jake; That sounds all right to me, if there's not too much risk. But gosh, Boss, if Preston is murdered, there'll be a mighty big hullabaloo.

Steve; And a manhunt such as the Yukon's never seen!

W90; You're both right. For that reason I don't
want Preston's death to look like murder.
It must appear to be an accident.

Jake; You got a plan in mind?

Red; Yes, but I still have some details to work out.
I'll tell you all about it in a few days so
you'll be ready when Preston visits the town
of Pelican on his Spring patrol.

Jake; That'll be within the next two or three weeks.

Steve; Right.

Red; Two or three weeks. That's all the life
Sergeant Preston has left! (FADES) Two or
three weeks.

BREAK

Anncr; One morning a few weeks later the three outlaws
saddled their horses and rode into the nearby
town of Pelican. While Markheim purchased
supplies from the general store, Jake and Steve
waited in the cafe.

SNEAK IN CAFE B.G.

Anncr; The man who served them was inclined to be
friendly. He said-

Barkeep; How's everything at your place?

Jake; Same as usual.

Barkeep; You still workin' the property with Grampa Roberts?

Steve; Sure.

Barkeep; Must be payin' off -if you're still at it.

Jake; It's doin' all right.

Steve; Anything new here in town, Baldy?

Barkeep; No. There's never anything happenin' in Pelican. But I reckon things are boomin' in Dawson.

Jake; Yeah?

Barkeep; Yep. Now that the boats are runnin' again, there's a lot of people flockin' in from the States. Accordin' to Sergeant Preston, there'll be more newcomers this summer than there were a year ago.

Steve; Sergeant Preston?

Barkeep; Yep.

Jake; Is he in town?

Barkeep; He was. He arrived this morning. It's his spring patrol. He stopped in here about an hour ago.

Steve; Where is he now?

Barkeep; He's makin' a little side trip to visit a friend who lives a few miles north of town. He said he'd be back early this afternoon.

Steve; Um. Maybe he won't bother to come back. He might go on with his patrol without retu-
(INTERRUPTED)

Barkeep; (CUTS IN) He's got to come back to get his horse.
He left it at the blacksmith's to have a shoe
tightened.

Steve; Oh.

Barkeep; Did you want to see him, Steve?

Steve; (CARELESSLY) Oh no - not especially. I'd just like
to have a look at him and that dog I've heard so
much about.

Barkeep; Grampa Roberts just came in. (CALLS) Hi there, Grampa.

Red; (COMING IN) Howdy, Baldy.

Jake; Well, Grampa, did you finish the shoppin' ?

Red Yep.

Steve; Well, let's sit down at a table an' have some grub.

Red; But -

Steve; Jake and I are hungry, Grampa.

Jake; Let's sit at the table right near the front window.

Steve; Suits me. () Baldy, will you tell the waiter to
bring us the regular meal?

Barkeep Sure.

Jake Come on, Grampa.

STEPS AS

Red (low) You boys got a reason for decidin' to eat?

Barkeep; (CUTTING IN) He's got to come back to get his horse. He left it at the blacksmith's to have a shoe tightened.

Steve; Oh.

Barkeep; Did you want to see him, Steve?

Steve; (CARELESSLY) Oh no- not especially. I'd just like to say hello -that's all. If we're still in town when he comes back.

Barkeep; Grampa Roberts just came in. (CALLS) Hi there, Grampa/

Red; (COMING IN) Howdy, Baldy.

Jake; Well, Grampa, did you finish the shoppin'?

Red; Yep.

Steve; Then let's sit down at a table an' have some grub.

Red; (ABOUT TO PROTEST) But-

Steve; (CUT IN) Jake and I are hungry, Grampa.

Jake; Let's sit at the table right near the front window.

Steve; Suits me. () Baldy, will you tell the waiter to bring us the regular meal?

Barkeep; Sure.

Jake; C'mon, Grampa.

(STEPS AS:)

Red; (LOW) You boys got a reason for decidin' to eat?

Steve; (LOW) Yeah- a good reason. Sit down and we'll tell you.

BIZ OF CHAIRS & SITTING DOWN

Red; (CUE) Start talkin'.

Steve; (LOW) Sergeant Preston was in town this mornin' an' he'll be back this afternoon!

Red; (LOW, TENSE) Yeah? () Um. (SLOWLY) This is the day we've been waitin' for! Where is he now?

Jake; (LOW) Gone north to visit a friend, but he left his horse with the blacksmith. He'll be back to get it.

Red; Let me be sure of this. Y'say Preston's horse is at the blacksmith shop-

Jake; Yeah. It had a shoe that needed tightening.

Red; And Preston's left town until this afternoon-

Jake; That's right.

Red; (CHUCKLE) Boys, that simplifies things.

Steve; When're you goin' to tell us your plan for gettin' rid of Preston?

Red; Right now. As I told you before, his death's got to look like an accident.

Adlib; (AGREEMENT)

Red; It'll look like he was killed by a landslide.

Jake; Where?

- Red; The old abandoned shack at the foot of Rock Mountain.
- Jake; That's a mighty desolate place.
- Red; And a dangerous place. A landslide would crush the cabin and kill anyone who happened to be inside.
- Steve; There was a landslide there a couple of years ago -- just about this time of the year.
- Jake; That one just missed the cabin.
- Red; That's right. After that narrow escape, the old prospector who lived in the cabin cleared out.
- Steve; No one's used it since then.
- Red; Right. You boys get Preston to the cabin -- then start a landslide -- in the right place! Savvy?
- Adlib; (AGREEMENT)
- Red; When his body's found there'll be no ~~way~~^{way} for anyone to know whether he was killed by the landslide or by bein' hit on the head with a rock before the landslide.
- Steve; (PAUSE) (MURMUR) The plan sounds all right to me.
- Jake; All but for one thing--
- Red; What's that, Jake?
- Jake; How we goin' to get Preston to the cabin?

Red; That's thē one thing that bothered me, but now it'll be easy.

Jake; Yeah?

Red; Steal his horse and take it to the old cabin. When Preston gets back to town, he'll go lookin' for it. With that dog of his, he'll have no trouble trailin' it to the cabin -where you two'll be waitin' in ambush.

Steve; You needn't tell us the rest.

Jake; We'll have no trouble startin' the landslide. All we gotta do is start a few big boulders rollin' from the top of the mountain.

Red; I'll be waitin' for you at my place .

Jake; Be sure you've got the cash on hand to pay us!

Red; Right. () Here comes the waiter with our grub. Eat fast, then go get Preston's horse.

CAFE B.G., UP & OUT

Anncr; Soon after finishing the noon meal, the three men mounted their horses-

HOOF CLUMPS

Adlib; GIDDAP'S

HOOFS START, FADE UNDER

Annrcr; They rode out of town together and continued for a short distance. Then Markheim went on toward his cabin while Jake and Steve circled back through a woods and drew rein in the shelter of trees some distance behind the blacksmith shop.

Adlib; (WHOA'S)

HOOFS STOP

Annrcr; Looking across the open area beyond the woods, Steve said-

Steve; There's a big black stallion behind the shop.

Jake; That's Rex.

Steve; Preston's horse?

Jake; Yep.

Steve; (CHUCKLES) You were right, Jake when you said it'd probably be tied there.

Jake; The smithy always ties horses there after he's through workin' on 'em. () What time is it?

Steve; Quarter to one.

Jake; (CHUCKLES) We're still in luck. The blacksmith always locks up shop an' goes home to eat between twelve and one. We should be able to get away with that horse without bein' seen. (FADING)
Let's go get it!

COMMERCIAL

FADE IN BG OF BLACKSMITH SHOP

HAMMERING ANVIL

Annex; It was about one hour later when Sergeant Preston with his great dog, Yukon King at his side, entered the blacksmith shop.

SHOP HAMMERING

Smith; Hi, Sergeant! You an' King are back sooner than I expected.

Preston; The trail was in fine condition. We made good time. Is my horse ready?

Smith; Sure thing. I tightened the shoe before I went home to lunch.

Preston; Here -this should cover the work.

Smith; Thanks, Sergeant. That more'n covers it.

Preston; That's all right.

Smith; Rex is behind the shop. This way-

STEPS AS

Preston; Come on, King.

SHORT BARK

Smith; I checked an all the other shoes. They're in shape.

Preston; Good.

DOOR OPENS

Smith; I always tie -(BREAK) (SURPRISE) Hey-

Preston; Where's Rex?

Smith; I don't know!

Preston; What?

Smith; I tied him right here next to the water trough!
But he's not here now!

Preston; I can see that.

Smith; Would he untie the rope?

Preston; No!

Smith; You can see his tracks here, Sergeant.

Preston; I see them -also the bootmarks of two men-

Smith; Maybe mine and-

Preston; (CUT IN) You wear shoes. These men wore high
heeled riding boots.

Smith; Sure enough!

Preston; They came from the woods and went back to the
woods! And took Rex with them! () Here, King.

BARKS

Preston; Here's a track, King. Get the scent!

WHIMPERS

Preston; Find Rex!

BARKS

Preston; Let's go!

BARKS FADING

BREAK

Annecr; Meanwhile, Rex was tied beside the shack near the base of Rock Mountain. Some distance in front of the flimsy building, Jake and Steve sat on the ground close to a thick stand of brushwood waiting for Sergeant Preston to ride into the death trap. After a long period of silence, Steve looked at the steep mountainside and said-

Steve; With all the big boulders up there, it's a wonder to me there aren't more landslides.

Jake; Um. D'you think we'll be able to start one without blastin' powder?

Steve; I reckon so. All we gotta do is pry loose a couple of those boulders an' start 'em rollin'.

Jake; Steve, it's been a long time since we left town with Preston's horse.

Steve; What about it?

Jake; I'm wonderin' if Preston can follow our trail.

Steve; If he can't, you c'n bet that his dog'll be able to follow the scent. Preston'll be here.

Jake; I hope so! I can use the cash Red promised us.

(DISTANT BARKS APPROACHING AS:)

Steve; Jake, I hear a dog barkin'!

Jake; (LOWER) So do I.

Steve; (LOW) Keep out of sight. I'll look past the brush and see who's comin'.

Jake; (LOW) Careful! Don't show yourself! ()
what d'you see?

Steve; (LOW) Big dog- might be King --with a Mountie
followin'. It's Preston!

Jake; (LOW) Good! Get your head back! Don't let
him see you.

Steve; (LOW, EFFORT) Move over, Jake. Edge around the
far side of this brushwood so's we'll keep it
between ourselves and Preston.

Jake; (LOW) Right. () Keep your gun handy, Steve.
If the dog discovers us, we'll have to shoot!

Steve; We got orders not to shoot Preston! Red don't
want a bullet in the body-

Jake; We may have to shoot the dog! () Ready now -
he's close-

BARKS IN & PASSING AS

Annex; Concentrating on one thing at a time, King saw
Rex beside the shack ahead. Eager to reach the
end of the trail, he raced past the brushwood
without being aware of the outlaws in hiding.
And Preston followed-

BARKS FADING AS:

Jake; (RELIEVED) (LOW) Went right by us.

Steve; (LOW) Yeah. That was good!

JOYOUS BARKS AND WHINNYS BACK

Jake; Preston is lookin' at the shack. (CHUCKLES)
 Thinks the gents who took his horse are inside.

Steve; Let's go, Jake.

Jake; (EFFORT) Come on. (SHOUTS) Get your hands
 up, Mountie !

KING, BACK SNARLS

STEPS SUSTAIN AS:

Steve; (EFFORT) H'ist 'em and don't try any tricks or
 we'll blast both you an' your dog!

Preston; (FADING NEAR) Steady, King! Hold it, boy!
 Don't move now!

Jake; We got you covered, Preston.

Preston; My hands are up.

Steve; Now lower one of them real slow - take your gun
 from the holster an' drop it to the ground.

Preston; It's fastened to a lanyard-

Steve; (ANGRY) We can see that! Just lift the cord
 over your head-

Preston; You men are piling up a lot of trouble -just
 to steal a horse.

Jake; We'll do the worryin' about that, Preston!

Steve; Drop that gun!

Preston; There.

GUN FALLS

Jake; That's it. Now keep your hands high and step back.

SNARLS

Preston; Hold it, King. Hold it, boy.

KING SUBSIDES

Preston; I think there's no doubt that you men stole my horse. For that I'm placing you under arrest.

Jake; (LAUGHS) While both of us hold guns on you?
That's good! (LAUGHS)

Preston; I'm giving you the chance to surrender. If you don't, you'll face the additional charge of resisting an officer.

Jake; We're not goin' to face charges of any kind,
Preston! () Turn around! Face the other way
an' put your hands behind your back! () Watch
the dog, Steve. If he makes a move, shoot him!

Steve; Right.

Anncr; Preston knew he had no chance of overpowering the outlaws unless he could divert their attention for an instant -and he knew he'd have to act before turning his back.

Jake; Preston, I told you to turn around.

Anncr; Instead of obeying, Preston looked ~~past~~ the two crooks, and his mouth curved in a tight smile-

Preston; You two should have realized that the blacksmith would feel very badly about the theft of a horse in his custody. He's almost as interested as I am in recovering Rex.

Jake; Y- yeah?

Preston; You'd better let these crooks know they're covered, Smith. Speak up!

Anncr; The two men involuntarily turned their heads.

Preston; (SHARPLY) Take 'em, King!

KING ATTACKS, AD LIB FIGHT

ADLIB: STARTLED CRIES)

Jake; (AD LIB FEAR OF KING AS:)

Anncr; As King leaped at Jake, Preston charged toward Steve and used the side of his hand to strike a chopping blow on the outlaw's wrist.

BLOW

Steve; HOWL OF PAIN)

SHOT

Anncr; Steve's finger tightened on the trigger. His gun barked, but the shot went wild. Then the weapon fell from his hand as Preston struck again.

BLOW

Steve; (TAKE IT)

Anncr; It was a crushing blow to the jaw. The next was even harder.

BLOW

Anncr; While Steve staggered back and fell, Preston picked up his gun.

Preston; You're covered!

Jake; (WILDLY) Help me, help me- call off this dog-

Preston; Down, King. At ease, boy. I'll take over.

KING SUBSIDES

Jake; (GASPING) Tha -that dog-

Preston; He didn't hurt you. He simply helped me make two arrests! Stay right where you are and put your hands behind your back while I handcuff you. Then I'll do the same for your unconscious partner.
() Watch 'em, King!

BARKS

Anncr; After handcuffing the men, Preston examined the deserted cabin and the ground around it. When he found the horses of the outlaws tied behind the cabin, he wondered why his own horse had been stolen and questioned the prisoners-

Preston; You went to a lot of risk and trouble to steal my horse. why did you do it?

Jake; We're not talkin'.

Preston; You must have known I could follow your trail.

Jake; Maybe we didn't even think o' that.

Preston; Where do you live?

Jake; What makes you think we don't live here?

Preston; It's easy to see this cabin hasn't been used for a long time. Where do you live?

Steve; You got us for horse stealin'. Take us to jail if you're goin' to.

Preston; No, I'm not going to. Not right now. Before I take you anywhere I want to learn more about you.

Jake; What're you goin' to do with us?

Preston; Leave you here while I make a few inquiries in town, about you.

Jake; You're leavin' us here handcuffed?

Preston; Yes. And also with your feet tied together!

BREAK

Annecr; A short time later, Sergeant Preston rode away with Yukon King running alongside Rex. Jake and Steve were left behind. They sat on the ground with their hands manacled behind their backs and their feet tied together at the ankles-

Jake; (GRUMBLES) Red's goin' to be mighty mad at the way we let Preston get us.

Steve; Yeah- especially if he learns how we were fooled by that old trick Preston used to get us off guard.

Jake; Steve, I think we can get away.

Steve; How?

Jake; If you move around so's your feet are behind my back, I could reach that rope with my fingers and maybe untie it.

Steve; But we'll still be handcuffed.

Jake; Yes, but we'll be able to stand up and walk! Somehow we can get aboard our horses and ride to Markheim's place!

Steve; (EFFORT) It's worth tryin'.

Jake; Red'll have tools for cuttin' off the irons.

Steve; (EFFORT) Now can you reach the rope?

Jake; Yes! () We'll make Red give us some cash so's we can hightail it to other parts before Preston knows we're gone.

Steve; What if Red won't give us the cash?

Jake; He'll do it, when I tell him we'll squeal if we're taken to jail! (EFFORT) Steve, I'm goin' to be able to get this knot untied- (FADING) it's easier than I thought it'd be-

BREAK

Annrc; Not suspecting that Preston had purposely left the ropes so they could be easily untied, Jake and Steve were delighted with their success when they were free. Though still handcuffed, they were able to mount their horses by standing on rocks.

AD LIB CLUMPS

Jake; All set, Steve.

Steve; All set! We did it, Jake. Now let's get to Markheim's.

Adlib; (GITUPS)

HOOFS START & FADE OUT

Annrc; It was after dark when Red Markheim heard two horses stop outside his cabin.

STEPS, DOOR OPENS

Opening the door, he saw his henchmen dismounting awkwardly due to the handcuffs behind their backs.

Red; what in tarnation happened to you?

Jake; Everything went wrong, Red!

Steve; Preston and his dog got the upper hand!

Red; Then you didn't get Preston!

Jake; No!

STEPS IN & DOOR CLOSES AS

Red; Of all the bungling--

Jake; (CUT IN) Get these handcuffs off us , Red-
and then we'll talk.'

Red; All right. I'll get some tools and see what
I can do.

BREAK

FILING, THEN STOP

Anncr; After working with a file for half an hour,
Markheim stopped and examined the handcuffs
on Jake's wrists-

Red; That's the hardest steel I've ever seen.

Jake; How you comin'?

Red; I've made hardly any headway.

Jake; Well keep at it. We've gotta get free before
Preston finds we got away an' trails us here-

Red; (THINKING) Um! He might do that-

Steve; Get to work with that file, Red.'

Jake; It's your neck as well as our's, Red' If we're
taken to jail for horse stealin', we'll talk.

Red; You'll talk? What'll you say?

Jake; We'll say plenty.' We'll tell all we know about
you! We'll tell Preston that old Grampa
Roberts is really Red Markheim -and for proof
he can watch your hair change color as it grows
out.'

Red; (THOUGHTFULLY) Um-m-m

Steve; We can also tell him to look behind the stones of the fireplace for stolen jewelery and cash-

Jake; Now you'd better get us free an' give us some cash to clear out-

Red; No, boys. Now I have other plans.

Jake; What d'ya mean?

Red; You've threatened to squeal. Now, even though you do make a getaway, I'll have that to worry about as long as you're alive! ~~xxxxxx~~ I'll have to dispose of y ou.

Jake; What d'ya mean?

Red; I mean - shoot you!

Jake; No no!

Steve; (FAST) Put down the gun!

Jake; (OVERLAP) You wouldn't do that to us, Red!

Steve; (OVERLAP) You couldn't get away with it!

Red; I'll get away with it.

Steve; If Preston comes here-

Red; (CUT IN) I'll shoot him! Then, take his key - remove your handcuffs, and charge you with the murder!

Steve; No, no Red -

Red; You'll both be dead, so you can't argue about it-

DOOR FLIES OPEN HARD

Adlib; (STIR)

Preston; (BACK) Drop the gun!

Red; (OVERLAP) Preston! I'll get-

TWO SHOTS OVERLAP

Red; (HOWL OF PAIN)

GUN FALLS

Preston; Come on in, King. He's disarmed!

BARKS

Red; My arm- my arm is broken-

Preston; You shouldn't have tried to shoot me! You're wanted, Markheim! The charges range from larceny to murder!

Red; what'd you call me?

Preston; Markheim! And before you try to deny it, let me say that I've been outside the open window listening to the conversation for quite a while-

Red; (HOWLS) You-

Jake; How'd you get here soon?

Preston; I followed you two!

Steve; You were goin' to town-

Preston; I didn't.

Red; Yuh fools! No wonder you were able to untie those ropes! That's just what Preston wanted yuh to do! He knew he'd find out where you were livin', then-

Jake; (CUT IN) Ah, shut up, Markheim! You and your smart plans-

Red; My plans were good'

Preston; The trouble with being on your side of the law, Markheim, is that the first time a plan goes wrong, it means your downfall! Now turn around. Now put your hands behind your back. I've one more pair of handcuffs! Watch those two, King, while I handcuff Markheim.

BAK S

~~Yes, King, this case is closed.~~

Yes, King, we've caught the leader of the White River gang, ~~THEME~~ Now we'll accept the superindendents Citation. This case is closed.

theme