



Cover design by Preston Nutter

THE MULE ALTERNATIVE:
The Saddle Mule in the American West
MikeStamm

In *THE MULE ALTERNATIVE* dozens of early western pioneers share their most exciting experiences with horses, mules, and oxen in challenging raging rivers, hostile Indians, unforgiving mountains, ferocious storms, killer deserts -- and answer questions that living persons and modern experience can't. Questions like:

Why did many early westerners prefer mules to horses as saddle animals?

How do mules *really* compare to horses in terms of endurance, hardiness, surefootedness, longevity, and manageability?

Why have mules fallen into relative disfavor today?

If mules have greater endurance than horses, why do horses win most of today's equine endurance races?

Why were oxen popular with last century's pioneers, and how did oxen compare with horses and mules?

Is a mule a sensible alternative for a modern rider?

THE MULE ALTERNATIVE is an honest and highly entertaining evaluation of the mule for anyone who has ever considered the animal as an alternative to a horse. A must for anyone interested in livestock use in the Old West. Over One hundred and sixty pages; many archival photographs.

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Copies of this book may be ordered @ \$14.95 plus \$2.00 shipping from Medicine Wolf Press, P.O. Box 475, Dugway, UT 84022, or from the American Donkey and Mule Society, 2901 North Elm St., Denton, TX 76201-7631 phone (817) 382-6845

About the Cover: Orphaned at an early age by the deaths of his parents, Preston Nutter (1850-1936) was, at various times in his long life, a cabin boy on a Mississippi steamboat, a stableboy, a prospector, a freighter, a cowboy, a land speculator, a businessman, and a legislator. But from the time he went west with a government wagon train in 1863, his dream was to become a cattleman. In this ambition he succeeded wildly. In his heyday, Preston Nutter owned more land and more cattle than any other rancher in the intermountain West. In his later years, Nutter became something of a pioneer in range conservation. Preston Nutter was truly a self-made man. Photo courtesy of Special Collections Department, University of Utah Libraries.

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