

Sergeant Preston of the RCMP and the Case of the Demented Paleontologist

A Melodrama

Adapted by Janet Allcock from the original written by Helen Perry, Dawn Gartner and the 56th Calgary Guide Unit, in 1990.

Characters

Sergeant Preston: Salute and say "I always get my man"

Demented Paleontologist: Cackle and look evil

Goggles: Make airplane flying motions (and possibly lead other actions from audience)

Edmonton: (explain about coal mines in area) 3-2-1 Boom!!

Prairie: Shade eyes with hand, look around and say "I can see for miles"

Cattle: Say moo and make horns with hands

Wheat fields: Wave arms over head and make swishing sound

Homesteads: Sing "Home, home on the Range".

Wild Roses: Sniff flowers and say "Aaaaaah".

Oil Pumps: Bend body down and up from the waist and say "Pump, pump, pump".

Great Horned Owl: Say "Hoo, hoo, hoo" and flap wings

Lodgepole Pines: Stand tall, arms up, sway slightly, say "Creak, creak".

Train: Choo, choo and whistle sounds and pump arms at side

Horse (including Elk Island): Slap thigh, gallop and make horse sounds

Quad: Steering actions, twist throttle and make brum brum noises

Calgary: Say "Yahoo" and throw pretend hat in the air.

Alberta: Sing "Golden Prairie Land, grandest mountain land"

Dog sled: Pushing sled with foot and call "Mush, mush"



Once upon a time – yesterday - **SERGEANT PRISCILLA PRESTON** Badge #100 (years of Guiding in AB), of the St. Albert detachment of the RCMP was assigned a peculiar case.

The Royal Tyrell Museum in Drumheller reported that a recent discovery had disappeared, under mysterious circumstances. The missing artifact was the femur bone of a dinosaur named ALBERTAsaurus.

When **SERGEANT PRESTON** investigated the site she found a wishbone and knew immediately who had done the dastardly deed. A wishbone was the trademark of the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST**. At the side of the wishbone was a clue -a chunk of oil sands. Ah ha, said **SERGEANT PRESTON** - the bone must have been dug up in Fort McMurray –that’s where the oil sands are. I wonder if the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** has taken it back there? So she called her bush pilot friend – **GOGGLES** – and off they flew.

They flew over the **PRAIRIE**, over herds of **CATTLE**, by the **WHEAT FIELDS**, over the old **HOMESTEADS**, with the **WILD ROSES** growing all around, to the constant sound of the **OIL PUMPS**, and the wind blowing through the **LOGEPOLE PINES**, and the call of the **GREAT HORNED OWL**.

They arrived in Fort McMurray and gleaming in the sticky black oil sands was a wishbone and another clue – a diamond ring! Oh, no the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** had been and gone. **SERGEANT PRESTON** thought hard and realized that she must next go to the North West Territories – that’s where diamonds are mined, so she and **GOGGLES** took off once more.

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Soon **SERGEANT PRESTON** and **GOGGLES** were in Yellowknife, set on the rocky Canadian Shield. But again they were too late. This time they found a gold ring! Gold! It must mean that the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** was still one step ahead and had gone to the Yukon, where there was once the biggest gold rush in history. Once there **SERGEANT PRESTON** investigated the old mine diggings and found among the old pit props, another wishbone and - an oar.

SERGEANT PRESTON put her thinking cap on and realized that **EDMONTON** was built beside the North Saskatchewan River and it was this vast river that brought the fur traders in the 1790’s. The Hudson Bay Company post was the start of that great city. When **ALBERTA** became a Province in 1905, **EDMONTON** was made the capital. When **EDMONTON** and Strathcona joined to make an even bigger city the High Level Bridge was built. That meant that the High level Bridge was built the year that Guiding started in **ALBERTA** and is also exactly 100 years old. For many years people dynamited the coal from the river banks. **SERGEANT PRESTON** knew that the oar belonged to a York boat and that there was a York boat at Fort Edmonton, so off they went.

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Would she be in time? No! - there next to the York boat in Ft. Edmonton she found a ticket to the roller coaster in West Edmonton Mall. Quickly she borrowed a **HORSE** from one of the homesteads and saying goodbye to **GOGGLES** off she galloped.

As she arrived at West Edmonton Mall **SERGEANT PRESTON** she quickly scanned the area and saw a ski pole lying in the gloom near the roller coaster. Where was the nearest skiing area? Jasper! She jumped back on her **HORSE** and off she went to go to the train station. There she caught the **TRAIN** to Jasper.

She passed through the **PRAIRIE**, by herds of **CATTLE**, by the **WHEAT FIELDS**, past the old **HOMESTEADS**, with the **WILD ROSES** growing all around, to the constant sound of the **OIL PUMPS**, and the wind blowing through the **LOGEPOLE PINES**, and the call of the **GREAT HORNED OWL**.

But once again **SERGEANT PRESTON** was foiled in her mission. At Marmot Basin she found the ever revealing wishbone and an old fashioned swimming suit. The **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** had gone. Hiring a **DOG SLED**, which had just completed the famous Yukon Quest race from Whitehorse to Fairbanks she travelled through the magnificent Rocky Mountains to Banff National Park.

Banff – the first National Park in Canada, was formed around the seething sulfurous smelly hot springs now known as Cave and Basin. 673 square kilometers were set aside as a park in 1887. This was before **ALBERTA** was a province, when it was still part of the North-West Territories.

Assuming the disguise the bathing suit provided, **SERGEANT PRESTON** slipped into the seething, sulphurous, smelly hot springs which proved to be warm, wonderful and welcoming. After a short time relaxing **SERGEANT PRESTON** left to get dressed and found a shining brass button in the change room. Where could it have come from? She texted her friend at the Royal Provincial Museum and got the answer. It was a button from a uniform worn by the North West Mounted Police when Fort McLeod was built. Fort McLeod was established in 1874 bringing law and order to southern Alberta as the settlers began to arrive from all over the world. How could she get there? Ah ha, I will borrow a **QUAD** and go to Ft. MacLeod.

Still on the chase after the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** she arrived at the Police Fort but once again **SERGEANT PRESTON** was too late. There she spotted another wishbone together with an eagle feather. This must lead me to the huge Tipi in Medicine Hat, thought **SERGEANT PRESTON**. She went to the horse stables and found her faithful old horse **ELK ISLAND** all ready and saddled for her. She leaped up and galloped off to Medicine Hat.

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There in Medicine Hat she searched the ground under the Tipi and found – a wishbone and a horseshoe. That must be from the Stampede Grounds in **CALGARY**! So she bid farewell to **ELK ISLAND**, leaving her faithful friend with an RCMP officer and took the **TRAIN** to **CALGARY**.

But when she got to the Stampede Grounds she found they were closed for the day. Realizing that her sleuthing would have to wait for another day she went home. She wondered if her missing dog Delilah Poodle had turned up yet. Poor Delilah Poodle had disappeared just before **SERGEANT PRESTON** had received the call to go to Drumheller. Arriving home **SERGEANT PRESTON** went into the back yard. And there her eagle eyes widened in astonishment.

A gaping hole yawned beneath her feet and in the hole Delilah Poodle was digging diligently! The purpose of the hole was brilliantly deduced by Sergeant Preston, for awaiting burial at the side of the hole was the missing femur bone of the **ALBERTASaurus**! Was this theft the dastardly deed of the **DEMENTED PALEONTOLOGIST** or simply the action of a hungry dog named Delilah Poodle?

We may never know.

SERGEANT PRESTON returned the bone to the Royal Tyrell Museum in triumph!