

The Free Press Short Story

THE WHOOP-LA MULES

HERBERT COOLIDGE

THE summer when my brother Grant and I went into the business of scientific collecting we bought a pair of small desert mules from an old prospector named Jim Elder...

At that moment I saw that Mrs. Chandie was almost beside herself with anxiety; so to make it appear that I still fully expected to escape from the canon and also to give her something with which to occupy her mind I asked her to put up a good substantial lunch for the five of us...

Grant and I found that we certainly did have to "watch them" on cold mornings—and on hot mornings—in fact, it turned out that the old prospector had expressed himself conservatively about the maternal nervousness of Jack and John...

Half an hour passed. I had buried all of the camp equipment except a few articles that were too bulky, and there was nothing left to do except to fire the shotgun and time the interminable wags between...

At the time we were collecting mammals in a heavily-timbered canon high up in the San Jallito Mountains, Camped near us was an old family friend, a shoe dealer from Los Angeles named Chandie, who was enjoying a summer outing with his wife and child...

Grant was so nearly exhausted that he had to lie flat on the ground for a while after he reached camp. Chandie was limp; it was all his wife and I could do to hold him into the bed of the wagon...

I dreaded going back to camp with such a burden of dismal tidings, but there was no way out of it. So I returned and with as great a show of hopefulness as I could muster told Mrs. Chandie what the situation was...

At that moment Chandie's pallid face appeared from behind the wagon seat. "You boys want any help?" he asked anxiously...

Once the mules were harnessed I fired the shotgun; then I stripped our wagon of its load and, soaking the Chandie's tent and all our bedding in the spring, put them back on the wagon...

It took us only an instant to strip off the wet blankets, but if removing them had any soothing effect on Jack and John, I did not notice it. When we had driven them to the wagon and made John step over the pole both mules simultaneously shot forward...

dashboard before he could let go the mules, and they pulled Grant and me along over the ground for fully a hundred feet. When they were expelled Jack and John had mouths like iron...

There was a good grade, and Grant came on a trot. In a few moments he had guided the pole between the mules and was fitting the end of it into the ring of the neckyoke...

Long practice had taught me to fasten these traces quickly under any ordinary difficulties, and I made good time row in spite of the heat and smoke and Jack's unusual position...

"Come on with your jackknives! Come on! Hurry!"

The canon was like a kiln, and the heat roared so near us that I almost despaired of escaping...

Then with both mules running like black rabbits and Grant making his blacksnake whip pop like a pistol in the space-between them, I began to feel safer...

Attacked by Asthma. The first fearful sensation is of suffocation, which hour by hour becomes more desperate and hopeless...

At that time, Mr. Blechler said: "Frigidaire's advertising and promotional programme for 1932 will be directed toward surpassing 1931, when it built and shipped a very much larger volume of household models than it did during the preceding year..."

Such a plan may be drawn in a book, but it is not possible to use a few pages in the book to make a record of all cash receipts and expenditures and to record once a year an inventory of the value of all the equipment, livestock and crops on the farm...

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ANOTHER CANADIAN INDUSTRY

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Installation of tools and machinery for equipping this Toronto plant is being rapidly completed, Mr. Wright said, and actual production will begin at once...

The manufacture of Frigidaire products in Canada will benefit other Canadian industries, Mr. Wright said. Initial orders for motors and other parts to be used in the building of the Canadian Frigidaire have been placed with Canadian manufacturers...

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