

TWO MORE HOSSES

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'Writer's Corner'

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Pa Henry was always looking for some way to supplement the money he got from the collection plate when he preached. He refused to do the daily routine with some boss telling him every move to make. He preferred get rich schemes, trying everything from moonshining to digging for "sane."

One of his enterprises was logging. He knew of where nice walnut trees were on the old home place in Haney Hollow. With his buddy Virgil he went to that hollow and cut down four nice trees. The logs varied between two and four feet in diameter. They were cut and loaded on the back of his old Ford truck.

As Pa Haney looked at the load of hogs he envisioned what he was going to do with the money from it when he got to the sawmill. He also knew when he cut and split the leftover limbs, there would be some chase from them. He would sell the best pieces and keep the odd-shaped ones for his own stove.

Everything went well until they go to the end of Haney Hollow Road where it turned onto the main road. It came to a steep, sharp right turn. Every time they stated up they would lose traction and the loaded truck would begin to slide and roll backwards.

Every time he tried it he gained less ground because he feared flipping it into the field below the road.

About that time, my dad and his brother Carolos came along. They asked him what his problem was. He responded, pointing to the truck, "Old Nell don't got enough hosspower to pull it."

Uncle Carlos suggested, "Why don't I go back down to the barn and get Old Joe and Big Red?" They were his prize mules that won the mule pulling contest most years at the county fair.

The mules were hitched to the front of the truck. They slowly started off and Pa gave the old truck gas as Uncle Carlos whopped Old Joe across the hips with a sycamore limb. The mules lunged forward, yanking the old truck onto the main road.

When they got stopped, Pa Haney got out of the truck and looked over the situation. "Well, boys, I guess it just took tow more hosspower to get her done."

*Read more Writer's corner stories at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>