

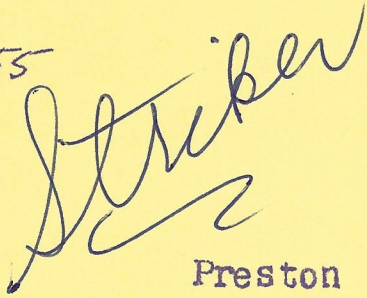
Sergeant Preston of the Yukon, created by Geo. W. Trendle.

Lucky's Rabbit Foot.

by Fran Striker

Number 1257

Date 5-31-55



Preston

King

Lucky Lawton .....30. Straight.

Dave Martin .....heavy.

Slade .....heavy

Red .....heavy

Pete .....heavy

Jason Greer .....middle aged. Straight.

Constable .....straight.

Clerk .....bit.

While searching for an ex-convict,  
Sergeant Preston was taken by surprise  
when he faced a gun in the hand of a man  
who had posed as a friend. For action,  
thrills and excitement, be sure (ETC)

Sergeant Preston of the Yukon

by Fran Striker

Number

LUCKY'S RABBIT FOOT

Date

(USUAL OPENING)

(BG OF BOAT DOCK. WATERFRONT. CROWD)

Anncr; In mid-morning, when the river boat Yukon Queen docked at Dawson, Constable Owen of the Northwest Mounted Police stood near the gangplank watching the disembarking passengers and comparing their faces to a photograph he held in his hand. The last passenger to leave the boat, a well-dressed man of medium size, resembled the picture..

Const; (MUTTER, CLOSE) He's the one!

Anncr; As he hurried forward the constable noticed a rabbit's foot dangling from a heavy gold watchchain across the newcomer's vest...

Const; Just a minute, Mister.

Lawton; Yes?

Const; I'm Constable Owen. Is your name Lawton?

Lawton; (SURPRISE) Yes. How did you know?

Const; I have your picture here-

Lawton; My picture?

Const; Yes. And a description which says, among other things, "Always wears a rabbit's foot on his watchchain."

Lawton; Um. You're well informed.

Const; Known as Lucky Lawton, aren't you?

Lawton; That's right. But the way things have been during the past few years, Unlucky Lawton would be more appropriate. D'you mind telling me how you got that information - and the picture?

Const; The authorities in the States cooperate with us by sending information when a man with a criminal record books passage from the States.

Lawton; (ANGRY) Well of all the - () All right! I admit I spent five years in prison.

Const; Bank robbery, wasn't it?

Lawton; That was the charge. But now I'm square with the law! And if I'm to be hounded -

Const; You'll not be hounded.

Lawton; (STILL HOT) I haven't broken any of your laws! I don't see why you -

Const; (CUT IN) Calm down and listen to me. Our police motto is "Maintain the Law," That's been a big job since the gold rush began last year. It helps us to know which of the newcomers have police records. I needn't tell you that we watch men like you more closely than others. Stay straight and we'll do our level best to help you and protect your interests. But if you break the law, you'll find we're tough to deal with.

Lawton; So I've heard.

Const; Now, Lucky, welcome to the Yukon! Will you shake hands?

Lawton; Sure thing! (LAUGHS) Thanks, Constable!

Const; Let me know if there's any way we can help you.

Lawton; Thanks.

Const; Anyone in town will direct you to our headquarters. If you want information, or -

Lawton; (CUT IN) Maybe you can help me find a man I knew in the States. His name's Dave Martin -

Const; Dave Martin! He owns a cafe here in Dawson. May not be the same man, but -

Lawton; I'll find out.

Const; His place is right over there on Front Street. You'll see the sign.

Lawton; (FADING) Thanks, Constable. Thanks a lot.

FADE OUT BG.

Anncr; A few minutes later Dave Martin, the cafe owner, sat in his office with two cold-eyed men. There was an atmosphere of impatience and irritation.

Slade; Martin, how much longer do we wait for Packer to show up?

Martin; No longer, Slade. I'll tell you and Red my plans and you can tell them to Packer when you see him.

Red;           What's up, Martin?   What're you planning?

Martin;       A gold robbery.

ADLIB:        (MURMURS)

Martin;       When I was in the express office this morning I learned that the Golconda Mine is sending a lot of gold here - for shipment to the States. It'll arrive today an' be taken aboard the Yukon Queen tomorrow morning just before the boat leaves. It'll be in the express office tonight - that's where we'll grab it.

Slade;        (DUBIOUSLY) Stealin' gold from the express office is a lot different than robbin' a prospector who struck it rich -

Red;           An' different than runnin' crooked gamblin' games-

Martin;       I know that! This'll be the biggest deal we've ever tried - with the biggest pay-off.

Slade;        If we get away with it!

Martin;       We will. We'll go to the express office tonight - just before closin' time - with our faces covered. We'll make the clerk unlock the safe, then we'll tie and gag him, ~~and~~ leave him in the office, **AND CLEAR OUT.**

Slade;        Um. The plan sounds good.

DOOR OPEN. CAFE NOISES. BG.

Red;           Packer!

Packer; (BACK) Howdy, gents.

DOOR CLOSE. CUT CAFE BG. STEPS IN AS

Martin; Packer, you're late.

Packer; Sorry, Martin. ( ) You'd never guess who's sittin' at a table in the other room.

Red; Who?

Martin; I'm no good at guessin'! Who's there, Packer?

Packer; Lucky Lawton.

ADLIB: (REACTION)

Martin; You sure?

Packer; I'm sure. He's sittin' there with a drink - sort of lookin' the place over. And he still wears that rabbit's foot on his watch chain.

Skade Martin, d'you suppose he came here to make trouble?

Martin; I don't know, but I aim to find out right away.

CHAIR SCRAPE. STEPS AS -

Martin; (CUE) You boys tell Packer the plans for tonight while I talk to Lawton.

DOOR OPEN, CAFE BG SUSTAINING.

DOOR CLOSE, STEPS SUSTAIN AS -

Anncr; Lucky Lawton, sitting alone, looked up with an impassive expression as Dave Martin approached the table and spoke heartily-

Martin; (HEARTILY) Lucky Lawton, as I live an' breathe!

Lawton; (CALMLY) Hello, Martin. Sit down.

Martin; Thanks.

CHAIR BIZ

Martin; (SITTING) When did you get out of prison?

Lawton; Two months ago.

Martin; Your term was - let's see - five years, wasn't it?

Lawton; That's right. You have a good memory. You must remember why I went to prison.

Martin; Sure I do. You stuck up a bank.

Lawton; You know that's not true. You know it, Martin, as well as I do.

Martin; Are you still stickin' to the story that you were framed?

Lawton; I was framed, Martin. And I know who framed me.

Martin; If you still think I'm the one - () See here, Lawton, can't you forget that notion?

Lawton; No.

Martin; You had some bad luck an' went to prison. But now you're a free man, and we're both in a new country. A man like you can do first rate here in the Yukon.

Lawton; I didn't come here to - "Do First Rate," Martin. I came to pay a debt.



Martin; What d'you mean by that?

Lawton; Think it over and you'll know what I mean.

Martin; Um. ( ) Well, Lawton, I was willing to offer the hand of friendship. Remember that.

Lawton; I remember your hand of friendship - when we were in the States.

Martin; I won't take up any more of your time, Lawton.

CHAIR SCRAPES.

Martin; (RISING) Got some business to attend to in my office.

STEPS. SUSTAIN AS -

Annccr; As Dave Martin crossed the big room toward the door of his office, he wore a grim smile and there was an evil glint in his eyes -

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. CUT CAFE BG

Packer; What'd you find out, Martin?

Martin; Lucky Lawton's here to make trouble for me. No doubt of that.

Slade; For that frame-up in the States?

Martin; Yes.

Red; What're you goin' to do about it?

Martin; Get him before he gets me! I have a plan to take care of Lawton and at the same time help us get away with that express office robbery.

Packer; What's your plan?

Martin; Tell you later. Right now I've got to hurry over to the Mountie headquarters and have a talk with Sergeant Preston.

BREAK

Annex; In headquarters Sergeant Preston sat at his desk while his great dog, Yukon King, lay on the floor beside his chair.

DOOR OPENS

Annex; Preston looked up from his work as Dave Martin entered the office -

DOOR CLOSSES. STEPS IN AS

Martin; (COMING IN) Howdy, Sergeant Prestob.

Preston; Hello, Martin. How's everything at your cafe?

Martin; First rate, thanks. ( ) Sergeant, I came here to tell you about a certain gunslinger known as Lucky Lawton.

Preston; Oh. What about him?

Martin; Well - I knew him in the States. Five years ago he went to jail for robbin' a bank.

Preston; Well?

Martin; He got out of prison a couple of months ago an' today he showed up here in Dawson.

Preston; Thanks for telling me.

Martin; I thought I oughtta tell you about him so's you could sort of keep an eye on him.

Preston; Why have you suddenly become interested in helping the police?

Martin; Well, I'll tell you, Sergeant. When Lawton went on trial for that bank robbery, I was one of the witnesses against him. For that he was mighty sore at me. He even tried to claim that I'd framed him! Now that he's in Dawson, he might try to get even with me.

Preston; For framing him?

Martin; No, No, Sergeant. I didn't frame him! He's sore because I was a witness against him.  
( ) Here! Here's an old newspaper clipping that tells about the trial. I saved it because my name's in it.

RUSTLE PAPER

Preston; Um.

Martin; It mentions a rabbit's foot that Lawton always wears on his watchchain.

Preston; So I see.

Martin; It wouldn't surprise me to see Lawton try to get away with a robbery here in Dawson.

- Preston; If he does, we'll get him.
- Martin; I sure hope so. Then I'll not have to worry about gettin' a bullet or a knife in the back on a dark night.
- Preston; Martin, I may as well tell you - we already have a report on Lucky Lawton.
- Martin; Oh. I didn't know that.
- Preston; Yes. As a matter of fact, Constable Owen talked to him when he left the boat. However, in view of what you've told me I think I'll have a talk with him. Do you know where he's staying?
- Martin; No, but he was in my cafe when I left there a few minutes ago.
- Preston; I'll go there.
- Martin; You'll know him by the rabbit's foot on his watchchain.
- Preston; I'll find him. Mind if I keep this newspaper clipping?
- Martin; You're welcome to it, Sergeant, but I - uh - I'd appreciate it if you didn't say anything about my callin' on you. I'd hate to let Lawton know I'm worried about him -
- Preston; Very well. You go on about your business. I'll go to the cafe in a few minutes.

BREAK

FADE IN CAFE BG

Annrc; Accompanied by Yukon King, Sergeant Preston entered the cafe and quickly recognized Lucky Lawton who sat alone with the remains of a meal on the table. Preston approached the table and sat down -

CHAIR BIZ.

Preston; Lucky Lawton?

Lawton; Yes.

Preston; I'm Sergeant Preston.

Lawton; Howdy, Sergeant. I met the constable when I got off the boat.

Preston; Yes. I know you did. And here's another member of the Force. His name is Yukon King.

Lawton; Howdy, Yukon King.

WHIMPER.

Lawton; Fine lookin' dog, Sergeant. A dog to be proud of.

Preston; I am proud of him.

Lawton; The constable told me where I stood, Sergeant. Are you going to tell me the same thing?

Preston; No. I'd like to ask a couple of questions.

Lawton; Go ahead.

Preston; Why did you come to the Yukon?

Lawton; It's a good place for a man to get a new start in life.

Preston; That doesn't answer the question. Did you come here to get square with Dave Martin?

Lawton; (PAUSE) So you know about Dave Martin and me.

Preston; Yes. In our files we have clippings from a number of newspapers published in the States. Clippings - like this one.

RUSTLE PAPER

Lawton; Oh.

Preston; It tells about your trial, and the testimony given by Martin. Would you like to read it?

Lawton; No. I remember it. ( ) Sergeant, according to that article, I've been a bad hombre -

Preston; You're called a professional gunman.

Lawton; Yes. That's what I'm called. But Sergeant, the truth is, I was innocent of that bank robbery! I was framed! As for bein' a gunslinger - ( ) But what's the use of goin' into a lot of past history - you wouldn't be interested.

Preston; I am interested, Lawton. Go ahead.

Lawton; Well - I was handy with a gun, and I was a harum-scarum sort of young fella @ until I went to jail for disturbin' the peace.

Preston; Then what?

Martin; Well, in jail I did a lot of serious thinking and decided I'd better level off and stay out of trouble. So, when I got out of jail, I went to work for the railroad - as a detective. That's how I got to know Dave Martin.

Did he work for the railroad?

Lawton; No. He worked against it. He led a gang of hold-up men. I got on their trail and went after evidence that'd jail the crooks. Dave Martin knew what I was trying to do, so to get me out of the way, he and his gang held up a bank and framed me for the robbery. It was an airtight frameup. I went to prison for five years.

Preston; So now you've followed Martin to the Yukon to get revenge. Is that it?

Lawton; I didn't say that, Sergeant.

Preston; Lawton, in this country we don't tolerate six-gun justice. If you kill Martin, I promise you, you'll hang for murder.

Lawton; Thanks for the information.

Preston; Where are you staying in town?

Lawton; The Victoria Hotel.

Preston; (RISING) Very well. Please let us know if you plan to leave town or change your address.

Lawton; Sure thing, Sergeant. I'll do that.

Preston; Come on, King.

SHORT BARK.

BREAK

COMMERCIAL

Annrc; After talking to Lucky Lawton in the cafe, Sergeant Preston went to the express office to speak to the man in charge whose name was Jason Greer.

Preston; I just stopped to check-up, Jason. You've been expecting a shipment of gold from the Golconda Mine. Has it arrived?

Jason; Yes siree, Sergeant. It's locked up in the safe. I figured on spendin' the night here to keep watch on it.

Preston; You'll have company. The Inspector has assigned Constable Owen to guard the gold. He'll be here before closing time.

Jason; Good! I reckon the gold'll be plenty safe with the two of us on guard.

Preston; Should be. ( ) Now, King, we'll return to headquarters.

BARK

Preston; (CUE) (FADING) Goodbye, Jason.



Jason;        Bye, Sergeant.

BREAK

Annor;        That evening, shortly after dark, Lucky Lawton sat beside a lamp in his hotel room reading the newspaper when someone rapped on the door-

RAPS

Lawton:        (CALL) Who is it?

Clerk;        (MUFFLED) The desk clerk, Mr. Lawton. I've an envelope for you.

UNLOCK AND OPEN DOOR.

Clerk;        (CUE) Here you are, Sir. It arrived just a few minutes ago.

Lawton;        Sealed. Where'd it come from?

TEARING ENVELOPE AS

Clerk;        A youngster brought it in and left it at the desk.

Lawton;        Um. (SUDDENLY) Just a minute - how do I get to the Mountie headquarters?

Clerk;        Walk down Front street in the direction of the steamship dock for two blocks then turn to the right. You'll find the police headquarters on the second corner.

Lawton;        Thanks.

Clerk;        If you need the police, sir-

Lawton; I don't need the police. This note's from Sergeant Preston. He asks me to meet him at headquarters as soon as possible after I receive the note.

Clerk; Oh. Well, you'll have no trouble finding the place. Two blocks down -

Lawton: (CUT IN) I'll find it. Thanks.

BREAK

Anncr; Lawton tossed the message onto a table then quickly put on his coat and hat, turned down the lamp and left the room.

CLOSE AND LOCK DOOR.

STEPS SUSTAIN

Anncr; Without the slightest suspicion that the message was a fake, he hurried along the corridor, wondering why Sergeant Preston wanted to see him. He nodded to the clerk as he crossed the hotel lobby, then opened the front door and stepped into the dark street.

DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE.

STREET NOISES.

STEPS ON BOARD WALK

Anncr; As Lawton strode along the wooden sidewalk a man suddenly appeared from between two buildings.

Packer: Just a minute, Lawton.

STEPS HALT.

Lawton: Eh?

Packer; (LOW) Don't make a fast move. You're covered.

Lawton; (TENSE) A gun!

Annex; At that moment two more men came from the dark alley and pressed guns against Lawton's back -

Slade; Three guns on you, Lawton, so don't try any tricks.

Lawton; What's this? A stick-up?

Red; No.

Packer; Keep him covered while I take his gun.

Lawton; (SURPRISE) You - you're Packer!

Packer; That's right. I wondered if you'd remember me!

Lawton; I remember you! Also the two other crooks who worked with Dave Martin. In the States.

Slade; We're still workin' with him, Lawton. He wants to see you, so we're takin' you to him.

L  
Lawton; I'm on my way to the Mountie headquarters and you'll make a big mistake if you interfere with me, because Sergeant Preston's expecting me. And if I don't show up -

Packer; (OVERLAP WITH LAUGH)

Lawton; What's funny, Packer?

Packer; You still think Preston sent you that note?

Lawton; Huh? You mean -

Packer; Dave Martin wrote it to get you out of the hotel so we could meet you where no one would see us.

Slade; Now start walkin'. Packer'll walk beside you an' show you where to go. Red and I'll follow with our guns handy!

Packer; Come on, Lawton! We don't have far to go.

STEPS ON BOARDWALK START AND FADE.

Annecr; A few minutes later the three outlaws and their prisoner reached a small cabin at the edge of town.

OPEN DOOR

Annecr; Dave Martin waited inside -

Packer; Go on in, Lawton.

Martin; (BACK) Yes. Come in, Lucky!

STEPS ON FLOOR AS -

Martin; Have any trouble with him, boys?

Slade; Not a bit. () Close the door, Red.

DOOR CLOSE.

Lawton; Martin, if you had me brought here so you could gun me-

Martin; I'm not going to gun you, Lawton. Not right now. I just want to borrow a few things from you. I'll start with your hat. (EFFORT)

Lawton: You-

Slade; Steady! We're still holdin' guns on you.

Martin: This hat fits me first rate. I reckon your coat and that fancy vest will likewise fit me. Take 'em off.

Lawton; Martin, you -

Slade; (CUT IN HARD) You heard the Boss! Take off your coat and vest! You'll get nowhere tryin' to resist.

Lawton; I - I guess you're right,.

Martin; I'll tell you why I'm borrowin' your clothes, Lawton. Tonight the four of us are goin' to clean out the safe at the express office. Of course, our faces will be covered, but Jason Greer - he's the express agent - will see me wearin' your clothes - and that rabbit's foot.

Lawton; So that's your game.

Martin; Yes. (CHUCKLES) Greer will probably hear one of the crooks call the leader - "Lucky."

Lawton; (BITTERLY) Another frame-up.

Martin; Right. Gag him, boys, and tie him up while I'm puttin' on his vest and coat. (FADING) Tie him plenty tight. We want to be sure he don't escape -

BREAK

Annex;           A short time after Lucky Lawton's capture,  
Jason Greer looked at the clock on the wall  
of the express office, then rose from his  
chair and spoke to Constable Owen, seated  
nearby-

Jason:           Well, Constable, it's time to close up. I'll  
lock the door.

STEPS AS

Annex;           Suddenly the front door was opened -

DOOR OPEN

Jason:           (GASP OF SURPRISE) Masked men!

Martin:          Get yer hands up!

Jason;           (OVERLAP)    A hold-up!

Slade;           (OVERLAP FAST) There's a lawman!

SHOT - FALLING BODY

Jason;           (CRY OUT)    You shot the constable!

Red;             You'll get the same if you reach for a gun!

Jason;           (PANIC)    No no - don't shoot me! My hands are up!

Martin;          One of you watch the street in case someone ~~comes~~  
heard that shot an' comes to investigate.

Pete;            I'm watchin'! I don't see anyone.

Martin;          Close the door an' keep watchin' through the  
window.

DOOR CLOSSES

Martin; You two - keep Greer covered. And search him to make sure he's not armed. I'll look at the lawman.

Slade; Right.

Jason; I- I'm not armed - m-my gun's over there - on the desk.

Red; Is the constable dead, Boss - uh - Lucky ?

Martin; No. Looks like the bullet just grazed his head an' knocked him out.

Red; Serves him right for reachin' for his gun.

Martin; I'll tie and gag him while Greer is opening the safe.

Slade; You heard the Boss, Greer. Open the safe.

Jason; B-but -

Red; (EFFORT) Move!

Anncr; Nervously, Jason Greer dialed the combination on the big safe while Dave Martin tied and gagged the wounded constable. Martin joined the other outlaws as the door of the safe was opened -

SAFE DOOR OPENED

Martin; There's the gold, boys!

Slade; It's a big haul, Boss. Now I know why they call you "Lucky."

Martin; Shut up! I told you not to use names.

Slade; Aw, I didn't use your name. I only -

Martin; (CUT IN) Never mind. Let's take care of Greer then clear out with the gold.

BREAK

Annrc; After Jason Greer was tied and gagged, the thieves blew out the lamps, left the office, and hurried with the stolen gold to the cabin near the edge of town.

DOOR CLOSE.

Martin; Put the gold right here in the corner for the time bein'.

SACKS TO FLOOR

Slade; Lawton's just as we left him. (CHUCKLES) Gagged an' hogtied.

Pete; What'll we do with him?

Martin; We'll decide that when I get back.

Red; Where you goin', Boss?

Martin; and ~~Red~~ Soon as I get rid of Lawton's clothes and rabbit's foot ~~change~~ change to my own clothes, I'm goin' to the cafe. (CHANGING CLOTHES) I want to make sure everything's all right there. Also, I want to show myself, in case I happen to need an alibi. I'll let it be known that I'm workin' on the books in my office.

Pete; Here's yer coat.



Martin; Thanks. You boys stay right here. I'll be back in a little while.

BREAK

SNEAK IN STEPS ON WALK DURING

Annrcr; While Martin made an appearance in the cafe, Sergeant Preston and Yukon King were taking a walk before turning in for the night. As they neared the express office, Preston noticed that the window was dark -

Preston; That's odd, King. Greer and the constable intended to spend the night in the office. I wonder why they're sitting in the dark.

WHIMPERS. STEPS HALT.

Preston; Maybe they changed their plans.

DOOR OPENING AS KING WHIMPERS AS -

Pr ston; Um. The door's unlocked.

Annrcr; As Preston opened the door, the moonlight revealed two men lying on the floor -

Preston; Great Scot, King! Something's happened!

KING ADLIB WHIMPERS.

Annrcr; After quickly lighting a lamp, Preston cut away the ropes and gags. He found Greer unhurt and the constable unconscious and slightly wounded. While he dressed the head wound he listened to Jason Greer's account of what had happened -

- Jason; ...then after shootin' the constable, the four crooks made me open the safe. They got away with all the gold!
- Preston; Did you recognize any of them?
- Jason; No. Like I told yuh, Sergeant, their faces were covered.
- Preston; Did they call each other by name?
- Jason; Nope. They were careful not to do that. (SUDDEN)  
But I do remember -
- Preston; What?
- Jason; One of the crooks called the leader "Lucky."
- Preston; Lucky?
- Jason; Yes. A<sub>er</sub> if that was a nickname or something-
- Preston; How was the leader dressed?
- Jason; Well, he wore a black hat, and a black coat. The coat was open at the front so's I saw a might fabcy vest - Oh yes! He had a rabbit's foot on his watchchain!
- Pr ston; That's it! Stay here with the constable. I'll send the doctor.
- Jason; All right, Sergeant%, but -
- Preston; Come on, King! We'll see if we can find Lucky Lawton! (FADES) He said he'd be at the Victoria Hotel.

BARKS FADING

Annex; The hotel clerk willingly took Sergeant Preston to the room that had been engaged by Lucky Lawton. As he unlocked the door he said -

UNLOCKING AND OPENING DOOR AS -

Clerk; Mr. Lawton left soon after he received your message.

Preston; I didn't send him any message.

Clerk; (SURPRISE) You didn't? Mr. Lawton said it was from you. He said - Oh, here it is on the table! I'll turn up the lamp so you can read it.

Preston; How did Lawton get this?

Clerk; I brought it to his room.

Preston; Where did you get it?

Clerk; A boy came into the lobby and left it at the desk.

Preston; Someone else wrote this and signed my name!

Clerk; Oh! I wonder why?

Preston; I don't know! () King, we must try to find Lawton!

BARKS.

Preston;  
~~Clerk~~ Here are some of his clothes. Get the scent,  
King!

WHIMPERING.

Preston; You drew first. The gunplay was your idea. ()  
All of you - face the wall and keep your hands  
high. () Watch 'em, King.

GROWLS

Annor; While King kept a close watch, Sergeant Preston  
disarmed the three crooks and handcuffed their  
hands behind their backs. Then he crossed the  
room to the corner where Lucky Lawton lay -

Preston; Now, Lawton, I'll remove that gag and listen  
to what you have to say.

Annor; As Preston crouched beside Lawton, King suddenly  
came to his side, whined and tugged at his sleeve  
to give warning of peril -

WHINES

Annor; Then Martin spoke from the open door-

Martin; (BACK) You're covered, Preston!

Preston; (OVERLAP)(SURPRISE) Eh ?

Martin; (BACK) Freeze!

GROWLS

Slide; (OVERLAP) The Boss!

Preston; (OVERLAP) Martin!

Martin; (OVERLAP)(BACK) Hold back yer dog or I'll blast  
yuh both!

Preston; Steady, King. Hold it, boy!

Pete; I was hopin' you'd get here in time.

Martin; (BACK) I did.

DOOR CLOSE. STEPS IN AS

Martin; (COME IN) Preston, draw your gun slow an' drop it.

Preston; Very well.

GUN DROPS

Martin; That's it.

Preston; Martin, it appears that you're the one who planned the express robbery.

Martin; Does it?

Preston; Yes. And you or one of your pals wore those clothes on the floor- Lawton's clothes. Another frame-up?

Martin; Skip the talk and go to work with your ~~ha~~ndcuff ha ndcuff key. Release my pals or I'll start shootin'. First your dog, then you.

Preston; Hold on! Don't shoot King! There's no reason to kill him!

Martin; Then take off those handcuffs.

Preston; All right. ( ) Stay there, King.

WHIMPERS AND A FEW STEPS

Preston; Stay, boy. Stay right there -

Annor; Sergeant Preston's strategy was carefully planned. While he and King were close together Martin could cover both with his gun. But by crossing the room Preston placed himself yards away from his well-trained dog.

Martin; Hurry up, Preston!

~~Preston; I can't unlock the handcuffs with the key~~

Annor; While pretending to search through his pockets Preston gauged the distance between himself and Martin - he glanced at King - saw that the big dog was tense and poised to attack, then cried -

Preston; (SHARPLY) Take him, King!

WILD SNARLS, SUSTAIN

Martin; (CRY OF SURPRISE

ADLIB: (OVERLAP)(STIR)

Annor; (OVERLAP) As Martin turned toward King, Preston leaped, slapping the thief's gunhand aside -

SHOT

Annor; Martin's shot went wild! Then King gripped his wrist -

Martin; (CRY OF PANIC)

ADLIB SCURFLE. GUN DROPS

Annex; ~~Struggling with King,~~ Martin dropped his gun.  
Preston picked <sup>UP HIS OWN GUN</sup> ~~it up~~ and turned toward the handcuffed men -

Preston; (SHARPLY) Stay back!

Pete; (CRY OUT) Don't shoot!

Preston; I'll not, unless you try to interfere!

Red; What c'n we do?

Pete; (FAST) We're handcuffed -

Slade; (FAST) We're helpless -

Preston; (FAST) You're under arrest!

Martin; (STRUGGLING) Take this dog away - make him leggo me -

Preston; That'll do, King! Down, boy!

KING SUBSIDES.

Martin; (BREATHLESS) Th-that dog -

Preston; It's all over, Martin! Stand over there with your pals. I have one more pair of handcuffs and they'll just fit you!

BREAK

Annex; With all four prisoners handcuffed and King on guard, Sergeant Preston released Lucky Lawton and learned all the details of the frame-up -

Lawton; ...and, Sergeant, there's the gold they stole.

Preston; We'll return it so it can be taken aboard the boat before sailing time.

Lawton; Sergeant, you've seen how Martin operates. Now maybe you'll believe that I wasn't guilty of that bank robbery in the States. Martin framed me for that, the same way he -

Preston; (CUT IN) Forget the past, Lawton! You're starting a new life here in the Yukon +

Lawton; A new life - () I - I came here to get square with Martin. But now -

Preston; He and his pals will be in prison for a long time.

Lawton; Yeah - Seems like Fate took the matter out of my hands - so I can start a new life and look on the past as a closed book.

Preston; Your past IS a closed book, Lawton. And this case is closed.

theme