#### The Bree Press Short Story

#### THE WHOOP-LA MULES

HERBERT COOLIDGE

we bought a pair of small desert mules ped the ridge about a mile above from an old prospector named Jim Elder, camp. Fortunately, it would have According to the repeated assertions of burn downhill and against the wind Elder both the animals were "as gentle reach us; still I judged that our can as dogs." Finally, however, as he was would burn out within an hour. carefully putting the purchase money At that moment I saw that Mrs mention: 'But they're Mexican broke, anxiety; so to make it appear that watch them of a cold morning."

fact, it turned out that the old pros- dirt and turf as a protection from fire. pector had expressed himself conserva- The firing of the shotgun was tively about the matutinal nervousness event of great interest to little

The old prospector was doubtless cor- hear and come." rect when he attributed their behavior broke"-that is, lassoed when they were young and wild, harnessed somehow orother, hitched to a wagon and allowed to stampede across a mesa where there was plenty of room for them to run. The embarrasing part for Grant and me was that the excitable little rascals were bound to begin the race the moment we began to hitch them to the wagon: Although they were exceptionally small, they were wiry and spirited; it was pretty hard to hold them and at the same time to fasten the traces while the were rearing and plunging. If we held them back too long, Jack the Firebrand, as we called him, would throw himself flat on the ground. We had a good many lively fracases with Jack and John that summer. On one occasion when Grant and I were trying to get a family of campers out of a burning canon the antics of Jack the proved to be anything but a laughing

At the time we were collecting mammals in a heavily-timbered canon high up-in the San Jalinto Mountains. Campshoe dealer from Los Angeles named Chandle, who was enjoying a summer outing with his wife and child. Early one morning when we had been there about a week, we discovered that a forest fire had broken out just over the ridge, and we at once decided that we must move quickly to a large wet meadow five miles distant. . Chandle immediately set\_out\_after-his-horse, which had broken loose during the night, and Grant and I started in opposite directions to bring in our string of traps.

turning to camp at almost the same time, found Mrs. Chandle greatly perturbed because her husband had not he had to lie flat on the ground for a yet returned. Stopping only to say that we could to reassure her, we set off on was limp; it was all his wife and I a run in the direction that Chandle had taken. Now that it was too late, we blamed ourselves heartily for allowing Mrs. Chandle and Joe aboard I had our friend to go after his horse alone, for we knew that he was not an adept then I covered them all with the wet at mountaineering.

We had no trouble in picking up Chandle's trail. Incidentally we found where his horse had dragged its picket rope straight down the road that led and John, of course, immediately did out of the mountains. An hour later, the same. After coupling them together after many windings, we traced Chandle with the lines I ran to the wagon, took up a deep, heavily-timbered gorge a mile and a half from camp. Presently hastened back with it and fastened the Grant halted and said:

"He's lost, that's sure. Here is where he got worried and began to run. He's fracas began. heading straight for the fire, but he couldn't see the smoke on account of the timber, so of course he didn't know of the shotgun, the wet blankets on it. I'll have to keep going and over- | their backs and the roaring and heat take him if I can. You hurry back to from the rapidly-approaching fire conworries herself into distraction. Fire the their half mile run. shotgun every ten minutes and get everything ready so we can pull out in a

I had expected.

and I began to make ready for a race time making them face the heat and with the flames. First I harnessed Jack smoke of the approaching flames. flery, determined light appeared in his anxiously. cycs. I knew that he was waiting for The fray, and I tied him to a stout tree. You get up in the seat and hold the

fired the shotgun; then I stripped our off-that must be what's making them wagon of its load and, soaking the so crazy." Chandles' tent and all our bedding in It took us only an instant to strip off the spring, put them back on the wagon. the wet blankets, but, if removing them Then I put a wet blanket on Jack and had any soothing effect on Jack and another on John, but apparently neither John, I did not notice it. When we of the uncivilized rascals had ever before had driven them to the wagon and worn a blanket of any kind, much less made John step over the pole both mules one that was wet and dripping, and simultaneously shot forward. They

summer when my brother | dramatically all- the time I was making Grant and I went into the their covering fast to the harness. Wh business of scientific collecting I was finishing that work the fire

into his pocket he did remember to Chandle was almost beside herself with boys, so of course they're kind of still fully expected to escape from the whoop-la on the start. Jack, he's as canon and also to give her something nervous as a horse, and that makes John | with which to occupy her mind I asked a little nervous too. You'll have to her to put up a good substantial lunch for the five of us. Then in the inter-Grant and I found that we certainly vals of signaling with the shotgun did have to "watch them" on cold morn- carried our camping dunnage to a nearings-and also on hot mornings. In by washout, where I covered it with

of Jack and John. By saying that they Chandle's four-year-old boy. After every were "kind of whoop-la on the start" shot he would ask eagerly whether that he meant that they were both dead set was for father and whether father would on running madly for the first half mile. Hear it and come. Each time I could When, they had done that they would see that it was very hard for the mother calm down and be demure enough for to control herself, but she always answered steadily, "Yes, Joe, father will

Half an hour passed. I had buried to the fact that they had been "Mexican all of the camp equipage except a few articles that were too bulky, and there was nothing left to do except to fire the shotgun and time the interminable waits between.

Thus far I had been encouraged bycause the flames had-not progressed so fast as I had expected, but now a shifting wind suddenly sent a hot breath from the fire down the canon. I knew then that it would only be a short time there was no telling how soon-before the timber round us would be a mass of flames. Some time before I had tried to persuade Mrs. Chandle to take little Joe and start on down the road, and now I bitterly regretted that I had not insisted. Needless to say, I would have given anything for a pair of mules that I could have hitched up alone.

The next few minutes were the most rackingly anxious time of my life. I believe that I did nothing except fire Firebrand and his faithful follower John that shotgun as fast as I could load. At any rate I found it so hot in my hands that I could hardly hold it. And then suddenly from the timbered slope above us came a faint shout from Grant. I was so glad that I felt-light enough ed near us was an old family friend, a to fly; I flung aside the shotgun and ran to meet my brother.

At first I thought that Grant was alone. but as his outline showed more plainly through the smoke I saw that he was supporting Chandle. - - I immediately turned and shouted the glad news to Mrs. Chandle, who was following distractedly with little Joe.

Grant was panting so that he could hardly talk, but as I loined him he managed to gasp out: "Fire headed him. back this way; then he heard the shotgun. He came toward camp then, but An hour or so later Grant and I, regot pocketed in the brush. Lucky

> Grant was so nearly exhausted that white after he reached camp. Chandle the wagon. As soon as I could get them lie down beside Mr. Chandle, and tent. Then I ran for the mules.

First I got John and tied him to the same tree with Jack. Thereupon Jack immediately began to paw the ground, the neckycke off the end of the pole, straps to the collars of my champing steeds. Then Grant came, and the

I had never seen Jack and John so much excited. The long wait, the firing camp before that poor little wife of his bined to make them wildly eager for-

Grant's first move was to cut th mules loose with a couple of hasty slashes of his sharp knife. Then, taking each I dreaded going back to camp with a mule, we led them to the wagon and such a burden of dismat tidings, but made John step over the pole. Grant there was no way out of it. So I re- immediately raised the end of the pole, turned and with as great a show of but before he could insert it in the ring hopefulness as I could muster told Mrs. of the neckyoke, Jack reared on his Chandle what the situation was. She hind legs and lunged forward. John bore up with much more fortitude than instantly lunged also, and in spite of our strenuous efforts they dragged us The smoke indicated that the fire was thirty feet before we could check them. now spreading rapidly in our direction, when he turned round we had a hard

and John. As usual Jack the Fire- At that moment Chandle's pallid face brand began to champ his bit the appeared from behind the wagon seat. moment his bridle was on. Soon a "You boys want any help?" he asked

"Lots of it!" said Grant desperately. hoping that he would not have to wait lines; then' my brother can hitch the traces while I hold their heads. First, Once the mules were harnesed I though, we've got to take those blankets

"Come on with your jackknife! Come dashboard before he could let go the lines, and they pulled Grant and me along over the ground for fully a hundred feet. When they were excited Jack

and John had mouths like iron. For a few moments Grant and I stood staring blankly into each other's face. Meanwhile Jack and John were pawing and champing like a pair of furies, and the fire, drawing dangerously close, was filling the canon with its crackling

Suddenly Grant's eyes lighted. know." he said. "Hobble them!"

Grant hastily took off the remnant of and yet never far behind, made an exthe tie rope that was dangling from peditious flying start also. Jack's neck. Using a hitch employed The wagon was lurching violently by Mexicans when hobbling animals with Grant and I climbed in over the sessed with the determination to bolt, but Grant finished it in an astonishingly tack rabbits and Grant making short time. Tying John's forelegs was blacksnake whip pop like a pistol in

The moment Grant had made the safer, for I had unlimited faith in to the wagon, picked up the pole. "Throw ability to drive them. off the brake!" he called to Chandle. Fortunately, our road led down 'I'm going to roll the wagon down to sparsely-timbered flat carpeted

There was a good grade, and Grant away from the fire, but later, when came on a trot. In a few moments he road turned uphill the flames pressed had guided the pole between the mules us so close that for a time it seemed and was fitting the end of it into the doubtful whether we could escape from

or a confusing effect on John, for he new stood stock still. So it was with Jack too until he felt the first trace being hitched. That had always been the signal for Jack to go, and instantly now with all his accustomed flery ardor he tripped and fell to his knees. mediately Grant seized him by ears and forced his head down to the

Long practice had taught me to fasten those traces quickly under any ordinary difficulties; and I made good time now in spite of the heat and smoke and Jack's unusual position. As I made the last trace fast Grant yelled:

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ANOTHER CANADIAN-INDUSTRY

The canon was like a kiln, and the fire roared so near us that I almost despaired of escaping. "Turn them loose when Jack gets' adian manufacturing field was announcup!" Grant shouted to Chandle. "Don't ed to-day.

worry about us; we'll catch on behind." A moment later Grant was yelling to me, "Cut away!" Then with simultaneous slashes of our sharp knives we set the mules free. As Grant and I made tion after a thorough investigation into "I our rush for the end gate of the wagon. Jack scrambled to his feet and was off While I held both mules by the bits like a shot. John, who was never first

thong, he fastened "the Firebrand's" I expected that we should be wrecked forefeet close together. That was a every moment until Grant had his foot lifficult task with an animal so pos- on the brakes and the lines in his hands: Then with both mules running like space-between them. I began to last knot fast he rose and, running back mules' ability to run and in Grant's

pine needles. At first we drew rapidly the canon. However, in less than hour from the time of their flying start You hand the lines to Chandle: then a pair of very demure little mules drew our wagon out into a broad, wet meadow The hobbles evidently had a subduing where no forest fire could follow

> Attacked by Asthma. The first fearful sensation is of suffocation, which hour by hour becomes more desperate and hopeless. To such a case the relief afforded by Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy seems nothing less than miraculous. Its help is quickly apparent and oon the dreadful attack is mastered. The asthmatic who has found out the dependability of this sterling remedy will never be without it. It is sold every-

> > CROP PLAN BOOK PAYS

One of the most useful ways of checking up on farm costs, the Division of Field Husbandry of the Dominion Experimental Farms suggests, is to draw a small plan of the farm. On this plan may be written the crops which have been grown cn each field or part of the field and the yields per acre which have been obtained. If desired, such additional information may be recorded as dates of plowing, seeding and harvesting.

facilitates the following without error any rotation which may be desired. enables one to learn what fields produce viding information to enable the provement of the rotation along the line of adapting certain crops to soils which they are suited: Observations be recorded regarding the presence weeds on various parts of the farm. where soil drifting has occurred, where manure has been applied, and any other points of interest. Above all, such a plan provides a definite record of the results of each year's work on the land, and over a period of years is very instructive. Forming is a long-time business and records are necessary if much improvement is likely to be made.

so that many years' records will be kent easily available. It is possible to use 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. These records, to acther with the cropping plan of the farm, give accurate information of each year's progress on the farm and are the best means of studying how to improve the farm business.

No commercial enterprise would consider the conduct of its business without yearly records and neither should any farm enterprise. This method of keeping farm records is perhaps the most simple of any system but it gives, undoubtedly, the most fundamental information, and it has the great advantage of being extremely simple and easy to do. If a more elaborate system of accounting is desired, it may be adopted later.

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TABS!" While new to the general public, the wondrous value of URATABS has been thoroughly proven by years of successful use in the private practice of Dr. H. C. Southworth. And now any good druggist will supply them on a guar-

Toronto, April 18.—Entrance of Frigidaire Corporation, world's largest makers of electric refrigerators, into the Can-

Definite decision to establish the Canad an factory was made recently in Dayton by E. G. Biechler, President and General Manager of Frigidaire Corporathe Dominion field.

Frigidaire Corporation a General Motors subsidiary, with headquarters and manufacturing plans in Dayton, Ohio, and world-wide distribution, will open plant in Toronto immediately, W. G. Wright, manager of Frigidaire's Canadian operation, said.

Installation of tools and machinery for equipping the Toronto plant is being rapidly completed, Mr. Wright said, and actual production wil begin at once. The plant has been tooled for operation to supply the entire Canadian market, he

The manufacture of Frigidaire products in Canada will benefit other Canadlan 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.

Production schedules for the present Mr. Wright said, call for the building of complete household Frigidaire cabinets, ice cream cabinets, cooling coils and compressors for both home and commercial use.

'The first of the new Canadian-bull sembly line," Mr. Wright said, "will be expressly for Canadian homes. will be known as the Moraine line, and will sell at the lowest prices in Frigidaire history.

"In general principles and design these new Canadian models follow the established specifications of Frigidaire engineering and will be built to the same exacting standards of quality and performance that have already met the approval of over 2,000,000 satisfied users."

The output of the Toronto plant will be handled through the present Canadian distributing organization, plus a considerable number of new dealers to be named to handle the increased business anticipated for 1932, Mr. Wright said. Establishment of a Canadian plant is regarded as another manifestation of the vigorous administration policies Mr. Biechler recently announced for the 1932 period.

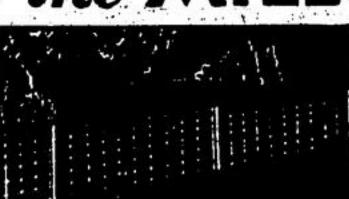
At that time, Mr. Biechlor said: "Frigidaire's advertising and promo tional programme for 1932 will be direct-When this plan is made every year, it ed toward surpassing 1931, when it built and shipped a very much larger volume of household models than it did during the preceding year. Our line has been expanded to meet wider market requirements. The economies and conveniences of electric refrigeration constitute popular and logical buying urge in both the household and commercial fields. We are expecting Frigidaire's business to show a decided increase over 1931."

Frigidaire Corporation is one of the pioneers in the electric refrigeration business. It was the first to engage in extensive advertising and merchandising activity, the first to put its manufacturing on a low cost, mass production basis and so pave the way for the tremendous popularity of electric refrigeration. .-The electric refrigeration industry, due

Such a plan may be drawn in a hook to the increasing demand for its products; and, wide general acceptance as an economic necessity, has been one of the bright spots in the business world for the past two years.

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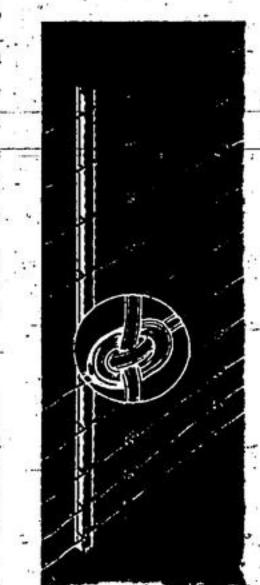
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